

March 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The time for First Communion is fast approaching. The children are becoming excited and are studying hard for this important step in their faith lives. We are happy to be working with you in this endeavor for the Lord.

Please inform us if you have a priest relative who would be interested in concelebrating the First Communion Mass by emailing the PREP Office prepus@comcast.net no later than April 17 so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Thank you!

Important dates regarding First Communion:

- 4/29 Sunday** **Jesus Day Retreat for First Holy Communion Candidates Only**
8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
Retreat day begins with Mass at 8:30 in church. Children will be seated with their families during Mass. Then, after Mass, children only will assemble downstairs in the Church Hall for breakfast refreshments. Please notify me if your child has any food allergies or provide him/her with his/her own food. The retreat will include small group activities for the children which will enhance understanding of the sacrament.
- 5/02 Wednesday** **Practice, 1:30-3:30 p.m., in church**
PREP and St. James Regional students – arrive to Church Hall.
St. James students will be escorted to church by a parent chaperone.
All students are to be dismissed from the Church Hall.
- 5/03 Thursday** **Practice and confessions, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., in church**
PREP students – arrive to Church Hall.
Dismissal: PREP students will be dismissed from the Church Hall.
St. James students will be escorted to and from church by a parent chaperone.
- 5/05 Saturday** **All students report to Church Hall at 9:30 a.m.**
Mass at 10:00 a.m.
- 5/06 Sunday** **Children attend Mass with their families and may wear their First Holy Communion outfits.**

We will notify the public school principals concerning practices on May 2 & 3 so that our PREP students can be excused from class.

Any questions regarding First Communion information may be directed to Mrs. Boyle. God bless you!

PLEASE SEE REVERSE

Your child is receiving a folder containing the following:

1) A set of **family preparation sheets** –We strongly suggest that you invest the time to enhance your family’s First Communion experience.

2) **“DEAR JESUS...I WANT TO TELL YOU”** – This is a paragraph your child composes after discussing ideas with parent/guardian(s). Perhaps you can use some ideas you have read in the textbook or other materials your child has been studying. Please have your child write a rough copy on scrap paper, then do the good copy after you have edited the work for content and spelling. Your child should **color** the paper carefully. **Please do not fold this paper!** It can be placed back into the folder and turned in on the **due date, April 29** at Jesus Day. The finished products will be placed into a basket and placed on St. Joseph’s altar for our First Communion Mass.

3) **First Communion banner kit** – Follow instructions inside package. Your child’s first name must be placed on the front of the banner, **full name on reverse side. We will supply the dowel and hanging material.** **All you need to do is to help your child design, decorate the banner, and bring it to Jesus Day on April 29.**

Banners will be hung on pews for First Communion Day. You may take them home that day.

May God bless you and your child,
Eileen Boyle