



**Religious Education Office
Parent Meeting for First Eucharist
January 11, 2012**

Agenda

Welcome
Opening Prayer
Pastoral Reflection

Introductions
Various
Father George Vrabel

Sr. Meribeth Rome, SND

1. Eucharist Catechesis

“What do the Gospels say about the Eucharistic Celebration?”

2. Overview of First Communion Curriculum-

“What are the Children learning in class? What is Parent role/responsibility?”

3. Packet Review

- Sacramental Calendar
- Sacramental Guidelines
- Communion under both species
- Explanation of Mass choices/times
 - Description of Traditional/ Group/ Individual

Larry Roetzer

Group/Individual Pictures
(How it works!)

Closing Prayer

Spiritual Communion

GOSPEL ACCOUNTS OF THE LAST SUPPER

Matthew 26:26-30, The Lord's Supper.



While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and

gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father." Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Mark 14: 22-26 The Lord's Supper.

While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. 25Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." 26Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Luke 22-14-20; The Last Supper.

When the hour came, he took his place at table with the apostles. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for, I tell you, I shall not eat it [again] until there is fulfillment in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and said, "Take this and share it among yourselves; for I tell you [that] from this time on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.

John 13:1-20

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Master, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well." Jesus said to him, "Whoever has bathed, has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all." For he knew who would betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean."

So when he had washed their feet [and] put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.



St. Mary's Parish

2011-2012

Important Sacramental Dates

Contact: Sister Meribeth phone: 440-243-8221

FIRST RECONCILIATION			
Wednesday, September 21	7:00pm	First Reconciliation Parent Meeting	Church (parents only)
Saturday, November 19	11:00am	FIRST RECONCILIATION	Church

FIRST COMMUNION			
Wednesday, January 11	7:00 pm	First Communion Parent Meeting	Church (parents only)
Sunday, January 15	9:00 am At Mass	Reception into Preparation for First Communion	Church (Parent/child)
Saturday, May 5	9:30 - 12:00 pm	PSR Jesus Day Retreat (day school welcome)	Fr. Garrity Center (Parent/Child)
Tuesday, May 8	6:00-7:00 pm	Practice for 9:00 am Family Mass	Church (parent/child)
Wednesday, May 9	6:00 - 7:00 pm	GROUP PICTURE Song Practice Blessing Religious articles	Church (ALL Communicants with a parent)
Thursday, May 10	9 am-3pm	St. Mary School Jesus Day Retreat	Fr. Garrity Center
Thursday, May 10	6:00-7:00 pm	Practice for 11:00 am Traditional Mass	Church
Saturday, May 12	9:00 am	FAMILY FIRST COMMUNION	Church
Saturday, May 12	11:00 am	TRADITIONAL FIRST COMMUNION	Church

First Communion Schedule explained- 2ND GRADE

01/11/2012 – Wednesday – 7:00-8:00 pm – First Communion Parent Meeting (St. Mary's Church). This meeting is for parents/guardians of those children who are preparing to receive the Eucharist in May. This is an important meeting and should be attended by at least one parent or family member.

01/15/2012 - Sunday - 9:00-10:00am - First Communion Acceptance into Preparation (St. Mary's Church). All First Communion Candidates are expected to attend the 9:00 Mass where they will be introduced to the Parish and commit to prepare for First Holy Communion.

05/05/2012 - Saturday - 9:30am-12:00pm – Family and PSR Jesus Day (St. Mary's Church & Garrity Center). This is a day for both parent and First Communicants. It is a day of reflection, preparation and fun-filled activities all centered around their reception of the Holy Eucharist.

05/08/2012 – Tuesday - 6:00-7:00pm – FAMILY First Communion Practice - 9:00 mass (St. Mary's Church). This practice will be for those attending the "family" ceremony. Parents are required to attend to assure proper seating.

05/09/2012 – Wednesday – 6:00-7:00pm (St. Mary's Church)

- First Communion Song Practice,
- Group Picture, and
- Blessing of Religious Articles & Gifts (Students & families should bring any gifts a/or religious articles to church for a blessing by the priest).

**** Children should arrive completely attired in First Communion Clothes. ****

05/10/2012 – Thursday - St. Mary's School Jesus Day (St. Mary's Church & Garrity Center). This is a day for First Communicants from our school. It is a day of reflection, preparation and fun-filled activities all centered around their reception of the Holy Eucharist.

05/10/2012 – Thursday - 6:00-7:00pm – TRADITIONAL First Communion Practice - 11:00 mass (St. Mary's Church). This practice will be for all those attending the "traditional" group ceremony.

05/12/2012 - Saturday - First Communion celebrated at 9:00am (family) and 11:00am (traditional) in St. Mary's Church. Individual pictures are taken between the liturgies. Envelopes for payment are to be turned into the photographer at the time of your sitting.

**** Please note the Liturgy time change this year. ****

St. Mary's Catholic Church

First Communion Guidelines

Clothing

Girls are to wear a white dress. A veil, crown, or hair ribbons are optional; no gloves or purse.

Boys are to wear dark navy or black dress trousers, a white dress shirt, and appropriate tie. Jackets are encouraged but not required.

Please do not have your child bring a rosary, prayer book, purse, or gloves to the Group First Communion. If you plan to use them for pictures later, please keep them until after Mass.

Pictures

Pictures are **not** to be taken anytime during the Mass. After the recessional, you may bring your child back into the Church for picture-taking.

Catholic Book and Gift Stores

We certainly encourage parents to patronize our local Catholic stores for First Communion items. Any additional Catalogs or advertising will be sent home with the children.

Parent's Prayer

For a Child Preparing for First Communion...

Loving God, thank you for the precious gift of my child, _____, whom you have entrusted to my care. As our family prepares for First Holy Communion, may he/she know how deeply he/she is cherished by his/her family, and by you. May he/she become stronger in faith and love by helping others, delighting in all of your creation, and hearing your word. Fill him/her with a desire for you, with wonder and awe and with kindness toward all people looking forward to the day he/she joins our parish family at the Lord's table. In this sacred time, I ask you to bless _____ and all our family.
Amen

Catholic Book and Gift Stores

Abba Religious Store
(St. John Neumann)
16271 Pearl Road
Strongsville, OH
440-238-8974

Galilee Gift & Book Store
(St. Clarence Church)
30106 Lorain Road
North Olmsted, OH
440-779-0208

Henninger's, Inc.
5220 Hauserman Road
Parma, OH
440-842-5504
Toll Free 800-362-0217

Tilma, Inc.
146 Front Street
Berea, OH
440-243-1060

Receiving Holy Communion Under Both Species

Jesus recognized that eating and drinking, the most common gestures of the human condition, assume a particular meaning when experienced in community. Eating and drinking brings about a sense of unity, a communion. In accepting the invitation to eat and drink we form a union with the one offering the invitation.

Jesus invited us to "take and eat...take and drink" and in the process enter into an intimate relationship with him. The communion we share is a prelude to the heavenly banquet. Many Catholics have been satisfied to receive Him under the species of bread alone. The church teaches that we receive the full Christ when we receive the Consecrated Host alone. However, the Church, (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 240) also says:

"The sign of communion is more complete when given under both kinds, since the sign of the Eucharistic meal appears more clearly. The intention of Christ that the new and eternal covenant be ratified in his blood is better expressed, as is the relation of the Eucharistic banquet to the heavenly banquet.

So that this "fuller light" may fall upon the import of Christ's words at the Last Supper and in the Eucharistic prayer, and for the sake of the faithful's greater participation in the mystery, communion under both kinds is to be desired in all celebrations of the Mass, although this is not possible in all cases. For this sacred rite: the sign of the Eucharistic meal stands out more explicitly," and the act of drinking the consecrated wine, the blood of Christ, strengthens the faith of the communicants in the sacrificial nature of the Mass. Communion under both kinds can therefore manifest more fully the nature of the Mass both as a sacrifice and as a sacred Meal belonging to the same mystery, to such an extent that they are linked to one another by a very close theological and sacramental bond."

The Church, our Bishop and our Pastor all desire that the opportunity for communion under both species be available to the faithful on a regular and frequent basis.

QUESTIONS:

Must I drink from the cup in order to receive the whole presence of Christ in the Eucharist? No. The Church teaches that Jesus is truly and wholly present both under the sign of bread and under the sign of wine. To receive both is to share in the fuller sign of Christ's presence.

May I choose to receive only the consecrated bread? Yes, you may. This is a most valid option for all who come to communion.

Should children receive communion under both kinds? Hopefully, parents will help their younger children make an informed decision whether or not they receive from the cup. The ultimate decision of course should rest with the individual child. In speaking with your children, you will want to remind them of what Jesus asked us to at the Last Supper. You will also want to be clear that we receive the whole presence of Christ in receiving from either the bread or the cup. Some children may decide to receive from the cup, while others decide to wait until they are older. It will also be helpful to let your child taste a sip of wine at home so that he or she will know what to expect when receiving from the cup. This familiarity with the taste of wine will help to insure reverent reception from the cup at communion time.

How do I receive communion for the cup? After receiving the Eucharistic bread from the communion minister, simply move to the minister of the cup. You bow in reverence to the Blessed Sacrament, this minister presents the cup to you and says, "The Blood of Christ," and you answer "Amen." The communion minister then hands you the cup, you take a sip of the consecrated wine, then return the cup to the communion minister. You then return to your seat. The communion minister then wipes the place on the cup where you drank with a purificator (linen napkin), rotates the cup a quarter turn, and presents the cup to the next communicant.

Isn't this unhealthy, so many people drinking from one cup? Some reservations regarding communion from the cup stem from the fear of disease and the possible spread of germs. The Rev. Thomas Wlebers, in writing in *Our Sunday Visitor*, made the following point: "A few diseases infect through mouth-saliva-mouth contact, but during the cold season or flu epidemic, the faithful Catholic is more likely to get sick merely by breathing the air in Church than by receiving communion from a shared cup." A study reported in the May 15, 1997 *Florida Catholic* showed that after a researcher followed 681 people over a 10-week period, she related at the annual meeting of the American Society for Microbiology that there were no differences in reported illnesses between those who received Communion from the cup, those who did not receive, and those who never attended church. All of this said, it would be prudent to refrain from the cup when you have the flu or a cold.

Why share the Cup? "The Bread, the Body of Christ, does not cease to mean the nourishing fruit of the earth and the good tasting work of human hands when we take it in Holy Communion. The wine, the Blood of Christ, does not cease to mean the delight, festivity and communion with each other. Christ's body and blood are bound up in creation, in fruitfulness, in human work, in communal rejoicing, in redemption. Wine nourishes our thirsty spirits. It is a spiritual drink. By taking the cup, we express the deepest fellowship with the Lord Jesus even in the sharing of His death. Such diverse things - the delight of fellowship, the communion in His death! The cup, shared among us, brings these together." (Excerpt from *Take this, all of you and drink from it...*, Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions).

What about intinction or dipping the host in the chalice? All recent Church documents on the Eucharist have forbidden this practice. One document states: "although Communion under both kinds by intinction continues to be an authorized way of distribution, it has minimal sign value because it is contrary to the Gospel account of the institution where there is drinking from the one cup without any attempt to unite the two Eucharistic elements." Moreover, such a practice impedes the option which the faithful have of choosing whether to receive Communion in the hand or on the tongue. The communicant may never dip the Eucharistic bread into the chalice. Communion under either the form of bread or wine must always be given by a minister with the usual words.

Adapted from Incarnation Catholic Church, Tampa, Florida
http://www.icctampa.org/Holy_Communion.htm
by *Deacon Joseph Krzanowski, December 2001*

Certificate Info

We wish to have our child's name printed on the First Communion certificate in the following way:



(please print)

First Communion Mass Choice

(deadline-Friday, April 27. After this date no changes will be made to 1st Communion times.)

May 12, 2012

_____ 9:00 AM (family)

_____ 11:00 AM (traditional)

_____ a Saturday/Sunday or weekday Mass (give details below)
(day) _____ (date) _____ time _____

Permission to taste wine



_____ I give permission for my child to taste altar wine during class time.

_____ I do not give permission for my child to taste altar wine during class time.

Parent/guardian Signed _____