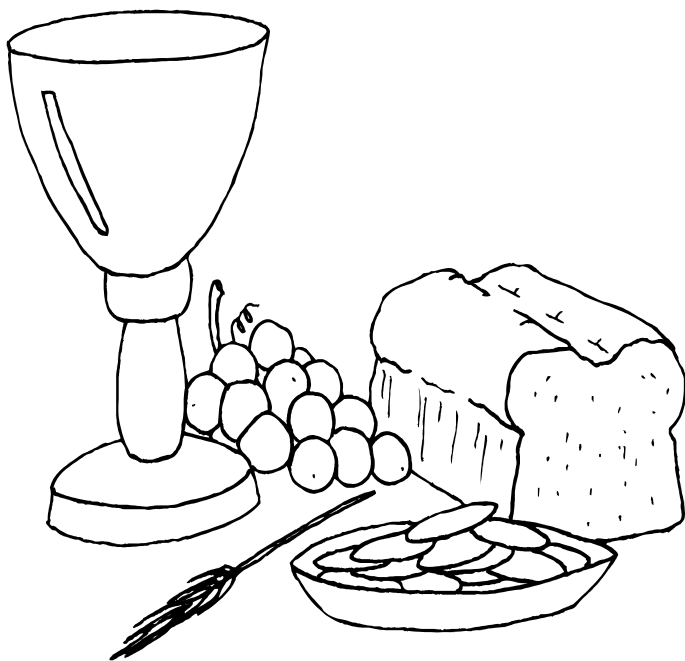


**FIRST COMMUNION AT
THE CHURCH OF
ST. ROSALIE**



**MSGR. DENNIS M. REGAN
PASTOR**

**VINCENT J. WHITFIELD, MA
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS FORMATION**

2007

COMMON QUESTIONS

This year First Communion will be take place at special Masses celebrated on May 5 & 19, 2007. This small brochure will answer most of the commonly asked questions that parents have concerning First Communion. This brochure is too short to answer all questions so please feel free to contact Mr. Whitfield or your child's catechist or Catholic School teacher if you have a question that is not addressed here.

The Ceremony we have been assigned to is not convenient for us. What can we do?

The Mass that your child will receive First Communion at was assigned by class size. If the date that you have been given is not convenient for you please speak with Mr. Whitfield and request a change. A change of date will be granted as long as there is room, however, we can not guarantee that your child's catechist will be able to attend the ceremony you switch to.

What will happen at the First Communion Masses?

As in any Mass we will celebrate the Eucharist - the event that gives us our identity as Catholics. The children will participate, as all of us do at Mass, by praying, singing and making the responses. We will also rejoice as your child joins the community of believers who receive the eucharist when s/he receives for the First time.

Another member of our family is scheduled to make their First Communion at their home parish at the same time as we are. What can we do?

We would be very happy to have your family members join with us and receive together with your child or we can assist you in having your child receive First Communion at your relative's parish. Please see Mr. Whitfield to arrange this.

How many family members may attend?

The Church holds approximately 650 people. We do not place a limit to the amount of people you may invite to the First Communion Mass . However, there is limited space in each family's pew. Please feel free to invite as many people as you like but let them know that they will not all be able to sit with you and your child.



Some members of our family who are planning to attend have not been to Church in a long time. Can they still come?

Of course they can! This is an opportunity for your family to be together as well as a wonderful chance to invite members of the Catholic Church back to worship. Depending on your individual circumstances you may want to reach out to these family members and invite them to come to Mass with you prior to the First Communion Ceremony in May.

Is there a Dress Code?

Your child is an unique individual and may wear any appropriate manner of clothing. White dresses are not a must. If your son is wearing a suit it may be any color you choose. We do not recommend Armbands for the boys but will not prohibit their use if you choose.

Is there a particular type of veil recommended for the girls?

No. Similar to the dress code question above, your daughter may wear any type of veil or may choose no veil at all. A small selection of veils - and other items - will be available for you to order from the Kolmel Company beginning in March. Special discounted pricing has been arranged for our parish.

What about white gloves and flowers?

Some girls choose to have White Gloves and Flowers Bouquets, but they will not be able to have them during the First Communion Mass. Our experience is that the children forget to remove the gloves or leave their flowers in the pew before approaching the altar. Therefore, these items should be saved for them until after Mass.

What other items are available to order at the Religious Formation Office?

Once again, we are happy to announce that we have arranged with the Kolmel Company to make a small number of Religious items and gifts available for you to order. As mentioned above all of these items have been specially discounted for our parishioners. The items, which include Communion Sets, Rosaries, veils, jewelry, Bibles and ties, will be available for you to order beginning on or around March 1, 2007.



May we take pictures during the Mass?

Pictures may discreetly be taken during the Mass except for the time of the reception of Communion. The reason for this is two-fold. First, it keeps us focused on the fact that the Eucharist is a community event, not an individual one. Second, picture taking during the reception of Communion can cause distraction and confusion as many people are tempted to rush to the front of the Church to vie for the "perfect" place to take a picture. The Church will be available after Mass for pictures.

What about rehearsal?

There will be one rehearsal for each ceremony. It will take place either the Wednesday or Thursday prior to the Mass you are assigned to. The specific rehearsal date will be announced to you in April.

What if we have more questions?

Mr. Whitfield, the Religious Formation staff, as well as your child's Catechist, are available to answer any question you have. You may call us at **728-9248**, email rfdirector@optonline.net or ask a question any time you see us.

