

First Holy Communion at Archangel Gabriel Parish

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

*Below is important information regarding the celebrations of First Holy Communion at AGP.
If you have questions, please reach out to Steven Swank at sswank@archangelgabrielparish.org.*

1. Parents (and siblings if you wish) will accompany the First Communicant when he/she comes forward to receive Communion. Please walk/stand approximately one step behind the First Communicant during this time. After the First Communicant receives the Eucharist, his/her parents and older siblings may receive and then the family should return to their pew by way of the side aisles, NOT the center aisle.
2. Please note the following regarding the reception of Holy Communion:
 - Reception of Holy Communion on the hand or tongue is allowed, at the discretion of the parents.
 - The Precious Blood will not be offered to the children.
 - Girls wearing long gloves must remove the gloves before Communion if receiving on the hand.
 - Please make sure that your child understands that they must consume the host immediately. They should never take the host back to their pew.
 - If your child needs a low gluten host, please let Steven Swank know at least one week before the Mass so arrangements can be made.
3. First Communicants will be given a certificate and cross from the parish. You will find these in your assigned pew.
4. Please note the following regarding photography:
 - No photos are permitted in the church before Mass (you may take photos outside).
 - You may take photos during Mass as long as you remain in your pew.
 - After Mass, you may take photos in the nave of the church, but please DO NOT go into the sanctuary behind the altar or near the tabernacle.
 - Private photographers are not permitted to take photos in the church before or during Mass.
 - Please let your family members know all expectations regarding photography.
5. We would love to share your photos in our parish bulletin! Please send them (along with your child's name and date of First Holy Communion) to bulletin@archangelgabrielparish.org
6. Reminder: gum chewing, food, and water bottles are NOT permitted in church. Please refrain from chit chat before Mass. It is important that we maintain a reverent atmosphere in the church both before and after Mass. If you have non-Catholic family members attending, please let them know proper church etiquette.
7. **Please continue to practice at home so that your child feels comfortable receiving.**
Remember: prayer hands, bow, step forward, make a throne with your hands, receive ("Body of Christ" "Amen!"), consume right away, return to pew (see video on the website portal: ArchangelGabrielParish.org/FirstCommunion)