

Dear Parents of First Communicants,

Due to the current coronavirus outbreak, our First Communion celebration(s) will be postponed to a later date. Archbishop ListECKI has determined that all First Communion celebrations in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee will be postponed until this health crisis has passed.

We know what a disappointment it is to have your child's First Communion delayed. But as parents and as a faith community, you know that our highest priority is to keep our children safe. This is an opportunity to talk with your child about how important the sacraments are to your family as well as our parish community, and what a joyful and important day it will be when your child joins you at the table of the Lord.

It might be helpful to consider these ideas when talking with your children:

1) Children at this age will pick up on your emotional state and take their cues from you. When you share this news, it will be helpful if you clearly state that the celebration of their First Communion will be a little later than planned to keep you and everyone in your faith family safe and healthy. Keeping your tone positive will not only help your child with this issue but also encourage them to be mindful of the virtue of hope when they experience other disappointments in life.

2) Remember that a child's sense of time and schedules are not as developed as that of an adult. The exact date of First Communion is probably only a vague concept to your child. Using words like "postponed," "little later date" or "at a later time" should be sufficient for him or her to understand the situation without being unduly upset.

3) Remind your child that he or she will have a First Communion and it will be special and wonderful. On that day, when people will be more able to travel, your child's friends and relatives will be able to share in the happy celebration. In the meantime, although we cannot meet in person for Mass or classes, it is still important to keep the Eucharist in the mind and heart of your child and your whole family. We will support you by providing simple resources/activities/suggestions to help you continue to prepare your child at home.

During this time when we cannot attend Mass, we can make a "spiritual communion". This is a practice of desiring union with Jesus in the Eucharist when one cannot receive holy Communion. Here is a short prayer, called an Act of Spiritual Communion, that you can pray with your child or your whole family, that expresses this desire for Jesus.

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

When this health crisis has passed and we are able to re-schedule First Communion, we will inform you. We will have the Rehearsal for all first communicants and their parents/guardians right before the First Communion Mass(es).

Let us continue to pray for one another, for our children, and for all who are suffering because of the pandemic.

Our hope is in Christ,

Fr. Ryan Pruess Sabina Carter Jessica Derks
Pastor Director of Christian Formation Elementary/Middle
School Coordinator