

## A Parents Part – First Communion

This is designed to inform parents/guardians whose children are preparing for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.

Since it is the primary responsibility of the parents to Baptize and educate their children in the Catholic faith, our Faith Formation Program here at St. Mary Magdalen has compiled this booklet to help and guide you through the necessary measures that are required to be filled so that your child is properly prepared to receive the sacraments.

### Parents/Guardians Responsibilities and Commitments.

Parents/Guardians are required to make sure that their children learn the necessary basic prayers of our faith before receiving the sacraments.

Parents/guardians should be attending Mass *regularly* with their children. By attending Mass regularly your child will become familiar with the context of the liturgy & the purpose of the Eucharist and this will make their learning easier when they attend our program.

Parents/guardians should look over the lesson plan that their children has completed at each class session. Ask your children what they learned in class.

### Parent or Guardian & Child Retreat & Workshop

#### Retreat –

Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am

**Location:** St. John the Evangelist, Watertown

**Details:** This retreat is so much fun for the kids. There will be an opening prayer and brief church talk, then the children and at least one parent will head down to the church hall and attend 3 stations. They will make a First Communion banner to hang on the pew the day of the sacrament, next they will have a little spiritual time and reflection and third they will make the altar bread that they will be receiving at their First Holy Communion. It's a really fun day and both the kids and parents have enjoyed it. The cost is \$35.00 if you haven't paid for it already.

#### Workshop Wednesday, March 20, 2019 6:30 to 7:30 pm

**The Theme:** Tour of the Church

The “Workshop” will be short, informative and fun. The “Workshop” is for 3rd graders and their parents/guardians only. Only 1 parent/guardian need attend with their 3rd grader but both are certainly welcome. The event will be about 1 hour long and be held upstairs in the church

**Details:** Parents and their 3rd grader will meet in the church. I will go over all the items in the church and on the altar. This makes children familiar with the icons of their faith and with our church. Children are all invited up to the altar for “hands-on” and a closer look. A fun experience for everyone!

If additional classes need to be held to complete the book to properly prepare your child for First Communion, I will notify you as soon as I can.

## The Sacrament of First Holy Communion

I cannot emphasize enough how important going to Mass is. Not just in preparation for First Communion but continually. The celebration of the Eucharist is a call to gather in Jesus' name, to pray, and to focus on Jesus' presence in our midst. At this celebration, we openly offer the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and celebrate the Lord's Supper. The whole community of the faithful unites with one another and celebrates His risen presence.

We celebrate Christ's passion, death and resurrection at every Mass. Jesus said, "Do this in memory of me." It is very important that your child understands that during the consecration of the bread and wine, through the words of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit a change of the whole substance occurs and becomes the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. The bread and wine are no longer just bread and wine it is "*Jesus*".

The changing of Bread and Wine to the Body and Blood of Jesus is called "transubstantiation" (your children do not need to know that word it is just FYI). As Catholics, we believe that this is not symbolic. It is the true presence of our Lord. As quoted from the Catechism of the Catholic Church "St. Thomas says that in this sacrament are the true Body of Christ and His true Blood. It is something that cannot be apprehended by the senses but only by faith."

## Preparation for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion

To help prepare your children for this sacrament I have prepared a list of suggestions that will help make learning about and receiving this sacrament a positive experience.

Attend Mass weekly with your children! While at Mass with your children, have them participate in the Mass. Start to have your child kneel in the pew and say prayers before mass starts. Remind them that this is a time to pray for people who need our prayers, to thank Jesus for all we have and to ask for His help when we need it.

Show your child how to follow along in the missalette's. Turn to the songs to be sung and sing! Follow the Liturgy of the Word, the readings and the Gospel in the mass books.

Encourage your child to stand, sit, and kneel when the rest of the congregation does.

If you are going to receive communion, allow your child to walk up with you with their arms across their chest (this way the lay person knows that they are not ready to receive) and watch you as you receive. Practice at home letting them receive communion.

## **FIRST COMMUNION – FF Students** (Tuesday & Wednesday)

Practices will be on:

Tuesday, April 30, 2019 from 4:00-5:30 pm at the Church

Thursday, May 2, 2019 from 4:00-5:30 pm at the Church

First Communion will be on:

Saturday, May 4, 2019 - 11:30 am

## **FIRST COMMUNION – SMMS**

Practices will be during school hours

Saturday, May 4, 2018 - 9:30 am

## **First Holy Communion Attire requirements**

**Dress:**           *Girls:* White dress, white ankle socks or tights,  
white shoes. No gloves. Veils/hair pieces are optional.  
Jewelry is fine. Nails can be painted a pale color. No make up.

*Boys:* Dark pants, long sleeve white button down shirts,  
white neck ties (I have these for purchase) and dark  
dress shoes.

**Drop Off  
Time:**           Please bring your child to the church hall a half hour  
before the Ceremony time. Parents and guests may go  
up to the church. The children will process in together.

**Guests:**           Bring as many as you like!!

Please note, St. Mary Magdalen Church is not handicapped  
accessible. We are sorry for any inconvenience.