



ST. JOSEPH OF THE LAKES
CATHOLIC CHURCH
TOGETHER IN SPIRIT

Hello Families!

I hope this note finds you well! We miss you and look forward to seeing you soon!

I'm excited to announce that Fr. Mike is permitting the option for children who have prepared at St. Joe's in 2nd grade and whose parents feel they are ready, to receive their First Eucharist, privately, during any Mass this summer at St. Joe's. All families will be required to follow the guidelines and procedures in place for attending Mass at St. Joe's.

Our hope is to celebrate all of the children through a Communal First Eucharist Celebration on Sunday, October 25 during the 10am Mass. All children and families should plan to attend. Please save the date. Of course, with all of the unknowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic at this time, the date is tentative.

For families who prefer to wait to receive their First Eucharist as part of a group, they can celebrate the Sacrament of First Eucharist at the Communal First Eucharist Celebration.

[PLEASE SEE THE LETTER FOR GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR ATTENDING MASS AT ST. JOE'S DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.](#)

A few things to note if you decide that the option of celebrating your child's First Eucharist this summer during any Mass is for your child and family:

- Because attendance for each Mass is limited, we are asking that families limit their reservations so that the parish community may also celebrate Mass. Each Mass is limited to 62 units. One unit equals one household (those living at the same address).
- Face masks must be worn at all times.
- Communion is received on the way out of Worship Space. There is no Chalice offered at this time.
- No photos or gathering for pictures inside the building. Please follow the social distancing guidelines.
- Individuals that may be considered "high risk" or ill are asked to stay home.
- Children will not be recognized individually during Mass. However, children may dress in a special outfit with a mask!



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- You do not need to let St. Joe's Office know when or if your child receives his/her First Eucharist this summer. *Although, if you'd like to send me a note, I'd love to know!* KellyT@SaintJosephsParish.org.
- Certificates recognizing your child's Sacrament of First Eucharist will be distributed and dated (tentatively) for the Communal First Eucharist Celebration date, Sunday, October 25, 2020.

I know this isn't what we had planned to celebrate their Sacrament of First Eucharist. Our hope is that this gives your child the option to receive the Sacrament that he/she has planned for and an opportunity to celebrate this summer as a family.

Please let me know if you have questions. And, congratulations in advance for your child receiving the beautiful Sacrament of First Eucharist!

Please note that I have limited office hours in July and August. Please feel free to email me with questions/concerns. I will respond as quickly as I am able. However, if you have urgent needs, please call the Parish Office at 651-784-3015.

Thank you,

Kelly Thurmes

Director, Elementary School Faith Formation