

Make-Up Work for “Communion Class 2”

for First Confession and First Communion Sacramental Prep

(for Candidates in Grades 2-5 on Thursday evenings)
Revised Spring 2021

Notes to Parents for Make-Up Work:

- Please begin and end each “make-up class” with a prayer. Although the use of spontaneous prayer is allowed, the children will have to memorize and recite the traditional prayers that are found on the First Communion Prayer Sheets that we’ve provided. Please review/pray those prayers often throughout the year and **don’t forget to schedule “Prayer Appointments”** with Mrs. Frances so your child can recite memorized prayers for her (or for one of her Prayer Partner volunteers).
- Please **read and discuss the following information** with your child. If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to call Mrs. Frances at our Church Parish Office (937-6888).
- After reviewing this packet of information with your child, please **complete the last page of this make-up packet** and **return it to our church parish office** so Mrs. Frances can update the attendance chart.

Continuing the discussion from Communion Class #1: What happens in the Mass?

Because we can only receive the Body of Christ within the context of a Catholic Mass, we want to help the children of our church parish (and their parents) understand more about the Mass. **Please call the church parish office (937-6888) to borrow one of the DVDs that we have used in our Communion Classes over the past few years. It will explain what happens in every Mass.**

IMPORTANT:

- ✓ Because several families may need to view this DVD, please view it on the night you borrow it and **return it the next day**. (If necessary, please put it in the locked mailbox near the bottom of the front porch steps leading into the church office.)
- ✓ Mrs. Frances pauses DVDs often to ask questions or offer explanations. If you or your child have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email Mrs. Frances or speak with one of our church office employees when you return the DVD.

Explain: Each Mass is like a special family reunion. At Mass, we gather as one family, listen to “family” (Bible) stories, and share a very special meal offered by our Host (Jesus Christ) who is represented *In Persona Christi* (in the Person of Christ) by an ordained Catholic priest. We are then sent into the world to share God’s love with everyone we meet.

NOTE: From year to year, our classroom discussion differs while watching these videos, so our starting/stopping point at any given class may vary. Mrs. Frances will attempt to **add a note inside the case of the DVD** to provide time stamp info regarding the start/stop point for this year's Thursday night classes. *However, since the rest of your family isn't present during our Thursday night classes, your entire family may benefit from watching the entire video together!*

View the DVD. Check the inside cover of the DVD for specific details for this year's classes.

If time permitted, the children read and discussed First Communion Catechism **Lesson 11: The Holy Eucharist** in the children's textbook. (The candidates will be able to bring their books home at the end of the school year.) A quick review of Lesson 11 follows:

- "The Holy Eucharist is the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Our Lord, Jesus Christ." (First Communion Catechism, page 47)
- "The Holy Eucharist is Our Lord Himself." (First Communion Catechism, page 47)
- He comes to live in us, stay with us, and help us.
- At every Mass, Jesus, once again, offers Himself on the Cross. We join our sufferings to His suffering. We suffer with Him.
- He becomes present in the Holy Eucharist during the Sacrifice of the Mass.
 - We offer bread and wine to God.
 - By the authority granted to the priest by God, the priest changes the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus.
 - The priest offers the Body and Blood to God and tells God we love Him.
- "The Gift of Jesus on the Cross pleased the Father, so the Father raised Jesus from the dead. Our gift at Mass pleases the Father, too, so the Father will raise us with Jesus" (First Communion Catechism, page 49). Someday, depending upon how clean we keep our soul, we hope to be with Jesus in Heaven.
- We receive Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
 - God the Father invites us to His table for a special meal.
 - The consecrated host looks like bread, but it really is Jesus. We can't see Him or hear Him, but He is there!
 - The big consecrated host is for the priest. The small consecrated hosts are for the people who attend the Mass. Each host is Jesus.
 - The chalice contains the consecrated wine which is the Blood of Jesus. It looks and tastes like wine, but really is Jesus!
 - "Jesus Christ is the Food and Drink of our soul. It makes our soul strong." (First Communion Catechism, page 49)
 - During the Mass, Jesus tells God, His Father, that He loves Him. We also show and tell God that we love Him by actively participating in the Mass. If we simply

sit/stand like a “bump on a log,” it will be obvious that we really don’t want to be there. (*How much can we learn at school if we do nothing more than sit and/or stand in the corner of a classroom? In order to learn, we have to work hard to keep our mind focused and make an effort to take part in the classroom activities. The same is true at Mass! We must put in a good effort in order to receive something from our experience at Mass.*) God will still love us, but He may be disappointed in or offended by our behavior. We won’t earn entrance to Heaven by just allowing ourselves to be bored. We have to become active and responsible for our faith.

- To receive Holy Communion, our soul must be free from mortal sin. We must not eat or drink anything for one hour before Holy Communion, but we can drink water and/or take medicine.
- People who have mortal sin on their soul may not receive Communion. (If they do, it is a big sin because the life of Christ is dead in their soul, so our soul is dead. Dead people can’t eat.)
- People who are sick need to eat. Venial sin makes our soul sick, so we can receive Communion with venial sin on our soul, but we should first be sorry for our sins.
- **Before receiving Holy Communion**, I should think of Jesus, say the prayers I have learned, and ask (invite) Jesus to come to me in my soul.
- **After receiving Holy Communion**, I should thank Jesus for coming to me, tell Him how much I love Him, ask Him to help me, and pray for others.

Review the Apostles’ Creed with your child.

- If your child has already memorized and recited The Apostles’ Creed for one of our prayer partners, a simple review will do. (Refer to the attached prayer sheet, if necessary.)
- If your child has not yet recited it from memory, the following suggestions may help.
 - **Suggestion #1:** [Download](#), print, and cut out the phrases of The Apostles’ Creed from our website. Instructions printed in that file will explain how you and your child can use it to memorize the prayer.
 - **Suggestion #2:** Perhaps you would prefer to simply cut rectangular strips of paper that can be used to cover some of the words on the next page to make an impromptu “fill-in-the-blank” review activity for your child at home. Use the rectangles to cover some of the words in one specific section of the prayer. Ask the child to read the prayer (from the beginning), and “fill in” the covered words. Remove the cutouts to check accuracy. Repeat the process, covering different words. Remove the cutouts to check accuracy.
 - **Either way:** Focus on only one section of the prayer at a time (“I believe in God . . .” or “and in His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord . . .” or “I believe in the Holy Spirit . . .”).

- As your child becomes more confident, “hide” words in two sections of the prayer.
- As your child becomes more confident, “hide” words in all sections of the prayer.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of Heaven and earth;

and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell,
on the third day He arose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

Amen.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Please complete this page and return it to our Church Parish Office as soon as possible so Mrs. Frances can update our attendance records to indicate that you have helped your child make up the work that was missed during the class identified below.

My child, _____, and I have viewed (*please check all that apply*) all a portion of the DVD entitled:

- "Understanding the Sunday Mass: A Kid's Point of View" or
- "Inside the Sacraments: The Holy Mass."

We have also read and discussed all of the textbook information included in this make-up packet for the First Communion Prep "**Communion Class #2.**"

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Current Date