

*Catholic Churches*

**First Communion Policies & Guidelines**

God calls us to actively seek Him and His Word as we continue to build an on-going relationship with Him.

1. The parent / guardian must read this list of policies & guidelines to enroll the child in our First Communion program. (Note: There is no additional fee for Sacramental preparation classes in our First Communion program.)
2. Roman Catholic families should live God's Third Commandment: "Keep holy the Lord's day." Priests everywhere will agree that **attendance at Sunday Masses (Sat. Vigil Masses)** and on **Holy Days of Obligation** is the first step in living the faith-filled life to which God calls us. Families who are new to our faith communities are encouraged to pick up a current schedule of the Masses celebrated here at St. Martin DePorres and Our Lady of the Lake Churches.
3. *Although most children make their First Confession and First Communion in grade 2, it is not unusual for an older child to enroll in the sacramental preparation program.* All candidates must enroll in and attend religious education classes for their appropriate grade level. Parents/guardians for older candidates must prepare them for the Sacrament at home and are accountable to the Director for their progress.
  - A) **Attendance Policy:** All candidates are expected to attend on-site classes regularly and **promptly**. Enrollment in a sacramental preparation program places even more emphasis on **perfect attendance!**
  - B) **Absence Policy:** (1) A doctor's excuse or a parent's handwritten excuse must be submitted to as soon as possible after an absence. A death in the immediate family or medical are the only excusable absences.
    - (2) Due to the volunteer nature of our teachers, any material from the classes missed will be the responsibility of the parent / guardian.
    - (3) Extenuating circumstances (lengthy illness / hospital stay) will be discussed with the Director on a case-by-case basis.
4. **Mass Attendance:** As stated above, Mass attendance is vital in living the faith-filled life to which God calls us. As stated in the Religious Education Policies, which everyone should have received either at the Parent Orientation meeting or by E-Mail. Mass attendance is mandatory for all Catholics, most especially for those seeking a Sacrament. It is the **parent's/guardian's responsibility** to make sure the candidates **attend Mass**.
5. **If the candidate was not baptized at St. Martin DePorres or Our Lady of the Lake Churches, you must submit a photocopy of a Church certificate of Baptism as soon as possible.** A fax of a certificate is okay.
6. All First Communion candidates should **display a sincere desire** to learn more about our Catholic faith and **an age-appropriate knowledge** of the Sacraments of Confession and Eucharist **before** receiving the Sacraments.
7. Regardless of their age or grade level, **all** First Communion candidates must **memorize and recite the prayers identified for grades 1-2** on our "Treasury of Prayers" brochure. Several of those prayers are used in the preparation for, during, or in the assigned penances after Confession, and must be memorized and recited **before** First Confession on May 5, 2018.

**Memorized Prayers for all First Communion Candidates:**

**Grade 1 Prayers:** The Sign of the Cross, Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Angel of God.

**Grade 2 Prayers:** The 10 Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Brief Examination of Conscience, Act of Contrition, Prayer before Meals, and Bless me Father. (For Confession)

**Dress Code for First Confession:** (All candidates in grades 2-12)

**Acceptable:** Nice slacks or jeans, dress shirt or polo shirt, modest skirt and blouse with sleeves; modest dress with sleeves, socks or stockings; clean closed-toe and heel shoes.

**Unacceptable:** Distressed jeans, capris, shorts, t-shirts, athletic clothing, or open-toe and/or heel shoes.

**Dress Code for First Communion:** (All candidates in grades 2-12)

**Girls:** Modest white dress with sleeves, white Communion veil, white socks or stockings, white closed-toe and heel shoes. (**Note: No** purses, gloves, or dangling earrings. Young girls should not wear any makeup. Teenage candidates may wear a very light application of makeup.)

**Boys:** Black dress pants, white button-down dress shirt (long or short sleeve), black socks, black dress shoes, black tie.

**All Candidates are required to attend the practices for each Sacrament. Both will take place at the B.J. Center. The dates and times are:**

**Confession: May 4th, 7:15am – 8:00am**

**Communion: May 11th, 7:15am – 8:am**

**First Confession:**

**Day/Date: Saturday, May 5, 2018**

**Time: 10:am – All Candidates must be present at 9:45am**

**Place: St. Martin DePorres Church**

**First Communion:**

**Day/Date: Saturday, May 12, 2018**

**Mass Time: 10:am**

**Place: Our Lady of the Lake Church**

**Photos will be taken from 9:am – 9:30am**