

Supplement to Parent/Student Handbook

Sacrament of the Eucharist

First Holy Communion 2019



St. Raymond of Peñafort Catholic Church

Springfield, Virginia

Calendar of Events

A copy of the Certificate of Baptism is due in the Religious Education Office by December 14, 2018.

First Penance	February 2, 2019	10:00 am
Jesus Day	April 27, 2019	8:30 am – 12:45 pm
First Holy Communion Practice	April 27, 2019	
First Holy Communion Mass	May 4, 2019	11:00 a.m.



Sacrament of Penance - The majority of the children will make their First Penance in February. We encourage you to make sure that your child has an opportunity to receive this Sacrament again before the First Holy Communion Mass. Check the parish bulletin for times for Confession.

Interviews – All Homeschool First Communicants will be interviewed by the Director of Religious Education in the weeks prior to the First Communion Mass. This is designed as a verbal assessment to ensure that each child is prepared to receive their first Holy Communion.

Jesus Day: Jesus Day will take place on Saturday, April 27, 2019 . This is a mini-retreat designed to help the children become more comfortable with the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. It is expected that all students who will be receiving their first Holy Communion will attend Jesus Day. Students should arrive in the Parish Hall no later than 8:30 a.m. so we can prepare to attend Mass at 9 a.m. Families are welcome and encouraged to join us for Mass. The day will unfold with the children visiting several “centers” focused on the Sacrament which they are preparing to receive.

Attire for Jesus Day should be “Sunday best” as the children will be attending Mass. Students should not be wearing jeans, shorts, t-shirts, or sport uniforms of any kind. Girls may wear a dress, or dress slacks, but must wear tops that cover their shoulders (no sleeveless or spaghetti strap shirts). The students should not wear sneakers, flip flops, or other inappropriate footwear.

First Holy Communion Practice – The rehearsal for the First Holy Communion Mass will be held as part of the mini-retreat on Jesus Day. Parents will be advised as to the time of rehearsal. It is important that at least one parent be present for the rehearsal so they may receive any last minute information and be able to answer any questions their child may have when they return home. More specific information about the rehearsal will be provided as the time for Jesus Day draws near.

First Holy Communion Mass: First Holy Communion Mass will take place on **Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 11 a.m.** Students should arrive no later than 10:15 a.m. Parents should check their child in with his/her teacher and then go upstairs to the church. Children will process outside (weather permitting) and then into the church.

Attire for First Holy Communion Mass: Special clothes highlight a special occasion; however, the focus of the day should be on the incredible love expressed by Jesus in giving of Himself to each one of us. Attire for boys is dress shoes, dress slacks or khakis, a dress shirt, and a tie (appropriate for church). Suit or sport jacket is customary and preferred. First Holy Communion attire for girls is a white dress with hemline at or below the knee and with shoulders covered. Girls should also wear dress shoes with white tights or ankle socks and traditionally, a veil or headpiece is worn. Please DO NOT let the girls wear colored nail polish, gloves, or pants. The children should not carry anything (bible, purse, Rosary, flowers) into Mass, but these items can be used for photos before or after the ceremony. Please do not have your child wear a corsage or boutonnière.

Photos and videos are not permitted during the Mass, but can be taken by family members before dropping your child off in the classroom or after the Mass, in the Parish Hall or on parish property. Photos may be taken in the church **AFTER** the Mass, but no one should enter the Sanctuary for photos; your child and/or family members may stand at the foot of the steps in front of the Sanctuary for photos. A professional photographer will be onsite during the Mass - details about the photographer will be distributed at the Jesus Day mini-retreat.

Be sure to come into the Parish Hall after Mass to pick up your child's First Holy Communion Certificate.

May Crowning and Corpus Christi: First Communicants, as well as all parishioners, are invited to participate in two other events here at St. Raymond's: the May Crowning of Our Blessed Mother and the Corpus Christi procession. The children are encouraged to wear their special First Holy Communion outfits for both events. More information on these special occasions will be made available at a later date.

!! Mass Attendance: Students must document **Mass attendance for Sundays (or Saturday evenings) and Holy Days of Obligation** (October 1 – April 28) by placing Mass Attendance cards in the collection basket at St. Raymond's. If a student attends Mass at a Catholic parish other than St. Raymond's, the student should provide the Religious Education office a bulletin from that parish with their name written on it and the bulletin signed and dated by the parish priest or deacon. Students must meet a 75% fulfillment goal for the school year from October 1 – April 28th. Students will be given index cards for this activity. Before they come to Mass each week, please have your child write their name on the index card, along with the date of the Saturday Vigil / Sunday Mass they are attending. During the Offertory, have your child place the card in the collection basket.

Class Attendance: Students in sacramental years (grades 2, 7, and 8) must attend and participate in at least 75% of weekly scheduled Religious Education classes. Students who miss one-quarter or more of the scheduled classes may be required to retake the course work for that year in the following year's Religious Education program.

These required Forms may be picked up in the Religious Education office or you may email the Religious Education Office

at religiouseducation@straymonds.org requesting the forms be sent to you electronically. Please complete and return the form(s), applicable to your particular circumstances, to the Religious Education office by the date indicated below.

a. First Holy Communion Registry Form

Return the completed form, with Certificate of Baptism attached, to the Religious Education office **no later than December 14, 2018**. If your child was baptized at St. Raymond of Peñafort, no need to attach the certificate.

If the Baptismal Certificate is printed in a language other than English, please have form translated prior to submission.

b. Family Priest / Deacon Attendance Form

If you have a family member who is a priest or deacon who would like to concelebrate or serve the First Holy Communion Mass, please complete and return the form with supporting documentation (if required) to the Religious Education office **no later than March 15, 2019**.

Rite of Reconciliation / Confession

Walk in and close the door and either kneel or sit. If you prefer to make your Confession face to face, let the priest know and he will open the curtain (this is for those receiving the Sacrament at St. Raymond's).

Child:

1) Make and say the Sign of the Cross:

“In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

2) Say, “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned, this is my first Confession, and these are my sins...” (name your sins) starting with the mortal ones and saying how many times, then the venial sins

{3) When you return for other Confessions in the future, you will say, “It has been _____ weeks, months, etc. since my last confession (3 weeks, 6 months, or however long it has been.)}

4) When you have finished telling the priest your sins, say, “For these and all the sins of my whole life, I am truly sorry.” or “For these and all my sins, I am truly sorry.”

Priest:

1) May give words of advice or suggestions.

2) Will give you a penance (often this will be prayers to be said in the church after Confession).
To show the priest you will do the penance say “Yes Father” or “Thank you, Father.”

3) Priest will ask you to say an Act of Contrition.

Child: *An Act of Contrition*

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments; but, most of all, because they have offended Thee, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love, I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

Priest:

1) Will give you absolution by saying, “...I absolve you...” (the prayer which forgives/removes your sins).

2) The priest will end the absolution prayer by saying, “In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” *

Child:

* 1) When the priest is saying this, you should make the Sign of the Cross.

2) He will probably say, “Go in peace,” and you respond, “Thanks be to God.”

3) Before leaving say, “Thank you, Father.”

Step out and leave the door open. Find a quiet place in the church and say your penance.

A Children's Examination of Conscience

Did I miss Mass on purpose (through my own fault) on a Sunday or a Holy Day? (Do not confuse this with your parents not taking you to Mass. You only have the obligation to ask them to take you)

Do I pay attention in Mass? Do I laugh or talk in church?

Was I late for Mass through my own fault?

Have I used the Lord's name in vain?

Do I use other bad language?

Have I been disrespectful of others?

Do I obey my parents or others who I should obey?

Do I complete my household chores?

Do I humbly accept correction from my parents?

Have I talked back to them?

Do I speak respectfully to those in authority over me?

Did I use angry words?

Do I fight or cause fights with my friends or brothers or sisters?

Have I called someone a name or said mean things about or to someone?

Was I unkind to others? Did I tease someone unkindly?

Did I try to get even with someone?

Have I stolen anything?

Did I hurt someone's property?

Have I looked at bad things on TV or the internet?

Have I cheated?

Have I caused another to commit sin?

Do I brag? Am I prideful?

Have I lied?

Do I ask permission to do things that I know should not be part of my ordinary life?

Taken from the Parish Catechist Manual from the Faith and Life Series Grade 2 Third Edition, p. 82 and from the *New Saint Joseph First Communion Catechism (Baltimore Catechism)* p. 43

