

ST. MATTHEW CATHOLIC CHURCH

PREPARING FOR FIRST HOLY EUCHARIST

2023 KICK OFF

WELCOME

We are truly excited to support you in preparing your child for the first time they will receive the sacred Body and precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Over the coming weeks, the children will learn about the awesome gift that Jesus gives to us; the gift of Himself in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is His true presence here on earth.

In addition, the children will explore all parts of the Mass and will be introduced to the music, readings and responses that will be a part of the Mass of First Communion. We look forward to continuing this sacramental journey with your family.

With joy,

Lori Mathews

MY COMMUNION PRAYER

Dear God,

I know that You give me many gifts.

The gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ in Holy Communion is the greatest of all.

How can I ever thank You enough for this special gift?

At Mass we are called to be like Jesus, by loving and serving one another in the world.

As I become more like Him, please continue to help me. Show me the places and ways that I can bring Your love, kindness, and peace to others in my family, in my neighborhood, in my community, and with my friends.

I ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

**Prayer taken from Our Sunday Visitor*



**I AM THE
BREAD OF LIFE**

JOHN 6:35

Questions, contact Lori Mathews
lmathews@stmatthewcatholic.org
or at 704-543-7677,
extension 1037

FIRST EUCHARIST PREPARATION

PREPARING FOR FIRST EUCHARIST ELEMENTARY GRADES MASS BOOKLET



First Eucharist Year 2, 2nd Grade MACS Students and RCIC (Grades 4-5).

The “Preparing for First Communion” booklet is designed to help your child participate and grow in their understanding of the Mass and the Holy Eucharist. As part of your child’s preparation, we require the Mass booklet to be returned to the Faith Formation Office.

Distributed On: Week of January 29th during faith formation sessions & at St. Matthew School

Begins: Sunday, February 5th

Due Date: Week of April 2nd bring to faith formation sessions or to 2nd grade teacher at St. Matthew School



PREPARING FOR FIRST EUCHARIST MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT JOURNAL & BE THE CHURCH

RCIM Year 2 (Grades 6-9)

The **Student Journal** is a tool to be used during class and is to be brought to session each week along with their Bible. Your teen will be guided through the journal by their small group leaders as they grow in their understanding of the Mass and the Holy Eucharist. As a reminder, middle school youth should participate in six **“Be The Church”** parish life activities during this 2nd year of their preparation. Please submit these experiences via the google form at <https://stmatthewcatholic.org/bethechurch>.

Distributed on: **Student Journal will be handed out the** Week of January 15th during session.

Due Date: **“Be The Church”** submissions are due by May 1st.

FIRST EUCHARIST PARENT & CHILD RETREAT

This is an important and mandatory part of your child’s preparation, and one parent is required to be present as well. Please make every effort to clear your schedule for this one of the retreat days/times. You’ll select one of the 2 1/2 hour time slots on one of the retreat days.

Date: **Start times of retreat:**

- Friday, April 21 3:30pm, 4pm, 4:30pm
- Saturday, April 22 9am, 9:30am, 10am, 10:30am, 12:30pm, 1pm, 1:30pm, 2pm
- Monday, April 24 3:30pm, 4pm, 4:30pm, 5pm (reserved for RCIM)

FIRST EUCHARIST BANNER—ALL FIRST COMMUNICANTS

We encourage all First Communicants take part in our beautiful St. Matthew tradition of making a First Eucharist Banner.

Materials needed may be purchased at any craft store (i.e. Michaels, A.C. Moore, Walmart).

- **9" x 12" Soft Felt, NO LARGER & NO STICKY BACK & NO DOWELS!**
- Personalize your banner using art & materials pertaining to the Eucharist. However, please keep the weight of the banner to a minimum so it won't fall. The Eucharist Parent page will have additional information regarding the banners.
- Your child's **FIRST NAME** displayed on the banner. You can also include your child's **PHOTO**.
- Please put your child's First and Last Name on the back of the banner so we can return the banner to you



Due Date: Parent & Child Retreat

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is there a suggested dress code?

The liturgical color for the celebration of Holy Eucharist is white.

For girls: Suggested dress code for girls is a white dress or dress shirt and slacks; shoulders should be covered (Please no spaghetti straps unless a sweater or wrap covers the shoulders.) Veils are optional. Please do not have your daughter wear gloves. (If your daughter receives on the palm of the hand, the Precious Body may only come in contact with skin.)

For boys: Suggested dress code for boys is dress pants, white dress shirt, and tie or bow tie. Sport coats/blazers or suits may also be worn but not required. Boys are welcome to wear the traditional white suit.

Where can I purchase First Communion items?

St. Matthew has a Gift Shop located in the Narthex.

See website for hours of operation.

How can I get a picture of my child receiving his/her First Communion?

A photographer will be at all First Eucharist Masses taking a picture of each child receiving First Communion. Families will receive additional information at Retreat.

When can my child and I receive Reconciliation before his/her First Communion?

for schedule check the Church website at stmatthewcatholic.org

St. Matthew Catholic Church



PREPARING FOR FIRST HOLY EUCHARIST

MASSES OF FIRST COMMUNION 2023

Friday May 5

6:00PM

Saturday May 6

9:00AM, 11:30AM & 2:00PM

Saturday May 13

9:00AM & 11:30AM

COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.

Amen

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SELECTION OF RETREAT & MASS OF FIRST COMMUNION

1. You will receive an email on the morning of **Thursday, January 19**, with a link to the registration website.
2. Registration will open at **12:00 noon** on that same day.
3. Complete all information on the form and submit your selections.

St. Matthew Catholic Church
Youth, Family and Sacramental Programs
2022-2023