

GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF SACRAMENTS

The following is a list of the guidelines St. Joseph Parish has set forth regarding the celebration of the reception of sacraments. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these policies please feel free to call the Office of Religious Education at the parish.

1. Dress code: First Communion - Girls may wear white dresses and veils, **however, they are not required.** Dresses, skirts with blouses, dress pants and pantsuits are fine. Boys do not have to wear suits and ties but are encouraged to wear a nice shirt and slacks. No t-shirts, flip-flops, sneakers or shoes with lights or roller balls are permitted.
2. Prayer books and rosaries are permitted especially if they are a part of your tradition. However, in the past we have had young children lose these items, therefore, we ask parents to hold onto them during the Mass.
3. Photography/video recording - We allow flash photography *before* and *after* the Mass. Our priests always pose with the children and their families after the celebration. We permit video recording but ask that mobile recorders be used. We ask that the sacred space, the sanctuary and the Mass, be honored and revered.
4. Gum chewing - It is extremely inappropriate to chew gum or any other food and/or drink during Mass. Fasting one hour prior to reception of the Eucharist is the rule. The only exception to this rule is drinking water if extremely necessary.
5. Leaving Mass - Another sign of reverence includes remaining present throughout the entire liturgy. We ask parents to encourage their children to use restrooms prior to the start of Mass. Unless there is an emergency, there is no reason to leave during the Mass. Please note that Mass has not ended until the priest and liturgical ministers have recessed out.
6. All students with their families are required to attend a rehearsal prior to the sacramental celebration. Dates for rehearsals and the Mass are provided at the beginning of the class year.