

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
1731 Hulmeville Rd. Bensalem, PA 19020

November 8, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians of our First Communion Candidates,

This year we will celebrate First Communion on several Sundays during the Easter Season during our regularly scheduled Sunday Masses. The First Communion of our children is a parish celebration. Celebrating First Communion at Sunday Mass will give the larger parish community the opportunity to join in the celebration and to welcome the children as they approach the Table of the Eucharist for the first time. The celebration at the Sunday Mass also emphasizes what it means to receive Communion - that they are now more fully in communion with the entire community of the faithful, the Body of Christ. The Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and the Eucharist are at the heart of the Church's life and our life as individual Christians. It is important that what the children are learning in the classroom is expressed in the way we celebrate the sacraments. Our formation in the faith only happens within an ongoing relationship with the community of the faithful. As the pastor, it is my desire to foster those relationships given to us by God and the awareness of the surprising unity that Jesus makes possible through the sacramental life.

All those things that make First Communion special for your child will still be in place - the white dress for the girls and the special suit for the boys, the procession with the candidates prior to Mass, and that the candidates will be "first" to receive Communion that day. Each family will have a designated pew in the front center sections of the church, and if the 10:00 a.m. or 12:00 p.m. Mass is chosen for the celebration, the liturgy will be live-streamed. ***Each family will have the opportunity to request a preferred date and time for their child's First Communion over the following Sundays in the 2022 Easter Season: May 1, May 8, May 15, and May 22.*** The Saturday Vigil Masses (5:00 p.m. English or 7:00 p.m. Spanish) on those weekends are also available. So as not to limit the number of guests each family may invite, we will celebrate First Communion for no more than 8 children at each Mass. Mrs. Baird, the Director of Religious Education, will provide a link for Sign-up Genius for you to request the date and time of the celebration. She will explain the process at the meeting on November 15th.

The times that we have celebrated the sacraments of initiation during Sunday liturgies have been times of special joy not only for those receiving the sacraments, but for all the parishioners gathered for Mass. The presence of our young people among us remind us of the gifts we have received so we do not take the presence of Christ for granted. They help us to be renewed in our faith and to see in concrete ways how Christ is alive and continuing to bring new life to our family of faith. Know that you remain in my prayers and that I am grateful for your support and all you do to help our children grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Forlano