

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we determine what will happen with the 2020 First Eucharist Masses. Please see the information below and let us know if you have any questions.

**ALL First Eucharist Masses are postponed.**

- We are waiting on direction from the Diocese of Joliet and the Governor of Illinois in regards to when we can resume public Masses and parish events. At this time, we do not know when we will be able to gather in large groups and therefore cannot give you any definite dates. We will notify families once First Eucharist Masses and practices have been rescheduled.
- If you had made arrangements for your child(ren) to receive First Eucharist at a regular Saturday/Sunday liturgy, we will contact you with new dates once First Eucharist practices have been rescheduled.

**The March 14<sup>th</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup> First Eucharist Retreats will not be rescheduled. Instead, we are asking parents to prepare their child(ren) at home to receive First Eucharist.**

- At-Home Retreat packets will be emailed to you separately next week.
- Your family must complete this packet and return it to the Faith Formation Office in order for your child to receive their First Eucharist.
- If your family attended the February 29<sup>th</sup> First Eucharist retreat, you do not need to complete an At-Home Retreat packet. You are encouraged to complete the optional activity packet that you received at the end of your retreat and to continue speaking with your child about what you learned that day.
- As a reminder, the First Eucharist Retreat at St. Jude or At-Home is an Explore 4 event.

**All families are encouraged to continue participating in live-stream Masses and making a Spiritual Communion.**

- Children who have not yet made their First Eucharist can and should participate in a Spiritual Communion, especially when they are preparing to receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time.
- You can view the St. Jude live-stream Masses here: <http://stjudes.org/live-stream-9am-mass/>

**All children receiving their First Eucharist are still invited to make banners.**

- Banners must be turned in by your First Eucharist practice. They can also be brought to the Faith Formation Office when we reopen. If you did not receive your 10"x10" banner base, you can pick it up from the Faith Formation Office once the office reopens. We recommend cutting a piece of paper to 10"x10" and use that to help you in designing your banner. You can attach all materials when you receive your banner base.

**If your child still needs to make their First Reconciliation, this must be done before they can receive their First Eucharist.**

- We will let all families know when the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered again.

We know the postponement of celebrating First Eucharist is disappointing and we share those feelings with you. First Eucharist Masses are the highlight of our year, but the health and safety of your family and guests are of the utmost importance to us. These Masses are temporarily delayed but they will happen. Your child will receive Jesus for the first of many times and we will all celebrate together!

Please let us know if you have any questions. We are praying for your family at this time and always.

God Bless,  
Katie Neu and Sarah Gibbons