

Tips for Communion

I have told the kids this is like a game of follow the leader.
The kids have had several opportunities to practice in the church.

We will move from the hall to the church using the two inside staircases.

The one staircase M-Z (with exceptions) right side is the one most commonly used.

The other staircase A-L (with exceptions) left side of the church is hidden behind the publication rack.

We will stand with our hands (not our arms) folded in prayer as we wait to process in. Two teacher, Mrs. Carozza and Mrs. Hickey, will stand in the back of the church and pace the kids. They will have a hand on their shoulder and give a little tap or gentle squeeze when it is time for them to go forward.

- There should be four pews between your son/daughter and the group in front of them and the group in back of them. This helps us abide by one of Father John's rule, which is "**Don't bunch!**"
- We don't walk like little brides - we walk normally.
- **We don't rush.** That's another one of Father John's rules.
- Children should walk close to their partner (in the center) not close to the pews.

When we get to the front of the church, we bow slightly-slightly-slightly as we face the cross. We walk across the front of the church and enter our pews from the side. We will remain standing as all the children process up and we will remain standing for Father John and Father Mike.

When we go up for communion, we will be assisted by some of the altar servers. When the altar servers indicate, **the whole pew stands up.**

The first child walks up to Father John (left side-baptismal font) and Father Mike (right side-choir side).

The next child should stand at the edge of the pew. They will be watching what the student in front of them is doing.

When the first child steps to the side to place the host on their tongue, the second child should move forward **paced with their partner.**

When the second child walks up to Father John and Father Mike, the next child should stand at the edge of the pew. They will be watching what the student in front of them is doing. When that child steps to the side to place the host on their tongue, the third child should move forward paced with their partner and so on.... I

t's really easy for the first four pews. Children in pews five, six seven and eight have a bit of a walk to get to their waiting spot. They really need to pay attention to what is happening.

We have practiced several times and I have encouraged you to practice with bread, crackers, and even candy at home.

- The proper way to receive communion is to bow in reverence when you are in front of the priest. (this is different during regular Mass, of course, you bow as the person in front of you is receiving communion).
- You should make a table for the Eucharistic meal. Hold your table at chin level so that Father Jonh and Father Michael do not have to reach down. People, who are right handed, put their right hand under their left. People, who are left handed, put their left hand under their right.
- When Father said "Body of Christ", respond **loudly and clearly** Amen.
- You should take a step to the side. If you are on the left side of church you step to the left and if you are on the right hand side of church you step to the right. People who are right handed pick up the consecrated host with their right hand and place it on their tongue. People who are left handed pick up the host with their left hand.
- You should make the sign of the cross as you face the cross before you turn. This is a big day with lots of things to remember. We don't push this one.

HOWEVER, YOU DO NOT MOVE TO GO BACK TO THE PEW UNTIL THE HOST IS IN YOUR MOUTH.

Your son or daughter should go back to the pew, kneel and pray. They should be able to kneel until all of their classmates make their First Holy Communion. They should kneel with no lazy bums leaning on the pew bench. I believe that when Father invites everyone to come forward to receive communion, the children may sit.

This is a lot of information but you have seen it all at Mass and it is not new to you. It shouldn't be all that new to your children either. They may have not seen all this up close; maybe you sit in the back for Mass because you have younger children. We have gone over all of this in class. You should go over this once each day and maybe once again the morning on practice day before the 8:30 report time.