



First Communion



First Communion is celebrated within the Mass, or Eucharistic liturgy. The name Eucharist comes from Greek and Latin words for “thanksgiving.” The word “liturgy” means public prayer. The Eucharist is known by many names, including the Lord’s Supper. The celebration of the Eucharist occurs within the Mass, which is a liturgy of thanksgiving for all God’s gifts.

Our celebration of Mass recalls the Lord’s passion and death. We believe the Lord is present at Mass, for as Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew, “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20). The first time one receives the Eucharist is a significant event in a person’s life. When we receive Holy Communion, we are intimately united with Jesus Christ — he literally becomes part of us. And by taking Holy Communion, we express a unity of belief with the Catholic Church and our acceptance of everything she teaches. Catholics who are properly disposed to receive the sacrament are welcome to come forward. If you are not Catholic, you may remain at your place at the time of the Communion procession, or the priest may offer additional instructions for you.

Children receive their first Communion when they have reached “the age of reason,” about age 7. Children are prepared for this sacrament through our second grade PRE Program. Parents are asked to participate in order to help prepare their child for the celebration. For more information, contact the Director of Religious Education.