



St. Joseph Catholic Church

228 East Hendricks Street, Shelbyville, IN 46176

Phone (317) 398-8227

JMJ

First Communion Details

1. Make sure your child's name is on the attached list.
2. Get ready: Go to Confession!!
 - All children should go to confession before First Communion
 - All godparents should also go to confession before First Communion. Parents & siblings can as well!
 - Fr. Mike will hear confessions on **Friday, June 12 from 10am until 4:30pm** in the confessional at SJ
3. Get ready: Pray the First Communion novena (attached) to prepare
 - Start on June 5, 2020 and then pray daily
 - Pray as a family!
4. Get ready: Buy some religious presents for your child
 - Rosary, Catholic bible, Action Bible, Crucifix necklace, religious bracelet, picture of Jesus or Mary.
 - Do this sooner rather than later – may need to go online
 - Sanders is good
 - St. Joseph Shop - 374 Northside Dr # H, Batesville, IN 47006
5. Get ready: Help your child be excited for this day!
 - Do everything you can to stir that excitement: practice, talk about it a lot, count down days, tell them how much you love Jesus, etc...
 - Be excited yourself. Your child is about to receive Jesus!
 - Practice, practice, practice how to receive communion: https://youtu.be/aw_Gr9s5lKg
6. First Communion Mass Dates
 - June 13 at 11am - St. Vincent REP students, at SV (*inside*)
 - June 14 at 2:30pm – St. Joseph School students, at SJ (*inside*)
 - June 14 at 4:30pm – St. Joseph REP students, at SJ (*inside*)
7. When you arrive:
 - Please arrive about 30 minutes early.
 - Each child will sit on the aisle and can fill the bench with up to 7 family members. The child must sit on the end of the center aisle.
 - When your family arrives, please carefully go to your child's assigned pew. Don't forget to genuflect on your way into the pews. This is expected in any Catholic church.
 - Once your family has found your seats, each child should go over to the Mary statue *with his or her parents* before Mass begins for his or her individual photo. Please social distance as you wait along the east wall by Mary. See #11 below for more info about photography.
 - Please refrain from talking before Mass. This is for the sake of reverence and safety.
 - Those 65 and older are encouraged to watch from home livestreamed.

8. Please help us to keep the church quiet before Mass and after Mass
- Children will make an act of preparation for Mass – hey, we should all be doing that!!!
 - Children will make an act of thanksgiving after Mass – hey, we should all be doing that!!!!
9. Banners:
- Make sure you bring your banner the day of the Mass
 - You will find your child’s name on a bench. Simply place the banner on top of the end of the bench
 - If you haven’t picked up your banner from the St. Joe office yet, it is time to do so!
 - Prayerfully work on this with your child!
10. Dress code:
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| <p>Boys:</p> <p>White suit or black suit</p> <p>White long-sleeved shirt</p> <p>Black dress shoes</p> <p>Long dark (black or navy) tie</p> | <p>Girls:</p> <p>White Dress (no strapless dresses or bare shoulders)</p> <p>Veil or flowers</p> <p>White anklets or tights/stockings</p> <p>White shoes</p> <p>No gloves</p> |
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11. Photography
- We will have a professional photographer. Please refrain from taking pictures during Mass. This will help with social distancing and reverence.
 - Bring order form day of First Communion (see attached)
 - Checks payable to our photographer, Felicia Vogel
 - Everyone gets a free group photo, so you do not need to take photos of the class yourself.
 - Individual photos 30 MINUTES BEFORE EACH MASS IN CHURCH by Mary statue. Please observe social distancing in line.
 - The group photo will take place after Masses, outside in front of Mary as we did for 5th grade graduation yesterday. This is consistent with the health guidelines below which warn against “close physical contact for extended periods of time,” since students will be next to each other only for a very quick moment of time. Each child can lower his or her mask, smile, and then put his or her mask back on. Participation in the group photo is based on parental discretion.
12. Make a PROMISE: My family will NEVER miss weekend Mass.
13. Some COVID-19 Notes:
- First Holy Communion at SV and SJ is being planned in accordance with state and diocesan safety guidelines:
 - https://www.backontrack.in.gov/files/BackOnTrack-IN_PlacesOfWorship.pdf
 - https://backontrack.in.gov/files/BackOnTrack-IN_WhatsOpen-Closed-stage4.pdf
 - <https://www.archindy.org/worship/coronavirus2020-reopening.html>
 - Some safety precautions:
 - No processions are allowed at all
 - No entrance procession – all students begin in place
 - Fr. Mike will come to each person at Communion time. A photo will be taken of each child receiving his or her First Communion.
 - No Cup (Precious Blood) is allowed
 - No Sign of Peace is allowed
 - No child is allowed to do a reading at Mass
 - No roses to Mary or candles this year
 - Very little singing will take place
 - Masks are encouraged by the bishop and governor for all church services in the state of Indiana.

- While some hand sanitizer stations will be available, it is best to bring your own and use it before Mass and after Mass
 - Out of respect for all involved, we ask that each family adheres to these guidelines.
- **Anyone who is feeling sick or has recently been sick, is running a temperature or recently had a temperature, or has been exposed to COVID-19, DO NOT ATTEND.**
 - **Any family that is not comfortable attending or is feeling sick, Father Mike will make special arrangements for your child to receive his/her First Holy Communion. Please send us an email and we can plan accordingly.**