

FIRST EUCHARIST GUIDELINES

2024

CLOTHING: Dress up clothes are an appropriate indication of the solemnity of the occasion. Wearing **white** is **not required**. *Girls traditionally do wear white or off-white dresses.* The dresses may be sleeveless. Veils, gloves, and wreaths are optional. Boys are **not required** to wear a **suit**, though many do wear either a suit, a dress jacket and pants, or a nice, collared shirt and pants.

FIRST EUCHARIST MASSES: First Eucharist Weekend Masses are on **Saturday, April 13, 2024** during the **4:30 Vigil Masses** and during the **Sunday, April 14, 2024** during the **7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM** and **5:30 PM Masses**.

FIRST EUCHARIST SEATING:

First Eucharist Communicants will be **seated** with each other **in alphabetical order**, in **reserved pews** in the **main aisle** of the **Church**. Their First Communion certificate and banner will be placed in their pew. Families and guests may choose to sit in either transept or the main nave of the church. Families may invite as many guests as they would like. Ushers will be available to assist in directing the children and their families to their pews.

RECEPTION OF THE EUCHARIST: During Communion time, the priest will instruct the children to come forward and receive their First Communion before the rest of the assembly. The First Communicants have been prepared by their teachers/catechist to receive the Body of Christ in their hand. Reception of the Cup will be offered at this time. If you wish your child to receive the Blood of Christ, please allow them to taste the wine at home.

There has been some concern expressed by our non-Catholic parents that they feel left out at this point. If for any reason a member of your family does not receive communion, that family member should feel free to approach the altar to express the love and unity of your family. At the actual reception of the Eucharist, they should cross their arms and receive a blessing from the priest or the Eucharistic Minister.

PICTURE TAKING:

To avoid distractions for the children and the families attending the liturgy, St. Aloysius asks that **NO Pictures** be taken **during the Mass**. You are welcome to take pictures either before or after Mass. Feel free to share the pictures with us for our Aloysius Alive and Facebook. Photographer, John Ballance will be taking pictures of your child receiving their First Communion.

John Ballance, from **John Ballance Photography** will be available in the **Parish Hall** to take professional pictures on:

Saturday, April 13th from 3:00 pm until 4:15 pm and from 5:30 pm until 6:00 pm.

Sunday, April 14th from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm.

225 266-1953 or at john@johnballance.net .

If you have any questions, please contact me at tgreely@staloyusparish.com or at **225 343-6657**.

Tricia Greely

Director of Children Formation