

QUESTIONS FOR FIRST COMMUNION INTERVIEWS

“For the administration of the Most Holy Eucharist to children, it is required that they have sufficient knowledge and careful preparation so as to understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity, and can receive the Body of the Lord with faith and devotion.” (Canon 913.1)

In identifying readiness in preparation for First Holy Communion, the children should be able to:

- ❖ Identify Jesus as God, Friend, Brother, Savior, etc. and have a clear understanding that it is Jesus whom we receive in the Eucharist.
- ❖ Demonstrate familiarity with the inside of the Church – the altar, offertory table, chalice, crucifix, baptismal font, tabernacle, etc.
- ❖ Distinguish the difference between the bread and wine offered at the beginning of Mass from the Body and Blood of Christ received in Holy Communion.
- ❖ Describe the process through which the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. They should be familiar with the words and actions of Jesus from the Last Supper which are repeated by the Priest at Mass, i.e., “This is my Body which will be given up for you ... This is the chalice of my Blood.”
- ❖ Understand that although Communion will look and taste the same as the bread and wine that were offered at the beginning of Mass, it is truly changed.
- ❖ Explain that we fast from food and drink (except for water or medicine) for one hour before receiving Holy Communion.
- ❖ Know that our response to “The Body of Christ” when we receive Holy Communion is “Amen,” which means, “Yes, I believe.”
- ❖ Demonstrate how to receive Holy Communion either on the tongue or with hands extended.
- ❖ Tell what to do after receiving Holy Communion – specifically, return to seat in a respectful manner and spend time in prayer with Jesus, thanking Him, expressing our love for Him, and expressing needs and concerns we would like to share with Him. If the congregation is singing, they should join in.
- ❖ Understand the importance of meeting our Sunday obligation by attending Mass to hear God’s Word, to offer Jesus and ourselves to the Heavenly Father, and to receive Jesus in Holy Communion.
- ❖ Describe specific ways that we show our love for God and thank Jesus for sharing His life with us by trying to live like Him, even when it is difficult to do. Tell how we can spread God’s love to others.