

First Communion 2014 Events Information

Sunday, April 6, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. Mass: Bread Sunday. This annual Holy Cross event is an opportunity for the whole parish to be involved with our First Communion candidates. Bring a loaf of bread to the 10:00 a.m. Mass. During Mass, the bread will be given to members of the congregation asking them to pray for that candidate as he/she makes final preparations for First Communion. Please see attached insert for materials and instructions.

Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.: First Communion Rehearsal/Prayer Service. Please come to the church first. The children will rehearse their procession into church for the Saturday Mass while parents have a separate meeting in the Great Hall. Families will join together for a brief prayer service at the end. The children have prepared special items in class to be used for the service.

Fee: There is a required fee for First Communion of \$24.00, which covers the cost of the First Communion picture, photographer, and craft supplies. Each student will receive a copy of the picture along with their First Communion Certificate. Return payment no later than the day of the rehearsal. Make checks payable to "Holy Cross Church" and write "First Communion fee" in the memo section. Holy Cross School families may have already paid this fee at registration. Check with the parish or school office if you're unsure.

Saturday, May 3, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.: The First Communion Mass. Students must be at the parish center by 9:00 a.m. to meet with their class, line up for the photo, and then get in line for the procession into Church. There is a lot to do, so please be on time.

Pictures: The group picture will be taken at 9:15 a.m. in the church. Late arrivals will not be included in the picture. **Note: There will be no pictures taken during the First Communion liturgy.**

Additional pictures may be purchased for \$13.00 each. Indicate the number on the enclosed form and return to the parish office or your child's teacher, with your payment, no later than **Tuesday, April 29**, the day of the rehearsal. Make checks payable to "Holy Cross Church."

Seating: Seating for the parents and families is assigned by lottery. A name tag will be used to indicate your pew assignment on the day of the celebration. The long pews hold approximately ten people; the short pews hold approximately eight. If there are more family guests than will fit into the designated pew, they may sit in any unreserved pews in the side aisles of the church.

Dress: First Communion candidates should wear their Sunday best.

- For girls, this may be a white dress or a nice dress which might be worn for Sunday liturgies. Sleeveless dresses are permitted but they must have shoulders (no spaghetti straps). Dress shoes, socks or tights. Veils are optional. Gloves or purses are not permitted.
- For boys, dress pants (no jeans), button down shirts (tucked in) and dress shoes. Suit coats and ties are optional.

Sunday, May 4, 2014 at the 10:00 a.m. Mass: Parish May Crowning. This event is for special recognition of our First Communion kids. Children can wear their First Communion clothes and will be included in the procession. They will participate in a parish May Crowning ceremony and receive a special blessing from Father. If you wish to participate in this event, please join us in the parish garden at 9:45 a.m., weather permitting. In case of rain we will gather in the Parish Center Great Hall. More details to follow at the rehearsal.

Saturday, June __, 2013, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. (time is tentative): Bishop's Mass in Peoria. Traditionally, Bishop Jenky invites all of the First Communicants in the Diocese of Peoria to attend a special Mass in The Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Peoria. Each First Communicant will receive a special invitation to this Mass in the mail from the Bishop's office in the upcoming weeks.

If you have any questions, please call Marc Cardaronella in the Parish Office at 352-8748.