



Office of Youth Ministry and Faith Formation

Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's Parishes

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Dear First Communion children,

We were so excited to welcome you to receive your First Holy Communion this spring. We know you were too. All of the hard work you have been doing and all the prayers you have been saying were getting your heart ready to receive Jesus in this way.

And now we are disappointed that we could not celebrate First Communion as a group this spring. The Covid-19 illness means that we have to take special measures to keep everyone safe. Our leaders have worked hard to help protect us. One of the tools they have used is to limit the possibility of gathering in large groups. This has had an impact on our schools, our sports, our concerts and our church. We are looking forward to the time that we can be together again. That is the goal of social distancing, to help us respond to the illness and stop the spread of the disease.

We have decided to delay our formal First Communion until the fall. By that time we hope to know more about how best to prevent the disease and how we can safely gather with one another. We know this is disappointing but we think it is the best way to proceed. Everything is still so unsure that we don't want to schedule and cancel multiple times.

We are open to doing individual First Communions when we can come back to Mass. This will probably be sometime in June. **If you would like to make your first Communion this summer please call the parish office and let us know.** We will work with you on scheduling a date and time. Due to the restrictions in number of people gathering we will be somewhat limited in how many can celebrate on a given weekend. We will work hard to find the best date possible for you.

Then in the fall we will have a Solemn Communion celebration for those who have not yet received along with those who did receive to celebrate this special occasion together. We are hoping to determine an exact date in July.

We are praying for you. We hope you are praying for your parish as well. We encourage you to join us for our online Mass every weekend. It will be a good way to continue your preparation until we can meet again. Sacred Heart is live on Sunday morning at 9 a.m. You can find us on Facebook or YouTube. A recording of the Mass is available after the live stream both on YouTube and the parish website. St. Joseph is live at 4 p.m. on Saturday on Facebook and available in recorded form on the parish website.

Just remember, even though you are not able to receive the Lord in Holy Communion he is still very close to you and holds you in his heart.

May God Bless you.

Fr. Jim/Fr. John