



Church of St. Joseph

Office of Faith Formation

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Dear Parents of our First Communicants,

August 4, 2017

As we begin the year anew, I want to welcome you to St. Joseph's First Communion preparation program for your child. I would like to thank you for all that you have done for your child's preparation prior to this point, and let you know that your family is especially in my prayers during these upcoming year.

The reception of our First Communion is a monumental moment for all of us. It is a privilege and sacred gift that that we are able to encounter a piece of heaven here on earth. With this sacrament we are reminded of our great responsibility to educate our children and to continue our own on-going relationship with Christ who loves us unconditionally.

1324 The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." "The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch." (864)

1325 "The Eucharist is the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that communion in the divine life and that unity of the People of God by which the Church is kept in being. It is the culmination both of God's action sanctifying the world in Christ and of the worship men offer to Christ and through him to the Father in the Holy Spirit." (775)

1326 Finally, by the Eucharistic celebration we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy and anticipate eternal life, when God will be all in all. (1090)¹

Important Dates:

Mandatory Parents Meeting with Fr. Russell Kovash

- Wednesday November 15th from 6:00 PM

Please bring your child(ren) baptismal certificate copy if they were not baptized at St. Joseph's Parish.

Practice for First Communion & First Confessions:

-Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 10:00 AM (meet in O'Neill Hall).

First Communion Mass with Fr. Russell Kovash:

- Sunday, April 15, 2018 at 9:00 AM, please arrive by 8:30 AM. After Mass there will be a light reception for family and friends.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

In Christ,

Cate Binde

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¹ Catholic Church, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2nd Ed. (Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference, 2000), 334.