



The Church of St. Clare

110 Nelson Avenue

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Rev. Fr. Arthur Mastrolia
Pastor

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Dear First Communion Parents,

We hope this email finds you well. We know you and your children have been waiting with great anticipation to safely celebrate First Holy Eucharist that was postponed for September. Here at the Church of St. Clare, our team has been working hard to ensure that we can in fact move forward with our celebrations and we are pleased to inform you that we will indeed move forward with our celebrations in September.

We have closely reviewed the new health and safety guidelines from our state and city governments as well as the new guidelines regarding the celebration of the sacraments from the Archdiocese of New York. After much prayer and consideration, and keeping the new guidelines in mind, the following adjustments will be in effect for the sacraments pertaining to our children.

First Penance/First Communion Retreat: September 12, 2020 (Please see the chart below for the time you are to attend and the location you are to first report)

- We have three classes that did not have the opportunity to celebrate First Penance in March: **2E, 2F and 2-2**. We will celebrate First Penance for these children on September 12th as part of the First Communion Retreat.
- Our time together will be divided into two sessions. One group will start in the Church for the Penance service and the other group will start in the Chapel for the retreat and then we will switch locations. Please be sure to report to the correct first location.

Most Frequently Asked Question: **My child celebrated First Penance in March, do I still attend the Penance service part?** The answer is **Yes**. We can receive the sacrament of reconciliation as often as needed. In fact, the church encourages us to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation before we celebrate any of the other sacraments (except baptism) as a way of preparing our hearts anew. Therefore it is good for our kids and for you to celebrate penance a second time just before First Communion. In this context, the sacrament of Reconciliation is preparation for First Communion.

Addressing Covid-19 Safety Concerns:

1. We are limited in space for our First Penance/Retreat services, therefore **only the child and one (1) parent or adult** can attend.
2. When you and your child arrive to the Chapel or Church, your temperature will be taken to ensure that you do not have a fever of 100.4 or higher.
3. In the Church and Chapel there are markers in the pews to keep each family six feet apart, please use them to help us keep proper distancing.
4. In the Church was ask that children who will be receiving Penance for the first time sit in the center aisle so they can be the first to go
5. **Please Stay Home and Call Ms. Noel** for a Follow up **If:**
 - a. You/Your child was exposed to someone who had tested positive for Covid-19 for more than 15 minutes in the last 14 days before the retreat.
 - b. If in the last 14 days before the retreat you had travelled internationally or to any state where there is a high level of positive Covid-19 cases.
 - c. If you or your child are at higher risk medically to the infection.
6. Everyone **must wear a mask** during our time together in the Church and Chapel
7. There are hand sanitizers in the Church and chapel, we encourage you to use them as often as needed during our time together
8. The pews will be wiped both in the Church and Chapel in between each group

First Holy Eucharist: (Please see the chart below for date and times of the ceremonies)

- We are limited in space for our First Communion Masses.
- Each child will be limited to **six (6) guests, parents included.**
- All Masses will be live streamed via our YouTube channel so that family and friends who cannot come to the Church can participate at home.
- Every person who enters our Church **must wear a mask** before entering.
- **No pew can have more than 7 persons, First Communicant included.** Therefore, no first communicant can have more than 6 guests. Please note, for the safety of all, we will enforce this rule. So help us by following the guidelines.

Day of 1st Communion:

Drop Off: Please drop off the children **20 minutes** before Mass under the tent by the Pathway of Prayer. Parents and guests can go right inside to find the pew assigned to your family. First Communicants will be seated with parents. So leave the first seat by the aisle for your child. Your pew will be marked by your child's banner.

Entrance Procession: Children will process one at a time to their pew. You are free to take pictures during the entrance procession, but we ask you to remain seated so that all parents may see their child coming in. The Cantor will invite you to stand at the appropriate time.

Celebration of the Mass: Mass will be celebrated as usual. No Offertory procession because of Covid-19.

Reception of Communion

- Due to Covid-19, Communion will be ministered under the form of Bread only. **The Cup will not be ministered.**
- We ask that all who will be receiving the Eucharist, receive in the **hand only**.
- At the time of communion, those who are coming up for Communion may remove their mask to receive, but they must place the mask right back on immediately after receiving.
- At the time of communion, the priest will also wear a mask.

How to Come Up for Communion Saturday Ceremonies only:

- Each child will be asked to walk with his/her parents to come up for communion.
- The child will receive communion first and then the two parents or adults accompanying the child.
- When you return to your pew, sit at the end so that you can return to your seat after family members in your pew get to go up and receive.
- After all the first communicants and their parents receive, communion will then be offered to the rest of the family row by row.
- At our First Communion retreat, we will practice.

How to Come up for Communion Sunday Mass Ceremonies:

- Because of the Sunday Mass, we will come up row by row as usual.

Photos: According to Archdiocesan guidelines, no photography is permitted during the mass. At the end of Mass, we will have a photographer take a group picture by the Pathway of Prayer

St. Clare School Masses will be videotaped by Yearbook Innovation and Religious Education will be videotaped by Ms. Gabrielle San Felice. You can order a DVD for your respective mass.

Low Gluten Hosts-If you are one of the families with a child who is gluten intolerant, please be sure to purchase your own hosts. Put one in a pix, put the name or initial of the child under the pix. On the day of First Communion bring it to Ms. Noel or to the presiding priest before mass begins. When your child comes up for communion, remind the priest that the pix is yours. We will discuss that more at the retreat.

First Communion Banner: Your child's First Communion Banner must be dropped off on the day of their First Communion Practice. **The banner will be used to mark the pew assigned to you and your family.**

Need a Banner Kit? We know some parents missed the parent meeting in February and therefore did not get to pick up your banner kit. Please pick up your kit anytime the rectory is open Monday-Friday 8:30am-7:00pm and Saturday-Sunday 9:00am-5:00pm. Give your child's name and they'll give you your kit.

Please find below the schedule. Please be sure to email and/or call us if you have any questions and/or concerns.

God bless,

Fr. Arthur Mastrolia, Pastor

Mrs. Theresa Signorile, Principal

Marie Noel, Pastoral Associate/Director of Religious Education

First Penance/First Communion Retreat: September 12, 2020

9:45 AM Church: Classes 2D, 2E, 2F, 2S and 2-1

1:00 PM Church: Classes 2A, 2B, 2C and 2-2

September 12th (9:45am Session)

Time	Activity	Location	Class	# of Students
9:45-10:30AM	Reconciliation Service	Church	2D, 2E, & 2S	45
9:45-10:30AM	First Communion Retreat	Chapel	2F & 2-1	41
15 Minutes to Switch				
10:45-11:30AM	Reconciliation Service	Church	2F & 2-1	41
10:45-11:30AM	First Communion Retreat	Chapel	2D & 2E	35

September 12th (1:00pm Session)

Time	Activity	Location	Class	# of Students
1:00-1:45PM	Reconciliation Service	Church	2A, 2B	36
1:00-1:45PM	First Communion Retreat	Chapel	2C & 2-2	46
15 Minutes to Switch				
2:00-2:45PM	Reconciliation Service	Church	2C & 2-2	46
2:00-2:45PM	First Communion Retreat	Chapel	2A, 2B & 2S	36

*** Please report first to the location assigned to your class**

Make Up First Communion 2020

First Communion Dates and Times	Class	Rehearsal Dates and Times
1. September 19, 2020 @ 9:00am	2-1	Monday, September 14 th @4:00pm-5:30pm
2. September 19, 2020 @ 12:00pm	2-2	Wednesday, September 16 th @5:00pm-6:30pm
3. September 19, 2020 @ 5:00pm Sunday Mass	For those who registered for this mass	Tuesday, Sept. 15 th @ 5:30pm-6:30pm
4. September 20, 2020 @ 10:00am Sunday Mass:	For those who registered for this mass	Tuesday, Sept. 15 th @ 3:30pm-4:30pm
5. September 20, 2020 @ 1:00pm Sunday Mass	For those who registered for this mass	Wednesday, Sept. 16 th @ 3:30pm-4:30pm
6. September 26, 2020 @ 9:00am in the Chapel	2S	Wednesday, Sept. 23 rd @ 5:15pm-6:00pm in the Chapel
7. September 26, 2020 @ 9:00am	2C & 2E	Monday, Sept. 21 st @ 3:30pm-5:00pm
8. September 26, 2020 @ 11:00am	2A & 2F	Tuesday, Sept. 22 nd @ 3:30pm-5:00pm
9. September 26, 2020 @ 1:00pm	2B and 2D	Wednesday, Sept. 23 rd @ 3:30pm-5:00pm
10. September 27, 2020 @ 11:30am Sunday Mass	For those who registered for this mass	Monday, Sept. 21 st @ 5:30pm-6:30pm