



# HOLY FAMILY

7321 BURKITTSVILLE ROAD ✠ MIDDLETOWN MARYLAND 21769

January 2, 2018

Dear Parents,

Congratulations on your child's upcoming First Eucharist Celebration! This can be one of the most memorable times in a child's life. I pray that it is truly a joyous experience for your child, and that your family experiences a renewed closeness in receiving Holy Communion together.

Our preparation for First Eucharist is very similar to our preparation for Reconciliation. Parents and children prepare mostly at home using a workbook. The completed workbooks are due by May 3<sup>rd</sup>. More importantly, your family's weekly participation in Mass is vital to your child's preparation. It is here that Jesus reveals himself to us and we express our gratitude and love for him and his Church; your child's preparation comes alive as they better understand receiving Jesus in this very special way.

In light of the important task ahead of you, the parish will provide two mandatory Parent-Child workshops. The first workshop will take place **Saturday, January 20 from 9:30am-Noon** and the second workshop will take place **Wednesday, April 18 from 6:00-7:00pm** (please see back of letter for the full schedule and how to schedule your child's first communion).

We want you to know we have read your evaluations of our First Reconciliation program and in light of this, we have added an additional session for our First Eucharist preparation. This session is for parents only and will take place **during Faith Formation classes on Monday, March 5 and Tuesday, March 6 at Holy Family and Monday March 12 at Brunswick Elementary**. The purpose of this session will be to provide you with further guidance in preparing your children and answer any questions you have about the materials and what you have worked on thus far during the preparation process. While this session is not mandatory, we strongly encourage your attendance.

Your presence at each workshop and session is essential to your child's Sacramental preparation. Thank you for bringing your child to the fullness of the Eucharist by helping him/her to prepare for the reception of first Holy Communion. Christian parenting is a holy vocation, a sacred responsibility of continuing to guide your family to know, love, and serve Jesus. Know of my prayers for you and your children.

In Christ,

Ed Haynes  
Director of Youth Catechesis

<b>First Eucharist 2017 Preparation Schedule</b>	
Saturday, <b>January 20</b> 9:30am –Noon Legacy 1	<b>Parent/Child Chalice Workshop</b> Workbook and materials distributed; process is explained; children make clay chalices
Monday, <b>March 5</b> - 6:45 and Tuesday, <b>March 6</b> - 4:45 HFCC Church Monday, <b>March 12</b> – 6:45 Brunswick Elementary	<b>Parent Meeting</b> An opportunity to meet with Ed and have questions answered and discuss how we can help you.
Wednesday, April <b>18</b> 6:00pm –7:00pm Church	<b>Parent/Child Final Eucharist Workshop</b> Workbooks due; practice for first Communion.
Wednesday, April <b>18</b> 7:00pm –7:45pm Church	<b>Group Mass Practice</b> For those receiving the Eucharist at the group Mass.
Saturday, April <b>21</b> 10:00am – 11:30am Church	<b>First Eucharist Group Mass</b> Or you may opt to receive at a regular weekend Mass in May. See below for details.
<b>Holy Family - April 21, 22, 28, 29 &amp; May 5, 6. St. Mary Church – May 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27.</b> (see website for Mass times)	<b>First Eucharist Weekend Masses</b> For those who did not receive at the group Mass. Limit is 4 children per Mass.

### **Scheduling Your Child’s Mass:**

- Visit <http://hfccmd.org/sacramental-preparation/first-eucharist> and click on “Mass preference sign-up” on the right side, or submit a Mass preference form, found at the Parish Information Center.
- You will be prompted to select a first, second and third option since space at each Mass is limited (not necessary if selecting the Group Mass); Masses will be scheduled on a first come, first served basis.
- Visit our website at <http://www.hfccmd.org/first-eucharist/first-eucharist-mass> to see which Mass you have been assigned. This page will be updated on a weekly basis.

More information and frequently asked questions can be found at <http://hfccmd.org/sacramental-preparation/first-eucharist>