

**ST. MARY MAGDALEN PARISH
FIRST COMMUNION
RETREAT REGISTRATION**

Retreat to be held on **Saturday, February 23, 2019**
in the Church Hall from 8:30-11:30am

Most of you have a completed form A on file with the school or with Religious Ed for your child. That is a universal release for their participation in events for the year. If you do not, please fill out the form B (on the back of this form)

Child's Name: _____

Phone No.: _____ Emergency Phone: _____

Allergy or Diet Restrictions: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Volunteers are needed; can you help? _____

E-mail where we can reach you: _____

PERMISSION FOR RECEIPT OF WINE

I hereby **give** permission for my child _____

to receive altar wine as part of their sacramental practice during the retreat.

I **do not give** permission for my child _____

to receive altar wine as part of their sacramental practice during the retreat.

Parent's Signature: _____

RETURN TO RELIGIOUS ED. OFFICE BY FRIDAY FEB.15TH

FORM B: EVENT SPECIFIC CONSENT AND RELEASE

Diocese of Wilmington

Parish/Diocesan Institution Trip/Event Consent and Release

My child (*please print full name*) _____ has my permission to attend the First Communion retreat to be held in the SMM church hall on February 23rd from 8:45AM to 11:30AM. During this time I know they will participate in a variety of workshops involving crafts, breadmaking, prayer, and a practice with the unconsecrated bread and wine. My permission for that last portion of the program is given on the retreat registration.

.I hereby give my permission for my child to attend said event and I understand that my child will be chaperoned by responsible cleared adults. I understand that SMM, the Diocese of Wilmington and its staff are committed to providing fun, safe, educational experiences and that CYM events are conducted in smoke-, alcohol-, and drug-free environments. In light of this, and to help ensure the safety of all concerned, I understand that if my child is in possession of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products, engages in illegal, immoral, or offensive behaviors, or refuses to follow the directions given by parish staff or volunteers while participating in this activity, I will be contacted immediately to pick up my child. As parent/guardian, I understand that promotional pictures (individual and group) will be taken during this event. I give permission for my son's/daughter's picture to be used for promotional materials (newsletter, web page, calendars, power point, etc.) in highlighting the event. By my signing this, I release SMM Staff, The Office for Catholic Youth Ministry, additional chaperones, and the Diocese of Wilmington from any and all liabilities and waive all claims against them. I also give my permission for the event coordinator and other qualified cleared adults to obtain proper medical treatment for my child should it become necessary.

Insurance Carrier/Policy Number _____

Insurance company address _____

Insurance company phone number _____

Prescription meds taken regularly* _____

Other medication taken regularly _____

Emergency Contact Name/Number _____

We have this information for you on our annual form A, but please provide your cell number if you are not joining us on the trip!

Cell Number _____

If necessary, the group leader is permitted to administer the following over the counter medications to my child:

- Advil Tylenol Motrin Aleve Halls (*cough drops*)
- Claritin/Zyrtec Benadryl Robitussin (*cough syrup*)
- Other (*please specify*) _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Relationship to Participant: _____

Date: _____

**If Prescription Medication is indicated, Form C is required.*

ST. MARY MAGDALEN PARISH FIRST COMMUNION

BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE CHURCH

1. The child should reach the age when he or she begins to reason and to distinguish between right and wrong.
2. The child should be able to understand the difference between ordinary bread and the Eucharist, the body and blood of our Lord which unites us with Christ and one another in love.
3. The child should have a simple understanding of God our loving Father, who has sent His Son, Jesus, to be our brother and whose spirit lives in us to guide us.

TEXT

The text will be “Called to His Supper”, published by Our Sunday Visitor. The combined cost of materials for First Reconciliation and First Communion is \$110.00 (Most parents paid this fee, or half of it, in the fall.)

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE & RESERVATIONS

Please bring a copy of your child’s **baptismal** certificate to the meeting on **February 13th** if you have not already done so (if baptized at St. Mary Magdalen, no certificate is needed, but please let us know if it was not done as an infant.) I have many of these already so check if you aren’t sure!

BOOK INTERVIEWS & BANNERS

The completed child’s book will be checked by a staff member in the parish Religious Education Office. Completed books and banners should be returned to your child’s teacher one month prior to your selected First Communion date (i.e. April 4th through April 11th) or as soon as it is completed.) If your child attends St. Mary Magdalen school, interviews will be conducted during the school day. If your child is a Religious Education student, their **interviews will be conducted during class time on Sunday** – but that means you **cannot** wait until the last Sunday before the sacrament to turn it in! I can’t read it, mark it, and do interviews at the same time! If your child attends Ursuline or St. Edmonds’s, we ask that you contact our office at 652-7141 a month prior to receipt of the sacrament so that an interview can be arranged (book and banner can be brought to our office at that time).

FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATIONS

The children will process in and sit in the aisle seat in the same pew with their family (one pew to each family). When it is time for Communion, the child will come forward with his/her parents. After the First Communion children and their parents have received, all others in the church who wish to receive will go forward.

Dress Code: White or off-white dress – GIRLS
Jacket and Tie - BOYS

*****NO PICTURE TAKING DURING THE MASS*****

As we did last year, there will be a professional photographer present who will take pictures of all of the children as they receive. His contact information can be found on his website, www.budkeeganimages.com. He will take pictures of all of the children and put them on the website, and you order from there. He will also be coming one evening (two if needed) at the end of April to take formal photos in the church for those who would like to have them; please go to the signup genius on the website at [Signup genius formals](#) to sign up for a time slot. It is on the same page as the signup for the offertory! Bud is also willing to come a second time if there are enough people who would like photos and didn't get in – so be sure to let me know if the signup is full and you would like to have them done! ***It is up to you to order the photograph and make any other arrangements with him for photos on communion day. He will also take a group photo that morning prior to the procession upstairs. All will be available on his website, and his work can be found at budkeeganimages.com.***

Rehearsals will take place during the week of your planned First Communion celebration. All rehearsals will be held in the Church. The schedule is as follows:

<u>Date of Sacrament</u>	<u>Date of Rehearsal</u>	<u>Time</u>
Saturday, May 4, 2019 – 11:00 AM	Wednesday, May 1st	6:30-7:30PM
Saturday, May 11, 2019 – 11:00 AM	Wednesday, May 8th	6:30-7:30PM

Parent or responsible adult must be present during rehearsal.

How Today's Culture Affects the Mass

One thing that works against the "full, active participation" we are called to in the Eucharist is today's entertainment culture. We approach the liturgy thinking of ourselves as an audience instead of an assembly; passive viewers rather than active participants. The Eucharist is not a one-way relationship; it is a dynamic process where we are asked to respond to God's gift of eternal life, represented in the Body and Blood. As the ritual is largely the same, we are seduced by the culture to be bored because it isn't endlessly entertaining - but that's not the point. Common and practiced words and gestures give rise to symbolic meanings, which communicate God's presence in our midst. Rituals also call us to participate as a community, rather than as the individuals our culture promotes. If we fully participate, when the bread and wine become the Body and Blood we too are changed - transformed - into community in the process. We are called to share the gifts we have with others throughout the week, then carry Eucharist - thanksgiving - through the time we are apart.

How can we do this? How can we give our children this most important gift, this understanding of our faith, when we often struggle with it ourselves? We can begin by making the most of the Mass that we can.

- Sit near the front. The farther from the action the kids are, the more bored they'll be. Let them see what's going on!
- Share a songbook. New readers can get lost in all the words, even older ones have a hard time if a song moves quickly. Use your finger to follow the words for them.
- Talk in church. Yes, we're supposed to be quiet, but whispered explanations - "this is a story about Jesus" for the Gospel, "this is when the bread and wine become Jesus" all help to keep them engaged.
- Point out people they know - if they know the lector, or minister, point it out to them.
- And the highlight was? - on the way home, ask what part of the Mass they liked the best - the silent prayer after Communion, the homily, the readings - and tell them yours too!

Explaining the real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist

Students at this age understand things in black-and-white terms; they have a hard time with symbols. It can be challenging trying to explain an abstract concept like "transubstantiation"! The easiest way is to say that when we celebrate the Eucharist, God changes the bread and wine so that they become Jesus himself. It still looks and tastes like bread and wine, but it's Jesus, coming that way so the bread can remind us of his body and the wine of his blood. Jesus wants to be close to us, to be a part of us and to have us be a part of him. The Eucharist helps us to be more like Jesus.

As central as this is to our faith, it's a hard concept! Remember that their understanding of the sacrament (and yours!) will deepen as time goes on. You don't need to know that there are 90 calories in a banana to receive energy from one when you eat it! Christ gives us grace through the Eucharist whether we understand it or not. The Eucharist gives us strength to live like Jesus; it is a call to action. We are called to be the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus in the world.

How to Translate Images of Eucharist to your child

A birthday party - how do you know it's special?

Share important traditions. What pattern or ritual can you share to help your child understand the ritual of the Mass?

Share your story - and share the stories of the Bible!

Use sacramentals. Sacramentals are the way Jesus shares his life with us, and there are only seven. Sacramentals were instituted by the Church to sanctify certain objects people use in their daily lives, as a way to increase our awareness of God's grace through ordinary objects in our homes and lives. Blessings of persons, meals, occasions, objects, and places are the most important kinds. Holy water is an example of a sacramental.