

**St. Mother Theodore Guerin Parish**  
**First Communion 2021**

~The Sacrament of First Communion will be celebrated on the following dates:

**~Saturday, May 1 at 11:00 a.m.-School students**  
**Teachers-Ms. Anna Deavila and Mrs. Susan Petri**

**~Saturday, May 8 at 11:00 a.m.-Religious Education students**  
**Catechists-Mrs. Mary Joost, Mrs. Doti Geringer and Mrs. Jackie Schweitzer**

~The children's attire for this occasion is as follows:

**Girls-**A white or pastel dress, veil and dress shoes. A long or short dress may be worn. Please be reminded that the girls are to remove gloves prior to approaching the altar for the reception of the Eucharist.

**Boys-**A white or light-colored shirt, tie, dress pants and dress shoes. A sport jacket, sweater or vest may be worn. A suit is also an option.

~Due to the following guidelines/restrictions from the Archdiocese of Chicago and the State of Illinois, social distancing and wearing a mask are required. A limited number of people are allowed in the church.

**Therefore, each First Communicant will be allowed 6 family members/guests-a total of 7 which includes the First Communicant.** Families will be seated in assigned pews with rows vacant in between to provide social distancing. This is the same seating arrangement that is now in place for the parish's Sunday Masses.

Each family is asked to sign up with the names of the First Communicant and family members/guests using Signup Genius. This is the same process the parish is using to attend Sunday Mass and is required from the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Register for the Mass by Wednesday, April 28 - The link to register is:

[Families: First Communion 2021 \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

~There will not be a separate rehearsal for First Communion as in the past due to the current health situation. However, each child/family will have a reserved row; you will check in and parishioner volunteers will escort your group when you arrive on your assigned day.

~Because of the number of students who will be at each Mass, picture taking will be done before and after Mass by a professional photographer. This is for both the May 1 and May 8 Masses.

**Families with the last name of A-L are asked to arrive at 10:00 a.m.** Upon arrival, please check in with the teachers. One family at a time will have pictures taken in the back of the church and then you will be escorted to your assigned pew by an usher.

**Families with the last name of M-Z are asked to arrive to the church by 10:30 a.m.** Upon arrival, also please check in with the teachers and you will be escorted to your assigned pew by an usher. **Pictures for families with the last name of M-Z will be after Mass-one family at a time.**

**Families who had their pictures taken before Mass will be able to leave when Mass is over. Please wait for an usher to cue you.**

~**There is a \$65 Sacramental fee for First Reconciliation and First Communion.** This fee covers the materials provided to the parents and students for both Sacraments, certificates and First Communion pictures. **The fee is due on or before Wednesday, April 28, 2021 and can be either in cash or check made payable to St. Mother Theodore Guerin Parish.**

School students can submit the fee through the School Office or at the St. Celestine Pastoral Center mail drop slot. Religious Education students can submit the payment to the St. Celestine Pastoral Center mail drop slot.

**Each family will receive an individual 5x7 portrait of their child, an 8x10 family picture and a DVD of the First Communion Mass. A composite picture of the First Communicants can be ordered directly from the photographer, Martin Patryn at [mapparty@ameritech.net](mailto:mapparty@ameritech.net)**

~Although religious items such as a Rosary, Bible or candle are not required for the First Communion Mass, you certainly may bring them with you. The priests will bless these items at the First Communion Mass.

~Students are asked to make a banner which will be displayed in the church. A piece of white felt is being provided to you. The banner should be decorated with symbols of the Sacrament of the Eucharist such as wheat, grapes, chalice, etc. and your child's first name. If your child has a common first name, please also include the initial of your last name. A sheet with examples is included.

You may use colored felt or other craft items to decorate the banner. Please be mindful to not use objects that are too heavy for the material. **The Religious Education Department will attach a dowel and string to each banner so it can be hung at the end of your assigned pew.**

~The banners are due on **Friday, April 16, 2021 for the School students and Saturday, April 17, 2021 for the Religious Education students.** You may return the decorated banner in the envelope provided to you to your child's teacher.

~All of the children have been instructed in the parts of the Mass and how to properly receive the Eucharist. We ask that all participate in the prayers and songs throughout the First Communion Mass; a Mass booklet will be available in the pews. The First Communion certificate will also be in your pew.

~Should you have any questions, please contact the Religious Education Office at (708) 453-2555 ext. 17 or email [rswiatkowski@stguerinparish.org](mailto:rswiatkowski@stguerinparish.org)

~The St. Mother Theodore Guerin-St. Celestine First Communion Staff looks forward to guiding your child in preparation for this most special Sacrament.

*Blessings!*

