

Recognizing that celebrations of First Holy Communion have been postponed, Corpus Christi is a fitting occasion to draw parents and children together with Bishop Brendan/their local priest in order to pray, to further the children's preparation for Holy Communion, and to call to mind the gift that they received in baptism, being a son or daughter of the Father, a co-heir with Christ, a temple of the Holy Spirit.

The liturgy for the Mass of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi will be celebrated with the lighting of the baptismal candle and a simple moment of prayer occurring after the Homily.

Parents are asked to participate from home in the live-streamed Mass with their child.

The Mass

A few words of welcome are addressed to any families and especially children preparing to receive First Holy Communion, who may be participating in the Mass from their homes. A brief explanation of the significance of the moment of prayer can be offered for the benefit of others who may be participating in the Mass.

The Introductory Rites, Penitential Rite, and Liturgy of the Word are conducted as normal.

After the Homily Bishop Brendan/Priest invites children who are preparing for First Holy Communion and parents to participate in a moment of prayer in anticipation of their Holy Communion.

Bishop/Priest: Parents and guardians, it might not seem like eight years ago since you brought your child to the church to be baptised. On that day, you chose a life of faith for them, and they were anointed with sacred chrism, claimed as a son or daughter of God. I now invite you to exercise your spiritual authority to renew that gift and to call down grace upon your child, preparing to receive Jesus in the sacrament of the Eucharist.

Bishop/Priest: Parents and guardians, please light your child's baptismal candle and hand it to them, saying

N., you are a son / daughter of light.

[Now place the candle somewhere safe while the simple ceremony proceeds].

Please face your child and repeat after me, tracing the Sign of the Cross upon them with each statement:

Trace the Sign of the Cross upon their forehead saying:

N., you are a beloved son / daughter of the Father (repeat)

Trace the Sign of the Cross upon their heart saying:

May your heart always be a place where Christ is welcome (repeat)

Trace the Sign of the Cross upon their ears saying:

May you hear the Word of God and keep it (repeat)

Trace the Sign of the Cross upon their mouth saying:

May your words share the peace and joy of the Lord (repeat)

Trace the Sign of the Cross upon their hands saying:

May the Holy Spirit inspire you to share his own love with others (repeat)

Bishop/priest: Children preparing to receive Jesus in Holy Communion, remember what your parents have said: You are a child of God, and your prayers are always heard. Pray each day as you look forward to receiving Holy Communion, that you may welcome Jesus into your heart with great joy and love.

May God bless your mind to think of others,
Your ears to listen to sisters and brothers,
Your eyes to see with compassion and love,
Your mouth to speak with words from above,
Your heart to be tender, caring and kind,
Your hands to give, to hold, to mind.
Your feet to create trails of endless light,
God to love you dearly and hold you tight,
Your body is precious, God abides in you,
You are the body Christ and our beloved too.

+ I bless you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

[Make sure to extinguish the candle]

Creed

Suggested Prayers of the Faithful

1. We pray for Pope Francis, and for all who serve in the Church.

(pause to pray)

may they share the Gospel of Christ with joy and love.

Lord, hear us.

2. We pray for all parents and all families in our (diocesan) community.

(pause to pray)

may they receive the gift of deeper unity and lead all children to a deeper knowledge and love of God.

Lord, hear us.

3. We pray for all who serve in our Catholic schools.

(pause to pray)

that the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire them.

Lord, hear us.

4. We pray for each child preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time:

(pause to pray)

that they seek the Lord and welcome Him with love

and so live as true followers of Jesus.

Lord, hear us.

5. We pray for those who are sick or sad.

(pause to pray)

that they will feel loved and supported in their time of difficulty.

Lord, hear us.

6. We pray for those who have died.

(pause to pray)

that they may be at peace at home with God in heaven.

Lord, hear us.

Conclusion by the celebrant.

The Mass then continues with the Offertory Procession (if there is one) and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

