

Church of Saint Philip and Saint James
430 South Main Street
Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865
908 – 454 – 0112

June 9, 2020

Dear First Communion Parents,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

We are all looking forward to finally celebrating your child's First Holy Communion. My hope is that we will be able to schedule them in mid-September and/early October. Once we know this will be possible, we will give each family a couple of options from which to choose. These will include a couple of traditional First Communion Masses on various Saturday mornings. If none of the options are viable for your family, I will work with you to find an alternative, such as having your child receive at a specific Sunday Mass.

While I would love to give you a schedule of options right now, the fact is we are not yet ready to do so. I want to wait at least until some of the current restrictions on Church gatherings (wearing of masks, some groups only, etc.) are lifted. My hope is that we can have First Holy Communion at a time when people would not be required to wear masks at Church as they would be right now. I am also concerned about grandparents and other older family members who may be concerned about coming to Church with a large group at this time. As the situation in our area improves, these things will be less of a concern, and we will be more able to have a beautiful celebration of your child's First Holy Communion.

Finally, please know that I will communicate with you as soon as possible about the scheduling of First Holy Communion. All I can ask is that we all be patient until then! However, if you need to celebrate a First Holy Communion sooner for a special reason, please contact me and I will see what I can do to make those arrangements.

Please feel free to call me with any questions you may have, or if I can be of any help to you in this matter.

Faithfully,

Fr. John J. Barbella