



Religious Education

2018-2019 First Holy Communion Handbook

Updated Jan 2019



Welcome First Holy Communion Class of 2018-2019

Dear Families,

We are happy that your family is preparing to receive First Communion this year. We are excited to help you bring your children closer to Jesus and show them the beauty of our Catholic Faith. The Religious Education team at St Timothy works to provide a religious foundation for our students and encourage our families to live their faith daily. It is our privilege to assist you with the faith formation of your children/youth. First Communion is quickly approaching, so in this First Communion Handbook, we try to anticipate some of your questions.

The Religious Education calendar is available at <https://www.sainttimothycatholic.org/>. It is our sincere hope that you will find the calendar helpful when planning your activities or family events. Since the number of Religious Education classes is minimal compared to the number of hours our children spend in sports, dance or other similar activities, we respectfully ask you to make the time scheduled for Religious Education a priority. We ask you to avoid planning other activities during our class times and prayerfully ask for your positive reinforcement to our religious and catechetical endeavors.

Thank you for your assistance in helping your children/youth for one of the most important moments in their young lives, the reception of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. This year we will focus on gaining a deeper understanding of the Mass. It will be very important that you attend Mass on Sunday with your child. Teach them and show them your love for the Blessed Sacrament. You will also need to work with your child to prepare them for First Reconciliation.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Please feel free to call me on (305)274-8224 or contact by dcabrera@sainttimothycatholic.org.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Dennys Victoria Cabrera

Coordinator of Religious Education

Phone: (305) 274-8224

Email: dcabrera@sainttimothycatholic.org

Our Religious Education Team 2018-2019

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday: Mrs. Myriam Obeso (Classroom 108) Mrs. Esther Dieguez (Classroom 102) Mrs. Ruth Sheils (Classroom 103) Mrs. Yadira Castro (Classroom 107) | Saturday: Mrs. Janie Rodriguez (Classroom 103) Mrs. Barbara Morales (Classroom 108) Mrs. Annie Martinez (Classroom 107) |
| Wednesday: Mrs. Myriam Obeso (Classroom 108)  | Saturday: Mrs. Janie Rodriguez (Classroom 103)  |
| Mrs. Esther Dieguez (<i>Mrs. D.</i>) (Classroom 102)  | Mrs. Barbara Morales (Classroom 108)  |
| Mrs. Yadira Castro (Classroom 107)  | Mrs. Annie Martinez (Classroom 107)  |
| Mrs. Ruth Sheils (Classroom 103)  | |

Prerequisites for receiving the First Communion:

For your child to receive the First Communion he/she should:

- **Be baptized. (If your child is not baptized yet, please contact immediately the Office of Religious Education)**
- Provide a copy of the Birth and Baptism certificates to the Religious Education Office.
- Has had faithful attendance (no more than 4 absences in a year).
- Be in or beyond his/her second year of Religious Education. (First Communion is a two consecutive year program starting with children at 1st grade).
- The child must be well-prepared. The child must want to receive the Sacraments.
- In addition, students should have at least a knowledge of:
 - The Holy Mass
 - Prayers: Make the Sign of the Cross. How to pray Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Creed.
 - Sacraments.
 - Commandments.
 - Understands that sin is a grave matter. Understand the difference between a serious and less serious offense
 - Eucharist. Believes the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus. Has a desire to receive the Eucharist
 - Before First Reconciliation the student will need to be able to pray Act of Contrition and do an examination of conscience

Guidelines for the Reception of First Communion:

In order to better prepare your child, we need your collaboration by adhering to the following guidelines:

- ✓ **MASS ATTENDANCE:** Students must come to weekly Mass as part of their preparation for First Communion. In fact, the most important part of your children/youth preparation is weekly participation in Sunday Mass.
- ✓ **BAPTISM:** Children should be baptized before receiving First Communion.
- ✓ **CLASS ATTENDANCE:** Attendance to class is of extreme importance. No more than 4 excused attendances will be allowed for the child to do First Communion. Should the number of absences be exceeded, the pastor will have to consider having the child repeat the grade the following year. We must receive a note from you to report illness absences at dcabrera@sainttimothycatholic.org and your child must complete any assignments that were missed at class.
- ✓ **PARENT PARTICIPATION:** Parents are the first educators in their child's faith. Children are not only formed in the religious education programs, but foremost in their homes by their families. Parents should help students to know the sacraments, commandments, and basic prayers (The

Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory, and Act of Contrition) and play an active role in their faith formation.

- ✓ **MEETINGS:** Parents must attend all the meetings for the First Communion
- ✓ **RETREAT:** We will have a First Communion retreat. The retreat is mandatory for all students.
- ✓ **RECONCILIATION:** Children and parents must attend the Reconciliation Service.
- ✓ **REHEARSAL:** Children and parents must attend the First Communion rehearsal.
- ✓ **TUITION:** The registration payment should be completed by *February 16th, 2019* (checks can be made payable to St. Timothy Catholic Church). If the fee is a financial hardship, please contact the Religious Education Office. No child will be kept from a Sacrament because of financial reasons. Please contact the Religious Education Office for any problem related with payment the tuition.

Deadlines: *February 16th, 2019*

- ✓ Provide a copy of the Birth Certificate and Baptism Certificate.
- ✓ Registration and retreat payments.

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

Important Dates: Please check the following dates at the Calendar
<https://www.sainttimothycatholic.org/first-communion>

2018-2019 First Communion important dates

| EVENTS | DATE | TIME and LOCATION | COMMENTS |
|--|-----------------------------|---|--|
| First Communion Parent Meeting | SUNDAY December 16, 2018 | <u>Spanish Group:</u> Time: 9:30am – 10:30 am Place: Parish Office. <u>English Group:</u> Time: 11:30am – 12:30 pm Place: Parish Office. | Parish Office (La Cerra Rooms) |
| Baptism Ceremony * (*) Only for students in their second year of Communion preparation, who are not baptized yet. | SATURDAY March 23, 2019 | Time: Mass at 5:00 pm (Arrival time @ 4:30 pm) Place: St. Timothy Church | **IMPORTANT** Please contact Dennys Cabrera at the Religious Education Office as soon as possible for prerequisites and details about the Baptismal Mass. |
| CONFESSIONS | | | |
| Confessions for Saturdays classes <u>CONFESSIONS FOR THE CLASSES OF:</u> Mrs. Janie Rodriguez, Mrs. Barbara Morales & Mrs. Annie Martinez. | SATURDAY April 6, 2019 | Time: 8:45 am Place: St. Timothy Church (Do not go to the classroom. We will meet at the Church at 8:45 am) *Important Note* (If some parents would like to serve as volunteers during the Confession, please send an email to Dennys Cabrera) | Instructions: 1) Parents should take their children to the church. 2) Parents should wait for their children at the chapel next to the church. 3) Students must go to the chapel with their parents immediately after their penance is over. 4) There is no class after Confession. Parents and students may leave. |
| Confessions for Wednesdays classes <u>3:45 pm CONFESSIONS FOR THE CLASSES OF:</u> Mrs. Myriam Obeso, Mrs. Yadira Castro, Mrs. Rut Sheils, and Mrs. Esther Dieguez. | WEDNESDAY May 1, 2019 | Time: 3:45 pm Place: St. Timothy Church (Do not go to the classroom. We will meet at the Church at 3:45 pm) *Important Note* (If some parents would like to serve as volunteers during the Confession, please send an email to Dennys Cabrera) | Instructions: 1) Parents should take their children to the church. 2) Parents should wait for their children at the chapel next to the church. 3) Students must go to the chapel with their parents immediately after their penance is over. 4) There is no class after Confession. Parents and students may leave. |


2018-2019 First Communion important dates

| EVENTS | DATE | TIME and LOCATION | COMMENTS |
|---|-----------------------|---|--|
| RETREAT | | | |
| First Communion Retreat for Wednesdays and Saturdays classes. Retreat for the following classes: Wednesday: Mrs. Myriam Obeso (Classroom 108) Mrs. Esther Dieguez (Classroom 102) Mrs. Ruth Sheils (Classroom 103) Mrs. Yadira Castro (Classroom 107) Saturday: Mrs. Janie Rodriguez (Classroom 103) Mrs. Barbara Morales (Classroom 108) Mrs. Annie Martinez (Classroom 107) | SUNDAY May 5, 2019 | Time: 9 am to 12 pm Location: St Timothy Church *Important Note* (If some parents would like to serve as volunteers during the retreat, please send an email to Dennys Cabrera) | Instructions: - Retreat at school. - <u>Mandatory attendance:</u> We do expect all children to attend the retreat. - Arrival time between 8:50-9:00am. Drop-off will be at school, where you will sign your child. Make sure parents receive and sign the retreat polices. - Make sure your child has breakfast before to come to the retreat. Breakfast and lunch will NOT be served at the retreat. - We ask that you send your child in with a snack and a drink for your child. It should preferably be sent in disposable containers. - Children should be dressed comfortably with a jean and a white t-shirt. - Pick up time: between 11:50-12:00pm. |

2018-2019 First Communion important dates

| EVENTS | DATE | TIME and LOCATION | COMMENTS |
|---|---|-------------------|--|
| REHEARSAL | | | |
| <p>First Communion Rehearsal for Wednesdays classes</p> <p>Time: 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Place: St Timothy Church</p> <p>*Important Note* (If some parents would like to serve as volunteers during the rehearsal, please send an email to Dennys Cabrera)</p> | <p>Time: 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Place: St Timothy Church</p> <p><u>Rehearsal for:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Esther Dieguez (Classroom 102): Monday, May 6, 2019. 6:00 – 7:30 pm• Mrs. Myriam Obeso (Classroom 108): Thursday, May 9, 2019. 6:00 – 7:30 pm• Mrs. Ruth Sheils (Classroom 103) and Mrs. Yadira Castro (Classroom 107): Friday, May 10, 2019. 6:00 – 7:30 pm | | <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mandatory attendance for students.- At least one parent along with the first communicant must attend the rehearsal- There are six (6) DIFFERENT First Communion Rehearsals.- Students need to attend only ONE (1) First Communion rehearsal.- Each Student MUST ONLY attend at the rehearsal of her own catechist.- Students CANNOT attend the First Communion rehearsal of another teacher. |
| <p>First Communion Rehearsal for Saturdays classes</p> <p>Time: 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Place: St Timothy Church</p> <p>*Important Note* (If some parents would like to serve as volunteers during the rehearsal, please send an email to Dennys Cabrera)</p> | <p>Time: 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Place: St Timothy Church</p> <p><u>Rehearsal for:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Esther Dieguez (Classroom 102): Monday, May 6, 2019. 6:00 – 7:30 pm• Mrs. Myriam Obeso (Classroom 108): Thursday, May 9, 2019. 6:00 – 7:30 pm• Mrs. Ruth Sheils (Classroom 103) and Mrs. Yadira Castro (Classroom 107): Friday, May 10, 2019. 6:00 – 7:30 pm | | <p>Instructions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mandatory attendance for students.- At least one parent along with the first communicant must attend the rehearsal.- There are six (6) DIFFERENT First Communion Rehearsals.- Students need to attend only ONE (1) First Communion rehearsal.- Each Student MUST ONLY attend at the rehearsal of her own catechist.- Students CANNOT attend the First Communion rehearsal of another teacher. |

2018-2019 First Communion important dates

| EVENTS | DATE | TIME and LOCATION | COMMENTS |
|--|---|-------------------|--|
| COMMUNION MASS | | | |
| First Communion Masses  | Place: St Timothy Church 5400 SW 102nd Ave, Miami, FL 33165 Phone: (305) 274-8224 https://www.sainttimothycatholic.org/ Date: May 18, 2019 and May 25, 2019 Arrival Time: ½ hour before the Mass Time: Check Information below (*) Note: If some parents would like to serve as volunteers during the First Communion Mass, please send an email to Dennys Cabrera. | | Instructions: Note: Each student should bring two (2) WHITE roses for the Communion Mass. It is greatly appreciated if anyone can donate more than 2 roses. If you may donate white roses, please contact Dennys Cabrera by email. (See other instructions below) |
| Consecration Mass | Place: Mass at St Timothy Church Date: June 8 th , 2019 Time: Mass at 5:00 pm Arrival Time: ½ hour before the Mass Note: If some parents would like to serve as volunteers during the Consecration Mass, please send an email to Dennys Cabrera. | | Instructions: Mandatory attendance for children and parents. |
| Registration for next year | Registration for next year 2019-2020 Date: From June 1 th to July 31 | | Please bring copy of the birth, Baptism, and Communion Certificates. |

Important information for the First Communion Masses (*)

Wednesday

| Catechist | Classroom | Date | Mass Time | Arrival Time |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Mrs. Esther Dieguez and Mrs. Cecilia | Classroom 102 | May 18, 2019 | 10:00 am | ½ hour before the Mass @ 9:30 am |
| Mrs. Myriam Obeso | Classroom 108 | May 18, 2019 | 12:30 pm | ½ hour before the Mass @ 12:00 pm |
| Mrs. Yadira Castro and Mrs. Ruth Sheils | Classroom 107 and Classroom 103 | May 18, 2019 | 3:00 pm | ½ hour before the Mass @ 2:30 pm |

Saturday

| Catechist | Classroom | Date | Mass Time | Arrival Time |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Mrs. Janie Rodriguez | Classroom 103 | May 25, 2019 | 10:00 am | ½ hour before the Mass @ 9:30 am |
| Mrs. Barbara Morales | Classroom 108 | May 25, 2019 | 12:30 pm | ½ hour before the Mass @ 12:00 pm |
| Mrs. Annie Martinez | Classroom 107 | May 25, 2019 | 3:00 pm | ½ hour before the Mass @ 2:30 pm |

(*) **IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you have siblings that are going to celebrate the Sacrament of Communion, please contact Dennys Cabrera as soon as possible.

First Holy Communion Mass Instructions:

- ✓ There are six (6) different First Communion ceremonies.
- ✓ Students MUST ONLY attend the First Communion Ceremony of their own catechist.
- ✓ Students cannot attend the First Communion Ceremony of another classroom.
- ✓ At each First Communion ceremony, there are assigned seats for students
- ✓ Parents and family will be seated at the ceremony according to their order of arrival.
- ✓ Please arrive at least half hour before the Mass start.
- ✓ We will meet in the Church.

Note: Each student should bring two (2) WHITE roses for the Communion Mass. A white rose will be carried in the procession by every kid. (If parents can donate white roses for the mass, please contact Dennys Cabrera at dcabrera@sainttimothycatholic.org. Thanks for your generosity.



Volunteers:

Volunteers to help organize are always welcome. Please contact Dennys Cabrera at the Religious Education Office at dcabrera@sainttimothycatholic.org




DRESS CODE FOR FIRST COMMUNION


For Boys:

Please use the following guidelines when choosing your child's attire. You can select any of the two options:

BOYS Option 1: White shirt and black or blue navy pants. (no jacket)

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| White long sleeve shirt: | White long sleeves shirt. No polo style shirt |  |
| Jacket: | This option does not have a jacket. | |
| Pants: | Blue Navy or black dress pants with an appropriate belt. | |
| Tie: | Solid white tie suitable for the occasion. | |
| Shoes: | Black dress shoes with dark socks. No athletic shoes or boots. | |
| Rosary: | White Rosary | |

BOYS Option 2: First Communion WHITE suit (White shirt. White pants, and white jacket)

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| White long sleeve shirt: | White long sleeves shirt. No polo style shirt |  |
| Jacket: | White Jacket (required) | |
| Pants: | White dress pants with an appropriate belt. | |
| Tie: | Solid white tie suitable for the occasion. | |
| Shoes: | White dress shoes. No athletic shoes or boots | |
| Rosary: | White Rosary | |

GIRLS DRESS CODE FOR FIRST COMMUNION

| FIRST COMMUNION DRESS: | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| COLOR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pure White First Communion Dress. (NO Beige, ivory, or any other color than white color). White dress, is a symbol of purity and a reminder of the Baptism |
| LENGTH: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A First Communion Dress should always fall below the knee. The length of the dresses of first communion will vary from just below the knee, to the length of half of the calf, and the length of the floor (touching the ankle). If you are opting for a long dress, keep in mind that you should choose a suitable length that does not touch or drag across the floor. |
| SLEEVE: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoulders should be covered. Short sleeve and long sleeve dresses are traditional styles and do not require a cover up. No spaghetti straps or sleeveless dresses. (Shoulders should be covered during the First Communion ceremony and if that is the case, you can purchase a shawl, jacket or cape to be worn during the ceremony) |
| MATERIAL: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> keep in mind that if your child has sensitive skin, some sheer organza tops or sleeves can feel "itchy". So, it is important to try on the dress to see how it feels. |
| SHOES: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> White shoes. Low-heeled dress shoes. No high heels. Open or close toe shoes are fine. |
| SOCKS: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> White ankle socks, tights or nude color hose. |
| TIARA: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls can choose flowers or ribbons tiara (simple headpiece). No large tiaras or bridal headpieces No crowns. |
| ROSARY: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> White Rosary. |
| GLOVES: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No gloves |
| PRAYER BOOK: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No prayer books. |
| SWEATER, PURSE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No sweater or purse. |

Nice for pictures, but not for Mass:

- Gloves: White gloves can be wearing for pictures but must be removed before entering the Communion line. It is not permitted to pick up the host or hold the cup wearing gloves.
- Prayer book: It's great to has prayer book for pictures, but PLEASE DO NOT BRING IT TO THE FIRST COMMUNION MASS.
- Sweater, purse: if your child brings a shawl, a sweater, or a purse, we ask you to hold on to them in your pew.

Reserved Seat

- There will be reserved/ assigned seating ONLY for students.
- All other seating is on first come/first served basis.
- The arrival time is ½ hour before Mass. (Half an hour before Mass)

Recommended Dress Code

For Ladies:

- Attire suitable for Mass. Dresses and shirts should not be revealing or inappropriate in any way.
- Nice dress, skirt, or pants for ladies. (Skirt/dress at least one inch BELOW the knee)
- NO: spaghetti strap tops, bare midribs, short skirts, gym shoes, jeans, or shorts.
- Dress shoes.

For Gentleman:

- Suit or nice slacks for men, dress shirt long sleeve with a tie.
- NO: jeans or gym shoes.
- Dress shoes.
- A nice sweater, collared shirt or suit jacket is appropriate on top.
- A suit and tie are acceptable, but not necessary.
- No hats should be worn in the church.

Pictures and Video:

Contact Frank Labrador: (305) 790-7297)

- Taking pictures during liturgy is a distraction and diminishes the solemnity of the celebration.
- Picture taking by individuals during the celebration of the sacrament of Communion is discouraged. Pictures may be taken before and after the mass.
- Group pictures will be taken after Mass. Please do not take pictures during Mass. This is a sacred time and St. Timothy will have a photographer
- Religious Education is not responsible for receiving payment for pictures.
- Group pictures will be taken after Mass. Please do not take pictures during Mass. This is a sacred time and St. Timothy will have a photographer
- Our parish has asked a professional photographer to take a photo. This professional photographer will be the sole photographer and the only one taking pictures and video during the Mass. (Frank Labrador: (305) 790-7297)

Contact Information

Our focus is to provide a solid religious foundation of the fundamentals of our Catholic faith for all our students and to encourage our families to live their faith daily. It is our privilege to assist you with their faith formation.

For questions please contact Dennys Victoria Cabrera at the Religious Education office: Phone: (305) 274-8224 or email: dcabrera@sainttimothycatholic.org

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Dennys Victoria Cabrera

Coordinator of Religious Education

Phone: (305) 274-8224

Email: dcabrera@sainttimothycatholic.org