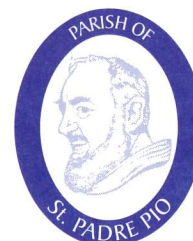


ST. PADRE PIO PARISH

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Dear Parents,

The Archdiocese has now given us permission to celebrate the First Communions. Because of the church capacity and social distancing rules, only a small number of children at a time may take part in the Mass. This would also include 10 guests for each child including parents.

In our parish we have 193 children for First Communion so we will need 13 Masses. We cannot have extra Masses on a Sunday, as we now have at least 2 – 3 Baptism ceremonies every month. To accommodate all these children and their families, we have to have the First Communion Masses on Tuesday and Friday evenings at 6:30 p.m., the only evening when we don't have regular parish Masses.

These Masses would be very simple – no singing (as per the Archdiocese), no lectors, no offertory procession and no group photos (as per the Archdiocese). So, the following dates have been set for. Pope Francis School, with Mass beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday November 17, 2020 – Ms. Aquino's class
Friday November 20, 2020 – Ms. Caporiccio's class
Tuesday November 24, 2020 – Ms. Carrera's class
Friday November 27, 2020 – Ms. Quarato- Martins' class

Children may wear their First Communion dresses and suits but should not be wearing gloves or have anything else in their hands.

There will not be any reserved seating. When the families arrive, they will go to the centre aisle only and choose any pew. The child will sit at the end of the pew, closest to the centre aisle, with their parents beside them. If the other family members and guests are in the same social bubble, they may sit beside the parents. The entire pew will be taken up by only that one family.

The Mass will last about 45 minutes. At the end of the Mass, the pews need to be vacated immediately, a team for the parish will be coming in to sanitize the pews. This will also give you time to have a celebration at home unless you are going to have a larger get-together on the following weekend.

This is a very difficult time and we are trying our best to serve the need of our children and their families. I look forward to celebrating your child's First Communion.

Rev. Monsignor Gregory Ace