



*St. André Bessette*  
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



April 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to provide important information regarding your child's First Holy Communion celebration. Below you will find information to assist in ensuring your child's day is a joyous and memorable one.

**Seating Assignments**

Each child receiving First Holy Communion and their family will be assigned **ONE** pew for the celebration of the Mass. The pews are assigned based on a lottery draw. The family may invite extended family/friends to sit in the assigned pew, if more than one pew is needed, there will be unassigned seating for additional guests. I ask that you communicate this information to your guests, should they arrive at the church before you. Volunteer Coordinators will be assisting on the day of your child's First Holy Communion and will direct you to your assigned pew and to the unassigned seating, should you require it.

**Receiving First Holy Communion**

When it comes time for your child to receive their First Holy communion, he/she will be escorted by an usher towards the Altar. Once they have received Communion and said a First Communion prayer, they will proceed to the Altar steps and join in the signing of hymns while the remaining family and guests are invited to partake in the Holy Communion. Please note that there will be a professional photographer taking pictures of each child immediately after receiving their First Holy Communion. I kindly ask that all parents and guests remain seated during this time.

**Banners**

Each child receiving First Holy Communion will be asked to create a banner that will be hung on the end of their assigned pew on the day of the celebration. Families are responsible for bringing the banner on that day. Additional information regarding the banner is included in the envelope package. Every year we are left with beautiful and creative banners, I would kindly remind all families to please take their banners home after the Mass to keep them as a cherished memory.

**Arrival Time**

Children receiving First Holy Communion and their families are asked to arrive at St. Joseph the Worker Parish 45 minutes prior to the Mass time. We ask for your cooperation in order that everyone receive instructions (including the assigned pew) and to ensure that the Mass begins promptly with all the children present.

## **Photos**

There will be a professional photographer available on the day of your child's First Holy Communion. They will take a group photo (8x10), a photo of your child immediately after receiving First Holy Communion (5x7), and one of your child receiving their certificate from me (5x7). These services have been generously donated to the church, however, we are asking for a set donation of \$35 for a package containing all three photos in the sizes noted. Additional photos will be available for purchase. All proceeds will go directly to St. Andre Bessette's Building Fund. An order form with proofs will be sent home from school with your child shortly after the day of their First Holy Communion. Please return the order form to school by the date that will be specified on the form.

The photographer will also be available to take additional family photos prior to the Mass. They will be set up in the basement. If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity, you are asked to arrive **1 hour prior** to the beginning of the Mass.

The dates and times for First Holy Communion are as follows:

**Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> – 10am** at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Thornhill – students from St. Cecilia CES (Ms. Geer and Ms. D'Arpino)

**Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> – 1pm** at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Thornhill – students from St. Raphael the Archangel CES + Community

**Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> – 3:30pm** at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Thornhill – students from St. Cecilia CES (Ms. D'Aoust and Ms. Tassone)

I thank you for your cooperation and look forward to accompanying you and your child on this journey toward their First Holy Communion.

*F. Peter Jae Choi*

Pastor  
St. Andre Bessette Parish