**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION RETREAT – 2015 (10am-12 - in church)**

**First Holy Communicants receive a nametag upon arrival (catechist/aide assist).**

**Pews are marked for families (post-it note) to sit; families sit in same pews for First Communion Mass with child on end of pew; center aisle.**

***WELCOME***

***OPENING PRAYER*– Scripture reading (Our Father; Hail Mary; Glory Be)…15 minutes**

***CHURCH SEARCH…35 minutes***

 -Parents and children receive directions and clipboard with church search papers. All proceed to begin search (start children at different spots). Search ends when child/parent has completed search or as long as time permits.

***ENROLLMENT OF THE BROWN SCAPULAR (OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL)…*15 min.**

-Table set up with brown scapulars.

 - **First Holy Communicants sit in front pew altogether on the left side of Church facing the altar in front of the Blessed Mother statue.**

 -**Brief talk on the scapular – Miss Jenny Johns**

 -Father Dorner prays the prayers to bless the scapulars (with holy water) and performs the rite of enrollment naming each child placing the scapular around the child’s neck.

 ***-\*\*\*\*ALL PRAY A HAIL MARY WHEN ENROLLMENT IS FINISHED.***

 -Encourage children to wear the brown scapular on their first Holy Communion Day.

 -Reminders:

 \*Once enrolled, always enrolled.

 \*If scapular wears out, tears, etc., proper disposal is to burn the scapular. Do not throw in garbage as scapular is a blessed sacramental.

 \*If a new scapular is needed, simply purchase one and have it blessed…no need to be enrolled again.

***QUESTION/ANSWER SESSION WITH FATHER…*5 min.**

 ***VESTING – FATHER DORNER (if not performed in a class session)…10 min.***

 -Father Dorner (needs to bring his clothing down to pew) will vest and share with the first holy communicants the prayers that are prayed with each separate piece of clothing he puts on. (Amice, alb, cincture, stole, chasuble).

***FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PRACTICE FOR PROCESSION/SEATING…*20 min.**

 -Processional line/seating; see attached sheet.

 -First Holy Communicants process down aisle and genuflect all together at their respective pews before entering pew.

 -When it is time to receive, Father will distribute to all on one side and then the other.

 -Father Dorner practices with children coming up to receive (each child approaches one at a time, without parents, starting with the first child; child folds hands with fingers pointing up to heaven; bows… Father says, “The Body of Christ”…child responds, “AMEN,”…”The Deacon says, “The Blood of Christ”…child responds, “AMEN,” and **returns to pew to the outside aisle.** If child receives in the hand, the Eucharist needs to be consumed before moving back to pew.

 -Note: For **reception of** Holy Communion, the church provides for two options of receiving our Lord, on the tongue or on the hand. A slight bow is performed before the reception of Holy Communion.

 -No processional out.

***PRACTICE “ADOREMUS IN AETERNUM” (A song of Praise to God)…5 min.***

– at base of stairs; children come from end of respective pews. (First two children go to center; others fill in to the outside. When returning to pew, child on ends proceeds back to pew; others follow.

***OPENING OF TABERNACLE…5min.***

-Father Dorner will open tabernacle so children can view the inside. Parents accompany children to tabernacle…All reverence our Lord during this time by kneeling or genuflecting. Children can pray a prayer? Children go to carpet squares to ready themselves for a few moments of Eucharistic Adoration with Father.

***EUCHARISTIC ADORATION…*7-10 min. (with priest kneeling with children; carpet squares)**

 ***-***with song (CD; Mark Forrest – Come and Worship (2 min. 45 sec.); Pause for silence (2 min.) : SONGS: Sanctuary and This is Jesus, Emmanuel (children sing). \*\*\*Pastor recommendations?

***BLESSING FROM FATHER DORNER (this can occur now or after the reminders).***

***CLOSING PRAYER AND REMINDERS FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DAY…5 min.***

 *-Hand out blessed candles with prayer attached; have families light candle each day at home and pray the prayer.*

 *-Receive the sacrament of Confession before First Holy Communion Day .*

 -*Fast one hour before receiving Holy Communion*

 *-Thank the parents for their love, prayers, and support.*

 *-Keep studying your catechism and practicing your prayers.*

 *-Be assured of our prayers for you (Fr. Dorner, Mrs. DeMeuse, Miss Johns, classroom aides)*