First Communion Retreat & Potluck outline:

9:00 – 10:00 AM– Confessions and Banner

* Prepare (banner felt, glue, items to decorate banners set up in a “craft” room – music playing)
* Can start Church search if done early. QUIETLY – people are going to confession.

10:00 AM – Opening Prayer/ Song

* Church search as a group (get correct answers)
* Go from item to item and talk about each

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| **Church Search: 52 Pick-up Answer Sheet** |
| **#** | **Description** | **order** |
| 46 | Altar server room | 1 |
| 45 | Sacristy | 2 |
| 16 | Alb | 3 |
| 10 | Cincture | 4 |
| 13 | Stole | 5 |
| 15 | Chasuble | 6 |
| 22 | Holy water pot & sprinkler for the asperges | 7 |
| 14 | Monstrance | 8 |
|  sacrarium -- a special sink with a pipe that bypasses the sewer |
| 8 | Incense boat | 9 |
| 17 | Thurible/Censor | 10 |
| 35 | Our Lady of the Rosary | 11 |
| 43 | Statue vigil candle | 12 |
| 36 | Baptism font | 13 |
| 12 | Tabernacle | 14 |
| 18 | Sanctuary candle | 15 |
| 31 | Crucifix | 16 |
| 24 | Altar | 17 |
| 41 | Book of the Gospels | 18 |
| 28 | Sanctus bells/ Altar bells | 19 |
| 23 | Credence table | 20 |
| 1 | Flagon (wine and water) | 21 |
| 2 | Ciborium | 22 |
| 3 | Paten | 23 |
| 4 | Corporal | 24 |
| 5 | Purificator | 25 |
| 6 | Pall | 26 |
| 7 | Communion cup/chalice | 27 |
| 9 | Lavabo Bowl | 28 |
| 19 | Main chalice | 29 |
| 42 | Sacramentary | 30 |
| 49 | Altar server chairs | 31 |
| 51 | Presidor chair and Deacon chair | 32 |
| 37 | Hymn number board | 33 |
| 33 | Sacred Heart of Jesus | 34 |
| 38 | Vigil candles (votives) | 35 |
| 21 | Kneeler | 36 |
| 30 | Pews | 37 |
| 20 | Station of the Cross | 38 |
| 44 | Ushers | 39 |
| 26 | Missalette | 40 |
| 48 | Narthex with baptistry | 41 |
| 25 | Holy water font | 42 |
| 29 | Holy water dispenser | 43 |
| 1 | Flagon (wine and water) | 44 |
| 2 | Ciborium | 45 |
| 47 | Confessional | 46 |
| 50 | Choir loft / Cantor | 47 |
| 34 | St. Anthony | 48 |
| 27 | Ambo | 49 |
| 52 | Lector chair | 50 |
| 39 | Ambry | 51 |
| 11 | Paschal Candle/ Easter Candle | 52 |
| 32 | St. Joseph | 53 |
| 40 | Candelabra | 54 |

10:30 AM – Sacrifice (in church then in another room for craft)

* Have you ever given something up for Lent?
* Is there any other time you have done something difficult for the sake of someone else?
* What is the hardest thing you did give up? (or could give up?)
* What is ‘sacrifice’? (overflow of our love for another – God or neighbor)
* Jesus said “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (Jn 15:13)
* Who laid down his life for you? (Jesus!)
* Why? “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have ever lasting life” (Jn 3:16) SONG - Explain

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**There once was a little girl named Thérèse Martin. She was the youngest of five daughters.** (How many children are in your family?)

**When Therese was really young, only four years old,** (how old are you right now? Do you know anyone four years old?) **her older sister Marie gave her a chaplet to count her good deeds.** (What is a chaplet?) **Marie told Therese how she could show she loved God by offering little sacrifices throughout the day for someone else.**

**Therese put the chaplet in her pocket, and whenever she did a good deed, she would move one of the beads over in order to keep track of how many good deeds she offered to God in one day.** (What sort of good deeds do you think Therese counted?)

**Therese grew up to be a Carmelite nun. She taught everyone how to do little deeds with GREAT LOVE. Therese loved God very much and wanted to be a saint.** (What is a saint? Do you want to be a saint?)

**After she died, God told the Catholic Church that Therese was indeed a saint. Today we know her as Therese of Lisieux, or the Little Flower – because she promised to send showers of roses on those who asked for her prayers.**

**Should we ask Therese to pray for us and help us to do good deeds?**

* Introduce Sacrifice beads/ Good Deeds beads / St. Therese beads
* Show how to make and have them make the chaplet. (Prepare: 25” of string w/ seared ends, 11 beads per person, one crucifix, one medal, candle burning)

11:15 AM – Time Machine (go to church)

* Have you ever read a book or seen a movie about a time machine? What is a time machine?
* Have you ever wanted to travel in time? “When” would you go to?
* What about if we could go to the time that Jesus showed how much He loved us? What if we could join Mary and John at the foot of the cross?
* Well here is a secret… When we come to Mass the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross IS made present. We don’t need to travel back in time because Jesus comes to us right HERE; right NOW!
* You have been studying about a big word “transubstantiation”. This means that the bread and wine we receive in communion is REALLY Jesus’ body and blood. It looks, tastes, smells, feels, and sounds like bread and wine; but what it IS has changed. Jesus is now present: really, truly and substantially.
* This happens because Fr. Matt was given the ability to call down the Holy Spirit (remember how Fr. Matt was given the power to forgive sins – but not to go through doors!) Now the Holy Spirit listens to Fr. Matt when he celebrates Mass and comes down when Fr. Matt asks Him to come down. Only a priest is given this special ability. Fr. Matt stands in the Person of Christ and says, “This is my Body….This is my Blood”.
* Through the Power of the Holy Spirit the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross is now present to us; HERE and NOW.
* We offer the sacrifice of Jesus to God the Father and then we eat Jesus’ body and blood so that he can live under our roof.
* Normal food turns into YOU!
* When we eat Jesus’ body and blood He makes us like HIM.
* So –Are you ready to become like Jesus? Are you ready for your First Holy Communion?

11:30 AM – Rehearsal

* Prepare for your First Communion
* Rehearse
	+ arrival time (10:15 a.m.) Girls in white dress (veil and gloves are optional). Boys in dark pants, light shirt (suit is great!).
	+ pew assignment
	+ procession into church (hands up in prayer)
	+ listen to readings and participate in Mass
	+ Line up in middle row
	+ One at a time First Communicant only come forward. (hands up in prayer)
		- Reverent bow
		- Body of Christ – AMEN
		- receive on tongue
		- move to cup
		- reverent bow
		- Blood of Christ – AMEN
		- take cup, drink, and give the cup back
		- Go to pew (at the end so the rest of your family doesn’t trip on you on the way out. Move to the other end once your family is out of the pew)
		- Take time to talk to Jesus who is now living under your roof – Welcome Him; visit with Him; Ask Him a question; play one of your favorite games with Him.
		- Father will go to the altar and give communion to the Communion Distributors and then come back
		- The rest of the family who are practicing Catholics may come up to receive
		- Do not process out! Stay in the pew and come forward for pictures
* Do another quick rehearsal for the reception part

**Give out *40 Days of Preparation for My First Communion***

NOON – Potluck in Hall

(Prepare: hall open and heated, tables and chairs set up, decorated?, hot turkey, ham slices, plates, napkins, utensils, cups, juice, milk, buns, condiments, prayer before meals on tables, person to help with food (and help with clean-up after each station from retreat),