

First School Liturgy of the Year **Thursday, September 4th at 8:00 a.m.**

We are privileged to have the celebration of the Eucharist, the central sacrament of our Catholic Christian life, on a regular basis at Holy Family Catholic School. Our Masses will be on Thursdays again this year, with rare exceptions. Grades 1-8 will attend weekly. Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten will join us later in the year.

Helping your student: Since Mass begins promptly at 8:00, all students should be on campus by 7:50 so that backpacks may be dropped in the classroom quickly. If a student arrives after his/her class has left the classroom for Mass, the student should enter the gym through the double doors closest to the parking lot and place his/her belongings to the left side of the doors before entering.

Where to enter and sit: All parents and other adult guests should enter the gym by the southwest entrance, the double doors closest to the front parking lot. Seating for parents will be in two sections of three-tiered bleachers that are inside to the left. When you arrive, please move to the highest tier and sit close. We save the bottom tier for those with strollers to manage.

Persons who arrive after the bleachers are full may sit in any extra rows of chairs, but our large enrollment means there won't be many extra chairs available. If you are running late, you may find a seat more easily by entering the gym through the north door, the one closest to the gate of the playscape.

Our prayerful demeanor: We also transform the space by our own behavior. Students are required to enter the space in silence and in prayerful preparation for the celebration, and to show attentive participation in the liturgy as if they were in their parish churches. We encourage the parents and guests in attendance to exercise that same disciplined reverence as they join us for the celebration of the liturgy. Here are some additional notes about how we maintain prayerfulness.

- Students attending Mass are required to wear the formal uniform, i.e. slacks for boys and jumpers or skirts for girls, white oxford shirts for boys (grades PreK-4th), blue oxford shirt for boys (grades 5th-8th) or white puffed sleeve blouse with navy piping (grades PreK-4th) and light blue oxford, tuck style for girls (grades 5th-8th)
- The Sign of the Peace is to be a time of quiet friendship and dignity. We are teaching students that one only shakes hands with those in one's immediate range. As soon as the first notes of the "Lamb of God" are heard, the Sign of Peace is over.
- Students exit the gym in silence. Parents and visitors are asked to maintain reverence after Mass, too.
- For liturgical form, we will take the position that all parts of the Mass are an act of worship. Therefore, we will not applaud any music, skit or any other contribution to the liturgy.
- As with any Catholic Mass, we ask that you not take video or still pictures during the celebration of the liturgy. We realize that preserving memories of special moments is a strong value, but we do ask that you cooperate with us in this request

Thank you very much for helping us to teach the children the best possible church etiquette and behavior. In this way, we believe they will have a deeper understanding of the sacredness of our prayer together and of our places of communal prayer. We sincerely hope to see you at mass often.

Last, please consider staying after Mass for a few minutes to help the Liturgy Committee stack chairs.