

## Parish Welcome for First Eucharist

The parish welcome for First Eucharist is a ceremony that can be used by the parish to acknowledge, support, and welcome children who are beginning preparation for First Eucharist. It can also serve as a reminder to the parish at large of the ongoing initiation of new members, the responsibility of the entire community to pray for members of the faith community who are preparing for sacraments, and the need to continually model Christian love and service. This welcoming may take place after the homily at Mass or just before the final blessing.

Offering the children and the parish community a First Eucharist prayer list at this time is optional but fitting. This gives the children and members of the parish a list of names of all those who are preparing for First Eucharist. If possible, laminate the lists, which may be created on index cards or bookmarks. Have these lists in the back of church for members of the parish who wish to pray for the children by name.

**Presider:** Parents, please stand with your child to present him or her as a candidate for First Eucharist. *(Pause while parents and children stand.)* Parents, what do you ask of God's Church for your child?

**Parents:** Holy Communion.

**Presider:** Do you promise to cooperate to the best of your ability in preparing your child for this sacrament?

**Parents:** Yes.

**Presider:** Children, please come forward and line up facing the altar. *(Pause until all of the children have come forward.)* Children, do you want to receive your First Eucharist?

**Children:** Yes.

**Presider:** Are you willing to do your best to learn and prepare for this most important sacrament?

**Children:** Yes.

**Presider:** We are happy that you are preparing to join us at the table of the Lord. Please accept this prayer list as a reminder to pray for all of those who are preparing for the Sacrament of the Eucharist at this time. *(Give each child a prayer list before they return to their pews.)* I am praying for you, and I ask that you pray for one another. I also know that all the people of our parish will be praying for you as you prepare to receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. *(Address the assembly.)* If you would like to pray for these children



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by name, you are welcome to take a prayer list from the information table in the gathering area.

