



Saint Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church

To See as Christ Sees and Love as Christ Loves

First Eucharist FAQs

Q) Why do I need to provide a Baptism Certificate?

A) The Parish where your child was baptized is referred to as the "Parish of Record." This is the Parish that is responsible for keeping a record of the Sacraments of Initiation (such as Eucharist) each of their baptized members celebrates. Once your child celebrates First Eucharist, the Parish of Record must be informed. We use the Baptism Certificate to identify the Parish of Record.

Q) If I already submitted a Baptism Certificate to the Faith Formation Program or St. Raphael Catholic School (during registration for either), do I still need to provide a new copy?

A) Maybe. The Office of Lifelong Faith Formation has begun scanning Baptism Certificates into our computer files. It's possible that yours is such a Certificate. However, Certificates submitted before 2013 may not be available. Suffice it to say, if we can't find a copy of the Certificate in our records, yes, you'll need to submit a new copy. Same is true for Certificates submitted to the School.

Q) Speaking of Baptism Certificates, do you want an original?

A) No, please don't give us your original. A copy is perfect. An emailed, scanned copy is fine.

Q) What if my child was baptized at St. Raphael?

A) As long as you can give us the date (usually the year is sufficient), we can look up the record in our Parish's Book of Records. However, given that the Book of Records is handwritten, and subject to human errors and omissions, there's still the slight possibility that we'll need you to provide a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate. Bottom line: store those certificates where you save your other important papers; it'll make life easier for all. :-)

Q) And what's the deal with Parish Registration? Our family has been going to Mass at St. Raphael's for years.

A) If your family is not listed in our Parish Database, you're not considered registered parishioners. Because Sacraments are celebrated as part of a Parish Family, Parish Registration is a requisite step in preparing to receive First Eucharist.

Q) But we registered years ago.

A) If you've been inactive for a certain period of time (ie. Not involved in a parish ministry or no longer using your Offertory envelopes), the database geniuses assume you've moved to a different parish. Once this



Saint Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church

To See as Christ Sees and Love as Christ Loves

assumption is made, your Membership is de-activated. Re-activating is as simple (and necessary) as completing a Parish Registration Form.

Q) What are the First Eucharist Attire requirements?

A) Boys are asked to wear slacks and a dress shirt. Ties and jackets are optional. No tennis shoes. Girls are asked not to carry purses, nor wear gloves. Girls may wear sandals or closed toed shoes; tights, socks, or bare legged; veil or crown; tea length or full length dress. Neither boys nor girls should carry anything--no rosaries, no prayer books, nothing to fiddle with. :-)

Q) Are pictures allowed during First Eucharist Mass?

A) No, but there will be ample time for photos on the Plaza and at the Reception following Mass.

Q) Did you say Reception?

A) Yes. You and your guests are invited to a cake and punch reception in the Lewis Room, following Mass. This is also the place/time where/when you may pick up your child's/youth's First Eucharist Certificate.

Q) When can we take the Banner home?

A) Please retrieve your child's/youth's Banner after the Mass; you'll find it adorning the front of the pews in the Sanctuary.