



COMMUNION IN THE CHURCH

**SERVES:
PARISH**

**TIME:
MAR-APR**

PRESENTING THE NEED TO MY TEAM

- Do you remember your First Communion?
- This was the moment when you received Jesus' real presence for the first time.
- This is a day where even the greatest amazement almost seems natural; it is a special day for every boy and girl.
- Such a day takes a lot of preparation between training altar servers, decorating the room for the reception, lining the kids up, and a thousand other little details. This leaves your team with a great opportunity to serve the Church by organizing this special day. Your team could organize a great Mass and reception to make this day extra special for all those receiving Jesus into their heart.



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MOMENT WHEN YOU RECEIVED
JESUS FOR THE FIRST TIME.**

OUR CALL TO SERVE

Let's organize a First Communion Mass and reception like our parish has never seen before!

PROJECT OVERVIEW

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WEEK	STEPS	QUESTION OF THE WEEK
1	<p>Pastor: You need to meet with the pastor and / or DRE at least 7 weeks beforehand. At this meeting you can offer your services and find out what he wants. Make sure that a master of ceremonies is there to make sure that the Mass is how he wants it and make sure that the MC of the party is there so that he can do it how Father would appreciate it.</p>	
2	<p>Theme: You need to decide on the general outline of the party this week. With this project you cannot wait around.</p> <p>Invite: Make invitations and begin giving them to the First Communicants and their families.</p>	
3	<p>Get Supplies: This week you need all the supplies you need to decorate the hall and church. You need to arrange for food to come (Catered, bought now, or bought the day before).</p> <p>Invite: Continue sending out invitations and call everyone to confirm they are coming.</p>	
4	<p>Dry Run: Before everyone comes for the rehearsal, the members of the team involved in the mass should do their own rehearsal so that people are not waiting around for them. Make sure everyone has a responsibility.</p>	

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5	Invite to rehearsal: Make sure all the families are given a reminder for the next weeks live rehearsal. (could be via phone calls or email)	
6	Live Rehearsal: Some time this week you need to get all the First Communicants, sponsors, altar servers, readers, and Masters of Ceremonies together for a rehearsal of the mass. Everyone needs to see their part clearly.	
7	The Big Day!: This is the week for the Big Day. Make sure the boys arrive early, dress well (shirts & ties or suits is ideal) and are respectful. Conquest: If there is a younger boys program running at your location, make sure at the party to invite boys to join. Mingle and talk to parents about Conquest.	
8	Follow up: Have a review of the project with your team. What went well, what could be improved? Meet with the Pastor or DRE and obtain feedback as well. Plan to help again next year and make it even better!	

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TACTICS BY AREAS

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LOCATION

- The Mass should take place at the parish. Make sure you set aside sufficient rows at the front for First Communicants and then for their families.
- The reception is usually done in the parish hall or really close. If you start going to far, families will organize a separate reception for each kid.

PROVISIONS

- Party Supplies: any party needs supplies such as paper plates, decorations, tables, etc. Exactly what u get depends on how you are organizing the party. You will also often be asked to decorate the church. Usually simple white decorations are best there.
- Food: Make sure you have sufficient food in both quantity and quality. You have to decide early if you will have a snack or a feast. This affects a lot of your organization.
- Invitations: Simple invitations are more appropriate that super flashy ones. Make sure you include details of rehearsals, Mass, and the party afterwards.

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TACTICS BY AREAS



RESPONSIBILITIES

- Servers: Your team members should serve and should do a better job than anyone else, bowing in unison and moving fluidly to their next duty.
- You could also get readers for Mass.
- Masters of Ceremony: One or two boys from your team, the best mannered and organized ones, should line the First Communicants up, lead them through rehearsal, and help out with practical details for the First Communion Mass.
- MC: Someone needs to be the MC of the party section. He can give everyone instructions and ask the Pastor to lead everyone in grace.
- Set-up: All or most of the team should set it all up together.
- Charity Crew: At a party like this, little things will be needed, everyone should be on the lookout for these and solve them on their own.

CONTACTS

- Pastor: you will need to show him that your team can do this well. You will often need to approach him long before first communions will take place as other groups may offer this service as well. Your record (behavior, apostolate, etc) as a team in his parish previously will often be the biggest determining factor.
- First Communicants: You need to find out what they like as far of food and activities and gear it towards them. We are celebrating their day, not their parents' day. You need to treat them with charity and kindness as if each of them was your younger brother.
- Parents: You need to show that you are professional for the parents to trust you. You need to run everything that they see, both in this project and previous ones, smoothly. Moms will tend to take over if they see you are struggling at all.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

DEBRIEFING

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SPECIAL OPS

- Let the boys pick how to do the reception. There will a big temptation to let moms handle most of it but you can show them that your team can and will do it.
- Make sure you rehearse mass until it is perfect. The last thing we want a 2nd grader to remember is how one of the servers looked really out of place.
- Don't try and do anything against the mind of the pastor, even if he wants something you don't; you are serving him not vice versa.
- Have the boys dress very nice – suits are ideal, but good dress pants, shoes and shirt with a tie could also work well.
- Manners and behavior: Boys should not be talking and joking or goofing off – the impressions they leave should be that of caring young men who are generously serving others and not themselves.

CONTINGENCY PLAN



- The schedule for this project assumes First Communion is in week 6; you will need to adjust it for your parish's schedule.
- The boys on the team could also organize a party for a feast day in the Church such as the Visitation (May 31st) or Sts. Peter and Paul (June 29th)
- The team could also offer to host a 2-3 hour First Communion Retreat. This could be organized with the help of parents with the boys leading most of the activities.

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PROJECT NOTES:

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