

Dear Families,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying some precious family time. The current health crisis has presented us with many challenges, and it is my hope that you will embrace this time together to grow in love and prayer with your family.

Our staff has met several times this week to determine what is the best planning for our parishioners regarding celebrations of the Mass and Sacraments. With the guidance of the CDC, the Governor, and the Bishop's office, we have decided to postpone First Communion until the health crisis has passed. We will not be able to reschedule until we are allowed weekly Sunday liturgies and full use of the church and school building.

The parish will be recording Sunday Mass with Father Steve and posting it to Facebook and our parish website st-phil.org. I encourage you to watch the Mass with your children and follow along in their Eucharist book so they will remember the lessons and stay connected to the liturgy. Also, please continue to practice prayers and the reception of Communion with your child. There are wonderful prayers, meditations, and lesson resources on our publishers website loyolapress.com. You will find the pictures from our First Eucharist Retreat (<https://www.st-phil.org/first-eucharist-retreat.html>) on the parish website as well, and you can share them with your children and talk about everything you did and learned that day.

Should you have any questions, or need any assistance, please reach out via email to me at stphilpre@gmail.com or Barb Nicolai at bnicolai@st-phil.org. We are with you in prayer and spirit at this time, and look forward to celebrating First Communion with your family as soon as possible.

All the best,
Nancy McKnight