

*St. Robert Bellarmine Parish
Religious Education Office
850 Euclid Avenue
Warrington, PA 18976
215-343-9433*

July 2011

Dear Parent(s),

A child's First Communion is a special and important time in the life of a Catholic family. Sacraments are not only family celebrations, but also parish celebrations. In addition to your family, the parish community also rejoices to have more members join them at the table of the Lord. With the reception and celebration of a sacrament, the entire faith community is edified and communion is present.

With this in mind, we are offering several options for your child's reception of his/her First Communion. Option 1 is the traditional group setting which is familiar to many of you. We are offering option 2 for several reasons. In keeping with Pope John Paul II's apostolic letter, *Dies Domini (On Keeping the Lord's Day Holy)*, the Archdiocese is recommending that parishes move in the direction of celebrating 1st Communions at Sunday Parish liturgies. I have experienced both options and can say each one is a special celebration of a child's 1st Communion.

Listed below is a brief description of the positive benefits of each, as well as the similarities and differences.

Option 1: Group

Option 2: Sunday Masses

Children will process into church

Children will process into church

Children sit as a group

Children will sit with their family

1 child from each session
presents the gifts at Mass

More children able to present
gifts at each of the Masses

Large group, may be crowded

More intimate

At the present time, we have approximately **94 children** receiving Holy Eucharist.

The dates and times for each of the options are as follows:

Option 1 – Group (one Mass) Saturday, May 5, 2012 10:30 AM

Option 2 – Sunday Mass
Sunday, May 6, 2012 11:00 AM.

We ask that you seriously consider both options, and through prayer, reach a decision that is best for your family.

Attached you will find a First Communion Date Form which will ask for your choice. **Please return this form no later than Tuesday, September 26th.** You will receive whichever date and time you choose.

If you have any questions or need clarification on any of the options, please contact me at the above number or e-mail me at stobertdre@verizon.net.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Together in Christ,

Donna Heeney
Director of Religious Education

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish

1st Communion Date Form

Child's Name _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

School or PREP (Please circle one)

Our choice for 1st Communion

_____ Saturday, May 5, 2012 (Group Mass) 10:30 AM

_____ Sunday, May 6, 2012 (Sunday Mass) 11:00 AM

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION