

***Holy Cross Parish
641 E. Springfield Road
Springfield, PA 19064***

August 20, 2019

To the Parents or Legal Guardians of our Holy Cross First Communicants,

On the day that you had your child baptized, you took the first step to having him or her initiated into the Body of Christ--the universal Church. The Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation complete that initiation into the Body of Christ. This coming year, your child will receive First Penance and First Holy Communion, the next step towards completing this full initiation into the life of our faith community.

On Saturday, November 16, 2019 the children will make their First Penance, and on Saturday, May 2, 2020, Holy Cross Parish will welcome these young people to the Table of the Lord for the first time at 10:00 AM Mass. **The children are also expected to attend either the 8:30 or 11:00 Mass the next day, May 3rd, where they will be presented to the parish. Please have the children dressed in their Holy Communion attire.**

This coming year I will be working closely with the deacons, and the Director of Religious Education to assist you in preparing for these sacred events. Of course, such preparation begins at home by taking your child to Mass every week and showing by your own good example that you go to confession regularly.

There is a **Mandatory Parents Meeting on Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 12:00 noon after the 11:00 am Mass.** Please also plan ahead for the **MANDATORY** Communion retreat scheduled for **Sunday, April 26, 2020 from 11:00 Mass to 3:00.** All Communion candidates are expected to be there for Mass, retreat activities, and rehearsal. All retreat activities will be held in the parish center.

In closing, please let me assure you that as a parish community, we are here to support you and your family in any way we can. In this way, with the grace of God, we will all help the children to discover the joy of a life founded on the love of Christ and embrace the perfect gift of Himself that He offers us in the Eucharist."

Yours in Christ,

Father Eugene Wilson
Pastor
Kelly Meliti
DRE