

Dear parents,

We live in an uncertain time. I can only imagine, many of you are fearful, worried, and anxious as you send your children back to school. The element of fear is real and is important most of the time. It keeps us safe. But at times too much fear can also cripple. Having said that, whatever decision you make is good, given your situation. If there is any way we as the church community can help you, we are here.

Due to the pandemic, as most of the activities came into a halt, so did the sacraments for our children. As we have reopened the church, and the schools are reopened, we want to go ahead with administering the sacraments. But as in all the cases, it will be in a modified way. First and foremost, due to the limit of numbers at the church, we need to have **five First Communion** celebrations (Oct 04, 11, 18, 25 7 Nov 01) and **four Confirmation** celebrations (Oct 10, 17, 24 & 31). The parents can pick any assigned date for the celebrations. You will receive a link for choosing the dates. The choices will be **on a first come first serve basis**, and the number of students will be limited for each celebration to 15 along with their guests.

I do understand that it is an important moment for you as a family and you would like to bring all your family members to witness your child receiving the sacraments. But due to the restriction placed on the church, we need to control the size of the gathering and so each family can bring **up to 10 people only** including the child receiving the sacrament.

At the church, we have taken enough processional effort to keep the parishioners safe. We have assigned seating with the required space between the person sitting next to each other. The persons from the same household can sit together. If you are from a different household you need to maintain the space between the two. We disinfect the Church after each weekend masses and other major celebrations. All the people who attend the celebration needs to wear a mask.

"We find ourselves afraid and lost. We were caught off-guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented ... all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other." (Pope Francis, March 2020). It is a frightening time, but it is also a time to celebrate with our children. So dear parents, let us persevere in faith, let us live in hope, let us place our trust in God.

With Love and Prayers

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Francis, S.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rev. Francis Salasiar CSC