



What Do You Remember About Your First Communion Day?

May 2015

The good weather and a new spring have arrived here in New England, and on this Fifth Sunday of Easter it finally feels like Easter!

May is a busy month for so many families, especially those celebrating graduations, anniversaries, First Communions, Confirmations and Mother's Day. May, the month of Mary, fills us with our own memories as we mark these important celebrations for family members and friends.

This Saturday at St. Mary's we had two First Communion celebrations and next week we will have two more. What a special day for parents and grandparents who remember so well carrying their child into the church not too many years ago for the celebration of Baptism. Now they watch them walk down the center aisle in a procession of smiles, white dresses and boys with their ties already askew.

Going to a First Communion celebration always has a way of reminding of us of our own First Communion Day. Every year when the First Communion season rolls around here at St. Mary's, I find myself remembering my childhood at St. Bernard's Parish and that first time receiving the Eucharist. I remember the procession with boys on one side and girls on the other. I am sure if I looked hard enough I would find my white tie buried at the bottom of a bureau in our family home. I remember coming up and kneeling at the altar rail to receive communion, reminding myself not to let the Body of Christ touch my teeth. I also remember well the powdered donuts at the breakfast the Women's Guild served in the gym after Mass before we processed back into the church to receive a scapular. What do you still remember about your First Communion Day?

This month thousands of children in parishes across the country are celebrating this great sacramental milestone in their young lives. As we recall our own First Communion, let us hold these young Catholics in our prayers. They won't make the evening news, for sure, but these joyful and peaceful processions of children are such a stark contrast to the protesting violence in so many streets in our country these days. May their faith and the never ending presence of Jesus Christ give us all hope and confidence in the days that lie ahead. Happy May!