

Talking Points for Parents: The Delay of First Communion

We know what a disappointment it is to have your child's First Communion postponed. But as parents and as a faith community, you know, our highest priority is to keep our children safe. This is an opportunity to talk with your child about how important sacraments are to your family as well as our community, and what a joyful and important day it will be when your child joins you at the table of the Lord. It might be helpful to consider these ideas when talking with your children:

- 1) Children at this age will pick up on your emotional state and take their cues from you. When you share this news, it will be helpful if you clearly state that the celebration of their First Communion will be a little later than planned to keep you and everyone in your faith family safe and healthy. Keeping your tone positive will not only help your child with this issue but also encourage them to be mindful of the virtue of hope when they experience other disappointments in life.
- 2) Remember that a child's sense of time and schedules are not as developed as that of an adult. The exact date of First Communion is probably only a vague concept to your child. Using words like "postponed," "little later date" or "at a later time" should be sufficient for him or her to understand the situation without being unduly upset.
- 3) Remind your child that he or she will have a First Communion and it will be special and wonderful. On that day, when people will be more able to travel, your child's friends and relatives will be able to share in the happy celebration.