

ANOINTING OF CANDIDATES FOR FIRST COMMUNION

At the end of Mass the priest calls the candidates and their sponsors forward:

Do you wish to prepare for your First Holy Communion?

R. I do.

Do you intend taking part in the preparation Course?

R. I do.

Let us pray: *(A period of silence is observed)*

The priest extends his hands towards the candidates and says

God of mercy and love,
in baptism you welcome us into the community of faith
and restore us to eternal life.

You invite us to partake of your Holy Mysteries
and nourish us through the Bread of Eternal Life
and the Cup of Salvation.

Grant that this/these your servant(s)
may be given your gifts of wisdom and insight
as they prepare for their first Holy Communion.

May they be filled with faith in Jesus Christ
and with love for all your people
in the service of your kingdom.

We make this prayer through the same,
Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

The priest anoints each one with the Oil of Catechumens, saying

N, may God renew his life within you
that your inner eye may be opened to these Holy Mysteries.
Amen.