

**ATTENTION
YEAR 4 TEACHERS
RETREAT DAYS FOR
CHILDREN PREPARING
FOR THE SACRAMENT
OF EUCHARIST**

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SCHOENSTATT SHRINE

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Dear year 4 Teacher,
Our First Communion retreat days provide children with faith and fun-filled session which help them in their preparation to receive Jesus in holy Communion.

In this 13th year of offering these retreats, I would like to invite you to make use of our program.

This year we focus on a treasure hunt. Many activities and reflections will lead us to our greatest treasure – Jesus.
Cost per student \$ 12.00

Parents are most welcome.

(They find this day spent at the Shrine a special spiritual experience. Please invite as many as possibly.)

As this is a full day event, we ask you to try to arrive as soon as you possibly can and to leave as late as possible.

I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours in Jesus and Mary
Sister M. Lisette



The topic for the First Communion classes is to discover that Jesus is our greatest treasure.

A special highlight is our prayer session in the Shrine, where students are introduced to the Eucharistic adoration as well as the use of Holy Water at home.

Holy Mass and all that belongs to it is presented in a hands on reflection, where the children get to know all the various sacred vessel which are used during Holy Mass, including the use of incense. If teachers wish to do so they may practice with the children how to receive the host.

One of the boys (acting as a priest) will be vested and the various items and their symbolism will be explained. Acolytes and Alter servers are not missing.

A very popular activity is the 3-d collage. Children express their understanding of the Eucharist in a very creative way and share their work of art with the class.

Decorating their own First Holy Communion candle is a popular activity and a wonderful remainder of the day spent at Schoenstatt..

The children will take home cotton wool and grains of wheat to grow prior to their First Holy Communion day, pictures of the Shrine and Our Lady are only some of the items they find in their special bag.

Important are the deeds of love they collect for Jesus: The children write on a Shrine card what they will do for Jesus by helping their parents with the house work so they can go to church together on Sundays.

The story of St. Tarcicius, the patron saint of the Alter servers and Pope Benedict XVI sharing an afternoon with 1st Communion children, brings vividly to mind that having Jesus as ones greatest treasure demands sacrifices made out of love for him.