

## First Communion Banners:

2.0 7/2/18 AVH

### Recommended Instructions for Homemade Banners:

1. Purchase a piece of fabric (e.g. felt) measuring 12 inches wide by 24 inches long. Please let your child pick the color (any color is acceptable).
2. Sew a one-inch hem on each side and the bottom. Use a machine zig-zag or straight stitch, or stitch by hand. (You can turn under ½ inch, and then turn again before stitching to prevent fraying on fussy fabrics).
3. Form a casing at the top for a dowel by turning down 1 inch and stitching. (By the time you have hemmed and made a casing for the dowel, the finished piece will be 10 inches wide by 22 inches long.)
4. Cut Eucharistic symbols from felt or other suitable fabric to glue or stitch to the banner. These symbols could be a chalice, a host, wheat, grapes, or any other appropriate symbol. Your child's first name should be part of the banner.
5. When you come to church on the Wednesday evening before your Child's First Communion for the rehearsal, we will provide a dowel and yearn to complete the banner and then hang it in the Narthex of the Church before the weekend.
6. Banners will remain in place for the whole weekend. We will remove them before the following Wednesday to make room for banners for the next weekend. Your child will be able to pick up his/her banner in class the following week.

**Banner Kits:** You may also choose to purchase a First Communion banner kit as long as it contains appropriate Eucharistic symbols. Here are two examples of acceptable kits that can be purchased in religious stores or online (they are smaller than the homemade size – this is not a problem):



**The banner needs a casing to hold a dowel, but please do not include the dowel.** We will hang these up on long wires and you can save the dowel to hang it up at home later.

Whether you make a homemade banner or purchase a kit, please allow your child to be involved in planning and constructing the banner as much as they wish to. We hope that this banner will be both a lovely preparation for and a happy remembrance of your child's First Holy Communion.