

The Eighth Grade Graduation Mass Guidelines

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience in waiting for us to announce a time and date for the 8th grade graduation Mass. Once again, it is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26th at 6:30 PM. Please know that the Ohio Department of Education provided several plans for recognizing graduating students. They recommended Virtual Graduation Ceremony, Drive-thru graduations, Single family in person graduation and a Structured and Controlled In-Person Graduation Ceremony.

When the Archdiocese of Cincinnati opened up the churches beginning on Monday, May 25th this allowed us to go ahead and commit to a graduation Mass. As a result there are guidelines from the Archdiocese and the parish that we MUST follow for our event.

- Highly recommend a mask, but not required
- In ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, appropriate social distancing must be followed, plus all regulations put forth by public health authorities must be observed.
- The number of people allowed in the church at one time is restrictive. **As a result each graduate is allowed to invite five guests and are required to sit together in their assigned pew.**
- All worship aides and hymnals will be removed from the church.
- There will be no servers, one lector and one cantor. There will be three faculty Eucharistic Ministers for this Mass.
- Regrettably, since we are not to touch anyone, we will not be able to bless those non-Catholics who would come up for communion. Thus we ask the non-Catholic population to refrain from going through the communion line.
- Eucharistic Ministers will be wearing masks.
- No physical contact at the Our Father or Sign of Peace,
- There will be no Offertory Procession and Holy Communion will be only bread and not wine from the chalice. Holy Communion on the tongue is strongly discouraged.
- Upon entering the Church, all families are to go to their assigned seating.
- Families will be dismissed at the end of the Awards Program by individual rows. Graduates will not be able to congregate in the Gathering Space and they must exit the Church directly after receiving their two special gifts from the school.

Special Notes:

- Please RSVP on your coming and the exact number of guests (no more than five). Call 937-898-5104 to leave a message or email pbeyerle@stchristopheronline.com, ktompson@stchristopheronline.com, or kbradley@stchristopheronline.com. Please let us know by Friday, May 22nd.
- There is a dress code that we follow for this event: Please note:

*Girls are to wear dresses, skirts, or dress pants (no jeans, sweatpants, leggings, or shorts). Skirts need to be three inches above the knee or longer. No strapless or spaghetti strap tops are permitted unless a coverall, such as a sweater or jacket, is worn with the dress. Open shoulder styles are fine as long as they do not have

spaghetti straps or show bra straps. Necklines must be modest. No gym shoes or flip flops, but dressy sandals are fine.

*Boys are to wear dress pants (no jeans, sweatpants, or shorts), a dress shirt with collar and sleeves, and a tie. Jackets and suits are optional and not required. Please wear socks and dress shoes. No gym shoes or flip flops. This year, khakis and polo shirts are fine as well if your son has grown out of his dress pants.

- 8th grade parents- please note that we will not release any school transcripts to the high schools until all outstanding tuition is paid and all school books and materials returned. **8th graders may begin returning all school books and materials on Friday, May 22nd from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM.**

Yours in Catholic Education,

Paul Beyerle