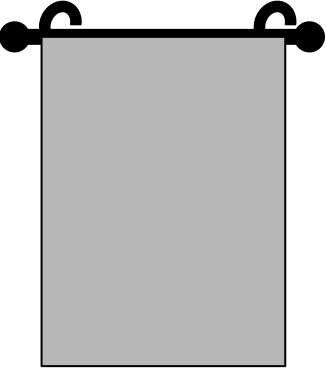


First Communion Banner Directions

Finished size is 24 inches wide by 34 inches long (including fringe if used)

Materials

- Felt, any color, 24” wide by 36” long
- 36” dowel rod
- 2 wooden balls for ends of dowels
- 2 cup hooks (these hooks are open so that the banner can be hung onto a wire in the church; these will be screwed onto the ends of the dowel rod. See below.)



To attach felt to dowel, wrap about 2 inches of felt around dowel and use either glue or stitches to attach.

The bottom of the banner can be straight, angled, or V-shape. If you attach a fringe it must be no longer than 1 inch.

Additional Information & Tips

Do NOT use glitter, dried wheat, actual rosaries, plastic grapes and flowers, or “puff” pens. These things tend to flake or fall off.

Do NOT put a current picture of your child on the banner. You may put a felt heart where you’d like a picture and add it after you take the banner home. The banners will be displayed publicly; keep your child safe.

Ideas can be found online. Manylittleblessings.com and Faithmattersinc.com are a couple of websites you can visit. There are MANY more if you Google!

If you find your banner curling up on the bottom, sew pockets on the bottom of the back and sew in a few minutes to weigh it down.

Ask your dry cleaner for a dress bag to put over your banner to carry and store.

Symbols that can be used on the banners and what they mean.

Wheat. Wheat is a cereal grain, its seeds are ground into flour and used as the main ingredient for bread, and Jesus is the Bread of Life. Sometimes wheat is represented by a single head of grain, other times by a shock or sheaf of wheat, a bunch of cut stalks bound together in a bundle.

A Loaf of Bread. Bread is the staple food of physical life, and Eucharistic bread is the staple food of the spiritual life. At the Last Supper, Jesus took a loaf of unleavened bread and said, “Take and eat, this is my body” (Mt 26:26; Mk 14:22; Lk 22:19). The consecrated bread is Jesus himself, the Real Presence of Christ.

A basket of loaves. When Jesus fed the five thousand, he began with a basket of five loaves (Mt 14:17; Mk 6:38; Lk 9:13; Jn 6:9), and when he fed the four thousand he began with a basket of seven (Mt 15:34; Mk 8:6).

Loaves and fishes were both part of Jesus’ Eucharistic miracles (Mt 14:17; 15:34; Mk 6:38; 8:6,7; Lk 9:13; Jn 6:9), and they were part of Jesus’ Eucharistic meal with his disciples after the Resurrection (Jn 21:9).

A Host. A host is a Communion wafer, a round piece of unleavened bread used for consecration and distribution at Mass. The term comes from the Latin word *hostia*, a sacrificial lamb. Jesus is “the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” (Jn 1:29,36), and his body, offered on the altar of the Cross, is given to us from the altar of the Mass.

Grapes and Wine. Grapes are crushed into juice, the liquid fermented into wine, and wine was used by Jesus at the Last Supper to represent his Blood, the blood of the covenant, shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins (Mt 26:28; Mk 14:24; Lk 22:20).

A Chalice. Jesus used a cup or a chalice as the vessel for his Blood at the Last Supper.

The Altar is where the Eucharistic sacrifice is celebrated and a symbol for the Eucharist itself.

The Dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.