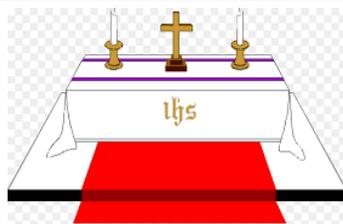


LITURGY BYTES

Welcome to the Table



Another important event that occurs during the month of May, is First Holy Communion. Our young people gather with their families and friends in special clothing to receive for the very first time, the Body of Christ. For the many years I spent as a DRE, this occasion always touched my heart and gave me great hope. Honestly, I am not referring to the actual First Communion liturgies, but to the following days when these young people would return in their “Communion garb” and attend one of the weekend parish Masses. Most parishioners would agree, it was so good to have these young people join with us at the table of the Lord. Their excitement and smiling faces were reminders of our first time and the feelings and love for Jesus we felt in our hearts.

This practice of inviting the children back to Mass with their Communion garb also gives the parish the opportunity to officially welcome them into the local faith community. It connects each child to the presence of Jesus and allows them to experience yet another step of deeper commitment to the Catholic way of life. As we know, the Eucharist is a sacred meal of thanksgiving, a memorial of Christ’s death and resurrection, and the center and highpoint of the Church’s sacramental life.

So let this time be a reminder for all of us to think about the Communion we share in at every Mass. It is a time for us to pause and think about how we receive the presence of Jesus under the form of consecrated bread and wine, as well as the witness we give to those around us. Secondly, let us recognize the ways we are fed and are feeding others. May we see and experience the giving and receiving, and the sharing of our lives. Our presence at Mass says the Church is not just for people who have faith all figured out. We come back each week for the body of Christ so that we can be the body of Christ in the world!

Have a blessed, healthy, and safe week ahead! ~~ *Michele Hall*