

## First Holy Communion

The Sacrament of the Eucharist is the greatest celebration of Jesus' love for us. The church, as community, gathers together to remember Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. In a remarkable manner Jesus is present to us body, blood, soul and divinity in this Sacrament. Through participation in the Eucharist we are strengthened by grace to deepen our union with Christ to become Christ-like to the rest of the world. Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. The Eucharist was instituted by Christ at the Last Supper and given to the church for safe keeping and distribution. It is one of seven Sacraments the Roman Catholic Church celebrates. All the other sacraments point to the Eucharist.

First Eucharist is usually celebrated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade along with First Reconciliation. Students must have completed 1<sup>st</sup> grade religious instruction and be actively participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade religious education classes.

For older students, a prior year of religious education is also required before the immediate year of sacrament preparation.

A copy of the *Baptismal Certificate* must be turned in before any other sacrament is received.

Parents are the first and primary educators of their children. It is from them that they learn about love and forgiveness. Parent involvement is crucial in the preparation of a child in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. We ask that parents make a commitment to see to it that their child:

- attend Holy Mass regularly on the weekend and on Holy Days of Obligations
- attend religious education classes regularly
- practices and learns his/her prayers
- attends a Saturday morning of retreat
- continues religious education through classes at the church and at home.