

## **THE MYSTERIES OF LIFE IN THE EUCHARIST**

Family Preparation for Your Child's First Encounter with Christ in the Eucharist

### **WHO WE ARE**

- ✠ **United In Faith** - A special sacramental journey is offered for families of children preparing to receive the reality of Christ in the Eucharist for the first time, (typically in 3rd grade).
- ✠ **Communal in Hope** - Families gather for one short weekday informational meeting. This meeting, presented on two different dates, is for parents only. Additionally, throughout the year, there are three short Family Gatherings for parents, candidates, and siblings. Each Sunday Family Gathering is offered on two separate occasions to ensure every family's attendance. Family Gatherings are intentionally scheduled between the 9:00 and 10:30am Celebrations of the Sacred Liturgy from 9:55 to 10:25am.
- ✠ **Worshipping Together** - First Eucharist Families participate in the Sacred Liturgy with the parish community. Participating in the Sacred Liturgy will help the child and family recognize the experience of Christ as central to our understanding of who we are as Christians.
- ✠ **Living in Charity** - We all have places to go with important things to do and it is easy to focus on our own agenda. As an act of charity, and to avoid potential traffic difficulties, parking for First Eucharist families during Family Gatherings is in the school parking lot. Remember the words of St. Paul, "Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way." 1 Cor. 12; 31.

### **LIVING THE MYSTERIES OF LIFE IN THE EUCHARIST**

- ✠ **Participation in the Sunday Liturgy** - We strongly encourage your family to attend Mass every Sunday. This is where your child will best learn the reverence of receiving our Lord in the Eucharist: by watching you. Children learn best from the example of their parents; the reverence you show when receiving Holy Communion will be set as a seal in their minds and upon their hearts.
- ✠ **"In the Eucharist, Jesus does not give us a "thing," but himself; he offers his own body and pours out his own blood. He thus gives us the totality of his life and reveals the ultimate origin of this love. He is the eternal Son, given to us by the Father."**  
*APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS of the HOLY FATHER BENEDICT XVI*
- ✠ **Family Time** - Families will receive a Family Guide for at home catechesis. Next to the family's participation at Mass, prayer and reflection at home are the second most important elements in a child's formation and preparation for their first encounter with Christ in the Eucharist. Children learn best what their families live out at home.
- ✠ **First Eucharist Gatherings** - Family sessions are designed to supplement what children will be doing at home, at Nativity Faith Formation, or at a Catholic School. Together, this community of Nativity parents, candidates, and siblings will encounter the scriptures and consider opening their hearts to discover the presence of Christ in His Word, the Sacraments and one another.

Mail request/registration form and fee by August 15 to

**NATIVITY FAITH FORMATION  
43 ARGYLE PLACE  
ORCHARD PARK, NY 14127**

**REQUESTED DATES & TIMES FOR FIRST EUCHARIST CELEBRATIONS TO BE  
SUBMITTED IN WRITING ON THE FIRST EUCHARIST REQUEST/REGISTRATION FORM**