

## St. Peter's Parish First Communion Program

### Team Up With Your Child

In the past, most Catholics have taken it for granted that preparing children for First Communion is the sole responsibility of the Catholic Schools and the Parish Catechism Programs.

What does this assumption tell us about faith? We are so used to handing our children over to an "expert" for their education...a teacher, a priest, a coach, etc.

And yet, the Catholic Church teaches very clearly that PARENTS, not the school, not the parish, but PARENTS are the primary educators of their children.

When it comes to your child, YOU are the EXPERT!

### The Role of Parents

YOU are the primary educators of your children. YOU teach them not only by what you say, but also by what you DO. And not only what you do on special occasions, but what you do in everyday life.

Becoming actively involved in your child's preparation for First Communion will tell him/her that you are taking seriously the special event that will be taking place in their lives.

By your commitment, you are communicating your own faith to your child. What you do after your child's First Communion will also communicate something about your faith to your child.

It is very vital that your child SEE the following:

- that you believe and participate in the Eucharist
- that you pray together as a family
- that you help them form their conscience in situations of everyday life.

(sharing their things, helping around the house, getting along with others, taking responsibility for homework, forgiving friends and siblings, giving thanks for parents, family and teachers)

### Prayers To Be Taught By Parents (prayer pamphlet available at parish office)

- Lord's Prayer
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Apostles' Creed
- Act of Contrition
- Prayer to Guardian Angel
- Grace Before Meals
- Grace After Meals

### **The Role of The Parish**

You and your children are family. Your family is part of a larger family, the members of this parish and, ultimately, the community of believers which make up the entire Church.

In order to help you prepare your child for First Communion, the parish offers the following support and resources:

- Children's Mass every Saturday at 5:00 pm
- Special instruction of the "Liturgy of the Word" for the children by Volunteer Catechists at the following Masses: Sunday: 9:00 am and 12:00 noon
- A weekly hand-out will be given to the children that they can bring home and that with their parents they can use as a follow-up to the Mass.
- A priest from the parish will regularly visit the grade two classes in the parish schools in order to be a support and resource to the grade two teachers.

### **The Role of The School**

The Catholic School is unique in that, in addition to teaching academic subjects (reading, writing, arithmetic, etc.) it also offers a religious education curriculum.

The role of the school is to help your child gain a basic knowledge and understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and of the Celebration of the Eucharist.

Naturally, this cannot be done in one year. As children grow up, they continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of the sacraments.

The school's main role is in the INITIAL instruction and preparation of your child's journey toward the reception of the Sacraments.