

## ♪ “Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees” ♪

Dear Friends,

We belong to a Eucharistically centered church. That means, as you might well surmise, that we take the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist very seriously. It is why we gather around the altar each Sunday, young, old, and everyone in-between.

One of my favorite parts of our time together? You guessed it! It is when our little ones and their teachers march into the nave of the church as we exchange the Peace. It is why I don't mind one bit when they arrive late – even when they sometimes interrupt the Prayer of Consecration; for we do not feel complete without their presence. I wish you could see things from the advantage of the altar looking out: there is nothing quite like the faces of our children peering back at us, filled with joy and wonder, as we prepare to receive our Lord Jesus in the blessed bread and wine.

So **Mark your Calendars** for the First Weekend after Easter: April 7 – 8! For I am delighted to share with you about this special time which we are planning for our children and adults alike.

The first part is a Communion Class for children: On Saturday, April 7th, children ages 4 and older are invited to join us in the Parish House from 10:00am to 2:00pm for a day packed with activities. We will learn all about what is going on in that mysterious bread and wine (theology even a child can understand!). We will bake bread together for the Parish Mass the next day. We will sing together, learn all kinds of things about the church, play Huckle Buckle Beanstalk, and practice church etiquette. We will prepare a little something for the “sermon time” for the next day, too. And of course, we will eat lunch together (hot dogs and/or PP&J is on the menu, so do feel free to bring your own lunch if this is not in keeping with your little one's palate).

The second part is for the entire Parish (and your family and friends) on Sunday, April 8th. In the context of our regular service, we will be hosting an “Instructed Eucharist”. What is that? Just what it sounds like! Deacon Vicki and I will walk our parish through why we do what we do when we do it at the Eucharistic feast. You will not only learn what our children learn, but much more besides. For instance: do you receive at the altar “on your knees” (as the song goes) – or do you stand? And why? What are the names of the various components we use (what IS the difference between a corporal and a purificator? Between a flagon and a chalice or between the burse and the veil? Why is the fair linen fair?)

Following the service (in which some of our children will be receiving communion for the first time) we will host a special reception in the Parish House. At this time, our children who attended the Communion Class will receive special recognition and a certificate for completion of the class.

This is a wonderful time to invite friends and seekers to church. It is a great way to start a conversation within your own family. And I hope you will find a much deeper understanding of why it is we gather each Sunday to eat bread and drink wine, whether on our knees or whether fully upright. For our Lord was dead and is now alive and shares this life with us each time we meet together. Come meet the Risen Lord right alongside of us.

Peace,  
Mother Lisa+