

# SAID ED May 4, 2014

## First Communion

First Communion weekend! It's a time to celebrate our faith with our "little ones" and their families!

This weekend our parish has the honor of welcoming the extended families and friends of the 93 children who celebrate their First Holy Communion. This is an occasion of great joy for our parish as well as the children's families and friends.

The Easter Season is a time of new life and renewed commitment to our faith. The "Easter Sacraments" remind us of the promise of the Risen Lord to be with us always, especially in the "breaking of the bread." This is the season during which we celebrate our belief in the Sacred Mysteries of our faith.

Many weeks and months of intense preparation have preceded these celebrations. By their example, families have been teaching what it means to be fed from the Lord's Table and receive the Body and Blood of the Lord. We congratulate our parents on their wonderful efforts as the first and best teachers for their children in their ways of faith. The Lord gives us the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Thanks, also, to our parish family for your wonderful example of adult faith. It is that example that continues to lead these children to hunger for the nourishment that only God can give.

Parents and families have helped their children to understand what we believe about the Eucharist. Although the elements of bread and wine appear unchanged in the action of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, they become the Bread of Life, the Cup of Salvation, the very Body and Blood, soul and divinity of the Lord. This is a great mystery which we cannot never fully comprehend, but it is filled with meaning and sustenance none-the-less.

This is a time for our whole parish community to renew its commitment to the risen Lord. We assert our belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and we pledge our respect, adoration and dependence upon this heavenly food from Lord's Table.

I know you will join our parish staff and me in congratulating our "little ones" this weekend and in welcoming our many visitors who have come to celebrate with us. All are welcome! Thank you for supporting our parents and families as they proudly bring their children to the Lord's Table for the first time.

PS. Next weekend we have a pastoral visit from our new Bishop, Salvatore R. Matano! Come and join in the celebration at the 11:00AM Mass and reception afterwards.

