

It is important to emphasize that one's religious development and understanding is a 'lifelong process'. Our young people must continue to be nourished and instructed in the faith throughout their lives - both at home and in the parish.



Some parishes admit children to Holy Communion anytime after Baptism, while others set an age, usually around seven, when children begin to receive communion. *Life in the Eucharist* is intended for children and youth seven years and older.

There are at present, numerous children and youth in our parish who are not receiving Holy Communion. *Life in the Eucharist* is designed to prepare them to grasp more fully what the Eucharist is and the central role it will play all throughout their Christian life.

Life in the Eucharist 2008

will take place on three Saturdays

April 19, May 3 and May 10

Each session is from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Lunch is included in each meeting.

All sessions are at St. John's Parish Hall, Lunenburg

- ✦ Each meeting is a **family event** meant for the young person, both parents and if possible, the child's God parents and grand parents.
- ✦ If you have a child or youth to prepare for Holy Eucharist, please contact the office to register for *Life in the Eucharist*.

PLEASE NOTE TWO OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

Tuesday, April 8th @ 7:00pm - Parent Introduction Night.

Sunday, May 11th @ 10:30am - Day of First Communion.

We are seeking volunteers from the parish to help with the *Life in the Eucharist* Program. Please speak to Father Michael.

*The Anglican Church of Canada
Diocese of NS and PEI*

Life in the Eucharist



**A Communion Preparation Program
for Children and Youth**



PO Box 238 Lunenburg, NS B0J 2C0

Church 902.634.4994

email: stjohnslunenburg@eastlink.ca



Children have always played an important role in the life of our parish. A sign of this is our healthy and active Sunday School program. All children in our parish are by virtue of their Baptism, full members of the church. They need and desire to participate in our life of worship - both at Family Services and at celebrations of the Holy Eucharist. Children need to have their gifts and talents recognized and encouraged. They need to know that their

sorrows, concerns, and questions are heard. Children have much to bring to our life of worship. *Life in the Eucharist* is designed to both nurture children and to allow adults to learn from them.

Home Life and Religious Education

Life in the Eucharist is designed to help both parent and child share their faith with one another. The first and most important place a child learns about God, the faith and the Church - **is in the home**. It is in the **home** that children see and hear about God's love through the love given by their parents and family. It is in the **home** that children witness how their parents 'live out' the faith by seeing what their parents and family 'do'.

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children -with the support and assistance of the Church and parish. All foundational learning -whether of language, behaviour, moral values or religion occurs in the home. The effects of parental guidance and modelling on the faith development of children are critical -but are too often unacknowledged or neglected by parents and Church leaders.

Life in the Eucharist is built upon parent involvement in the faith development of the child -at home and by attending the classes with the child. *Life in the Eucharist* is built upon the involvement of other committed Christians in the Parish who serve as role models and teachers. Because *Life in the Eucharist* offers concrete suggestions and support, parents often discover a new freedom for themselves and a deeper understanding of their own faith as Christians.

Life in the Eucharist, because it involves parents, children, youth and the parish, encourages growth in the parish, for it is not just children being nurtured, but families. This broader base for involvement strengthens the community and spiritual life of the parish.

The Link between Baptism and Holy Communion



Baptism is the way in which the Church receives people into the family of God. At the time of Baptism, the person is formally received as a member of the Church, and may receive Holy Communion - the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the beginning of a lifelong relationship with the family of God. At Baptism we become full members of the Church and are given a share in the Lord's table, the Eucharist.

The Book of Alternative Services says: "*Baptism is the sign of new life in Christ and unites Christ with his people*" (p. 146). Throughout life, individuals renew their Baptismal Covenant with God to strengthen and reaffirm their relationship in Christ.

As parents, we make a commitment on behalf of our child, to bring them up to understand God's purpose for the world and to encourage them to share fully in the worship and life of the Church. As baptized individuals, we also promise to support the work of our local congregation and diocese with our time, talents, and resources.

GUIDELINES

for Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation

In 1971, the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada affirmed the essential unity between Baptism and full participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church. General Synod affirmed that Baptism is the only sacramental prerequisite to receiving communion.

The Guidelines of the Diocese of Nova Scotia reaffirm the essential unity between Baptism and participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church. These Guidelines recommend that the age of Confirmation will normally be 15 or higher. Confirmation is understood to be the public renewing of the Vows of Baptism with the laying on of hands by the Bishop.

These Guidelines are a change from the past, when Confirmation was given before receiving Holy Communion. The new Guidelines see the normal sequence for Christian Initiation to be Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. All three sacraments require preparation on the part of the individual and their families. All three sacraments involve a growing relationship with Christ and with the family of God, the Church.