

**“Did you know we are getting Jesus today?”**

This is what a child said to me as they waited to process in for their Confirmation and First Eucharist Mass. Until now, they had practiced on how to approach and reverently receive the Body and Blood of Christ with unconsecrated hosts. I could see the excitement on this child's face. We discussed so many times in sacrament preparation that by receiving Jesus through the Holy Eucharist, you are becoming one with Him. The word “Eucharist” literally means to give thanks. It is through the Mass and our longing to be united with God and all of Heaven that we celebrate and give thanks. Another child standing in the same line indicated that they wish they could see Jesus in church. I responded, “That would be awesome! But remember, where else can we see Jesus?” Since we talked about this concept at every sacrament preparation session, the child quickly responded “In everyone!” We are God's temple. We are His instruments of peace. Just as we read in the prayer of St. Francis: “Lord make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred let me, sow Your love . . .” I pray that these children never lose sight of what they are receiving, when they go to Mass. We have to leave it up to the Holy Spirit. It's a journey for them. They're not going to get it all now. Through sacrament preparation, all I can do is plant the seed and give them the tools, information and experience to help them grow. Jesus comes to us in a unique way in the Eucharist. This is very beautiful, personal, and intimate. **We should not take it for granted!** It is such a holy and joyful occasion. Our souls become the bride of Christ. That is why girls wear white dresses and boys wear suits or their Sunday best. Relatives are invited and families come together. Parents take pictures. Children receive gifts. We celebrate. **And the very act of celebrating reveals our belief in the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.** –

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