

- What a wonderful verse from our Gospel for this First Communion Day: *“Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.”*
- And then in our second reading St. John writes: *“My children, I am writing this to you...whoever keeps [Jesus’] word, the love of God is truly perfected in him”* ...and John teaches to do what is right, and avoid what is wrong...but that always we have a defender, an advocate, in Jesus.
- And when we read those words: *“My children, I am writing this to you...”* it also reminds us that this, and all scripture, is Our Heavenly Father’s inspired words to us, and through the Bible and through the teaching of the Church, Our Father teaches us His will, and what is good and beneficial for us to do...as well as the things that are bad, and so should avoid doing.
- But, when we fall into sin, that we can come to Jesus and to His Church for forgiveness and strengthening.
- Because, as we just heard in the Gospel, Jesus opens the minds of the Church to understand the scriptures—the Word of God to us.
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- So...congratulations, young ones, in receiving your 1st Communion today...and welcome to all of you who have come to celebrate this day with them—their reception of the greatest of all the sacraments—the sacrament of sacraments, and the ultimate sacrament of God’s mercy.
- This is one of the greatest days of your lives—the day that you first receive Jesus Himself in this wonderful sacrament—and you becoming even more closely folded into the Body of Christ.

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- Baptism, Confession and the Eucharist are the greatest sacraments of mercy—the Eucharist most of all.

- But, because the Eucharist is SO holy—the very Body & Blood of Our Lord Jesus—we must always prepare ourselves to receive Him.
- First of all through baptism, which you have all received when you were very young.
- And the sacrament of confession, which you also received for the first time to prepare for this day...and which is always available to you from now on. Never be afraid to come to confession!
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- You can think of confession and the Eucharist like a bath and supper.
- You've been out all day, and you're very hungry...and your mom or dad or other loved one makes you a wonderful supper.
- But, during the day, you fell in the mud and rolled over and over. Gross!
- So, when you come home, you know it would be very disrespectful and even insulting to the one who loves you and made you supper to just go to the table all muddy and yucky, so you go clean up in the bath or shower first.
- And then, fresh and clean, you come to the table for that delicious supper—which strengthen you to go out again tomorrow to give your best effort to avoid all those mud puddles, for one...but also to do good and help those who need help, or are lonely or sad.
- Confession is the bath to cleanse us, and the Eucharist is the supper to strengthen us; always remember that...
- ...because when we receive the Eucharist, we are at the Last Supper with Jesus 2000 years ago...and in a mystical way, Jesus is handing to you the very food He Himself blessed which became His Body...

- ...because it is not the priest that does the sacred action at the Mass, but rather Jesus Himself reaching down from Heaven through the priests' hands at the altar.
- So, know for certain that, even though that little wafer still looks like bread, and the liquid in the cup still looks like wine, they are so no longer; they are truly the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Himself...called the Real Presence of Christ...because Jesus, who IS God and cannot deceive, assures us with His own words: *"This IS my body; this IS my blood."*
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- So...always do what is right and good and pleasing to God, running from evil, following what the Bible and the Church teach...because God gave us both to guide us to goodness and eternal life, because He loves you so very dearly that He wants you with Him forever.

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- Parents: a common theme in all the letters is how much they want to emulate you, and for you to be proud of them.
 - So set the example— always seeking the right yourselves... remembering that Mass on Sundays is our obligation, but more so our privilege...and always avoid evil yourselves.
 - For as goes the parent, so goes the child. A grave responsibility, yes...and yet it becomes the greatest of earthly joys.
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 - And, young ones...rest in Jesus' love on this your 1st Communion day...and stay with Him always...and He will bless you all today and every day...and keep you ever close to His heart.

Reading 1 [Acts 3:13-15, 17-19](#)

Peter said to the people:

"The God of Abraham,
the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,
the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus,
whom you handed over and denied in Pilate's presence
when he had decided to release him.
You denied the Holy and Righteous One
and asked that a murderer be released to you.
The author of life you put to death,
but God raised him from the dead; of this we are witnesses.
Now I know, brothers,
that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did;
but God has thus brought to fulfillment
what he had announced beforehand
through the mouth of all the prophets,
that his Christ would suffer.

Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away."

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9](#)

R. (7a) **Lord, let your face shine on us.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

When I call, answer me, O my just God,
you who relieve me when I am in distress;
have pity on me, and hear my prayer!

R. **Lord, let your face shine on us.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Know that the LORD does wonders for his faithful one;
the LORD will hear me when I call upon him.

R. **Lord, let your face shine on us.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

O LORD, let the light of your countenance shine upon us!
You put gladness into my heart.

R. **Lord, let your face shine on us.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

As soon as I lie down, I fall peacefully asleep,
for you alone, O LORD,
bring security to my dwelling.

R. **Lord, let your face shine on us.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Reading II [1 Jn 2:1-5a](#)

My children, I am writing this to you
so that you may not commit sin.

But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous one.

He is expiation for our sins,
and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world.

The way we may be sure that we know him is to keep
his commandments.

Those who say, "I know him," but do not keep his commandments
are liars, and the truth is not in them.

But whoever keeps his word,
the love of God is truly perfected in him.

Gospel [Lk 24:35-48](#)

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way,
and how Jesus was made known to them
in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this,
he stood in their midst and said to them,
"Peace be with you."

But they were startled and terrified
and thought that they were seeing a ghost.
Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled?

And why do questions arise in your hearts?
Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.

Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones
as you can see I have."

And as he said this,
he showed them his hands and his feet.

While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed,
he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?"

They gave him a piece of baked fish;
he took it and ate it in front of them.

He said to them,

"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you,
that everything written about me in the law of Moses
and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled."

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

And he said to them,

"Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer
and rise from the dead on the third day
and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins,
would be preached in his name
to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

You are witnesses of these things."