

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

FIRST COMMUNION

When is it appropriate for my child to take communion?

The Lord's Supper (Communion) and Baptism are two sacraments that the Anglican Church recognizes as ordained by Jesus in the Gospels. Communion, therefore, is to be received in a manner "worthy" of the grace and love of Christ that it bears witness to in our lives (Article 35, Articles of Religion).

The Anglican Catechism (summary of doctrines) offers the following explanation for those receiving Communion:

Q. What are the benefits that we receive in the Lord's Supper?

A. The benefits we receive are the forgiveness of our sins, the strengthening of our union with Christ and one another, and the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that is our nourishment in eternal life.

Q. What is required of us when we come to the Eucharist?

A. It is required that we should examine our lives, repent of our sins, and be in love and charity with all people.

The act of participating in Holy Communion is not to be taken lightly and the Church is entrusted with the right use and administration of this Sacrament (1 Corinthians 11: 17-34). In this regard, St. Peter's offers the following guidelines for children receiving Communion during one of our services:

1. We desire that all children who receive Communion to have first taken the First Communion Class along with their parents. The **First Communion Class** is designed for 4th and 5th graders.

Our First Communion Class offers an in-depth look at who Jesus is, what He accomplished on the cross, and what it means to be redeemed by His grace and love.

2. Please consider your child's preparedness for receiving and participating in Communion in terms of their spiritual and social readiness. Consider whether your child is in a place to understand what Communion offers and how it connects them to Jesus.
3. Children who are not receiving Communion are still invited to come forward during one of our services for a prayer and blessing from those administering Communion.

God has entrusted to parents the nurture and care of their children spiritually, physically, socially, and intellectually. St. Peter's is committed to encourage and resource you in your role as a Parent. If you feel your child has a relationship with Christ and is of an age and understanding to participate in Communion (even if younger than 4th grade), please discuss this with Ashley DeMooney.

To receive more resources or ask questions, please contact Ashley DeMooney at Ashley@stpetersmp.org.