

## LISTEN TO THESE WORDS OF SCRIPTURE:

*'Let the children come to me, and don't hold them back because the Kingdom of God is theirs.'* Luke 18:16

You are now asked to light a candle for your child, giving thanks for the gift of their life.

As you light your candle ask for the grace to walk with your child on their unique journey of faith.

(Music: Love, love, Jesus is love)



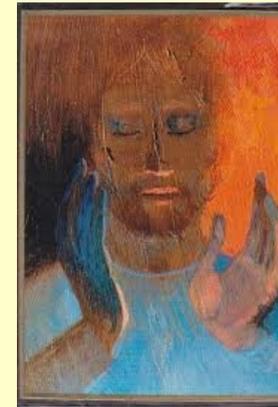
## YOU CAN CONTINUE TO HELP YOUR CHILD:

- By praying at home with your child
- Remembering the special day of First Holy Communion every time you are at Mass
- By having conversations about faith at home
- Displaying symbols of faith
- Renewing your own faith in God by living a life of love and service

## OPENING PRAYER

<i>When we gather in your name</i>	<i>YOU ARE WITH US</i>
<i>When we listen to your word</i>	<i>YOU ARE WITH US</i>
<i>When we give you thanks and praise</i>	<i>YOU ARE WITH US</i>
<i>When we help someone in need</i>	<i>YOU ARE WITH US</i>
<i>When we ask for your forgiveness</i>	<i>YOU ARE WITH US</i>
<i>When we place our trust in you</i>	<i>YOU ARE WITH US</i>

*LISTEN TO: We Remember you*



## SHARE WITH THE PERSON BESIDE YOU:

- *What words strike you in this prayer?*
- *How do you feel God is with you in your family life?*

**Parish Parent Helps 4: 1st Communion support**

## HOLY COMMUNION: IT'S ALWAYS SPECIAL



### Here's what Pope Francis says about Holy Communion:

*'What makes our First Communion a truly blessed event is not the word 'first' but the 'communion.'*

*Because of whom we receive, the second, third, next, and last Communion should always be as special.*

*It is such a holy, joyful occasion.*

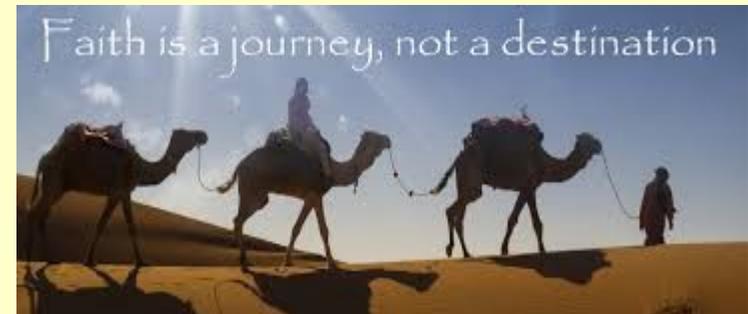
*That is why girls wear white dresses and boys wear special ties and white shirts.*

*Relatives are invited. Parents take pictures. We celebrate.*

*The very act of celebrating reveals our belief in the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.'*

- What makes First Holy Communion so special for your family?
- After this celebration is over, what kind of support would you need to help you and your family continue your journey of faith together?

## CONTINUING THE JOURNEY OF FAITH



*There are a number of ways that you can continue to support your child to grow in faith and love.*

*Here are some simple suggestions:*

1. *Try to find time at home to remember God in prayer. This could be done at mealtimes and bedtime.*
2. *Encourage your child to light a candle at home and when they come to Church.*
3. *When you are at Mass encourage your child to join in.*
4. *Help your child to find their place in the parish by taking part in ministries like altar serving or choir.*
5. *Remember special family anniversaries and invite the children to pray often for those are no longer with us.*
6. *Help your child to say prayers of thanks to God when something good happens in their lives.*
7. *Display the First Communion pictures in a special place and have chats about how Jesus is with us on our journey.*