



“Thine Own of Thine Own...”

For Children

Did you know that everything we have is given to us by God? That means we are only borrowing everything! And when we come to the Divine Liturgy, we are offering to God the best part of what He has given us. This helps us learn loyalty. Only Jesus Christ could win our salvation, and only to Him do we commit ourselves to love, and obey throughout our lives here on earth. Because He gave His life for us even to the death on the cross, we cannot live as mere watchers going through life, but disciples who do what God wants us to do, and in doing so, bring the love and glory of God to the whole world.

For Adults

What gift can we offer to You which is truly ours to give? Even the awareness of our poverty is a gift that comes from Your Holy Spirit.

We learn humility, like its root humus, is a reminder that “You shall eat bread in the sweat of your face till you return from the ground from which you were taken” (Genesis 3:19). We elevate the memory of that announcement spoken by the Almighty as response to Adam’s disobedience. This bread will become the revocation of that curse, because it shall turn into the Bread of Life, the unique Body of God’s only-begotten Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ, Who came into the world to free us from Adam’s sin. Indeed, we return like the wheat and vine, yet the part of us created originally to live forever with the Holy Trinity will go on with Christ to meet the Father with Whom we are reconciled by the humble obedience of God’s will as demonstrated in His acceptance of the cross.

We learn discernment. Life is a continual process of decisions and choices. What is the cost of eternal life? Where on earth do we discover the one precious jewel, that pearl (Matthew 13:45) worth the cost of all other jewels in the world; and once we find it, what shall we do with it?

We learn that Church is family. Never is it a One-on-one relationship, but as God is Three Persons in unity, so the two or three assembled in Eucharist are part of an uncountable number of those united through Christ with Father by the Holy Spirit – not only in the parish and diocese, but universally at a certain holy feast day or Sunday. We are members of the Church past, all who have fallen asleep in the Lord since Pentecost, and those who were snatched out of Hades on that most sacred day of rest when God was at work saving those held by death, and all those yet to be born, baptized and welcomed in the holy Church of the future.