

## Young Saints-in-the-Making Participate in the Fall Teaching Mass

The students in Mrs. Gilda Rivero's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Religious Education class and Mrs. Mary Ellen Gold's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class in St. Elizabeth of the Trinity school, and their parents, recently celebrated a special Teaching Mass with Fr. Leo. Using the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Mass Book created by Mrs. Gold, the parents guided the children through the responses. (You are likely to see 2<sup>nd</sup> graders at Sunday Mass with their Mass Book folders!)

While Fr. Mike and Fr. Leo led the children on tours of the sacristies, our Music Director, Mark Wozniczka, a father of four children, spent time with the parents. He encouraged parents to think about ways to help children prepare not only for the physical reception of their First Communion, but more importantly, the spiritual reception and the start of a deeper personal relationship with Jesus. Mark offered the following perspective on the importance of the Mass:

“The nourishment and energy we need to grow in our faith comes from the Mass. The more we know about the Mass, and the more deliberate we are in how we celebrate, the better its fruits bear out in our lives. It is important to reflect on where you and your family are on their faith journeys. In some ways, our faith life could be considered a habit or a skill. It takes concerted effort and repeated practice to develop. If we do not hone that skill, our faith won't be as helpful to us when push comes to shove and we really need it. All of this starts from the graces of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.”

See the parish website for more pictures of the November 4<sup>th</sup> Mass. The Teaching Mass for the RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation of Children) children in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade who are also preparing to receive First Communion will be early next year.

