

# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH SERVING WATERLOO, BELGIUM

Chausée de Charleroi 2 1420 Braine-l'Alleud, Belgium +32 2 384 7780

## COMMUNION AND OUR CHILDREN

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Children have always been a significant part of Jesus' ministry and in New Testament days no one was excluded from the total life of the community. With baptism came full rights, privileges, and responsibilities. So it is today. With baptism comes equality. Our babies are as important as any one of us. They don't have to prove anything, be anything, do anything, know anything. They are baptized and that makes all the difference. From the very beginning our children are fed with word and sacrament. They experience all we have to offer and then as they grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord, we teach them, to the best of our ability, what it all means. Experience and then understanding. Our children should have no memory of being excluded from the family table or the Lord's Table. When they come they are offered the Bread of Life like everyone else. It really has nothing to do with understanding or age. It has everything to do with Grace.

At All Saints', children of any age are welcome to receive communion. At a much later age they are encouraged to reaffirm their baptismal vows, made for them at baptism, and confirm their acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior. As our children grow they will be taught the meaning of those things they do and experience. By welcoming them into the full life of the community from the very beginning we teach them first of all of God's love and ours.

"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." (Mark 10:14). And we reply, so be it - amen.