

II. WE ENTER THE CHURCH

The day of your baptism was not only a big day for you and your sponsors, but also for the whole Church. As soon as you were baptized, the whole Church waited for you to be brought to receive Holy Communion for the first time. All the people in the Church stood by and waited for your sponsors to bring you to the priest to receive God's gifts. Everyone was very happy that you could now receive Communion with all the other members of God's family.

Every time we come to the Church to celebrate the Divine Liturgy we have the opportunity to remember and thank God for making us members of His Family. In fact, another name for the Divine Liturgy is **Eucharist** which means **thanksgiving**. Each time we celebrate the Holy Eucharist we remember and thank God for:

- making us members of His Family — the Church — through Baptism and Chrismation,
- allowing us to come together as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ to see ourselves as one big family, as God's Church,
- making it possible, through His Son Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us, to have new life and to live forever with God in His Kingdom,
- making it possible for us to be with God now through the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Now, every time we celebrate the Divine Liturgy we come together again, as God's people to hear God's Word and to receive His Holy gifts.

