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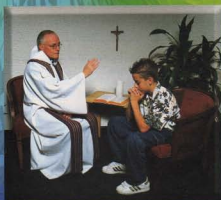
Unit 2 Opener

The unit opener pages use a variety of questioning techniques to assess the children's prior knowledge about the key faith concepts presented in the unit. Processing these pages should not take more than ten or fifteen minutes.

USING ILLUSTRATIONS

Pictures help stimulate the religious imaginations of the children. The pictures on page 95 illustrate some of the important faith concepts in the unit.

- Invite the children to look at and think about the pictures.
- Have the children describe what each picture says to them.
- Invite the children to share a response to the concluding question. Affirm appropriate responses.



What works of the Church do these pictures show?

95



Teaching Tip

Prayerful Preparation. Spend a few moments in prayerful reflection as you prepare for the teaching of this unit. Recall that when the Church gathers for worship and the celebration of the sacraments, the whole Church—Christ the Head and we the members of the Body of Christ—offers praise and thanksgiving to God the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Getting Ready

What I Have Learned

What is something you already know about these three faith terms?

The Eucharist

Responses will vary.

The Sacraments of Healing

Responses will vary.

The Christian vocation

Responses will vary.

Words to Know

Put an X next to the faith terms you know. Put a ? next to the faith terms you need to know more about.

Faith Vocabulary

Responses will vary.

- _____ liturgy
- _____ Baptism
- _____ Confirmation
- _____ Pentecost
- _____ Eucharist
- _____ sacrifice
- _____ breaking of bread
- _____ epistle
- _____ Reconciliation
- _____ Anointing of the Sick

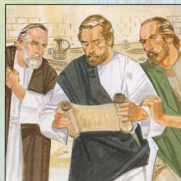
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Questions I Have

What questions would you like to ask about the Eucharist?

Responses will vary.

A Scripture Story



Christians reading a letter from Saint Paul the Apostle

Why did Saint Paul write letters to the Christians to whom he had preached the Gospel?

Responses will vary.
Affirm appropriate responses.

GETTING READY

The "Getting Ready" page engages the children in sharing prior knowledge and aids you in planning your lessons to meet the needs of the children.

What I Have Learned

This section asks the children to share something they already know about key teachings of the Catholic Church that are presented in the unit. Read to the children the faith terms and ask volunteers to share ideas they know about each concept.

Words to Know

This section is a quick assessment of the children's familiarity with some of the faith vocabulary terms they will be learning. Read each faith term to the group and have them put an X next to the terms they already know and a ? next to the terms they need to learn more about. At the end of the unit ask them to return to this page and again share their understanding of the faith terms.

Questions I Have

This section provides an opportunity for the children to ask questions that they have about the Eucharist. Write their questions on a chart. As you work through the unit, always refer back to the chart and ask volunteers to answer the questions.

A Scripture Story

This section illustrates Saint Paul the Apostle as a letter writer. Have the children look at the picture and answer the question.

Teaching Tip

Sensitivity to Diversity. The faith life of the families of the children in your group, more than likely, is quite diverse. Some families may participate in the liturgy and the life of the Church on a very regular basis; others may participate mostly on special occasions, such as the Baptism of children or the marriage of family members. It is your responsibility to remind the children and their families of their obligation to take part in the celebration of Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation. Be aware of this diversity as you call for a sharing of the children's faith experiences. Try to provide clear clues that will help the children respond to the questions.

Background

The Work of the Whole Church

The English word *liturgy* comes from a Greek word meaning “public work” or a “service done in the name of/on the behalf of the people” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1069). The liturgy of the Church is the work of the whole Church, the new People of God. It is the work of Christ, the Head of the Church, and of all the members, ordained and non-ordained, of the Church. “Through the liturgy Christ, our redeemer and high priest, continues the work of our redemption in, with, and through his Church” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1069).

In the New Testament the word *liturgy* identified both the Church’s work of worshiping God and of proclaiming and living the Gospel. Today, however, when we use the word *liturgy*, we almost always spontaneously think of divine worship, especially the celebration of Mass. In its fullness, the liturgy of the Church includes the celebration of all the sacraments, which always includes the proclamation of the word of God, as well as the Liturgy of the Hours. Through participation in the sacraments we are made

sharers in the Paschal Mystery of Christ. We are chosen and strengthened to continue the work of God in the world that Christ began, the salvation and sanctification of all people.

The Liturgical Year

The Church celebrates the liturgy throughout the year. This cycle of the Church’s celebration of the liturgy is called the liturgical year. The liturgical year of the Church begins in Advent and moves through Christmas. After a brief period of Ordinary Time, we move on to Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, to the Easter Triduum, and to the Easter season, which ends on Pentecost. Finally we celebrate a longer period of Ordinary Time until the arrival of Advent and the beginning of a new year of celebration and participation in the mysteries of the Lord’s life, death, and Resurrection.



Participating in this work of God’s people is vital to the Christian life. All the people of the Church have the privilege and responsibility to participate in the celebration of the liturgy fully, actively, and consciously. The Second Vatican Council called for a renewal of the liturgical rites of the Church that fostered the achievement of that goal. (See *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* [Sacrosanctum concilium] 14.) Through our constant participation in the liturgy, we begin to understand what it is and how we encounter the Lord.

For Reflection

How does my participation in the liturgy of the Church direct and strengthen me for participation in the mission of the Church?

How can I help the children understand the presence of Jesus in the sacraments?

Catechist to Catechist

The Liturgical Year

The children may wonder why the Church's liturgical year differs so distinctly from the calendar year. Remind them that the calendar year begins in January, but the liturgical year begins on the first Sunday of Advent, four Sundays before Christmas. The heart of the liturgical year is the Easter Triduum, which begins on Holy Thursday evening and ends with the celebration of Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. It is around this great three-day feast of the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ that the Church's year is organized.

Giving Thanks All Year Long

The liturgical year is a year of praise and thanksgiving. Help the children grow in their appreciation that Sunday worship and the celebration of the seasons and feasts of



the Church are not isolated, unconnected events. Display a large poster of the liturgical calendar and refer to it often during the year to reinforce this point. Be sure to use the "We Celebrate" section of *Faith First*, which contains a two-page lesson for each of the Sundays of the Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter seasons of the Church's year as well as the three days of the Easter Triduum.

The Church Teaches . . .

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (SC) of the Second Vatican Council teaches:

Holy Mother Church believes that it is for her to celebrate the saving work of her divine Spouse in a sacred commemoration on certain days throughout the course of the year. Once each week, on the day which she has called the Lord's Day, she keeps the memory of the Lord's resurrection. . . . In the course of the year . . . she unfolds the whole mystery of Christ. SC 102

Each year *Faith First* provides a complete catechesis of the seasons of the liturgical year to help the children grow each year in their ability to participate more fully in the liturgy.

See the Catechism . . .

For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on the liturgy and the sacraments in general, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1135–1186.

CATECHIST PRAYER

Gracious God,
it is right to give you praise.
I worship you
in a spirit of joy and gratitude.
Bless all my endeavors
with the gift of your grace.
Amen.

LESSON PLANNER

Focus

To explore the meaning of our Church's liturgy

Engage

Page 97

Focus

To assess the children's knowledge about thanking God in the liturgy

Teach and Apply

Pages 98–100

Focus

To explain why the Church gathers to celebrate the liturgy and sacraments

Connect

Pages 101–102

Focus

To explain that the celebration of the seasons and feasts of the Church's year helps us grow in and live our faith

Opening Prayer

Discussion

- Ways we thank people
- Ways we thank God at Mass

Presentation

Read, discuss, and summarize content.

Scripture

Psalm 75:2

Activities

- Illustrate one way to bring Jesus' love to the world.
- Describe ways your parish celebrates the seasons of the liturgical year.
- Use the word puzzle to share what happens when the Church celebrates the sacraments.

Faith-Filled People

Blessed Pope John XXIII

Our Church Makes a Difference

The Church celebrates feasts of the Lord.

Our Catholic Identity

Liturgical Colors

What Difference Does Faith Make?

Activity

Create a banner for one of the liturgical seasons.

Faith Choice

Choose a way to worship God this week.

We Pray

We Remember

Page 103

Prayer Form

Prayer of praise and honor

Prayer

Choose a leader. Introduce the prayer, and then pray together.

Review

- Match faith terms with their descriptions.
- Read the "To Help You Remember" statements aloud.

Preview

Highlight features of the "With My Family" page.

Materials

- pens or pencils
- crayons or markers
- index cards for vocabulary
- candle or electric candle
- music for final prayer

Enrichment Activities

Blackline Masters

Additional Activities booklet:

Chapter 11

Writing a TV news report

Preparing a tour of your church

Assessment Tools booklet:

Chapter 11 Test

Enriching the Lesson (CG page 181)

Role-Playing a Minister of

Hospitality

Creating a Liturgical Dance

Creating Sacrament Booklets

Music Connection (CG page 181)

www.FaithFirst.com



We update the *Faith First* Web site weekly. Check each week for new content and features. Here are some places to begin:

Catechists and Teachers

- Current Events
- Chapter Downloads
- Catechist Prayer

Faith First for Families

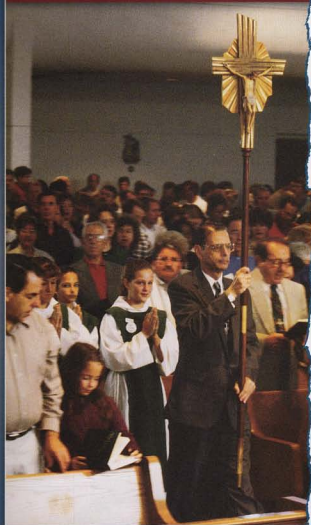
- Bible Alive
- Make a Difference

Kids Only Club

- Faith First Activities
- Chapter Reviews
- Games
- Saints

Don't Forget! You can make lesson planning a breeze—check out the **Online Lesson Planner**.

Celebrating the Liturgy



11

We Pray

We thank you, God,
we give thanks;
we call upon your name,
declare your
wonderful deeds.

PSALM 75:2

Father,
all-powerful and
ever-living God, we
give you thanks always
and everywhere
through Jesus Christ,
our Lord. Amen.

*How do you show your
thanks to people?*

Gracias, Asante, Cám ón.
All these words mean
"thank you." The Church,
the People of God, gathers
at Mass to thank God.

*What are some of the ways
you thank God at Mass?*

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Engage

PRAY

- Tell the group that today everyone will chant a Psalm verse.
- Divide the class into two groups. Assign each group one half of the Psalm verse.
- Gather the children and have them quiet themselves for prayer.
- Lead the group in chanting Psalm 75:2.
- Pray the opening prayer together.

DISCOVER

Purpose: To assess what the children already know about thanking God at Mass

- Ask volunteers to share how they show thanks to people.
- Invite volunteers to name some reasons why we come together to celebrate the Eucharist.
- Ask the group to silently read the opening paragraph.
- Ask volunteers to name some ways they thank God at Mass.



Teaching Tip

Saying "Thank You." There is an old adage that reminds us that the best way to teach a skill is to model it for others. Remembering to say "Thank you" is a good example. Affirm your fifth graders whenever you have the opportunity. Thanking them for their class participation, for their good group work, for their imagination, and for their overall good humor will reinforce a positive and more peaceful spirit in your classroom. During the seasons take time to give thanks to God for the good things the class experiences or hears about.

FOCUS

Read the "Faith Focus" question to the children. Point out that this chapter will help them further understand why the Church gathers to celebrate the liturgy and sacraments.

DISCOVER

- Ask the class, What is the work of the Church? but do not invite responses.
- Have the children silently read the first two paragraphs to learn about the words *liturgy* and *sacraments*.
- Have everyone make word cards for *liturgy* and *sacraments*.
- Ask volunteers to read aloud the sentences that define these two terms.
- Invite volunteers to read aloud the remaining paragraphs.

Faith Focus

Why do we celebrate the liturgy and sacraments as a community?

Faith Vocabulary

liturgy. The work of the Church, the People of God, of worshipping him through which Christ continues the work of Redemption in, with, and through his Church.

sacraments. The seven main liturgical signs of the Church, given to the Church by Jesus Christ, that make his saving work present and make us sharers in the life of God, the Holy Trinity.

The Liturgy

The work of the People of God, the Church, is the worship of God. We gather to pray, honor, thank, and give glory to God for all he has done and continues to do for us.

When the Church comes together to worship God, we celebrate liturgy. The word *liturgy* means "work of the people." The liturgy of the Church includes the celebration of the seven sacraments and the liturgy of the Hours.

The Holy Trinity is present with the Church when we come together to celebrate the liturgy. We worship one God in three Persons, the Holy Trinity. We pray to the Father, through the Son, and in the Holy Spirit.

Each time we celebrate the liturgy, we share more fully in the new life Jesus gained for us.

- We are changed.
- We become more like Jesus.
- We find strength to live as Jesus wants us to live.
- We bring Jesus' life and love to the world.

When the Church celebrates the liturgy, we join with Jesus Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit we remember and share in the Paschal Mystery. We are made sharers in his Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension.

Illustrate with words or pictures one way you try to bring Jesus' life and love to the world.

Responses will vary.



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Apply

REINFORCE

- Ask volunteers to read aloud the four bullets in the text that describe what happens to us when we celebrate the liturgy.
- Read aloud "Faith-Filled People" on student page 99.

INTEGRATE

- Have the children work independently to complete the activity on page 98.
- Invite volunteers to share their responses.

Background: Faith-Filled People

Blessed Pope John XXIII. Angelo Roncalli (1881–1963) was born into a farm family in northern Italy. He was elected to the papacy on October 28, 1958, succeeding Pope Pius XII. At the time of his election, he was 77 years old. John XXIII's outgoing personality and trust in God endeared him to the entire world. He is among the most beloved popes in modern times. Three months after his election, he announced his intention to convene an ecumenical council, explaining that the purpose of the council was *aggiornamento*, an Italian word that means "to bring up to date." Pope John XXIII died on June 3, 1963. He was beatified, or named "Blessed," by Pope John Paul II on September 3, 2000.

The Liturgical Year

The Church celebrates the liturgy every day and all year long. This yearly cycle of the Church's celebration of the liturgy is called the liturgical year. All year long, each and every day, we hear and take part in God's great plan of saving love for us.

The liturgical year is a "year of the Lord's grace." It is the celebration of the mysteries of the birth, life, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus. It includes weekly celebrations of Sunday, the Lord's Day, the yearly cycle of the seasons of the Church's year, and feasts of the Lord and of Mary and the other saints.



Pope John XXIII

Blessed Pope John XXIII called all the bishops together in 1962 for Vatican Council II. Pope John XXIII and the bishops decided to make several changes in the way the Church celebrates the liturgy to help the people take part in the liturgy in a more active way. Pope John Paul II beatified Pope John XXIII, or named him a Blessed of the Church.

The Year of the Lord's Grace



Advent. During Advent the Church celebrates God's coming among us. We get ready to remember Jesus' birth on Christmas Day. We remember Jesus' promise to come again in glory at the end of time.

Christmas. We remember and celebrate that the Son of God, Jesus the Savior, came and lived among us.



Lent. With the help of the Holy Spirit we strive to grow in our life in Christ. We support those preparing to be baptized at Easter. We prepare to renew our own baptismal promises.



Triduum. This three-day celebration of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday is the heart and center of the liturgical year.

Describe some of the ways you see your parish celebrating the seasons of the liturgical year.

Responses will vary.



Easter. For fifty days we joyfully reflect on the Resurrection and our new life in Christ. On the fiftieth day of the celebration, we celebrate the feast of Pentecost.

Ordinary Time. The other weeks of the year are called Ordinary Time. We listen to what Jesus said and did and learn ways to live our life as his followers.



FOCUS

Remind the children that the Church celebrates the liturgy every day throughout the year. Point out that this yearly cycle of celebrating the liturgy every day is called the liturgical year.

DISCOVER

- Summarize "The Liturgical Year."
- Ask the children: Why do you think the Church calls the liturgical year "the year of the Lord's grace"?
- Review the cycle of the liturgical year with the class. Draw a circle on the board and label it "The Year of Grace."
- Ask volunteers to divide the circle into the wedges representing the liturgical seasons. Have them start at the top with Advent. Be sure that two wedges for Ordinary Time and the Easter Triduum are included.
- Have the class read the text to check their work.

Apply

REINFORCE

Have the children work with partners to develop riddles for "What Liturgical Season Am I?" Have partners read their riddles to each other and name the liturgical season described by each riddle.

INTEGRATE

Have the entire class work together to complete the activity to identify some of the liturgical year customs used in the parish.

Liturgy Tip

Making a Liturgical Calendar. Consider inviting a group of volunteers to prepare a poster-size calendar of the liturgical cycle as a project outside of class time. You could hang it in your teaching space each week and note seasonal celebrations and special feasts, such as the feast days of the young people's patron saints. Invite the class to add these liturgical celebrations to the different seasonal sections on the calendar.

Teach

FOCUS

Remind the class that the liturgical year celebrates the mysteries of the birth, life, Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus. Share with the class that Jesus gave us the sacraments as signs of God's work among us.

DISCOVER

- Ask a volunteer to read aloud the opening paragraphs. Ask the group: What do the sacraments do? **They put us in contact with Christ's saving work; Jesus touches our lives and changes us.**
- Next write *initiation*, *healing*, and *communion* on the board.
- Ask volunteers to explain these words and write key words and phrases they use beside each word.
- Invite three volunteers to read aloud "Sacraments of Christian Initiation," "Sacraments of Healing," and "Sacraments at the Service of Communion" to learn why the Church groups the sacraments into these three categories.

The Seven Sacraments

Before Jesus returned to his Father, he promised that he would always be with us. Jesus is especially present with his Church when we celebrate the sacraments. Jesus gave us the sacraments. The sacraments are the seven main celebrations of the liturgy. They are signs of God's work among us. They put us in contact with the saving work of Jesus Christ. He touches our lives through the sacraments, and we are changed.

Sacraments of Christian Initiation. Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are called Sacraments of Christian Initiation. Through these three sacraments we are

joined to Christ and become full members of the Church. We are made sharers in God's life and receive help to live as children of God.

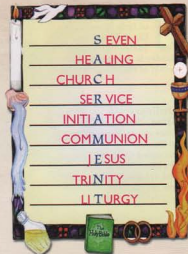
Sacraments of Healing. Penance and Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick are the Sacraments of Healing. Through these sacraments we celebrate and share in God's healing love.

Sacraments at the Service of Communion. Holy Orders and Matrimony are the Sacraments at the Service of Communion. Through these sacraments some members of the Church are consecrated to serve the whole Body of Christ, the Church. The word *consecrated* means "set aside for a holy purpose."

All the sacraments build up the Body of Christ. They make us sharers in God's life and love and give us the help to live as children of God. We are changed more completely into the image of Christ. Our life with the Holy Trinity is strengthened.

For each of the letters in the word SACRAMENT, write a word that says something about the sacraments. Use each word to share what happens when the Church celebrates the sacraments.

Responses will vary.



Apply

REINFORCE

Ask volunteers to add new words and phrases to the words on the board.

INTEGRATE

- Invite the children to name the sacraments they have received and tell why they are important in their lives.
- Have the group complete the activity and share with a partner.



Background: Doctrine

Sacraments at the Service of Communion. For many years religion texts referred to Matrimony and Holy Orders as Sacraments of Service. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* adjusted this language to Sacraments at the Service of Communion. The word *communion* describes the intimate and loving fellowship that characterizes all the People of God. Priests and married couples participate in a "particular mission in the Church and serve to build up the People of God" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1534).

Our Church Makes a Difference

Feasts of the Lord

The Church proclaims the wonderful works of God among us when we celebrate the liturgy. In addition to the cycle of the seasons of the Church's year and the feasts of the Lord connected with those seasons, the Church celebrates other feasts of the Lord. The feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the feast of the Triumph of the Cross are two of those feasts.



The Sacred Heart of Jesus and the cross are both symbols of the love of Jesus. Jesus commanded that his followers are to love and serve one another as he serves and loves us. The celebration of the liturgy is always a proclamation to the world of the saving work of Christ and a call to a life of service. Celebrating these feasts deepens our faith in the mystery of Christ's sacrificial love for us. It strengthens us to live out that love in our service of God and others.

How do you see the people of your parish living as signs of God's love?

Responses will vary.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, stained glass

Our Catholic Identity

Liturgical Colors

The Church uses different colors to celebrate the liturgical year. Purple or violet is used for Advent and Lent. White is used for Holy Thursday and for the Christmas and Easter seasons. Red is used on Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, Good Friday, and Pentecost. Green is used during Ordinary Time.

Connect

HIGHLIGHT

Recall with the children that the Church celebrates many feasts each year.

DISCOVER

- Share with the children that the Church celebrates a number of special feasts of the Lord during Ordinary Time. Two of these feasts are the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Triumph of the Cross.
- Ask the class to silently read to learn why the Church celebrates these two feasts.
- Ask, Why do we celebrate these feasts? **Celebrating these feasts celebrates and deepens our faith in Christ's sacrificial love for us.**

INTEGRATE

- Share with the children one of your favorite feasts of the Lord.
- Emphasize that every liturgy is a celebration of Jesus' saving love and a call for us to serve others as he did.
- Ask volunteers to share their favorite feast of the Church and what it tells them about God's love.
- Read aloud "Our Catholic Identity" about liturgical colors.



Background: Liturgy

Mass Vestments. The three basic vestments worn by the priest at Mass are an alb, a stole, and a chasuble. Alb: A long, white vestment tied at the waist with a cincture, a sash made of cord or cloth. Celebrants, concelebrants, and deacons all wear the alb at liturgical celebrations. Stole: A long strip of cloth worn over the alb in the color of the liturgical season. Priests hang the stole around the neck. The deacon's stole hangs over the left shoulder and is fastened on the right side. Chasuble: The chasuble is the outer liturgical garment worn by the priest over the alb and stole. It matches the liturgical color of the season. The outer garment worn by the deacon is called the dalmatic.

Connect

HIGHLIGHT

Remind the children that celebrating the sacraments and the liturgical seasons helps us grow and live our faith.

RESPOND

- Read the opening paragraph to the children.
- Have the children work in groups of three or four to complete the activity "Celebrating Our Faith."
- When everyone has finished the activity, allow time for the groups to display their banners and read their messages.

CHOOSE

- Invite the children to respond to "My Faith Choice."
- After a moment of prayerful reflection have the children write their choice on the lines provided.
- Encourage the children to put their choice into practice this week.

What Difference Does Faith Make in My Life?

You join with Christ and other members of the Church throughout the year to celebrate the liturgy. Each season of the Church's liturgical year helps you grow and live your faith.

Choose a liturgical season. Create and design this banner to help you celebrate it. Include a message about living the season. Be sure to use the liturgical color for that season.

Celebrating Our Faith

Responses will vary.

Affirm appropriate responses.

My Faith Choice

This week I will worship God in all I do and say. I will

Affirm appropriate responses.

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Background: Liturgy

The Liturgical Color Red. Tell the children that the liturgical color red has several meanings. We associate red with the color of fire. We also associate the color red with giving up, or sacrificing, one's life for our love of and faith in God. Red vestments worn on Pentecost remind us that the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of small tongues of fire when the Apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Red vestments worn on Good Friday and Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion remind us of the sacrificial love of Jesus. Red vestments are also worn on the feast days of martyrs who freely gave up their lives to witness to their faith in Christ.

We Pray

Lift Up Your Heart

The liturgy is the Church's work of worshipping God. Learn to pray this simple prayer of praise and honor to God that we pray at Mass. Pray it over and over again quietly in your heart.

Leader: Let us lift up our hearts and give thanks and praise to God.

Group 1: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Group 2: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

All: Hosanna in the highest.

Group 1: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Group 2: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: Hosanna in the highest.

BASED ON PREFACE ACCLAMATION

We Remember

Match the faith terms in the left column with the descriptions in the right column.

Terms

- e 1. sacraments
- a 2. Paschal Mystery
- b 3. Lent
- f 4. Easter
- c 5. Sacraments of Christian Initiation
- d 6. liturgy

Descriptions

- a. Jesus' Passion, death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension
- b. a season of the Church's year that prepares us for Easter
- c. sacraments by which we are joined to Christ and become members of the Church
- d. work of the People of God
- e. seven liturgical celebrations of the Church given to us by Christ
- f. a season of the Church during which we rejoice in Christ's Resurrection

To Help You Remember

1. The liturgy is the Church's work of worshipping God.
2. The liturgical year is the Church's cycle of worship that celebrates God's great plan of saving love for us.
3. The sacraments make the saving work of Jesus Christ present to us and make us sharers in the life of God, the Holy Trinity.

Grade 5 • Chapter 11

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WE PRAY

- Gather the children for prayer in the prayer center.
- Ask them to be seated comfortably on chairs or on the floor and introduce the prayer, using the opening paragraph.
- Set the environment for quiet prayer by darkening the room, lighting a candle (use an electric one if necessary), and playing a recording of reflective, prayerful music.
- Lead the children in praying "Lift Up Your Heart."

Review

WE REMEMBER

- Invite the children to complete the "We Remember" matching activity.
- Ask volunteers to share their responses.
- Write *liturgy*, *liturgical year*, and *sacraments* on the board and ask volunteers to share an important fact they have learned in this chapter about each word.
- Ask the class to check their responses by reading the "To Help You Remember" statements.

Teaching Tip

Teaching Diversity: A World of Thanks. When we take part in the celebration of the Eucharist, we give thanks to God. Teach your class to say "Thank you" in many languages. Begin by inviting children who speak another language in addition to English to teach the class to say "Thank you" in that language. This list will also help you.

- German *danke*
- Italian *grazie*
- Spanish *gracias*
- French *merci*
- Portuguese *obrigado*
- Chinese *do deh*

ENCOURAGE

Have the children carefully tear out pages 103 and 104 along the perforation. Encourage the children to share the pages with their families and to do the activities together. If they did not complete the review activity on page 103 by the end of the session, emphasize that they can complete it with their families.

VISIT FAITHFIRST.COM

- Share with the children the many activities on the *Faith First* Web site.
- Encourage the children to visit www.FaithFirst.com.

This Week . . .

In chapter 11, "Celebrating the Liturgy," your child learned about the liturgy, the Church's work of worshipping God. The liturgy includes the celebration of the sacraments. Sacraments are the signs of God's work among us that Jesus gave us. Jesus touches our lives through the sacraments, and we are changed. Like the calendar year, the Church's liturgical year of worship is made up of a cycle of seasons and feast days. The Easter Triduum, or three days, of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday is the heart of the liturgical year. The seasons of the Church's year are Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time.

For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on the liturgy and the sacraments in general, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* paragraph numbers 1135-1186.

Sharing God's Word

Read together Psalm 75:2. Emphasize that our whole life should give honor and glory and praise to God.

Praying

In this chapter your child learned a prayer of praise and honor to God. Read and pray together this prayer on page 103.

Making a Difference

Choose one of the following activities to do as a family or design a similar activity of your own.

- Invite each family member to share which of the liturgical seasons they like best. Talk about how this season helps them give praise and thanks to God.
- Decorate your home according to the current liturgical season. Allow the decorations to help you remember that God is always with you.
- When your family takes part in the celebration of Mass this week, pay close attention to the liturgical colors and decorations. Talk about how the liturgical season helps you remember and share in God's great plan of saving love for the world.

For more ideas on ways your family can live your faith, visit the "Faith First for Families" page at www.FaithFirst.com. Click on "Games" to review the seven sacraments with your child.



Evaluate

Take a few moments to evaluate this week's lesson. I feel (circle one) about this week's lesson.

- very pleased
- OK
- disappointed

The activity the children enjoyed most was . . .

The concept that was most difficult to teach was . . .

because . . .

Something I would like to do differently is . . .

Before Moving On . . .

As you finish today's lesson, reflect on the following question before moving on to the next chapter.

What do I do to encourage and affirm the sense of humor I see in the children?

ENRICHING THE LESSON

Role-Playing a Minister of Hospitality

Purpose

To reinforce that the work of the People of God, the Church, is to worship God. We gather to pray, honor, and thank God for all he has done for us (taught on page 98).

Directions

- Brainstorm with the children the many ways they can participate in the liturgy.
- Invite the children to role-play being ministers of hospitality.
- Together write a letter to the parish liturgical coordinator offering dates and times that the children can volunteer to be ministers of hospitality.
- Encourage the children to sign up for a date and time and remind them that the work of the People of God, the Church, is to worship God.

Materials

paper and pen

Creating a Liturgical Dance

Purpose

To reinforce that the Church celebrates the liturgy every day, all year long (taught on page 99)

Directions

- Have the children work in small groups to plan a dance to illustrate the different liturgical seasons. You may assign a season or allow the groups to choose their season.
- Have each group decide the message they would like their dance to convey. Writing out the message is always helpful.
- Ask each group to choose gestures and movements that will convey the message.
- Allow the children to choose appropriate music and colored streamers that celebrate their liturgical season.

- Invite the groups to present their dances and have the class summarize how the dance represents that liturgical season.

Materials

colored streamers
tapes or records

Creating Sacrament Booklets

Purpose

To reinforce that the sacraments are the seven main celebrations of the liturgy (taught on page 100)

Directions

- Invite the children to begin to create sacrament booklets. Have them name each sacrament.
- Have the children design a page for each of the seven sacraments and draw a symbol on each page illustrating the meaning of the sacrament.
- Tell the children to bring in photos or pictures of family celebrations of the sacraments to help them further illustrate their booklets in future sessions.

Materials

construction paper
markers or crayons
stapler to make the booklets



Music Connection

- "Acclamation 1: Sanctus," D. Haas. *Gather Comprehensive* #219.
- "Draw Near," S. Janco. *Voices As One (VAO)* #20.
- "I Am the Bread of Life," J. M. Talbot. *VAO* #39.
- "In Remembrance of You," P. Tate. *VAO* #46.