

CONTENTS

My Parish Church	4
Introduction	6

1 We Belong to the Church	7
Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4, 38-41 <i>Pentecost and the Beginning of the Church</i>	
Rite of Baptism; Sacraments of Initiation	
Family Keepsake Pages	8-9, 16-17
Sharing Faith with My Family	81-82

2 We Gather and Give Thanks	19
Mark 11:8-9 <i>Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem</i>	
Roman Missal; Introductory Rites	
Family Keepsake Pages	20-21, 28-29
Sharing Faith with My Family	83-84

3 We Celebrate the Liturgy of the Word	31
Matthew 13:3-8, 23 <i>The Parable of the Sower and the Seed</i>	
Roman Missal; <i>Liturgy of the Word</i>	
Family Keepsake Pages	32-33, 40-41
Sharing Faith with My Family	85-86

4 We Celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist	43
--	-----------

Mark 14:22-24 <i>The Last Supper</i>	
Luke 22:19	
Roman Missal; <i>Liturgy of the Eucharist:</i>	
Preparation of the Gifts and Eucharistic Prayer	
Family Keepsake Pages	44-45, 52-53
Sharing Faith with My Family	87-88

5 We Receive the Body and Blood of Christ	55
--	-----------

Luke 24:13-35 <i>Jesus on the Road to Emmaus</i>	
John 6:35; 14:27	
Roman Missal; <i>Liturgy of the Eucharist:</i>	
Communion Rite	
Family Keepsake Pages	56-57, 64-65
Sharing Faith with My Family	89-90

6 We Love and Serve the Lord	67
---	-----------

Matthew 28:16-20 <i>The Commissioning of the Disciples</i>	
Roman Missal; <i>Concluding Rites</i>	
Family Keepsake Pages	68-69, 76-77
Sharing Faith with My Family	91-92

Receiving Communion	79
Sharing Faith with My Family 1-6	81
Prayers	93
Punchouts: altar, heart, cross, and lantern	Back of Book



We Gather and Give Thanks

2



**"Glory to God in
the highest."**

Roman Missal

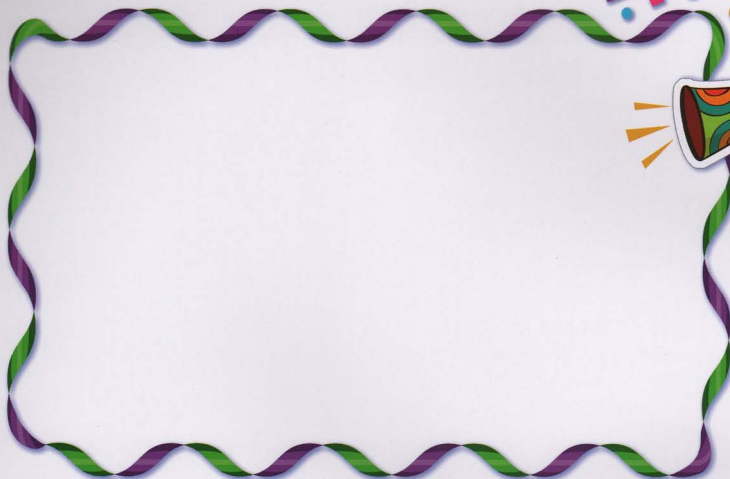


We Gather

My favorite family celebrations are ...



The celebration that is most special is . . .



It is most special because . . .



We Share God's Word

Jesus and his disciples often gathered to celebrate Jewish feasts and holy days. Together they thanked God the Father for his blessings.

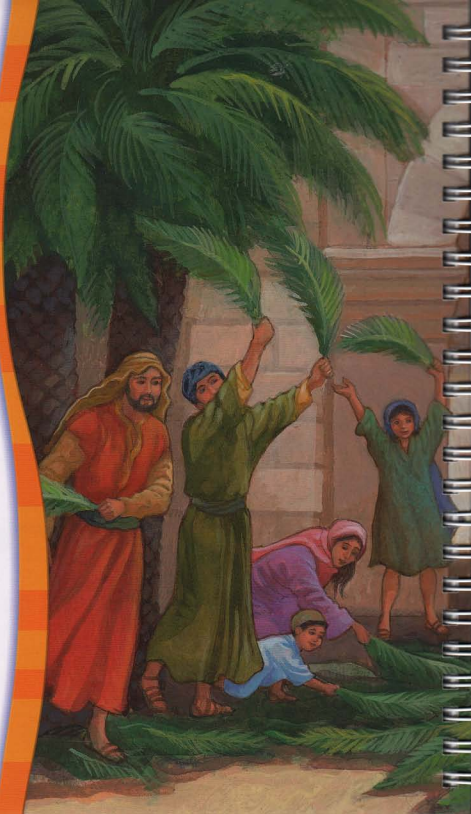
For some feasts they went to the Temple in Jerusalem to celebrate with other Jewish families. The Temple was the holy place in Jerusalem where Jewish people prayed and worshiped God.

 Mark 11:8-9

The week before Jesus died and rose again, he and his disciples went up to Jerusalem. Many people were there to celebrate the important Jewish feast of Passover. People heard that Jesus and his disciples were coming to celebrate, too.

Many people went to meet Jesus. Some spread out their coats on the road. Others spread tree branches or waved them as Jesus passed. People began to praise Jesus. They called out, "Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9)





We Believe and Celebrate

We gather with our parish community to celebrate God's love. We worship God together. To **worship** God means "to praise and thank" him.

Every Sunday we gather with our parish to worship God. We celebrate the Eucharist. This celebration of the Eucharist is called the **Mass**. By our special words and actions, we show that we believe that God is with us.

The community of people who join together for the celebration of the Mass is called the gathered **assembly**. A priest leads the gathered assembly in this celebration. He is called the celebrant. He is often assisted by a deacon. At Mass the priest and the deacon wear special clothing called vestments.

Our Sunday Celebration

It was on a Sunday that Jesus Christ rose to new life. So Sunday is a special day for the Church. We rest and worship God.

The Church tells us to worship God by taking part in the Mass every Sunday of the year. We are also to attend Mass on special days called holy days of obligation. When we do this we follow the third commandment and one of the laws of the Church.

Sunday is called the Lord's Day. The celebration of the Lord's Day is from Saturday evening through Sunday until midnight. During this time, as Catholics, we gather with our parish to celebrate the Mass. This celebration of the Eucharist is the center of Catholic life.

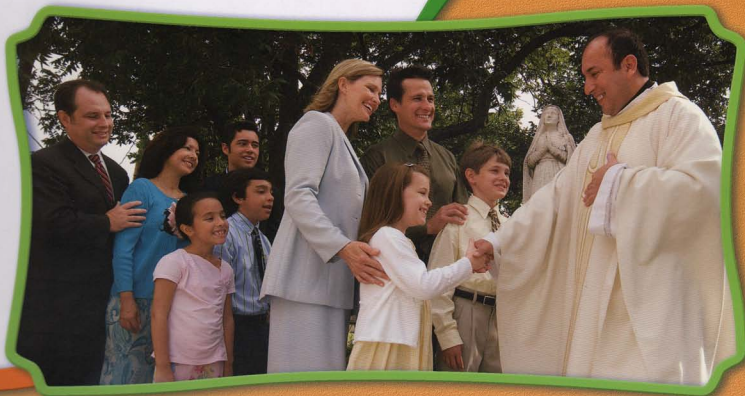


Throughout the Mass we show God our love by singing, praying, and listening to God's word. Together with the priest, we

- ◆ praise and thank God
- ◆ listen to God's word
- ◆ remember Jesus' life, death, Resurrection, and Ascension
- ◆ celebrate that Jesus gives himself to us in the Eucharist.

Our Parish Priests

Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, a man becomes a priest. Many priests serve in local parishes. They spend their lives sharing God's love with people. They act in the Person of Christ in celebrating Mass and the other sacraments.



We Believe and Celebrate

The celebration of Mass begins with the **Introductory Rites**. These prayers and actions at the beginning of the Mass help us to remember that we are a worshipping community. They prepare us to listen to God's word and to celebrate the Eucharist.

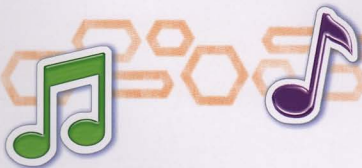
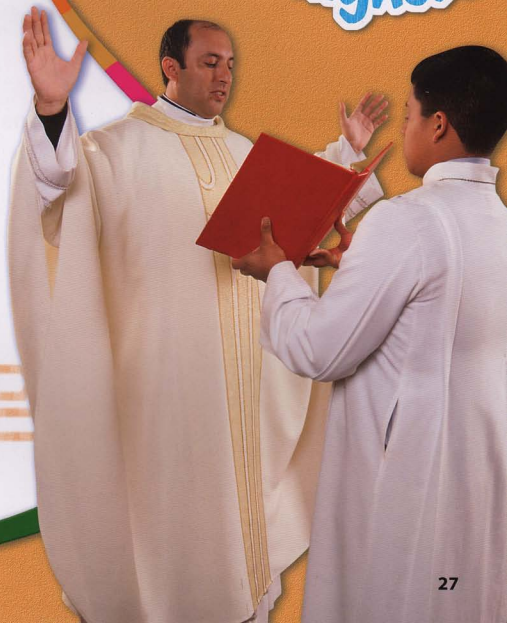
Here is what we do during the Introductory Rites:

- ◆ We stand and sing to praise God. As we sing, the priest, deacon, and others helping at Mass walk to the altar. The priest and deacon kiss the altar as a sign of respect.
- ◆ We make the sign of the cross. Then the priest greets us. His words and our response remind us that Jesus is present with us.



- ◆ The priest asks us to think about times we have not loved God and others. Then we ask God and one another for forgiveness.
- ◆ Together with the priest we praise God for his love and forgiveness. We may pray:
“Lord, have mercy.”
“Christ, have mercy.”
“Lord, have mercy.”
- ◆ We often sing or say a prayer of praise to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This prayer begins with the words:
“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people
of good will.”
- ◆ The priest prays an opening prayer. We respond, “Amen.”

**“Glory to God
in the highest”**



We Respond

When we gather with our parish
for Mass, we often use these
words to worship God ...



We use these prayerful actions ...



My family can pray to Jesus at home.
We can make a special place of
prayer where we can gather.




My Family's Prayer Space



We Respond in Prayer

We Celebrate with Joy

We celebrate with joy and gladness!
We celebrate God's love for us!
We celebrate with joy and gladness:
God with us today! God with us today!

 **Leader:** We place a bowl of holy water in the prayer space.

Reader 1: God, may this holy water remind us of our Baptism. At Baptism we became your children and members of the Church.

All: God our Father, we praise and thank you.

Leader: We place a cross here.

Reader 2: Jesus, may this cross remind us that you became one of us and died and rose again to save us from sin.



All: Jesus, Son of God, we praise and thank you.

Leader: We place a candle here.

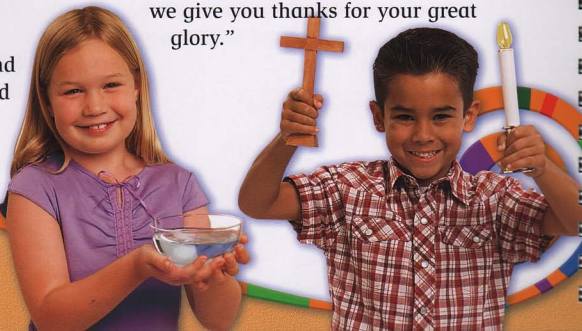
Reader 3: Holy Spirit, may the candle flame remind us that you are with us to guide us.

All: God the Holy Spirit, we praise and thank you.

Leader: Let us join in praying words we often pray at Mass:

All: "Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace to people
of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great
glory."



Sharing Faith with My Family



**"Blessed is he who comes in
the name of the Lord!"**

(Mark 11:9)



**Talk about what people did to
welcome Jesus to Jerusalem.**

2 Sharing What I Learned

Look at the pictures and statements below.
Match them. Use each match to tell your
family what you learned in this chapter.



During the Introductory
Rites, the priest, deacon,
and others helping at
Mass walk to the altar.



A priest leads the gathered
assembly in the celebration
of the Mass.



Every Sunday we gather
with our parish community
to worship God.

Circle every other letter. Find the
word that completes the sentence.

When we _____ God
we “praise and thank” him.

In the window draw your family
praising and thanking God.

