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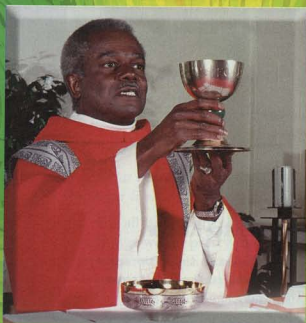
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Unit 2 • We Worship



*What do we celebrate
when we celebrate
the Eucharist?*

Getting Ready

What I Have Learned

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

Sacraments of Christian Initiation

Sacraments at the Service of Communion

Liturgy of the Word

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.*

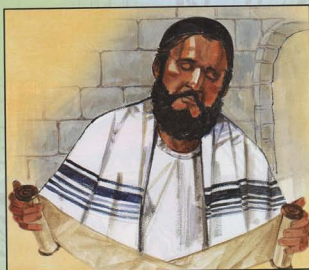
Faith Vocabulary

- _____ liturgy
- _____ Passover
- _____ Sabbath
- _____ Confirmation
- _____ Eucharist
- _____ parables
- _____ Sacraments of Healing
- _____ Communion

Questions I Have

What questions would you like to ask about the meaning of the words and actions of the sacraments the Church uses in celebration?

A Scripture Story



Studying the Scriptures

What does Sacred Scripture teach about living a holy life?

Celebrating the Liturgy

11

We Pray

[L]et us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the LORD
who made us. PSALM 95:6

**Father, all life,
all holiness comes from
you through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
by the working
of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*What rituals are a part of
your life?*

We all have daily rituals—
things we do pretty much the
same way each time. We may
have the same way of getting
ready for school or celebrating
a birthday or playing a sport.
The Church has rituals too.
All over the world, the Church
celebrates certain rituals day
after day, year after year.

*What rituals of the Church do
you know?*

The Liturgy and the Body of Christ

Faith Focus

Why does the Church celebrate the sacraments?

Faith Vocabulary

liturgy. The Church's work of worshipping God.

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

The Liturgy

In every celebration of the **liturgy** and **sacraments**, the story of God's loving plan of creation and salvation is proclaimed in our midst. God speaks and we listen attentively. That is why the Liturgy of the Word is always part of our celebration of the sacraments and liturgy. We are made sharers in the Paschal Mystery by the power of the Holy Spirit. The work of the Holy Spirit in the liturgy is to:

- prepare the assembly to meet Christ and
- recall and make Christ known to the assembly.

Every celebration of the liturgy and the sacraments is a celebration of the whole Body of Christ. We join with Christ, the Head of the Church, who himself leads the Church in her celebration. Because Jesus acts in the sacraments, they unfailingly allow us to share in Christ's saving work and make us sharers in the life of God.

What are some of the things that you see and hear during the celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments? How do these things help you better understand what is really happening?

BAPTISM



CONFIRMATION



EUCCHARIST



RECONCILIATION



Sacramental Signs

Each celebration of the sacraments combines words with signs and symbolic actions. Through these sacramental signs and actions, Jesus brings us into the mysteries of his Passion-death-Resurrection-Ascension, his Paschal Mystery. We receive the promise of eternal life.

The Paschal Mystery. Christ died once and was raised once. So how do we share, here and now, in the Paschal Mystery? Through the sacraments, until the end of time when Christ will come again in glory, the Holy

Spirit brings Christ's Paschal Mystery to all his believing people.

Promise of Eternal Life. In Jesus, God prepared the way for all to receive the great gift of new and resurrected life (see John 11:25–26). The sacraments both give us a glimpse of and are a pledge of our sharing in that life. On the last day, just as Christ did, we will rise bodily and see God face-to-face!

Look at the stained-glass images of the sacraments on these two pages. Write what each of the images tells about the sacrament it portrays.



Abraham

At Mass the Church proclaims Abraham to be our father in faith. Abraham entered a covenant with God. He believed in God's presence with him and lived a life of hope in the future God promised to him. Abraham was even willing to sacrifice his son Isaac out of love for God. You can find out more about

Abraham in Genesis 12:1–7 and 22:2–18.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



HOLY ORDERS



MATRIMONY



The Liturgical Year

Each year is a time of grace. For Christians it is a yearlong celebration of our life in Christ. The Church's year of celebration, which is made up of seasons and feasts, is called the liturgical year.

Advent. Advent is a time of preparation for Christ's coming among us.

Christmas. The Christmas season celebrates that the Son of God became one of us without giving up his divinity and is the Savior of the world.

Lent. Lent calls us to change our hearts, seek God's forgiveness, prepare candidates for Baptism, and renew our commitment to live our Baptism.

Easter Triduum. The Easter Triduum, or "the three days," is

the center of the whole liturgical year. It begins on Holy Thursday evening, continues on Good Friday, and concludes with the celebrations of the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.

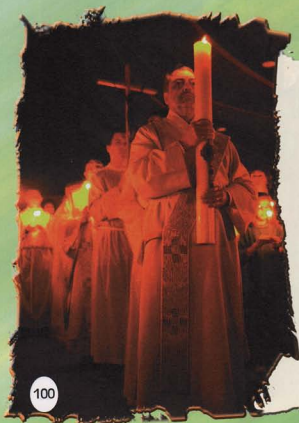
Easter. The fifty days of the Easter season, which culminates on Pentecost, are a time of proclaiming the mystery of the new life that we have in the Risen Christ.

Ordinary Time. We hear the story of Jesus from one of the four accounts of the Gospel—Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. We learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Feasts. The solemnities and feasts of the Lord and of Mary, the Apostles, martyrs, and other holy men and women deepen our sharing in God's work in our world.

Deacon carrying lighted Easter candle, leading procession into church during the Service of Light at the beginning of the Easter Vigil

Illustrate in words or symbols a season or feast of the Church's liturgical year.



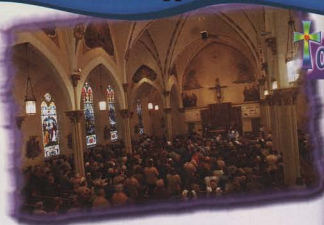
Our Church Makes a Difference

One Faith, One Lord

No matter where you go throughout the world, the Catholic Church celebrates the sacraments. The look of the churches may be different. Some churches are massive cathedrals filled with statues and stained-glass windows. Others are simple huts. Some are modern and some are not. But in each church, we gather to proclaim the same Gospel and share the same Eucharist.

The language may be different. The music may be different. The people may even dress differently, but what is essential to our liturgy is always the same: Christ is with us as we celebrate and share in his death and Resurrection.

When the Church gathers to celebrate the sacraments, we proclaim for all to see and hear that Jesus is the Savior of the



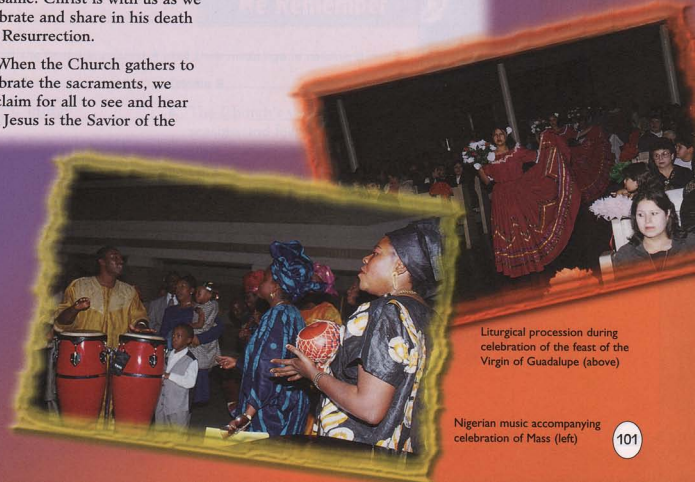
whole world and of all people. All people are invited to be joined to Christ in Baptism. There is one faith and one Lord, one God who is the Father of all. All people are invited to share in the new life of Christ. All people have the promise of eternal life.

Look at these photos of the celebration of Mass. What do they say to you about the Church and her work in the world?

Our Catholic Identity

The Rites of the Catholic Church

The words and actions used to celebrate the liturgy are called rites. There are different rites in the Catholic Church that are approved by the Church for celebrating the liturgy. The largest number of Catholics celebrate the Roman rite. Other rites include the Byzantine, Alexandrian (or Coptic), Syriac, Armenian, Maronite, Ukrainian, Syrian, Romanian, Russian, and Chaldean rites.



Liturgical procession during celebration of the feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe (above)

Nigerian music accompanying celebration of Mass (left)

What Difference Does Faith Make in My Life?

The Holy Spirit prepares you to celebrate the sacraments. Jesus is always there, leading the Church in the celebration.

What are some of the things the Church does at the celebration of the Eucharist? How do these things help you and others take part in the celebration?



Celebrating the Eucharist

What the Church Does

How These Help Me Participate

My Faith Choice



Before Mass this week I will try to spend a few moments remembering that we are joining with Jesus in our celebration. I will

We Pray

Give Thanks and Praise to God

A doxology is a prayer of praise to God the Father in the name of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. Conclude with this ritual prayer from the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer.

Leader: Let us acknowledge all our blessings come from God. *(Pause.)*
Let us join with Christ and give glory to God the Father.

All: Thorough him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

We Remember

Match the terms in column A with their meanings in column B.

Column A

- ___ 1. liturgy
- ___ 2. Paschal Mystery
- ___ 3. sacraments
- ___ 4. liturgical year
- ___ 5. Easter Triduum

Column B

- a. The Church's yearly cycle of seasons and feasts that make up the Church's year of worship
- b. Christ's Passion, death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension
- c. The three-day celebration that is at the center of the liturgical year of the Church
- d. The seven main celebrations of the Church's liturgy given to us by Christ that make us sharers in the life of God
- e. The Church's work of worshipping God

To Help You Remember

1. The celebration of the liturgy and sacraments is the Church's work of worshipping God.
2. The sacraments make us sharers in the life of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. Throughout the year the Church praises God for what he has done and continues to do for us.

This Week . . .

In chapter 11, "Celebrating the Liturgy," your child learned more about the liturgy. The liturgy is the Church's work of worshipping God. The liturgy of the Church centers around the Eucharist and the other sacraments. In the liturgy the members of the Church gather with Christ, the Head of the Church. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we remember and share in the Paschal Mystery of Christ's saving Passion, death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension. The whole Church gathers to share in the life of God the Holy Trinity and to bless, praise, and give thanks to the Father with Christ. What Jesus did while he was on earth is made present here and now. We join with Christ all year long and share in his work of salvation. We call the Church's year of worship the liturgical year.

For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on the liturgy, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* paragraph numbers 1076–1109, 1136–1186, and 1206.

Sharing God's Word

Read together Psalm 95:1–7. Emphasize that the sacraments are signs and sources of God's grace through which we share the life and work of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd.

Praying

In this chapter your child prayed a doxology. 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.

- When you take part in the celebration of Mass this week, notice the liturgical decorations and the priest's vestments. Talk about what they tell you about what liturgical season it is.
- Invite each family member to share their favorite liturgical season. Ask each family member to explain their choice.
- Create a doorknob hanger for the front door of your home. Decorate it so that it is a reminder for the current liturgical season.

For more ideas on ways your family can live your faith, visit the "Faith First for Families" page at www.FaithFirst.com. Click on "Family Prayer." This week pray the special prayer as a family.

