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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 imagination of the children. The pictures on page 125 of the student book 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.

## Unit 2 • We Worship



What are some ways we worship God as Catholics?

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## Teaching Tip

**Sensitivity to Diversity.** The faith life of the students' families, more than likely, is quite diverse. Some families may participate in the liturgy and the life of the Church on a regular basis; others may participate on special occasions, such as the Baptism of children and 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 the diversity within your class 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.

## Getting Ready

### What I Have Learned

What is something you already know about these faith words?

Lent

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Baptism

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The Mass

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### A Question I Have

What question would you like to ask about the Mass?

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### Words to Know

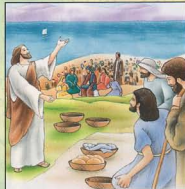
Put an X next to the faith words you know. Put a ? next to the faith words you need to know more about.

#### Faith Words

- Church year
- Easter
- sacraments
- Gospel
- Eucharist
- miracle

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### From a Scripture Story



Jesus feeding the crowd

What foods did Jesus use to feed the crowd?

## GETTING READY

The “Getting Ready” page helps the children share prior knowledge and it assists 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 the liturgy and the sacraments of the Church. Read the faith words to the children and ask volunteers to share ideas about each word.

### Words to Know

This section is a quick assessment of the children’s familiarity with some of the faith words they will be learning. Read each faith word to the class and have them put an X next to the faith words they know and a ? next to the words they need to learn more about. At the end of the unit the children will be asked to return to this page and again share their understanding of the faith words.

### A Question I Have

This section provides an opportunity for the children to ask questions that they have about the Mass. 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.

### From a Scripture Story

This section uses an illustration from the Scripture story of Jesus feeding the crowd. Have the children look at the picture and answer the question. Their responses will help you become more aware of the children’s knowledge of Scripture.

## Teaching Tip

**Prayerful Reflection.** Spend a few moments in prayerful reflection as you prepare for the teaching of unit 2. Recall that when the Church gathers for worship and the celebration of the sacraments, the whole Church—Christ the Head and the members of the Body of Christ—offers praise and thanksgiving to God the Father in Jesus’ name through the power of the Holy Spirit.

# The Church Celebrates All Year

## Background

### The Liturgical Year

The Church's year of worship, or liturgical year, is made up of Sundays, seasons, solemnities, feasts, and memorials. The seasons of the Church year evolve in an annual cycle that celebrates Christ's birth, life, Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension. As we celebrate the liturgical year, as we retell the mysteries of our faith, the entire Christian story is evoked, and its fountain of grace is continually poured out for all ages.

### Advent–Christmas

The liturgical year begins with the First Sunday of Advent. For four weeks the Church prepares for a renewed appreciation of the Incarnation and anticipates the Second Coming of Christ. The Advent season is filled with joyful expectancy and hope. Advent gives way to Christmas, a season running from the celebration of Christ's birth on December 25 through the Sunday after the feast of the Epiphany. During the Christmas season we focus on the timeless meaning of the Incarnation for believers.



### Lent–Easter

Lent is a period of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for all the faithful. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a period of final preparation for those preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Christian Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist—at the Easter Vigil.

The weeks and days of Lent lead up to the celebration of the Easter Triduum and the Easter

season. The Easter Triduum is a sacred period of three days, beginning with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening, continuing with the celebration of the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday, climaxing with the Easter Vigil, and ending with the celebration of Vespers, or Evening Prayer, on Easter Sunday.

Easter begins a season of fifty days when the Church rejoices in the Resurrection of Christ and in our hope of our own resurrection and life everlasting.

### Ordinary Time

The remaining weeks of the liturgical year are named Ordinary Time. The weeks in Ordinary Time are designated by numbers, such as the "Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time." The designation "Ordinary" is related to the English word *ordinal* as in *ordinal number*. During Ordinary Time we remember and listen to the teachings and work of Jesus among us.

### For Reflection

*How do my family and I take part in the various rhythms of the liturgical year?*

*In what ways have the feasts and seasons of the liturgical year given some direction to my journey with the Lord?*

## First Thoughts

### Celebrate the Year

The children are aware of the changes in nature as we pass from winter to spring, from summer to fall. Each year they learn more and more about how to celebrate the various holidays associated with each season. This year you can help the children understand that the Church has seasons and that each season of the Church year has signs that tell us about and help us understand that season. For example, explain to the children that the colors we use to decorate our churches and the songs we sing at Mass change from one season to another.

### Classroom Celebrations

As you plan the year, be sure to incorporate into your sessions small celebrations for each of the seasons of the Church year. You can do this by using the various liturgical year lessons beginning on page 347 in the children's book. The lessons include information, activities, and prayers that will help you, the children, and their families celebrate Advent, Christmas, Lent, the Triduum, and Easter.



## The Church Teaches . . .

At the Second Vatican Council, the Church taught:

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, moreover, she unfolds the whole mystery of Christ.

*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy  
(Sacrosanctum concilium) 102*

By sharing in the celebrations of the liturgical year we are made sharers in the saving work of Christ. That is why *Faith First* puts so much emphasis on the liturgical year through the seasonal lessons and celebrations.

### See the Catechism . . .

For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on the Church year, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1163–1173.

*Loving God,  
you have put order into our lives  
through the changing of the seasons.  
We thank you for the seasons of  
our Church year as we renew our  
spirits through the celebrations  
of our faith. Amen.*

# LESSON PLANNER

## Chapter Focus

To discover the seasons  
of the Church year

### Focus

#### DAY 1

**Engage/Teach  
and Apply**  
Pages 127–129  
**Focus**

To identify the  
seasons of the  
Church year

### Process

#### Opening Prayer

##### Discussion

Your favorite season of the year and the names of the  
seasons of the Church year

##### Presentation

Read, discuss, and summarize content.

##### Activity

Color the candles in the Advent wreath.

### Materials and Options

#### Materials

- purple marker and chart paper
- pencils or pens, crayons or markers

#### Options

**“We Celebrate”** (TG page 498)

See section for appropriate liturgical  
lesson and prayer.

**Called to Prayer Grades 1–3** booklet

See options for daily and seasonal  
classroom prayer.

#### DAY 2

**Teach and Apply**  
Pages 130–131  
**Focus**

To highlight what we  
celebrate during the  
season of Christmas

#### Prayer

##### Presentation

Read, discuss, and summarize content.

**Faith-Filled People:** Saint Joseph

##### Activity

Tell the Christmas story to a classmate.

#### Materials

- image of Jesus, image of Saint Joseph
- white chalk or light-colored marker
- Christmas gift wrap, box, pencils or pens

#### Options

**Enriching the Lesson** (TG page 219)

Literature Connection

#### DAY 3

**Teach and Apply**  
Pages 132–133  
**Focus**

To explain what we  
celebrate during Lent,  
Easter, and Ordinary  
Time

#### Prayer

##### Presentation

Read, discuss, and summarize content.

**Our Catholic Faith:** Holy Days of Obligation

##### Activity

Color symbols for the seasons of the Church year.

#### Materials

- purple marker, green marker
- white chalk or light-colored marker
- pencils or pens, crayons or markers

#### Options

**Enriching the Lesson** (TG page 219)

Singing Songs about the Church’s Seasons

**Additional Activities** booklet

I Know the Colors of the Seasons of  
the Church (Activity 10)

#### DAY 4

**Connect and Apply**  
Pages 134–135  
**Focus**

To acknowledge  
Sunday as the Lord’s  
Day

#### Prayer

##### Our Church Makes a Difference

Sunday is a special day.

##### What Difference Does Faith Make in My Life?

###### Activity

Name a season of the Church year and illustrate how  
you celebrate that season.

###### Faith Choice

Identify a way to celebrate the season of the Church  
year we are now celebrating.

#### Materials

- paper
- Liturgical music (optional)
- pencils or pens
- crayons or markers

#### Options

**Enriching the Lesson** (TG page 219)

Playing the Game “What Season Am I?”

**Additional Activities** booklet

I Know the Church’s Special Seasons  
(Activity 10a)

#### DAY 5

**Pray and  
Remember**  
Pages 136–137

#### We Pray

Prayer of praise: “Lord, We Praise You”

#### We Remember

**To Help You Remember**

**Activity:** Complete the review exercises.

#### With My Family

Highlight features of the chapter family page.

#### Materials

- Faith First Kindergarten-Primary  
Music CD, CD player
- three differently colored cards
- pencils or pens

#### Options

**Assessment Tools** booklet

Administer chapter 10 test.

**Music Connection** (TG page 219)





# The Church Celebrates All Year



# 10

## We Pray

**God our Father, you always show your love for us. Amen.**

*What is your favorite season of the year?*

Winter, spring, summer, and fall are the seasons of the year. The Church year has seasons too.

*What are the names of the seasons of the Church year?*

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# Day 1

## Engage

### PRAY

- Gather the children for prayer.
- Recall that Jesus is present with us when we pray.
- Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- Pray the opening prayer aloud and have the children respond “Amen.”

### DISCOVER

**Purpose:** To assess what the children already know about the seasons of the Church year

- Ask the children to look at the picture and identify the four seasons of the year. Then have them name their favorite season of the year.
- Read the introductory paragraph and invite responses to the last question. **Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ordinary Time.**
- If the children cannot name the seasons of the Church year, affirm their efforts and tell them that they will learn about the seasons of the Church year in this chapter.



## Teaching Tip

**The Liturgical Calendar.** The Church calendar cycles around two major celebrations of Jesus Christ—his birth and his Resurrection. The seasons of the Church year are sometimes depicted on a circular liturgical calendar. Each season is a wedge in the circle, with the size of the wedges corresponding to the length of the season. The calendar has seven wedges representing in order: Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Triduum, Easter, Ordinary Time.

## Teach

### FOCUS

Have the children read the “Faith Focus” question aloud. Invite them to think about how they might answer it. Tell them that these two pages will help them learn about one of the seasons in the Church year.

### DISCOVER

- Invite the children to share what is their favorite time, or season, of year and what they do during that time of year.
- Tell them that the different times of the Church year are called seasons.
- Read “The Seasons of the Church” to the class.
- Make a five-column chart labeled “The Church Year.” Leave this chart up all week.
- Ask the children to look at the symbols and names for each season on page 128 and read the names together.
- Tell the children that Advent is the first season of the Church year. Have a volunteer write *Advent* in the first column of the chart.
- Read aloud “Advent” on page 129 and have the children listen for what we do during this season. [Get our hearts ready for Jesus.](#) Add this to the chart under Advent.
- Explain that each season of the Church year has a special color. The color for Advent is purple. Add this to the chart under Advent.

## The Church Year

### Faith Focus

What are the seasons of the Church year?

### Faith Words

#### Church year

The Church year is made up of five seasons. They are Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time.

#### Advent

Advent is the first season of the Church year. We prepare for Christmas and get our hearts ready for Jesus.

What is your favorite time, or season, of the year? What do you like to do during that time of the year?

### The Seasons of the Church

The different times of the **Church year** are called its seasons. Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time are the seasons of the Church year.

Each season of the Church year tells us something about Jesus. All year long we remember God’s love for us.



Advent



Christmas



Lent



Easter



Ordinary Time

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## National Directory for Catechesis

**Implementing the *National Directory for Catechesis: Learning Through Human Experience.*** The National Directory teaches that “[human experience] can connect the person intimately with the Christian message” (*NDC 29A, page 98*). As part of your study on the Church seasons, plan to tour the church with the children one day this week. Have them look for sacred objects and art that connect to the liturgical year, such as the Easter candle, the Stations of the Cross, the baptismal font, and so on. When the children return to the classroom, invite them to share what they most recall from their visit and explain why.

## Apply

## REINFORCE

- Have the children look at the symbols on page 128 and read aloud the names of the seasons of the Church year.
- Have the children enter *Church year* in the glossary on page 490. Read the definition aloud. Do the same for *Advent* on glossary page 398.

## INTEGRATE

- Answer any questions the children may have about the Church year.
- If your parish uses an Advent wreath, talk about where it is located in the church and how it is used. Ask if any families use an Advent wreath.
- Read the directions for “The Advent Wreath” activity. Set a time limit for coloring the candles.

## PRAY

Gather the children for prayer. Invite them to stand and pray with you:

God, our Father, you  
always show your love.

## Advent

Advent is the first season of the Church year. We celebrate Advent during the four weeks before Christmas.

During Advent we see the Advent wreath. The Advent wreath reminds us to prepare for Christmas. We get our hearts ready for Jesus.

Each season of the Church year has a special color. The color for Advent is purple.



**QUESTION** *What do we do during the season of Advent? Responses will vary. Affirm appropriate responses.*

## The Advent Wreath

*Color three candles purple and one candle pink in the Advent wreath. Tell how your parish or your family uses an Advent wreath to celebrate Advent.*



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## Background: Catholic Tradition

**Advent Traditions.** Many countries and cultures observe the Season of Advent with various traditions. The Advent wreath usually has three purple candles (the color of repentance) and one rose-colored, or pink, candle. The rose-colored candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, or Gaudete Sunday, as the joyful Christmas season approaches. Advent calendars have 25 doors, one to open on each day of December. Some calendars reveal a Bible quote behind each door; others suggest a way to prepare for Jesus' birth. A small, empty manger is found in some homes during Advent. Next to it is a pile of straw or pine needles. When a family member does a good deed, that person adds a piece of straw to the manger to prepare a soft bed for the baby Jesus.

## Enriching the Lesson

The “Literature Connection” activity on page 219 is related to today’s content. You may wish to include it in today’s lesson.

## Teach

### PRAY

Invite the children to quiet themselves for prayer. Have them stand and echo this prayer after you.

Celebrate! For the LORD has done great things!  
Rejoice in the LORD,  
your God!

BASED ON JOEL 2:21, 23

### FOCUS

- Remind the children that during Advent we prepare for Christmas.
- Invite a volunteer to read the "Faith Focus" question. Ask the children for possible answers. Tell them that these two pages will help them learn about the Christmas season.

### DISCOVER

- Before class, wrap a box in Christmas paper. Inside the box have a statue or picture of the infant Jesus.
- Present the introductory paragraph and invite responses to the question.
- Show the box to the class and say that the greatest Christmas gift is inside. Invite the children to guess what is in the box. After a few guesses, have some children open the gift. When they see the infant Jesus, tell them that Jesus is God's greatest gift to us.
- Read "Christmas" aloud. Ask what we celebrate at Christmas. **The birth of Jesus.**
- Point out that the Church uses the color white to celebrate Christmas. Use white chalk to add *Christmas* and *The birth of Jesus* to the chart.

### Faith Focus

What do we celebrate during the Season of Christmas?

### Faith Words

#### Christmas

Christmas comes after Advent. It is the time of the Church year when we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

For many people Christmas is their favorite time of the year. What do you like best about celebrating Christmas?

### Christmas

Christmas comes after Advent. The color for Christmas is white. During the **Christmas** season we remember the birth of Jesus.

Jesus is God's greatest gift to us. He is the Son of God. He is the second Person of the Holy Trinity who came to live on earth with us.



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### Teaching Tip

**Teaching the Church Year.** You may use simple devices to develop the children's awareness of the seasons of the Church. Play seasonal liturgical music in the background while the children do activities or in the mornings while the children put away their things. You can make a liturgical calendar as described on page 208 of this guide. Poke a braid through the center of the calendar and point it to the Church season the Church is celebrating.

## Apply

## REINFORCE

- Recall that Christ is another name for *Jesus*. Ask the children to find the word *Christmas* on page 130 or 131 and circle the name for *Christ* that is part of the word *Christmas*.
- Have them enter *Christmas* in the glossary on page 399 and read the definition aloud.
- Teach the second verse to the song about the seasons of the Church year. (See the "Singing Songs About the Church's Seasons" activity on page 219 of this book.)

## INTEGRATE

- Read "Faith-Filled People" aloud. Ask the children to name one new thing they learned about Saint Joseph.
- Have the children work with partners to do the "Christmas" activity.

## PRAY

Gather the children for prayer. Share that the Bible tells us that angels came to shepherds and told them the good news of Jesus' birth. Let us pray the words of the angels:

Glorify to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.

BASED ON LUKE 2:14

## Enriching the Lesson

The "Singing Songs About the Church's Seasons" activity on page 219 is related to today's content. You may wish to include it in today's lesson.

The Church's celebration of Christmas is not just one day. The Christmas season lasts about two or three weeks.

## Faith-Filled People

## Joseph

Saint Joseph was the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus. The angel told Joseph that Mary was going to have a baby. The angel also told Joseph to give the baby the name Jesus. The Church celebrates the feast day of Saint Joseph on March 19.



Why is Christmas important to Christians?

Responses will vary.

Affirm appropriate responses.

## Christmas

Look at the picture. Tell the Christmas story to a classmate. Ask a classmate to tell you the Christmas story.



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## Background: Faith-Filled People

**Saint Joseph.** Joseph, husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus, was a descendent of King David. Though Scripture tells us little about Saint Joseph, he is described as a just man. We know that he loved Jesus and was a man of faith. He did what God asked of him. He left his home to care for Jesus and Mary. He followed the Jewish Law. We are told that he took his family to Jerusalem each year to celebrate Passover. Saint Joseph is the patron saint of fathers and workers. The Church celebrates two feast days in Joseph's honor: March 19, Joseph, Husband of Mary; and May 1, Joseph the Worker.

## Teach

### PRAY

Invite the children to quiet themselves for prayer. Pray together, ringing bells during the prayer if you have them:

Glory to God in the highest.

BASED ON LUKE 2:14

### FOCUS

- Remind the children that every season in the Church year tells us about Jesus.
- Read aloud the "Faith Focus" question and invite the children to think about how they might answer it. Tell them that these two pages will help them learn about Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time.

### DISCOVER

- Present the introductory paragraph and invite responses to the question.
- Ask the children, What do we celebrate during Lent? Invite responses and then read aloud "Lent."
- Have someone use purple chalk or a purple marker and write *Lent* at the top of the third column on the liturgical seasons chart the class is creating. Then add *We remember that Jesus died for us.*
- Using white or yellow chalk or marker, follow the same process for "Easter." In the column add *Easter celebrates that Jesus was raised from the dead.*
- Using green chalk or a green marker, follow the same procession for Ordinary Time. In the column add *We learn to follow Jesus.*

### Faith Focus

What do we celebrate during Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time?

### Faith Words

#### Lent

Lent is the season of the Church year when we remember Jesus died for us. We get ready for Easter.

#### Easter

Easter is the season of the Church year when we celebrate that Jesus was raised from the dead.

The seasons of the year differ from one another. How does the spring differ from the summer? The seasons of the Church year differ from one another too.

## Lent

During **Lent** we remember that Jesus died for us on the cross. We get ready for Easter. We remember our Baptism. We try harder to be kind and loving. The color for Lent is purple.

## Easter

**Easter** celebrates that Jesus was raised from the dead. This is the most important season of the Church year.

We see the lighted Easter candle in our church. It reminds us that Jesus was raised from the dead. The color for Easter is white.



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## Background: Liturgy

**Liturgical Colors.** For each season and feast of the liturgical year, the priest wears corresponding colored vestments. The Church is also adorned in the colors of the feast and season. During Advent and Lent the colors violet or purple are worn. These colors represent expectation and penance. White or gold represents joy and is worn during Christmas, on Holy Thursday, on Easter Vigil, and on Easter Sunday. Green, a symbol of hope, is worn during Ordinary Time. During Holy Week, the liturgical color for Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion and Good Friday is red, which is also the liturgical color for Pentecost.

## Apply

## REINFORCE

- Have the children enter the word *Lent* on glossary page 403 and *Easter* on glossary page 400.
- Teach the verses about Lent and Easter in the song about the Church seasons. (See page 219 of this guide.)

## INTEGRATE

- Point to the chart of the Church year that you have created and say that Catholics must take part in the celebration of Mass every Sunday and on special days of the year called holy days.
- Read the directions to the “Color the Seasons” activity. Be sure the children can identify the three symbols. Set a time limit for coloring and sharing.

## PRAY

- Gather the children for prayer. Bow heads and pray together:
- Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.

## Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time is the longest part of the Church year. We listen to Bible stories about what Jesus said and did. We listen to his teachings. We listen to the many times he helped people. We learn to be followers of Jesus. The color for Ordinary Time is green.

## Our Catholic Faith

## Holy Days of Obligation

In addition to Sunday, Catholics have the responsibility to take part in Mass on other days. These days are called holy days of obligation.



What is the most important celebration of the whole Church year? Affirm appropriate responses.

## Color of the Seasons

Color the symbols for Lent and Easter and Ordinary Time. Share with a partner what each symbol tells about Jesus.



133



## Background: Liturgy

**Holy Days of Obligation.** The Holy See has declared that the dioceses in all countries should observe at least two holy days of obligation—Christmas and a feast of the Blessed Mother. The United States observes six holy days of obligation: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1); Ascension of the Lord (Thursday of the sixth week of Easter); Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15); All Saints (November 1); Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (December 8); and Nativity of the Lord (December 25).

*Adapted from Catechism.*

## Enriching the Lesson

The “Playing the Game ‘What Season Am I?’” activity on page 219 is related to today’s content. You may wish to include it in today’s lesson.

## Connect

### PRAY

Invite the children to quiet themselves for prayer. Pray together:

Give thanks to the LORD,  
who is good, / whose  
love lasts forever.

BASED ON PSALM 118:1

### FOCUS

Remind the children that Easter is the most important season of the Church year. Tell them that page 134 will help them learn about Sunday, the Lord's Day.

### DISCOVER

- Share that the Church sets aside one day to the Lord every week. Have one child name the day. **Sunday**
- Emphasize that Sunday is the Lord's Day. Explain that on Sunday Christians remember that Jesus was raised from the dead. It is the day every week that Catholics gather for Mass. Present "Celebrating Sunday." Have the children underline the words *Lord's Day*.

### INTEGRATE

- Explain that Sunday is also a special family day.
- Divide the class into two teams. Have one member of the team draw a sun on a sheet of paper with a few rays extending from it. On each ray, the members of the team take turns writing a way families have fun together on Sundays.
- Have the other team use the same process to write what the Church family does together at Sunday Mass.
- Invite each team to share their projects.

## Our Church Makes a Difference



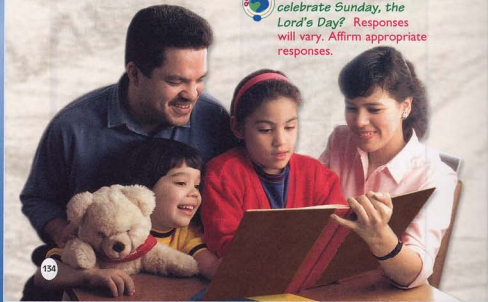
### Celebrating Sunday

Sunday is the Lord's Day. We keep Sunday holy. Every Sunday Catholics gather together for Mass. On every Sunday we remember that Jesus was raised from the dead.

Sunday is a special family day too. We spend time together. We celebrate that our family is part of God's family.



How does your family celebrate Sunday, the Lord's Day? Responses will vary. Affirm appropriate responses.



### Teaching Tip

**Stations of the Cross.** Arrange a time to take the class to church, either now or during Lent. Show the children the Stations of the Cross. Let them tell what they see is happening in each Station. Invite the parish priest to come along with you to answer any questions the children may have.



## What Difference Does Faith Make in My Life?

You remember all that Jesus did for us when you celebrate the seasons of the Church year. You celebrate God's love with other people in your Church family.

### Celebrating God's Love

*In the small candle write the name of one of the seasons of the Church year. In the large candle write or draw how you celebrate that season.*



#### My Faith Choice

I will celebrate the season of the Church year we are celebrating right now. I will \_\_\_\_\_

Responses will vary.

Affirm appropriate responses.

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### Background: Liturgy

**Celebrating the Lord's Day.** The Bible tells us that God rested on the seventh day of creation. Christians rest on Sunday, the day of the Lord's Resurrection. The Resurrection is the first day of the new creation of all things in Christ. Catholics keep holy Sunday, the Lord's Day, by gathering and taking part in the Eucharistic celebration. We worship God and give him praise and thanksgiving for all his blessings. We also keep Sunday holy by setting aside time to remember and celebrate our family as a blessing from God.

## Apply

### HIGHLIGHT

Remind the children that the Church year celebrates events in the life of Jesus. Read and discuss the introductory information on page 135.

### RESPOND

- Have the class stand and learn the final verse to the song about the seasons of the Church year. (See page 219 of this guide.)
- Read the directions for the "Celebrating God's Love" activity. The children may look at the chart on the board to recall the names of the five Church seasons.
- You might play the instrumental versions of songs 13–24 of the *Faith First Kindergarten-Primary Music CD* while the children do the activity.

### CHOOSE

- Read "My Faith Choice." Be sure all know what season the Church is celebrating. Brainstorm actions the children could do.
- If you intend to administer the chapter test from the *Assessment Tools* booklet, you may wish to send the "We Remember" review on page 137 home today as an assignment to help the children prepare for the test.

### PRAY

Stand and pray together: "Give thanks to the Lord, who is good, / whose love lasts forever" (based on Psalm 118:1).

## We Pray

### PREPARE

- Explain to the children that in a prayer of praise we give glory to God for his goodness and love.
- Divide the class into two groups. Give them time to highlight or underline their lines of "Lord, We Praise You."
- Go through the prayer so that the groups know when to pray and all know what and when to respond. Tell the children that the prayer will end with the singing of the song about the seasons of the Church. (See page 219 of this guide.)

### GATHER

Gather the children in the prayer area and ask them to take three deep breaths.

### PRAY

- Begin with the praying of the Sign of the Cross.
- Pray the prayer with joy.
- Gesture to each group when it is their turn to pray.
- Conclude by singing the song about the seasons of the Church year.

## We Pray

### Lord, We Praise You

*Each day the Church praises God for his goodness and love. Pray this prayer of praise together.*

**Group 1:** In the morning and the night,

**All:** Praise God for his goodness.

Based on Psalm 150:2

**Group 2:** In the summer and the fall,

**All:** Praise God for his goodness.

**Group 1:** In the winter and the spring,

**All:** Praise God for his goodness.

**Group 2:** Every day of the year,

**All:** Praise God for his goodness.

**Leader:** God our loving Father, we praise you for the seasons of the year. All year long, you share your goodness and love with us. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son, and for the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.



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## Background: Doctrine

**The Liturgical Year.** "From the time of the Mosaic law, the People of God have observed fixed feasts, beginning with Passover, to commemorate the astonishing actions of the Savior God, to give him thanks for them, to perpetuate their remembrance, and to teach new generations to conform their conduct to them" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1164). The Church "recalling the mysteries of redemption . . . opens up to the faithful the riches of her Lord's powers and merits, so that these are in some way made present for all time" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy 102).

## We Remember

## What I Have Learned

Circle the word under each sentence that correctly completes it.

- During \_\_\_\_\_ we get ready for Easter.  
Advent                      **Lent**
- On \_\_\_\_\_ we celebrate that Jesus was raised from the dead.  
Christmas                      **Easter**
- During \_\_\_\_\_ we get ready for Christmas.  
**Advent**                      Lent
- On \_\_\_\_\_ we remember the birth of Jesus.  
**Christmas**                      Easter

Connect the colors with the seasons of the Church year.

- |           |   |   |                      |
|-----------|---|---|----------------------|
| 5. White  | • | • | Advent and Lent      |
| 6. Purple | • | • | Ordinary Time        |
| 7. Green  | • | • | Christmas and Easter |

## To Help You Remember

- The Church has special times, or seasons, of the year.
- The Church year is made up of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time.
- Sunday is the Lord's Day.

## Growing in Faith

Share with a partner one important thing you learned this week.

Tell why this is important.

What will people see you doing as you live your faith choice this week?

## We Remember

## WHAT I HAVE LEARNED

- Change one "To Help You Remember" statement to read incorrectly. Read the statements one at a time. Ask the children to pump their arms for each correct sentence and call out, "Y-E-S spells yes!"
- Read the directions for the circle-the-word activity.
- Do the first sentence together. Have the children complete the activity independently and share their answers with a partner.
- Remind the children how to do a matching activity by doing the first color together. Have them complete the activity. Tell them that they may refer to the chart on the board.

## GROWING IN FAITH

Explain the section to the children as Share, Tell, and Do. Have each word (*Share, Tell, Do*) written on a different colored card. After the children form pairs (and you may partner with a child, too), hold up the Share card, call out "Share" and say what is to be shared. After a few moments, repeat with Tell and then, Do.



## Teaching Tip

**Adapt Directions to Activities.** As you present the "We Remember" page, make sure the directions are clear to all children. Remember that children with reading difficulties, children who have writing or visual difficulties, and children who have attention deficit difficulties sometimes need more time for completing activities. Refer to the "Special Needs" boxes throughout this teacher's guide for alternative strategies. Remember that the tips provided in these boxes can be applied throughout the year.

## At Home

## ENCOURAGE

Have the children carefully tear out pages 137 and 138 along the perforation. Encourage them to share the pages with their family and to do the activities together. If they did not complete the review activities on page 137 by the end of the session, emphasize that they can complete them with their family.

## VISIT FAITHFIRST.COM

- Share with the children the many activities on the Faith First Web site.
- Encourage them to visit [www.FaithFirst.com](http://www.FaithFirst.com).

## Before Moving On ...

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

*How well have I used affirming comments and affirmed the behaviors that I would like the children to use with one another?*

## 10 With My Family

## This Week . . .

In chapter 10, "The Church Celebrates All Year," your child learned that the Church year has special seasons just as the calendar year has. The seasons of the Church year are Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. The Easter Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday are the heart and center of the Church's liturgical year. During the Church year we celebrate and share in the Paschal Mystery of Christ's Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension. We join with Christ all year long and share in his work of Salvation.

For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on the Church year, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* paragraphs numbers 1163-1175.



## Sharing God's Word

Read Psalm 150 together. Emphasize that all throughout the liturgical year the Church gives praise and thanksgiving to God.

## Praying

In this chapter your child prayed a prayer of praise. Read and pray together the prayer on page 136.

## 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 Mass this weekend, look around and listen for all the signs that tell you what season of the Church year the Church is celebrating.
- Choose an activity that will help you celebrate the current liturgical season. For example, during Advent use an Advent calendar to help anticipate and prepare for Christmas.
- Make a banner to hang in your home that will remind you of the current season of the Church year. Look for ways to celebrate that season at home. For example, during Lent take part in Operation Rice Bowl.

For more ideas on ways your family can live your faith, visit the "Faith First for Families" page at [www.FaithFirst.com](http://www.FaithFirst.com). You will find it helpful to take a look at "Questions Kids Ask."



## 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 . . .

# ENRICHING THE LESSON

## Playing the Game "What Season Am I?"

### Purpose

To reinforce the seasons of the Church year (taught on pages 128–133)

### Directions

- Give each child a card with a different season of the Church year. Read the season to the child and have the child repeat the season you have given to them.
- Invite the children to listen for clues about the season on their card and to stand when the answer to the clues is the season on their card.
- Ask a volunteer to give another clue about their season, or you might give one clue and have everyone stand who has the card for that season. Do not hesitate to use a season again with a different clue.

### Materials

cards with the names of the five seasons printed on them

## Singing Songs About the Church's Seasons

### Purpose

To reinforce the seasons of the Church year (taught on pages 128–135)

### Directions

Teach the children the following song about the liturgical seasons, using the tune to "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

1. Advent is the time of year, time of year,  
time of year,  
Advent is the time of year we get ready for Christmas.
2. Christmas is the time of year, time of year, time of year,  
Christmas is the time of year we celebrate Jesus' birth.
3. Oh, Lent is the time of year, time of year, time of year,

Oh, Lent is the time of year we get ready for Easter.

4. Easter is the time of year, time of year, time of year,  
Easter is the time of year we celebrate Jesus' rising.
5. Ordinary Time is the time of year, time of the year, time of year,  
Ordinary Time is the time of year we listen to Jesus' word.

### Materials

printed copies of the song

## Literature Connection

### Purpose

To reinforce the seasons of the year (taught on page 127)

### Directions

- Discuss with the children what happens to plants during the different seasons of the year.
- Invite them to listen to the story *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle (Alladin Picture Books, 2001) to find out what happens to this tiny seed.
- After reading the story have volunteers retell the story and put gestures and actions to the story.

### Materials

*The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle



## Music Connection

- "God's Church Is Made of People," M. Bernthal/C. Brown. *Faith First Kindergarten-Primary Songs* #8.
- "Thank You, God," J. Vogt. *Rise Up and Sing* #198.
- "Walking by Faith," D. Haas. *Singing Our Faith (SOF)* #179.
- "We Are the Church," R. Avery/D. Marsh. *SOF* #186.