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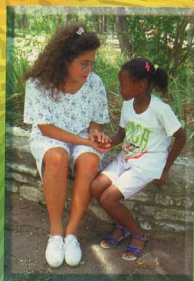
Unit 2 Opener

The unit opener pages are designed to assess, through a variety of questioning techniques, 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

The first page of the unit opener contains pictures that illustrate some of the important concepts in the unit. Pictures help stimulate the religious imagination of the children.

- 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.



What signs of God's love do these pictures show?

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Teaching Tip

Sensitivity to Diversity. The faith lives 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, the marriage of family members, and so on. 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.

Getting Ready

What I Have Learned

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

Liturgy

Paschal Mystery

Sacraments at the Service of Communion

Questions I Have

What questions would you like to ask about the Sacraments of Healing?

A Scripture Story



Jesus healing a young girl

Why did Jesus heal the young girl?

Words to Know

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

Faith Vocabulary

- ☐ liturgy
- ☐ manna
- ☐ Sacraments of Healing
- ☐ Sacraments at the Service of Communion
- ☐ holiness
- ☐ Exodus
- ☐ Paschal Mystery

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GETTING READY

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

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 to the children the faith terms and ask volunteers to share ideas they know about each term.

Words to Know

This section is a quick assessment of the children's familiarity with some of the faith vocabulary 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. During the review for this unit ask the children to return to this page and once 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 Sacraments of Healing. 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. This affirms for the children what they are learning about their faith.

A Scripture Story

This section uses the Gospel story of Jesus healing Jairus's daughter to introduce Scripture used in this unit. Have the children look at the picture and answer the question. Their responses will help you become more aware of their knowledge of Scripture.

Literature Connection

Books Supporting Sacramental Themes. Fourth graders may enjoy recalling the familiar children's book *The Tortilla Factory* by Gary Paulsen (Scholastic, New York, 2003). Challenge the children to compare and contrast the themes in the book with the themes of Eucharist.

The Scripture story of the healing of Jairus's daughter may raise questions about the problem of suffering, especially the illness and suffering of children. Children will find wisdom in the reflections of Father Tom Hartmann and Rabbi Marc Gellman in their book for young people *And God Cried, Too: A Kids' Book of Healing and Hope* (HarperTrophy, 2002).

Celebrating God's Love for Us

Background

Celebrating Life in Christ

The Church's liturgy celebrates our life in Christ and with one another as the People of God. The assembly gathered for liturgy is unlike any other human association that gathers together.

For it is the liturgy through which, especially in the divine sacrifice of the Eucharist, "the work of our redemption is accomplished,"¹ and it is through the liturgy, especially, that the faithful are enabled to express in their lives and manifest to others the mystery of Christ and the real nature of the true Church.

CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY
(SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM) 2

The liturgy is the work of the whole Church, the whole People of God. The People of God, the household of the Church, participate in the work of the Lord as we celebrate the work of the Church, the liturgy. At the same time, Christ continues his work as Redeemer and High Priest through the liturgy. Joined to Christ we give praise and thanksgiving to God the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit. We adore God

the Father as the source of all the blessings of creation and salvation that he has given us through his Son. We bless God for the gift of the Holy Spirit through whose power we are able to address God as Abba, Father.



The Work of the Church

In the Church's liturgy, we participate "in Christ's own prayer addressed to the Father in the Holy Spirit" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1073). As the Church prays, Jesus' voice and ours are one as we lift up our prayers to the Father. When we celebrate the liturgy, we bring our lives and

priorities into alignment with Christ's. We do the work that we have been created to do: we respond in faith and love to the blessings the Father has bestowed upon us in and through Christ.

The liturgy is the wellspring of the Christian life. In Baptism we are reborn to new life in Christ. In the other sacraments that new life is nourished and, when needed, healed. Liturgy nourishes our life in Christ and makes the Church visible, engaging the faithful in the life and work of the Church throughout the world. Through our participation in the liturgy, the Holy Spirit gifts and strengthens us to take part in the mission of the Church. The liturgy continually unites the People of God as we join our voices and our lives to Christ. We are drawn ever deeper into the mystery of and work of the Trinity.

For Reflection

How does the celebration of the liturgy deepen my communion with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

How well is my life of prayer rooted in the principle that all prayer flows from and toward the liturgy?

First Thoughts

The Liturgy, the Work of the Faithful

The liturgy is the work, or activity, of the whole Church. This is an important concept for young people to appreciate since the Church clearly teaches that “all the faithful should be led to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy” (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* [Sacrosanctum concilium] 14). The word *all* means “all” and includes young people as well as adults. The children need to understand this and not see the liturgy solely as the work of the priest and other ministers.

Encouraging Participation

Help the children see that the liturgy is a community activity, or the work of the whole Church. Perhaps list the names of all the participants in the celebration of the Mass,



including the worshipping assembly, priest and deacon, ministers of the word, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, song leader, organist, choir, altar servers, and greeters. Point out the importance of the role of each of the people on the list. Detail all the ways the assembly participates and relate those roles to the children's participation. Emphasize their membership in the Church.

The Church Teaches . . .

The *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* [Sacrosanctum concilium] 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, moreover, she unfolds the whole mystery of Christ. SC 102

Faith First emphasizes the liturgical year through seasonal lessons and celebrations.

See the Catechism . . .

For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on the liturgy, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1076–1109, 1136–1186, and 1200–1206.

*Holy Spirit,
you guide the Church.
Help me bring my whole
self—the senses of my body,
the thoughts of my mind,
the longing of my heart,
the goodness of my soul—
to my work of praise. Amen.*

Footnote references for these two pages may be found on page 560.

LESSON PLANNER

Chapter Focus

To discover what the Church celebrates during the liturgy

Focus

DAY 1

Engage/Teach and Apply
Pages 139–141
Focus

To discuss why the Church gathers to celebrate the liturgy

Process

Opening Prayer

Discussion

Ways you work together with others and ways you take part in the liturgy

Presentation

Read, discuss, and summarize content.

Scripture: Psalm 111:1, 2; Psalm 66:3, 4

Activity

Describe several blessings you and your family enjoy.

Materials and Options

Materials

- index cards
- pencils or pens

Options

“We Celebrate” (TG page 498)

See section for appropriate liturgical lesson and prayer.

Called to Prayer Grades 4–6 booklet

See options for daily and seasonal classroom prayer.

Enriching the Lesson (TG page 235)

Role-Playing Greeters at Mass

DAY 2

Teach and Apply
Pages 142–143
Focus

To identify what the Church remembers and celebrates in the liturgy

Prayer

Presentation

Read, discuss, and summarize content.

Scripture: Matthew 28:1–10, Mark 3:17

Faith-Filled People: Saint John the Apostle

Activity

Answer questions after reading a Gospel passage.

Materials

- Bibles
- index cards
- pencils or pens

DAY 3

Teach and Apply
Pages 144–145
Focus

To describe the liturgical year of the Catholic Church

Prayer

Presentation

Read, discuss, and summarize content.

Our Catholic Identity: The Angelus

Activity

Describe your favorite time of the liturgical year.

Materials

- index cards
- pencils or pens

Options

Enriching the Lesson (TG page 235)

Making Seasonal Banners

Additional Activities booklet

We Match Liturgy Terms and Their Definitions (Activity 11)

DAY 4

Connect and Apply
Pages 146–147
Focus

To learn about Las Posadas

Prayer

Our Church Makes a Difference

Explain the meaning of the celebration of Las Posadas.

What Difference Does Faith Make in My Life?

Activity

Create a prayer to thank God for the gift of his love.

Faith Choice

Pray your prayer at least once a day.

Materials

- pencils or pens

Options

Enriching the Lesson (TG page 235)

Developing Word Games

DAY 5

Pray and Remember
Pages 148–149

We Pray

Prayer of praise: “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”

We Remember

To Help You Remember

Activity: Complete the review exercises.

With My Family

Highlight features of the chapter family page.

Materials

- pencils or pens

Options

Additional Activities booklet

We Plan a Liturgical Prayer Service (Activity 11a)

Assessment Tools booklet

Administer chapter 11 test.

Music Connection (TG page 235)



Celebrating God's Love for Us



11

We Pray

Give praise to the
LORD God.

Great are his works.
BASED ON PSALM 111:1, 2

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

*What are some ways
you work together with
others?*

Family members work
together at home.
Students and teachers
work together.
Members of the Church
work together too.
Celebrating the liturgy
is one of the important
works of the Church.

*What are some of the
ways you take part in
the liturgy?*

The blessing of the
water used in Baptism
at the Easter Vigil

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Day 1

Engage

PRAY

- Divide the class into two groups. Ask one group to pray aloud Psalm 111:1, 2 and the other group to pray the opening prayer.
- Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross together.

DISCOVER

Purpose: To assess the children's understanding of the liturgy of the Catholic Church

- Have the students look at the photo on this page. Have a volunteer describe what the photo is showing. Tell the students that they will learn more about the liturgy in this chapter.
- Ask the children to name some ways they work together at school or at home.
- Read aloud the opening paragraph.
- Invite the children to think of the ways they take part in the liturgy.



National Directory for Catechesis

Implementing the National Directory for Catechesis:

Learning by Discipleship. The National Directory teaches, "Mary is the first disciple, a unique instrument of Revelation and a model for all disciples" (NDC 29B, page 99). To honor Mary as the first disciple and to encourage the children to follow her example, pray the Angelus (found on page 389) before lunch every day. Choose a volunteer to call the students to prayer by ringing a small bell each day at the noon hour.

Teach

FOCUS

Read the "Faith Focus" question aloud. Have the children silently think about how they might answer it. Tell them that these two pages will help them learn more about the liturgy of the Catholic Church.

DISCOVER

- Invite the children to silently read the first three paragraphs of "The Liturgy of the Church." Ask them to circle the word *liturgy* and to underline any form of the word *blessing* each time they read it.
- Discuss why we call the liturgy of the Church the work of the Trinity. See second paragraph on this page.
- Ask a volunteer to read the text on page 141.
- Discuss with the children the many blessings we receive in the liturgy.

Blessing and Thanking God

Faith Focus

Why does the Church gather to celebrate the liturgy?

Faith Vocabulary

Liturgy. The work of the Church, the Body of Christ, of worshipping God.



The Liturgy of the Church

When the Church gathers to celebrate the *liturgy*, it is doing an important work. The word *liturgy* means "a public work," or "work of the people." The liturgy is the work of the Church, the Body of Christ, of worshipping God.

The liturgy is also the work of God the Holy Trinity. God the Father blesses us with the gift of the Son. Jesus the Son of God blesses us with his Body and Blood. God the Holy Spirit blesses us with the gift of God's own life and love.



The priest leads the assembly of the faithful who have gathered to worship God. The priest acts together with and in the name and person of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church.

FAITH WORDS

Faith Vocabulary

Liturgy. The Greek roots of the word *liturgy* mean "the work or action of the people." In ancient Greece, liturgy designated a public service or ritual. The liturgy of the Church is the work of the whole Church, of Christ the Head of the Church and all the members of the Body of Christ. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1140.) Most of the children are aware of the ministry of the priest at Mass. They may not be aware of the many other people who assist the priest and the worshipping assembly. Review with the children the roles and functions of deacons, lectors (readers), extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, altar servers, and song leaders and musicians.

Apply

REINFORCE

- Make statements about the role of the priest and the entire worshipping assembly in the liturgy based on the last paragraph on page 140 and the text on page 141.
- Ask the children to stand if the statement is true and remain seated if it is false.
- Have the children make a word card for *liturgy*.

INTEGRATE

- Invite the children to take a moment to think about the many blessings they and their families enjoy.
- Have them work independently to complete the "Blessing and Thanking God" activity.
- Invite volunteers to share their responses with the class.

PRAYER

Gather the children for prayer. Pray Psalm 66:3, 4 together. Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.

In the liturgy, the Church gathers with Jesus Christ. We both receive God's blessings and bless and give thanks to God the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Church prays,

"How wonderful are you, LORD God.

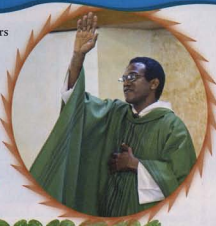
Everyone on earth worships you and sings praises to you."

BASED ON PSALM 66:3, 4



How is the liturgy the work of the Holy Trinity?

Affirm appropriate responses.



Blessing and Thanking God

Describe several blessings you and your family enjoy. How can you show your thanks to God for them during the week?

Responses will vary.



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Teaching Tip

Blessings and Thanksgiving. To do the activity on this page the children need to be in touch with the many blessings that they share. In our media-driven culture, blessings are often related to the number of things we have. Help the students discover that other blessings are priceless and include time with their family, health, the gift of friendship, and so on. Before the children begin their activity, have them brainstorm a list of their blessings and write their responses on the board. After the activity take time to praise and thank God together.

Enriching the Lesson

The "Role-Playing Greeters at Mass" activity on page 235 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 and ask a volunteer to pray aloud Psalm 111:1, 2 or another appropriate psalm verse or prayer.

FOCUS

- Remind the children that the liturgy is the Church's work of worshipping God.
- Read the "Faith Focus" question aloud and ask the children for possible answers. Tell them that these two pages will help them learn more about what the liturgy celebrates.

DISCOVER

- Present the introductory paragraph in your own words, inviting responses to the question that begins the paragraph.
 - Call on volunteers to read aloud the paragraphs of "Celebrating God's Work" to discover what the Church remembers and celebrates at the liturgy.
 - Discuss what "remembering" during the liturgy means.
 - Invite the students to explain the connection between the Paschal Mystery and the liturgy.
- Through the liturgy we take part, or are made sharers, in Christ's Passion, death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension.

Faith Focus

What do we remember and celebrate in the liturgy?

Faith Vocabulary

Paschal Mystery. The mystery of Jesus' passing over from suffering and death to new and glorious life; Christ's work of Salvation accomplished by his Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension.



What do you see and hear when you take part in the celebration of Mass? When you take part in the celebration of Mass, you are taking part in the celebration of the liturgy of the Church. The liturgy of the Church centers around the Eucharist and the other sacraments.

Celebrating God's Work

Through the celebration of the liturgy, we become sharers in the saving work of Jesus Christ and in the life of God. We remember, celebrate, and share in God's work among us today.

The Church joins with Jesus to celebrate the liturgy. We remember and are made sharers in the **Paschal Mystery**. The Paschal Mystery is God's work of saving all people in Jesus Christ. It is the work of Salvation accomplished by Christ's life, Passion, death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension.



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Liturgy Tip

Liturgical Gestures. Talk about the liturgical gestures the children experience at Mass. Discuss the purpose of bowing, sitting, kneeling, genuflecting, raising hands in prayer, and blessing. Explain that these gestures help us give thanks and praise.

Apply

REINFORCE

- Have a volunteer read aloud "Faith-Filled People" to discover an important fact about the life of Saint John the Apostle, namely, he was present at the death of Jesus.
- Read the definition for *Paschal Mystery* in "Faith Vocabulary." Invite the children to make a word card for *Paschal Mystery*.

INTEGRATE

- Explain the directions for the "The Living Word of God" activity.
- Have the children complete the activity with partners.
- Discuss responses to the questions as a class.

PRAY

Gather the children for prayer. Read the following Memorial acclamation to the children, inviting them to echo the phrases after you:

We proclaim your
Death, O Lord, / and
profess your
Resurrection / until
you come again.

Roman Missal

When the Church celebrates the liturgy, "remembering" has a special meaning. It means more than simply recalling what God has done for us in the past. The events of Jesus' life, Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension are made present again. What Jesus did while he was on earth, he continues now. We join with Christ and share in his work of Salvation.

 What is the connection between the *Paschal Mystery* and the liturgy?

Affirm appropriate responses.

Faith-Filled People

John the Apostle

Saint John was the youngest of the Apostles chosen by Jesus. Jesus gave John and his brother James, who was also an Apostle, the nickname "sons of thunder" (Mark 3:17). Saint John stood by the cross with Mary during the suffering and death of Jesus. The Church celebrates the feast day of Saint John the Apostle and Evangelist on December 27.

The Living Word of God

Read and think about Matthew 28:1-10. Then answer these questions.

What is God saying about his love for us?

Responses will vary.

Affirm appropriate responses.

What can you do to proclaim or share that good news with someone else?

Responses will vary.

Affirm appropriate responses.

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Background: Faith-Filled People

Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist. Saint John the Evangelist is the author of the Fourth Gospel, which focuses on the glory and divinity of Jesus. John was a fisherman and the brother of James; both were among the first disciples to be called by Jesus to follow him. (See Matthew 4:21.) John, Peter, and James witnessed the Transfiguration of Jesus. (See Luke 9: 28–36.) Christians honor Saint John the Apostle and Evangelist as the "beloved disciple," based on the account of the Crucifixion in John 19:26. Look up Matthew 20:20–28 and Luke 9:51–54 to learn more about Saint John.

Day 3

Teach

PRAY

Invite the children to quiet themselves for prayer. Pray together the opening prayer on page 139.

FOCUS

- Remind the children that at every liturgy, the Church celebrates and the faithful are made sharers in the Paschal Mystery.
- Read the "Faith Focus" question aloud or have a volunteer read it. Invite the children to think about how they might answer it. Tell them that these two pages will help them understand the seasons of the liturgical year.

DISCOVER

- Draw a large circle on the board and label it "The Liturgical Year." Divide the circle, into seven sections. Put Advent at the top of the circle, add Christmas to the right of Advent, and so on.
- Ask six volunteers to each read aloud one of the paragraphs about a liturgical season. Ask others to go to the board and correctly label the circle with the name of the season that was read aloud.
- Point out that there are two places where Ordinary Time occurs in the liturgical year—between Christmas and Lent and between Easter and Advent.
- Have a volunteer read "Our Catholic Identity" aloud to discover a prayer tradition that celebrates Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world.

Faith Focus

How does the Church celebrate the good news of God's love for us all year long?

Faith Vocabulary

Liturgical year. The Church year of worship; the seasons and feasts that remember and celebrate God's great plan of saving love.

Triduum. The center of the liturgical year; the three-day celebration of Jesus' Paschal Mystery beginning on Holy Thursday and continuing on Good Friday through the Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday.



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When we hear really good news, we want to share it with others over and over again. What good news have you shared with others? Why did you want to share it? We share the good news of God's saving love for us over and over again when we celebrate the liturgy.

The Liturgical Year

The Church celebrates the liturgy every day of the year. This is called the **liturgical year**. The liturgical year is made up of feasts and seasons that celebrate God's great plan of saving love in Christ. These are the seasons of the liturgical year.

Advent. Think about a time when you waited for, or expected, something or someone. The season of Advent is a time of expectation. We wait and prepare for the coming of Jesus. We prepare for our celebration of Christ's first coming and look forward to his Second Coming at the end of time.

Christmas. During the Christmas season we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior of all people, whom God promised to send.

Background: Liturgy

Seasonal Observances. Spend some time today talking with the children about how the Catholic Church celebrates each liturgical season. Recall the Advent wreath we light during Advent. Many parishes display the nativity scene at Christmas. During Lent most parish churches drape the crucifix with purple material. Easter is a very special time. Parishes have Easter lilies, white banners with gold letters, the Easter candle, the white cloth draped over the crucifix, and triumphant music which includes many "Alleluias." During Ordinary Time there are flowers and banners and songs about following Jesus. Discuss with the children the importance of each liturgical season and the sights and sounds associated with each of the seasons.

Apply

REINFORCE

- Ask volunteers to review with you what each season of the liturgical year celebrates.
- Help them connect the symbols on these two pages with their liturgical season.
Advent wreath, Advent; Crèche, Christmas; prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, Lent; Easter candle, Triduum; Jesus and disciples, Ordinary Time; Lamb, Easter.
- Have students create word cards for the terms *liturgical year* and *Triduum*.

INTEGRATE

- Invite the children to work independently to complete the "Celebrating Seasons" activity.
- Have them share their reflection with a friend and discuss what things they do during this time to show their love for God and others.

PRAy

Gather the children for prayer. Invite them to turn to page 389 and pray together The Angelus.

Lent. During the season of Lent we prepare for Easter. Lent is a time to prepare to welcome new members into the Church and to renew our own baptismal promises and profession of faith.

The Triduum. The word *triduum* means "three days." The *Triduum* is the center of the liturgical year. It is our three-day celebration of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday. The *Triduum* begins with the evening celebration of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and concludes with Evening Prayer, or Vespers, on Easter Sunday.

Easter. For fifty days, from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, we continue to celebrate that Christ is risen and will come again.

Ordinary Time. The remaining weeks of the liturgical year are called Ordinary Time. We listen and respond to God's word. We grow in our love for him and others.

- What does the liturgical year celebrate?
- Affirm appropriate responses.

Celebrating Seasons

What is your favorite time of the Church year? What special things do you do during that time to show your love for God and for others?

Responses will vary.



Background: Liturgy

Liturgy of the Hours. Here is some information about the Liturgy of the Hours that you can share with the children: The early Church gathered several times during the day for prayer as was the Jewish custom. This practice developed and became known eventually as the Liturgy of the Hours. But working people did not have time to pray for long hours. So monks, priests, and nuns prayed the Liturgy of the Hours. They prayed eight times a day. Recently, the Church revised the Liturgy of the Hours and encouraged all the members of the Church to pray it, at least in part, every day. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1174–1178.)

Enriching the Lesson

The "Making Seasonal Banners" activity on page 235 is related to today's content. You may wish to include it in today's lesson.

Day 4

Connect

PRAY

Invite the children to quiet themselves for prayer. Ask them to quietly reflect on God's love for us. After a few moments, pray the Lord's Prayer together.

FOCUS

Remind the children that Catholics all over the world celebrate the liturgical seasons in a variety of ways. Tell them that page 146 will help them learn about the Las Posadas tradition of Mexican people.

DISCOVER

- Read aloud or paraphrase "Las Posadas" for the children.
- Have the class act out the story as you tell it. Divide the class into three groups. Have one group include Mary, Joseph, and the crowd that accompanies them on their journey. The other two groups can be households where Jesus and Mary come to ask for shelter.
- Give the students some time to prepare. Check with each group about their ideas and make sure everything is in place and then begin.
- Ask the children to share the message of the Las Posadas celebration. *Reminds us to be ready to open our hearts to God's love.*

INTEGRATE

Invite the children to share with a partner the way their family celebrates Advent and Christmas.

Our Church Makes a Difference

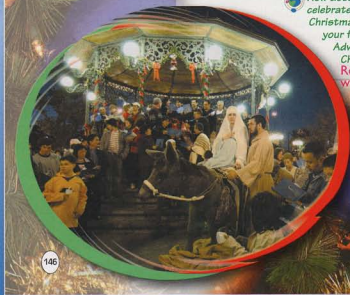
Las Posadas

The people in Mexico celebrate Las Posadas each year during Advent. Las Posadas takes place during the eight days before Christmas. Celebrating Las Posadas helps the people get ready to celebrate the liturgy on Christmas.

Las Posadas acts out Mary and Joseph's looking for a place to stay in Bethlehem. In Mexico the people carry candles and walk in procession through the streets. Two people represent Mary and Joseph and sometimes ride on a donkey. They stop at homes and ask for a place to stay. They are turned away until a family finally welcomes them into their home.

Las Posadas reminds us that we always need to be ready to open our hearts to God's love. It is a wonderful, joyful celebration that shares the good news of God's love with everyone.

 How does your parish celebrate Advent and Christmas? How does your family celebrate Advent and Christmas? Responses will vary.



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 other languages in addition to English to teach the class to say "Thank you" in those languages. This list will also help you.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| • German—danke | • French—merci |
| • Italian—grazie | • Portuguese—obrigado |
| • Spanish—gracias | • Chinese—do deh |

What Difference Does Faith Make in My Life?

Each day God shares his love with you. It is good to take the time to open your heart to God's love. Thank and bless God every day for his love.

Describe one way that you have come to know God's love. Create a prayer to thank God. Pray your prayer.

Thank You, God

Responses will vary.

My Faith Choice

This week I will thank God for his love for me. I will pray the prayer that I have written at least once a day.

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Teaching Tip

Blessings. Asking God's blessing on your children is an effective way to remind them of his love for them. At the end of class, take the time to stand at the door and sign each child's forehead with a cross as you say, "May God bless and keep you."

Day 4

Apply

HIGHLIGHT

Remind the children that it is important to take time every day to open their hearts to God's love.

RESPOND

- Discuss ways that people might gather to thank and bless God.
- Explain the directions to the "Thank You, God" activity and give the students time to complete it.

CHOOSE

- Invite the students to read and respond to "My Faith Choice."
- After a moment of prayerful reflection, have the students review their faith choice.
- Encourage the students to put their faith choice into practice this week.
- If you intend to administer the chapter test from the *Assessment Tools* booklet, you may wish to send the "We Remember" review on page 149 home today as an assignment to help the students prepare for the test.

PRAY

Gather the children for prayer. Invite several volunteers to pray their "Thank you, God" prayers aloud. Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.

Enriching the Lesson

The "Developing Word Games" activity on page 235 is related to today's content. You may wish to include it in today's lesson.

We Pray

PREPARE

- Tell the children that today they are going to praise God in song.
- Rehearse with the children the melody for "Holy, Holy, Holy" that is usually sung in your parish. Your religion coordinator may have a CD that includes this version.
- Remind the children that this hymn is an acclamation, a prayer that honors God.

GATHER

- Call the children to prayer by dimming the light slightly.
- Gather them in the prayer area with their books.

PRAY

- Lead the children in praying the "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" prayer.
- Conclude by playing the music to the "Holy, Holy, Holy" acclamation used in your parish and having the children sing along.

We Pray

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord!

God is the source of all our blessings. At Mass on Easter Sunday we begin the Eucharistic Prayer by praying this or another Preface. We conclude the Preface with the "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" acclamation. An acclamation is a prayer that honors God.

Leader: It is truly right and just, our duty and salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

Through him the children of light rise to eternal life and the halls of the heavenly Kingdom are thrown open to the faithful; for his Death is our ransom from death, and in his rising the life of all has risen.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

PREFACE II OF EASTER, ROMAN MISSAL

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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Liturgy Tip

A Prayer of Acclamation. The prayer today is from the one of the Prefaces for the Easter Season and concludes with the "Holy, Holy, Holy" which is an acclamation. Remind the children that the Prefaces which begin the Eucharistic Prayer are prayers of praise and thanksgiving prayed to God the Father in union with Jesus Christ. (See *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* © 2003 79a and 79b.)

We Remember

What I Have Learned

Write T next to the true statements. Write F next to the false statements. Make the false statements true.

- T 1. The liturgy of the Church centers around the Eucharist and other sacraments.
- T 2. The Paschal Mystery is the Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ.
- F 3. Advent is the center of the liturgical year. Triduum
- T 4. Lent is a time to prepare to welcome new members into the Church.

Use each of these faith terms correctly in a sentence. Responses will vary.

5. liturgy
See page 140.
6. Paschal Mystery
See page 142.
7. liturgical year
See page 144.
8. Triduum
See page 144.

To Help You Remember

1. The Church gathers for liturgy to worship God.
2. In the liturgy we are made sharers in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ.
3. The Church celebrates and shares in God's plan of salvation all year long.

Growing in Faith

One important thing I learned this week is
Responses will vary.

This is important because
Affirm appropriate responses.

What will people see me doing as I live my faith choice this week?
Affirm appropriate responses.

Grade 4 • Chapter 11 149

We Remember

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED

- Allow the children time to complete the true or false activity and then check their work.
- Have the students create sentences using the "Faith vocabulary" words.
- Review the key concepts of the chapter by inviting the children to state three important ideas they will remember. Compare them with the "To Help You Remember" statements.

GROWING IN FAITH

- Give the students a few moments to silently read and think about how they might complete the first two statements in "Growing in Faith." Have them write their answers.
- Canvass the room for responses to the first two statements.
- Have the children turn to page 147 and reread their faith choice. Ask them to think about how they will put that choice into action.



Teaching Tip

True or False. Some children will complete the true or false activity quickly. You might suggest that they underline the word or words that make the sentences false and write the sentence correctly. You might also have them make up their own true or false sentences, based on what they have learned in this chapter.

At Home

ENCOURAGE

Have the children carefully tear out pages 149 and 150 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 149 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.

This Week . . .

In chapter 11, "Celebrating God's Love for Us," your child learned that the liturgy is the Church's work of worshiping 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, to remember and share in his Paschal Mystery. The Paschal Mystery of Christ is his saving Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension. The Church gathers to receive God's blessing and to bless and give thanks to the Father. 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 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 1200-1206.



150

Sharing God's Word

Read together Psalm 66:1-4 and Isaiah 6:1-4. Emphasize that the word *liturgy* means "work of the people." The liturgy is the Church's work of worshiping God.

Praying

In this chapter your child prayed an acclamation. An acclamation is a prayer that honors God. Read and pray the prayer on page 148 together.

Making a Difference

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

- After your family participates in Mass this weekend, name all the people who assisted the priest, for example, the deacon, the readers, and the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Then talk about the many ways that the assembly takes part in Mass.
- The word *eucharist* means "thanksgiving." Talk about how your family gives thanks to God.
- Invite each family member to share which of the liturgical seasons is their favorite. Ask each person to explain their answer.

For more ideas on ways your family can live your faith, visit the "Faith First for Families" page at www.FaithFirst.com. Click on "Current Events" this week to find an article on an especially interesting topic.



Before Moving On . . .

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

How can I affirm the wonderful gift of a sense of humor that I observe in some of the children?

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

Role-Playing Greeters at Mass

Purpose

To reinforce the concept of liturgy (taught on pages 140 and 141)

Directions

- Discuss with the children the roles of the liturgical ministers they see at Mass.
- Have the children form small groups and role-play the role of greeters.
- Allow time for the children to present their role-plays.
- Have the children ask their families to sign up as greeters or to take part in the offertory procession.

Materials

none

Making Seasonal Banners

Purpose

To reinforce the seasons of the liturgical year (taught on pages 144 and 145)

Directions

Have the children think about the colors, the music, the words, the stories, the decorations, and the objects of their favorite liturgical season.

- In small groups have them design banners for the principal liturgical seasons.
- Have them include symbols appropriate for that season. The images on pages 144 and 145 could give them ideas.
- Provide each group with a piece of cloth in the appropriate color and small pieces of felt and other fabric from which to cut shapes and letters to glue on the cloth.
- Display their work.

Materials

different pieces of colored cloth
pieces of colored felt or fabric

scissors and glue
construction paper
crayons and markers

Developing Word Games

Purpose

To reinforce the faith vocabulary of the children (taught in all previous chapters)

Directions

- Have the children work with partners to develop vocabulary games using the word cards from all eleven chapters.
- They can choose from among crossword puzzles, word searches, matching activities, and codes. All will help the children reinforce the vocabulary they have learned.
- When doing a word search, make sure they add a direction to use the words in a sentence. This will reinforce their understanding of the meaning of the words as well as their word recognition skills.
- Have the children exchange and complete the activities.

Materials

blank paper
pens and pencils



Music Connection

- "Blessed Be the Lord, My Rock," L. Theiss. *Rise Up and Sing (RUS)* #264.
- "Glory and Praise to Our God," D. Schutte. *RUS* #249.
- "God's Love Is Eternal," P. Tate. *Voices As One (VAO)* #29.
- "Only in God," J. M. Talbot. *VAO* #71.