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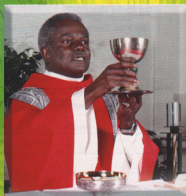
Unit 2 Opener

The unit opener pages are designed to assess, through a variety of questioning techniques, the students' 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 key faith concepts in the unit. Pictures help stimulate the religious imaginations of the young people.

- Invite the students to look at and think about the pictures.
- Ask volunteers to describe what each picture says to them.
- Invite the young people to share a response to the question.



What do we celebrate when we celebrate the Eucharist?

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Background: Liturgy

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

The sessions will provide you with multiple ways of identifying young people's understanding of the truths of the faith of the Catholic Church.

Getting Ready

What I Have Learned

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

Sacraments of Christian Initiation

Responses will vary.

Sacraments at the Service of Communion

Responses will vary.

Liturgy of the Word

Responses will vary.

Words to Know

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

Faith Vocabulary

- ☐ liturgy
- ☐ Passover
- ☐ Sabbath
- ☐ Confirmation
- ☐ Eucharist
- ☐ parabls
- ☐ 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?

Responses will vary.

A Scripture Story



Studying the Scriptures

What does Sacred Scripture teach about living a holy life?

Responses will vary.
Affirm appropriate responses.

GETTING READY

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

What I Have Learned

This section asks the students to share something they already know about the liturgy and the sacraments of the Catholic Church. Read the faith terms aloud and ask volunteers to share what they know about each faith concept.

Words to Know

This section is a quick assessment of the students' familiarity with some of the faith vocabulary terms they will be learning. Read each term to the group. 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 have the students return to this page and once again share their understanding of the faith vocabulary terms.

Questions I Have

This section provides an opportunity for the young people to ask questions about the words and actions the Catholic Church uses in the celebration of the sacraments. Write their questions on newsprint. Refer to the chart as you work through the unit, asking volunteers to answer the questions.

A Scripture Story

This section uses an illustration from the Scripture chapter about the Letter to the Ephesians. Have the students look at the illustration and answer the question.

Literature Connection

Reinforce Old Testament Themes. Introduce young people to the following contemporary books:

Celebrating Passover by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith (Holiday House, 2000) portrays a typical Ohio Jewish family's celebration of Passover. Read this book aloud during the teaching of Chapter 12. Invite the young people to compare elements in the Passover celebration with the Christian celebration of Eucharist.

David: A Biography by accomplished children's writer Barbara Cohen (Houghton Mifflin, 1995) expands on the teaching about David in Chapter 14, offering a multifaceted portrait of the man who was soldier, poet, king, and religious leader of Israel. Emphasize how young David was when God chose him for leadership.

Celebrating the Liturgy

Background

The Work of the Whole Church

When you hear the word *liturgy*, what first comes to your mind? Most of us quickly, even instinctively, focus on the Mass, or Eucharist. Perhaps this is so because participating in the celebration of the Eucharist is our most common experience of the liturgy.

It is important, however, not to equate the liturgy of the Church with the Eucharist. The liturgy of the Church is her work of participating in the Paschal Mystery of Christ. "Through the liturgy Christ our high priest continues the work of our redemption through the Church's celebration of the Paschal Mystery by which he accomplished our salvation" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "Glossary"; see also 1067–1069). This work is accomplished through the celebration of the seven sacraments as well as the Liturgy of the Hours, or Divine Office.

The liturgy of the Church is the work of the whole Church. It is the work of both Christ, the Head of the Church, and her members. When the Church celebrates the liturgy, Christ, our High Priest, is present, leading her. For example, when the Church anoints the sick, it is Jesus Christ who anoints the



sick and invites them to faith in God. When the Church celebrates the Eucharist, Christ is present in a unique way. He is truly and really present under the appearances of bread and wine, which have become his Body and Blood.

Sacramental Signs

The seven sacraments are signs of God's love given to us by Christ, the Incarnate Son of God, that make us sharers in the life and love of God. The ordinary things of the visible world, such as water, oil, bread, and wine, are signs of God's love for us. The Church transforms and uses these natural

signs in the celebration of her liturgy. The breaking of bread and the sharing of the cup of wine, which have become the Body and Blood of Christ, the washing with water, the anointing with oil, the exchanging of promises, and the laying on of hands are used to visibly affirm God's active presence with us in the sacraments.

Catholic liturgy proclaims Sacred Scripture, the word of God, in all her celebrations of the sacraments. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1154.) God is present in his word. Hearing his word helps us recall the divine plan of creation and salvation. It affords us the opportunity to give our assent to God's own word to us.

As we prepare for the celebration of the liturgy, we need to be aware that it is through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that we give honor and glory to the Father.

For Reflection

Which of the many signs, the words and actions, used in the celebration of the sacraments manifests most clearly for me the presence of God at work in the Church and in my life?

What might I do to increase my active participation in the celebration of the Eucharist?

Catechist to Catechist

The Work of the Church

The liturgy is the work, or activity, of the whole Church. This is an important concept for sixth graders. 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” (Vatican II, *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* 14). The word *all* includes young people as well as adults.

Encouraging Participation

To help the students appreciate that the liturgy is a community activity, or the work of the whole Church, list the names of all the participants in the celebration of the Mass. Explain the roles of the worshipping assembly, priest and deacon, ministers of the word, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, song leader, organist, choir, altar servers, and greeters. Talk about how the sixth graders can more fully participate in the liturgy.



The Church Teaches . . .

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (SC) of the Second Vatican Council teaches about the structure and purpose of the liturgical year. In this document we read:

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.

Vatican II, *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* 102

That is why *Faith First* emphasizes catechesis on 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 1206.

CATECHIST PRAYER

*Holy Spirit, you guide the Church.
Help me bring the wonder of my
senses, the longing of my heart, and
the goodness of my soul to the
celebration of the liturgy. Amen.*

LESSON PLANNER

Focus

To explain why the Church celebrates the liturgy and the sacraments

Engage

Page 97

Focus

To assess what the young people understand about the rituals of the Church

Teach and Apply

Pages 98–100

Focus

To explain and discover the Catholic Church's teaching on the liturgy and the sacraments

Connect

Pages 101–102

Focus

To demonstrate ways we celebrate our unity in Jesus at the Eucharist

Opening Prayer

Discussion

- Rituals as part of our lives
- Rituals the Catholic Church celebrates

Presentation

Read, discuss, and summarize content.

Scripture

Psalm 95:6

Activities

- Describe how the words and actions of the Mass help us understand what is happening.
- Describe what the stained-glass images tell about each sacrament.
- Illustrate a liturgical season or feast of the Church.

Faith-Filled People

Abraham

Our Church Makes a Difference

Throughout the world, the Catholic Church proclaims the same Gospel and shares the same Eucharist.

Our Catholic Identity

The Rites of the Catholic Church

What Difference Does Faith Make?

Activity

Identify how the rites of the Church help you take part in her celebrations.

Faith Choice

Choose a way to remember that we join with Jesus in our celebration of Mass this week.

We Pray

Page 103

Prayer Form

Prayer of praise

Prayer

Introduce the doxology, and then pray it together.

We Remember

Review

- Complete the matching activity.
- Read the "To Help You Remember" statements aloud.

Preview

Highlight features of the "With My Family" page.

Materials

- Bibles
- colored pencils or markers
- pens or pencils

Enrichment Activities

Blackline Masters

Additional Activities booklet:

Chapter 11

Creating a liturgical wheel

Writing a sacrament poem

Assessment Tools booklet:

Chapter 11 Test

Enriching the Lesson (CG page 181)

Creating Greetings of Joy

Designing Symbols for the Sacraments

Creating a Liturgical Seasons Mural

Music Connection (CG page 181)

www.FaithFirst.com



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

Catechists and Teachers

- Current Events
- Chapter Downloads
- Catechist Prayer

Faith First for Families

- Bible Alive
- Make a Difference

Kids Only Club

- *Faith First* Activities
- Chapter Reviews
- Games
- Saints

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

Celebrating the Liturgy



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?*

Blessing of baptismal water
at the Easter Vigil

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Engage

PRAY

- Ask the young people to gather and quiet their minds and hearts for prayer.
- Tell them to bow their heads when they hear Psalm 95:6 prayed aloud.
- Begin and conclude the prayer with the praying of the Sign of the Cross.
- Pray Psalm 95:6, bowing your head as you pray the words aloud.
- Have the young people respond by praying the opening prayer together.

DISCOVER

- Purpose:** To assess what the young people know about the liturgy of the Catholic Church
- Have the young people look at the photo. Explain that the photo depicts the celebration of the ritual of the blessing of the water at the Easter Vigil.
 - Ask volunteers to share rituals that are a part of their lives.
 - Read the opening paragraph aloud and have the young people name the rituals of the Catholic Church they know.



Background: Liturgy

The Easter Candle. The Easter, or Paschal, candle is the most prominent sign of the Risen Jesus in the parish church. The burning Easter candle represents Jesus as the Light of the world. The Greek letters A (alpha) and Ω (omega) represent the beginning and the end of God's plan of goodness and salvation. Blessed and first lit at the Easter Vigil, the Easter candle is lit and stands in the sanctuary near the altar for all celebrations of the Eucharist during the fifty days of the Easter season. After Pentecost the candle is placed near the baptismal font or baptismal pool and lit at Baptisms. The lit Easter candle also stands near the body of the deceased during the celebration of funerals.

Teach

FOCUS

Read the "Faith Focus" question aloud and ask the students to silently reflect on how they would answer it. Point out that the sacraments make us sharers in the life of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

DISCOVER

- Write the headings "Liturgy" and "Sacraments" on the board.
- Ask the young people for words or phrases that describe these terms and write their responses under the appropriate word.
- Have the students read "The Liturgy" silently and highlight key words and phrases as they read.
- Invite volunteers to write under the appropriate heading on the board any additional words or phrases they have learned from their reading.

Apply

REINFORCE

- Ask volunteers to describe the work of the Holy Spirit in the celebration of the liturgy and the sacraments.
- Create vocabulary word cards for *liturgy* and *sacraments*.

INTEGRATE

- Introduce the sacrament activity and have the young people complete it.
- Ask volunteers to share their responses.

The Liturgy and the Body of Christ

Faith Focus

Why does the Church celebrate the sacraments?

Faith Vocabulary

liturgy. The Church's work of worshiping 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?

Responses will vary.
Affirm appropriate responses.



We are baptized in water and receive the Holy Spirit.



We receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be witnesses for Christ.



The bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.



The Church has the power to forgive sins.

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Liturgy Tip

What We Believe. Share with the students that by participating in the liturgy we are made sharers in the life and work of Jesus Christ. Point out that this chapter will share with them what it means to continue the actions of Jesus in today's world. Emphasize that they will learn about the rhythm of the seasons of the Church's liturgical year and the blessedness of time.

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 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.

Responses will vary. Affirm appropriate responses.



We are anointed
with oil.



Bishops, priests are
ordained to preach
the Gospel.



Married couples are to
love each other forever.

Faith-Filled People

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.

Teach

FOCUS

Remind the young people that every celebration of the liturgy and sacraments is a celebration of the whole Church, Christ, the Head of the Church, and her members. Point out that the celebration of the sacraments includes rituals that combine words with signs and symbolic actions.

DISCOVER

- Ask volunteers to read aloud "Sacramental Signs" and have the other students highlight key points as they read along.
- Have the young people recall the words and signs and symbolic actions they experience during the celebration of the Eucharist.
- Ask volunteers to share what the words and signs and symbolic actions tell us about what is happening during the celebration of the Eucharist.

Apply

REINFORCE

- Ask volunteers to share how they would answer a friend who asks, "Why do you celebrate the sacraments?"
- Point out that the sacraments are celebrations of faith. Then have the young people silently read about Abraham in "Faith-Filled People."

INTEGRATE

Introduce the closing activity and have the young people work with partners to complete it.

Background: Faith-Filled People

Abraham, Our Father in Faith. In Eucharistic Prayer I the Church proclaims Abraham to be our father in faith. Abraham is honored as a person of deep faith by Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Genesis 12:1-9 tells us that God revealed himself to Abraham and called Abraham to take his family and leave his homeland, declaring, "Go forth and I will make you a great nation." Abraham's assent to God was unconditional. Not fully understanding God's request and promise, Abraham set forth, trusting God.

Teach

FOCUS

Remind the students that through the use of words and signs and symbolic actions, the Church celebrates the liturgy. Point out that the Church celebrates the liturgy every day and that this day-to-day, year-long celebration of the liturgy is made up of a cycle of feasts and seasons.

DISCOVER

- Divide the class into seven smaller groups. Give each group a card with the name of one of the liturgical seasons written on it, namely—Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter Triduum, Easter, and Ordinary Time—or the word Feasts.
- Have each group read silently about the part of the liturgical year assigned to it and write a statement that gives us a clue about it.

Apply

REINFORCE

Call on a volunteer from each group to read its statement aloud and have the other students name that part of the liturgical year.

INTEGRATE

- Call the young people's attention to the photo and the caption on page 100.
- Introduce the activity and have the young people complete it.
- Invite volunteers to share the special days of the liturgical year that have meaning for their family.

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.

Affirm appropriate responses.

Teaching Tip

Using Scripture to Reinforce. You might share these Gospel passages with each group before they prepare their statement on the part of the liturgical year assigned to them. Each passage will reinforce their understanding of the liturgical year.

- Advent—Luke 1:26–38 (Annunciation)
- Christmas—Luke 2:1–14 (Nativity)
- Ordinary Time—Zacchaeus and Jesus, Luke 19:1–10 (Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time)
- Lent—Matthew 4:1–11 (Temptation of Jesus in the Desert)
- Triduum—John 13:1–15 (Washing of the Apostles' Feet)
- Easter—Matthew 28:1–10 (Resurrection)
- Feasts—Matthew 5:1–12 (All Saints)

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



Our Catholic Identity

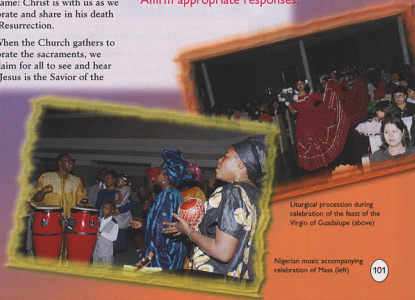
The Rites of the Catholic Church

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.

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?

Affirm appropriate responses.



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

Nigerian music accompanying celebration of Mass (left)

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HIGHLIGHT

Remind the young people that the liturgy is the Church's work of worshipping God. Point out that wherever they go in the world the Catholic Church celebrates the sacraments in essentially the same way.

DISCOVER

- Invite volunteers to read aloud "One Faith, One Lord."
- Discuss with the young people their experiences of participating in the celebration of Mass in a parish other than their own in another state or country.
- Ask volunteers to compare the similarities and differences of the celebration with the celebration of the liturgy in their home parish.

INTEGRATE

- Read aloud to the young people "The Rites of the Catholic Church" in the "Our Catholic Identity" box. If any of the young people have experienced the celebration of the liturgy in an Eastern rite of the Catholic Church, invite them to share what they saw and heard.
- Ask the students to look at the photos on the page. Discuss what the photos say to them about the liturgy of the Catholic Church.



Background: Liturgy

Liturgical Diversity Within the Church. There are a variety of liturgical traditions within the Catholic Church. These traditions manifest the catholicity of the Church. They show forth the unity of the Church expressed in diversity. "The mystery of Christ is so unfathomably rich that it cannot be exhausted by its expression in any single liturgical tradition" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1201).

Connect

HIGHLIGHT

Recall with the young people that Jesus always leads the Church in celebrating the sacraments. Point out that the Church always prays in, with, and through Christ in union with the Holy Spirit.

RESPOND

- Introduce and explain the directions to the "Celebrating the Eucharist" activity and have the young people complete it.
- Ask volunteers to share their responses.

CHOOSE

- Invite the young people to read and reflect on "My Faith Choice."
- After a moment of prayerful reflection, have them write their faith choice.
- Encourage the students to put their faith choice into practice this week.

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?

Affirm appropriate responses.



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

Affirm appropriate responses.

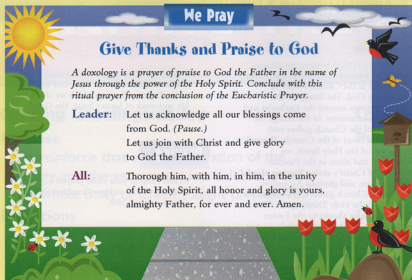
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Teaching Tip

Liturgical Vestments. Review with the young people the names of the vestments worn by the priest and deacon during the celebration of the Eucharist.

- Alb: A long, white vestment tied at the waist with a cincture, or cord, worn by priests and deacons.
- Stole: A long strip of cloth in the color of the liturgical season worn over the alb by priests and deacons.
- Chasuble: The outer liturgical garment worn by the priest. It matches the liturgical color of the season.
- Dalmatic: The outer liturgical garment worn by the deacon. It also matches the liturgical color of the season.



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

- e 1. liturgy
- b 2. Paschal Mystery
- d 3. sacraments
- a 4. liturgical year
- c 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.

Grade 6 • Chapter 11

105

Pray

WE PRAY

- Gather the young people for prayer.
- Introduce "Give Thanks and Praise to God."
- Pray the doxology together, beginning and ending by praying the Sign of the Cross.

Review

WE REMEMBER

- Have the young people complete the "We Remember" matching activity.
- Ask volunteers to share their answers.
- Read aloud the "To Help You Remember" statements to the young people. Then have them close their books.
- Ask them to fill in the blanks as you again read each of the "To Help You Remember" statements to them, leaving out key words. In the first statement, leave out *worshipping God*; in the second, leave out *sacraments*; in the third, leave out *praises*.
- After all the missing words have been supplied correctly, have the young people open their books and read each statement aloud a final time.



Liturgy Tip

Sung Prayers. The closing prayer for this session is the doxology that is prayed at the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer at every Mass. If the young people are familiar with one of the melodies commonly used in the parish, sing the doxology as you pray the closing prayer.

ENCOURAGE

Have the young people carefully tear out pages 103 and 104 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 activity on page 103 by the end of the session, emphasize that they can complete it with their family.

VISIT FAITHFIRST.COM

- Share with the young people the many activities on the Faith First Web site.
- Encourage them to visit www.FaithFirst.com.

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.



104

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.



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 students enjoyed most was . . .

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

because . . .

Something I would like to do differently is . . .

Before Moving On . . .

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

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

ENRICHING THE LESSON

Creating Greetings of Joy

Purpose

To reinforce that every celebration of the liturgy and the sacraments is a celebration of the whole Body of Christ (taught on page 98)

Directions

- Have the young people develop a list of joyful greetings they can use to welcome people as they gather for the Eucharist.
- Have the young people sign up to be ministers of hospitality and greet parishioners, using the greetings they have created. Be sure to get permission for this activity.
- Gather together after the students have had the experience of being ministers of hospitality to talk about what it was like to greet parishioners coming to celebrate the liturgy.

Materials

paper and pens or pencils

Designing Symbols for the Sacraments

Purpose

To reinforce that each celebration of the sacraments combines words and signs and symbolic actions (taught on page 99)

Directions

- Show the young people water, oil, and bread. Encourage them to eat the bread, to bless themselves with the water, and to dip their fingers in the oil and rub it on the palms of their hands.
- Next, invite the young people to work in small groups and use words and illustrations to design a symbol to represent a sacrament they have received.
- Have the young people share their symbols with the class.

Materials

construction paper, markers or crayons

Creating a Liturgical Seasons Mural

Purpose

To reinforce that the liturgical year of the Church is made up of seasons and feasts (taught on page 100)

Directions

- Divide the class into six groups and assign a liturgical season to each group.
- Have the young people work together to create a mural depicting what the Church celebrates in each of the liturgical seasons.
- Remind the groups to use both words and symbols and the liturgical colors for each season.
- Display the completed mural in your learning space or, with proper permission, in a public place in the parish.

Materials

large mural paper
different colors of construction paper
scissors
glue sticks
markers, crayons, or colored chalk



Music Connection

- "All Are Welcome," M. Haugen. *Gather Comprehensive (GC)* #753.
- "Gather Us In," M. Haugen. *GC* #744.
- "I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say," S. Warner. *Voices As One* #41.
- "Psalm 122: Let Us Go Rejoicing," M. Jonas. *GC* #120.