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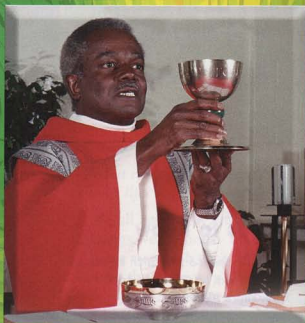
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Unit 2 • We Worship



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

Getting Ready

What I Have Learned

What is something you already know about these faith terms?

Sacraments of Christian Initiation

Sacraments at the Service of Communion

Sacraments of Healing

Words to Know

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

Faith Vocabulary

- liturgy
- Passover
- Sabbath
- Confirmation
- Eucharist
- parables
- Liturgy of the Word
- Holy Communion

Questions I Have

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

A Scripture Story



Studying the Scriptures

What does Sacred Scripture teach about living a holy life?

Celebrating the Liturgy

11

We Pray

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

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

*What rituals are a part of
your life?*

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

*What rituals of the Church do
you know?*

The Liturgy and the Body of Christ

Faith Focus

Why does the Church come together to worship God?

Faith Vocabulary

liturgy. The Church's work of worshipping God.

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

One Monday morning you are walking by a Catholic church. You decide to stop and go in. Once inside, you notice a priest, an altar server, and a group of people taking part in the celebration of Mass. It is something you have seen over and over again. But what are you seeing? Are you seeing what is really taking place?

The Liturgy

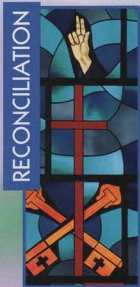
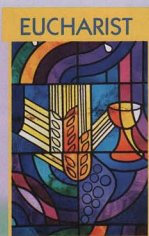
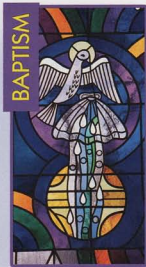
What you have witnessed is the celebration of the **liturgy**. What you are seeing is the **Body of Christ**, alive with the Holy Spirit, giving praise and thanksgiving to God the Father.

The mystery of Salvation in Christ is made present by the power of the Holy Spirit. The work of the Holy Spirit is to prepare the assembly to meet Christ and to recall and make him known to the assembly.

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.

At the center of the liturgy is the Eucharist and the other sacraments. The sacraments are signs given to us by Christ. They are signs of God's grace through which we share in his life.

Just as road signs guide us in a direction, sacramental signs also point to something beyond what we see. Christ's saving work is being made present to us by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are sharing in the life of the Holy Trinity. Christ touches our lives and we are changed. This is a great mystery of our faith.



Celebrations of the Whole Church

Every celebration of the liturgy and sacraments is a celebration of the whole Body of Christ, the Church. It is a celebration of Christ, the Head of his Body, and all the members of the Body of Christ. We join with Christ who himself leads the Church in her celebration. It is Christ himself who presides over, or leads, the Church in her celebration.

- At Baptism, for example, when the priest says, "I baptize you," he speaks in the name of Jesus, who baptizes.

- In the Eucharist when the priest says, "This is *my* body," he speaks in the name of Jesus, who gives us his Body and Blood in the forms of bread and wine.

Because Jesus acts in the sacraments, the sacraments really do what they say they do. They unflinchingly allow us to share in Christ's saving work and make us sharers in the life of God. The sacraments anticipate the coming of the Kingdom of God and give us grace to get there.



What does the liturgy of the Church celebrate?

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



HOLY ORDERS



The Sacraments

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.

MATRIMONY



Faith Focus

What are some of the signs and symbolic actions used in the sacraments?

- We experience many signs.
- Some signs are word signs, such as “Room 102,” and indicate places. Other signs are action signs, such as billowing smoke, that points to a blazing fire. Still other signs combine pictures and words, such as road signs, and guide us to drive safely.

Sacramental Signs

Jesus used a variety of signs and symbolic actions during his life on earth. He anointed people and placed his hands on them.

He talked about the ordinary signs of water, darkness, and light to point to the mystery of God and our life with God. He gave deeper meaning to such ordinary human activities as eating and drinking, washing and anointing.



Eucharist

Sacramental celebrations combine words and signs with symbolic actions such as immersing in water, breaking bread, anointing with oil, and imposing of hands. It makes sense that the Church would use words, signs, and symbolic actions—

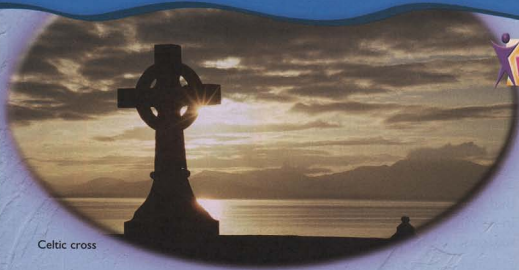
things that we can see, touch, and hear—in the celebration of the sacraments. Through these signs, Jesus brings us into the mysteries of his life and into the very life of God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Holy Orders



Confirmation



Celtic cross

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.

Paschal Mystery

What is the work of Jesus when his Church, the Body of Christ, gathers with him for the celebration of the sacraments? He makes his Paschal Mystery, his Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension, present to us so that we can share in it and let it move us toward God's kingdom.

The celebration of the sacraments helps us take part in Jesus' passing from life to death and reminds us that we have been promised eternal life. 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.

The sacraments give us a glimpse at the fullness of life that God has prepared for all his faithful ones. In Jesus, the Father prepared the way for all to receive the great gift of new and resurrected life. Jesus said:

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me,

even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

JOHN 11:25-26

On the last day, we will rise bodily and see God face-to-face. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

1 JOHN 3:2



Why do Christ and his Body, the Church, use signs and symbolic actions to celebrate the sacraments?

Understanding Jesus Through the Liturgy

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

Faith Focus

How can we use the seasons of the liturgical year to celebrate Christ's life and grow closer to him?

Faith Vocabulary

liturgical year. The Church's yearly cycle of seasons and feasts that celebrate the mysteries of Jesus' birth, life, death, and Resurrection.

The calendar year is filled with signs and actions that let us know what time of the year we are in. Each season of the calendar year invites us to take part in it in unique ways. The Church year is called the **liturgical year**. It too is filled with signs and actions that invite us to participate in it in ways unique to each of its seasons.

The Liturgical Year

The liturgical year is not simply the passing of time. Each year is a time of grace. Each year is a celebration, a yearlong celebration of our life in Christ.

Advent

The liturgical year begins with the Advent season. Advent begins on the last Sunday in November or the first Sunday in December and lasts about four weeks. Advent is a time of preparation for Christ's coming among us.

Christmas

The Christmas season celebrates that the Son of God took on flesh and became one of us without giving up his divinity. Jesus is true God and true man. Christmas is not a one-day celebration but includes the celebration of Mary, the Mother of God, Epiphany, and the Baptism of the Lord. The word *epiphany* means "manifestation or making something known for all to see." Epiphany manifests that Jesus is the Savior of the whole world.



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

Lent

The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, which is about forty days before Easter, not counting Sundays. Lent calls us to change our hearts, seek God's forgiveness, add new members for initiation into the Church, and renew our commitment to live our Baptism.

Easter Triduum

The center of the whole liturgical year is the Easter Triduum, or "the three days" of celebration beginning on Holy Thursday evening, continuing on Good Friday, and ending with the celebrations of the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.

Easter

The fifty days of the Easter season are a time of joyfully proclaiming and celebrating the Resurrection and the mystery of the new life that we have in the Risen and Glorified Christ. On the fortieth day after Easter, the Church celebrates the Ascension of the Lord. Ten days later we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, which concludes the Easter season.

Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time is the longest time of the liturgical year. There are two parts that make up Ordinary Time. During Ordinary Time we hear stories from Jesus' public ministry from one of the four accounts of the Gospel—Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. We learn about and work at growing as disciples of Jesus.

Sundays

Every Sunday is really a celebration of Easter. It is the Lord's Day, the day of the Lord's Resurrection. We gather around the Risen Lord, who is truly present with us, drawing us into new life with God.

Solemnities and Feasts

Throughout the liturgical year the Church celebrates solemnities and feasts of the Lord and of Mary, the Apostles, martyrs, and other holy men and women. We praise and thank God for what he has done for us through them and is doing for us through the holy men and women in our world today.



What is your favorite season of the liturgical year? How do you celebrate it?



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.

The Liturgical Year

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

Our Church Makes a Difference



Indian dancers during liturgy celebrated by Pope John Paul II

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.

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



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

When the Church gathers to celebrate the sacraments, we proclaim for all to see and hear that Jesus is the Savior of the whole world and of all people. All people are invited to be joined to Christ in Baptism. There is one faith and one Lord, one God who is the Father of all. All people are invited to share in the new life of Christ. All people have the promise of eternal life.



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

Nigerian music accompanying celebration of Mass (left)



What Difference Does Faith Make in My Life?

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

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



Celebrating the Eucharist

What the Church Does

How These Help Me Participate

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

Give Praise and Thanks 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: Lord God, Father of all,
you are the source of all goodness and blessings.
Your Son is your greatest gift to us.
Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts
to give you praise and thanksgiving.

Reader 1: For the gift of Jesus Christ, in whose image the
world was created,

All: we praise you and give you thanks.

Reader 2: For the gift of Jesus Christ who suffered, died, and
was raised from the dead so we might enjoy the
promise of eternal life,

All: we praise you and give you thanks.

Reader 3: For Mary, the Mother of God, the Mother of Jesus,
and the Mother of the Church, whose yes to you
gave us Jesus,

All: we praise you and give you thanks.

Reader 4: For all the saints whose faith, hope, and love model
for us ways to say yes to your invitation to know,
love, and serve you,

All: we praise you and give you thanks.

Reader 5: For the Church, the Body of Christ, our Mother
and Teacher, who guides us on our earthly journey
to the heavenly home Jesus has prepared for us,
we praise you and give you thanks.

Leader: Let us join with Christ and give glory to the Father.

All: Through 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

What I Have Learned

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

Column A

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

Column B

- a. The Church's yearly cycle of seasons and feasts that make up the Church 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

Answer the following.

6. Describe the liturgy of the Church.

7. Explain how the Church uses words and symbolic actions to celebrate the sacraments.

8. Name ways the Church remembers and takes part in God's saving plan of love for us throughout the whole year.

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.

Growing in Faith

One important thing I learned this week is

This is important because

What will people see me doing as I live my faith choice this week?

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 the divine 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 1206.

Sharing God's Word

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

Praying

In this chapter your child prayed a doxology. Read and pray together this prayer on page 148.

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 person to explain their choice.
- Create a doorknob hanger for the front door of your home. Decorate it so that it is a reminder of 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.

