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We Celebrate the Eucharist

Goals

The children will be prepared for active participation in the Eucharist.

They will become more familiar with the Mass.

They will have a deeper love for the brothers and sisters with whom they are united in the Eucharist.

7 We Come Together to Celebrate

Those who have been united to Jesus and to one another through Baptism come together to celebrate the total offering of Jesus to the Father in the Mass. The children study the Introductory Rites of the Mass, learning that these prayers and actions prepare them to hear God's Word and to celebrate the Eucharist. The children become aware that they form a community of faith and love when they gather together to worship God in the Mass.

8 We Listen to God's Word

The Word of God acts powerfully in the lives of those who open themselves to it and strive to do whatever God asks. The children study the rites of the Liturgy of the Word and are led to a deeper appreciation of the message of Scripture when it is proclaimed to God's people.

9 We Praise and Thank God

The Eucharistic Prayer is the center and high point of the Mass because it is this prayer that makes Christ's redeeming actions present and enables the community to enter into them. The children study the rites of this most sacred part of the Mass and are encouraged to give thanks as they and the priest offer Jesus and themselves to the Father.

10 We Receive Holy Communion

During the Communion Rite, we receive Jesus in Holy Communion. Receiving the Eucharist is both the sign and source of all unity among Christians. The children study the Communion Rite of the Mass and are led to see the reception of the Eucharist as the closest union with Jesus possible on earth.

11 We Are Sent to Glorify the Lord

Those who have recognized Jesus in his Word and in the Eucharist must go forth to glorify the Lord by their lives. The children study the rites that conclude the eucharistic celebration and that send the faithful out to show Jesus' love and concern to all. They come to realize that, by prayer and good deeds, they can spread Christ's love to those in mission lands as well as to those with whom they come in contact daily.

12 Unit 2 Review

The Eucharist is the heart of our life as Christians. It unites us in Christ and strengthens us to take his love to the world. The children review the parts of the Mass they have studied in Unit 2. At the conclusion of the unit, the children should be open to receiving the Lord's commission to go out to glorify the Lord by acts of love and service.

We Come Together to Celebrate

Faith Focus

The Eucharist, a thanksgiving celebration, begins with praise and the Penitential Act.

Reflecting on the Faith Experience

Take a few moments to reflect prayerfully before preparing the lesson.

Listening

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13

Reflecting

The words of Christ recorded in John 15:13 are fulfilled as we come together with him in the eucharistic liturgy and pray in his name. Christ is in our midst as we celebrate Mass and make it the center of our lives as Christians. Through the complete self-giving of Christ at Mass, we are made holy, and we give the Father our greatest act of worship because we offer ourselves with Jesus. Acknowledging our complete dependence on God and realizing God's goodness, we praise and thank God for the great love shown in the mystery of our salvation. As living members of Christ's Body, the Church, we participate fully and actively with our whole being. As we share in the Eucharist, we pray that through the Holy Spirit we will grow in unity with our risen Lord and in love for all God's people. Then with Saint Paul we can say

I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me . . .

Galatians 2:19–20

When we live the life of Christ, our acts become the acts of Christ. We become one body in him and give joyful praise to God,

addressing one another [in] psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

Ephesians 5:19–20

Do I regard each Eucharist as an opportunity for thanksgiving?

Responding

Lord Jesus, may the lessons I plan deepen my students' spirit of thanksgiving.

Scripture for Further Reflection

Matthew 18:20 Jesus promises that when his people gather, he will be present with them.

Ephesians 4:11–16 Followers of Christ are to be united in their faith and grow in knowledge of the Son of God.

Preparing for the Faith Experience

Scripture in This Chapter

Matthew 3:3 Prepare the way of the Lord.

Matthew 5:23–24 Leave your gift at the altar.

Church Documents

Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The themes in this chapter correspond to the following paragraphs: 1168–1173, 1345–1355, 1391, 1396.

General Directory for Catechesis #30.

Because catechesis is closely connected to the liturgy, catechetical courses should be designed so as to maintain a connection with the liturgical year.

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy

#10 (Vatican II). The full effects of the liturgy are attained when the faithful come to it with proper dispositions, with minds attuned to their voices, and with hearts cooperative with grace.

Constitution on the Liturgy #11

(Vatican II). We should come to the liturgy with proper dispositions, fully aware of what we are doing, actively engaged in the rite and enriched by it.

Dogmatic Constitution on the Church

#42 (Vatican II). For the growth of charity, by which we love God and our neighbor, we must take part in the liturgy, willingly hear the Word of God, and live our faith through good deeds.

Music in This Chapter

For a list of all the music suggested in this program, see page T345.

Enriching the Faith Experience

Use the activities at the end of the chapter to enrich a lesson or to replace an activity with one that better meets the needs of your class.




Before You Begin

1. We worship as members of the people that God has united to Christ his Son and to one another through Baptism. We worship God through our prayers and our deeds. Worshiping together, we learn to show a loving concern for one another. As we express that concern by helping one another grow in faith and in love, we are led in turn to more meaningful worship when, gathered together, we celebrate the goodness of our God.

2. The Introductory Rites of the Mass help us prepare to worship the Father through Jesus his Son and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Because the eucharistic celebration is the greatest act of worship we can offer to God, we should participate in it wholeheartedly, leaving our distractions in God's care.

3. You may wish to assemble the Celebrating the Eucharist booklets for the children before class. Refer to these booklets throughout the unit on the Mass. The children may also use them as they participate in eucharistic celebrations.

Get-Ready Guide

Steps	Learning Outcomes The children will be able to	Action Plan	Materials
Centering 5–10 minutes  Pages 41–42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> relate the previous unit to this one. tell the story of Saint Tarcisus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome the children. Pages 41–42 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Eucharist and the role of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Read and discuss Devotion to Our Faith. 	
Sharing 40–55 minutes  Pages 43–46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explain why the Eucharist is a celebration. identify the parts of the Introductory Rites. define the Words to Know. Eucharistic Liturgy liturgical year Penitential Act Roman Missal <i>See the Glossary for definitions.</i> 	Page 43 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read and discuss The Eucharist Is a Thanksgiving Celebration. Option: Complete the activity Keep It Holy. Page 44 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present the Church year. (T63) Read and discuss We Celebrate All Year Long. Option: Complete the activity Check Your Calendar. Read and discuss We Follow the Rites of the Eucharist. Option: Complete and discuss BLM 22. Pages 45–46 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give an overview of the parts of the Mass. (T64) Talk about Matthew 5:23–24. (T64) Read and discuss The Introductory Rites Prepare Us for Worship. Assemble the Celebrating the Eucharist booklets and review the Introductory Rites. (T65) Option: Complete BLM 24. 	Roman Missal Option: BLM 22 Posters: The Parts of the Mass Bible with a marker at Matthew 5:23–24 Celebrating the Eucharist booklets from the back of the student book Missalette Option: BLM 24, missalettes for the children
Acting 5–10 minutes  Pages 44, 47–48	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> engage in a time of prayerful reflection. 	Page 44 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray A Moment with Jesus. Pages 47–48 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option: Go over the Summary and the Review activities. Option: Administer BLM 25 Quiz. Distribute family materials. 	Option: BLM 25 Quiz BLM 21A–B

Additional Background

Ordinary Time—the 33 or 34 weeks outside the year's major seasons

Centering

1. Review the children's previous study of the Eucharist from Chapter 5.

- ◆ Invite a volunteer to read aloud the verse from the Gospel of Luke on page 41.
 - ◆ To which sacrament do these words refer? (the Eucharist)
 - ◆ In Chapter 5, we studied the Sacrament of the Eucharist. In fact, that chapter's title is "The Eucharist Is the Center of Christian Life." It is our most important celebration.
2. Review with the children the role of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.
- ◆ What do we call those people who are chosen to take Holy Communion to those who are sick or unable to come to church? (extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion)
 - ◆ Today we are going to read about a boy—not much older than you—who was chosen for this duty. He took this responsibility very seriously. His name was Tarcisus (tar-SIS-ee-us).

3. Discuss **Devotion to Our Faith** on page 42.

- ◆ Read aloud this section.
- ◆ How did young Tarcisus show his devotion to the Blessed Sacrament? (He brought it to Christians in prison; he gave his life rather than allow others to dishonor it.)
- ◆ This story is a good reminder that we are called to be holy at Baptism. No matter our age, we can serve God. You may not be able to serve as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, but there are many other ways you can serve.
- ◆ By celebrating the Eucharist, we grow closer to God, who gives us strength to be holy, as Saint Tarcisus was.

Getting Started

Devotion to Our Faith

NEAR THE END OF THE MASS, you might see one or two people come to the front of the church to hold a small container from the priest. The container holds a host that was consecrated at Mass. These people are called extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. They bring the Blessed Sacrament to people who are not able to come to Mass because of serious illness or some other reason. Together they share the Body of Christ in the Eucharist.

Early Christians began this practice. In the third century (A.D. 200–300), Christians in the Roman Empire were disliked. They were often put into prison and were forced to practice their faith in secret. Christians did not forget the imprisoned members of the Church. At each Mass, they chose a deacon to bring Holy Communion to those in prison.

One day there were no deacons to send. A 12-year-old boy named Tarcisus was chosen instead. On the way to the Roman jails, he was stopped by a group of boys who were not Christians. They wanted to see what he was carrying. They told him to hand it over. Tarcisus refused. He did not want

them to dishonor the Blessed Sacrament. More people joined in, and the growing crowd became angry. Tarcisus stood firm. Finally, the crowd attacked him and killed him.

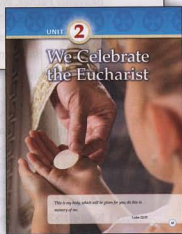
Tarcisus is a martyr. He gave his life rather than deny Jesus. Because of his great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, the Church has named him the patron saint of First Communion.

The extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion in your parish will probably never face that kind of decision. But in some parts of the world, Catholics are still persecuted for practicing their faith. Some risk their lives to celebrate Mass on Sunday. In these places, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion face danger every time they carry the Blessed Sacrament to those in need.

In this unit, we will learn more about celebrating the Mass. As we do, we can thank God for the freedom we have to worship him as Christians. We can also remember the sacrifice of Tarcisus and pray for those who celebrate the Mass in dangerous places.



42 UNIT 2 We Celebrate the Eucharist



Sharing

1. Discuss **The Eucharist Is a Thanksgiving Celebration** on page 43.

- ✦ Have a child read the first two paragraphs aloud.
- ✦ On what day of the week has the Church, from earliest times, been celebrating the Eucharist? (on the Lord's Day, Sunday)
- ✦ What do we celebrate at the Eucharist? (the Paschal Mystery of Jesus: his passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension)
- ✦ What does the word **Eucharist** mean? (thanksgiving)
- ✦ The sacrifice of Jesus is such a great event that we celebrate it every day. What did Jesus do that we are celebrating? (Jesus saved us from sin and obtained eternal life for us.)
- ✦ What are the ways the risen Lord is present at the Eucharist? (in the priest, in God's people, in the Word, and in Holy Communion)
- ✦ When we celebrate the Eucharist, we share in the sacrifice that the risen Jesus now makes to his heavenly Father. We celebrate our own "Passover" from sin to the new life in Jesus that we received in Baptism.

- ✦ Invite a volunteer to read aloud the next paragraph.
- ✦ How is the Eucharist a community celebration? (Together we ask God to free us from sin, which separates us from him and one another; we ask for all we need to grow closer to God and to one another; we praise and thank him; we offer ourselves with Jesus; we unite ourselves with one another in Holy Communion; we go forth to serve one another.)



We Come Together to Celebrate

The Eucharist Is a Thanksgiving Celebration



We love celebrations! They allow us to remember important events. They bring people together joyfully. Many of our celebrations include traditions. Cake is a tradition we enjoy at birthdays. Many people enjoy celebrating each new year with fireworks.

The Eucharist is a celebration too. For almost two thousand years, Catholics have gathered on the Lord's Day to celebrate Mass. We celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Jesus that saved us from sin and death and obtained eternal life for us. Through bishops and priests, the living Christ becomes present under the form of bread and wine. In every Mass, Jesus offers himself to the Father. The word **Eucharist** means "thanksgiving." At the Eucharist, we worship God and give him thanks. We already participate in the worship given God in heaven.

The actions of the Mass show our faith and love as a community. Together we ask God to free us from sin, which separates us from him and from one another. We ask for all we need to grow closer to God and to his people. We praise and thank him for his great goodness. We offer ourselves with Jesus to the Father for the coming of God's kingdom. We unite ourselves with Jesus, with the Father and the Holy Spirit. In the banquet of Holy Communion, we are united as a community. Then we go forth from the celebration to serve God and one another.

Keep It Holy

The Third Commandment says to keep the Sabbath holy. The Church tells us to do this by celebrating the Eucharist every Sunday. Why do you think God gave us the Third Commandment?

God knows that participating in the Eucharist is very important for us.

43

- ✦ What do we do at Mass to show that our community is united with Jesus? (We offer ourselves with Jesus and receive him in Holy Communion.)

2. **Option** Have the children complete the activity **Keep It Holy** on page 43. Discuss their answers.

Additional Background

Ordinary Time—the 33 or 34 weeks outside the year's major seasons

3. Present the Church year to the children.

- Draw a circle on the board and divide the circle down the middle vertically. (As an alternative to the following activity, have the children turn to the calendar of the liturgical year on page 166 as you discuss the Church year. This page is shown on page T229 of the Catechist's Guide.)
- Our eucharistic celebrations follow a yearly pattern that recalls the whole mystery of Jesus' life. This pattern is called the liturgical year. What great feast celebrates the coming of Christ? (Christmas) [Write *Christmas* in the top of the left half of the circle.]
- What great feast celebrates Jesus' Resurrection? (Easter) [Write *Easter* in the bottom of the right half of the circle.]
- Every year we celebrate these two feasts. Before each feast, we have a time of preparation for it. After each feast, we have a time of reflecting back on that feast and thanking God. All of these periods of time are called seasons of the liturgical year.
- During which season do we prepare for Christmas? (Advent) [Write *Advent* in the bottom of the left half of the circle.]
- During which season do we prepare for Easter? (Lent) [Write *Lent* in the top of the right half of the circle. Add arrows to show the order of the Church year.]



- There is also time between these two major seasons. These weeks are called Ordinary Time.

We Celebrate All Year Long

At every Mass, we celebrate the Eucharist. Eucharistic celebrations have different themes throughout the liturgical year. Over the year, the story of the mystery of Christ unfolds. We celebrate the coming of Jesus in Advent and Christmas. Then we celebrate his death and Resurrection in Lent and Easter. These periods of time are called seasons of the Church year. Between the two seasons are weeks known as Ordinary Time.

During the year, we also celebrate special feasts. These feasts include the Ascension and Pentecost. In addition, certain days are feast days of Mary and other saints. Special prayers in the Mass honor the saints on their feast days and unite us to the liturgy of heaven.

Some Masses are for a special purpose. For instance, there are Masses for weddings and funerals. There are Masses for needs, such as religious vocations or peace and justice. Some Masses honor the Trinity or the Sacred Heart, and some are for those who are dead.

Over the year, some elements change according to the theme of the Mass. These include the readings of the Mass, the prayers, the songs, and the color of the priest's vestments.



UNIT 2 We Celebrate the Eucharist

A Moment with Jesus

The Eucharist is a thanksgiving celebration. Christ becomes present to us in the form of bread and wine. Take a moment to imagine yourself at Mass preparing to receive Holy Communion. In your own words, thank Jesus for his loving presence with us.

Check Your Calendar

What season of the Church year is it now?

If you were born on a feast day, what is it?

What year your patron saint's feast day?

We Follow the Rites of the Eucharist

All the prayers for Mass are found in a book called the *Roman Missal*. It is usually on the altar during the celebration.

You will learn the rites of the Eucharistic Liturgy throughout this unit. Father Thomas will explain to you the parts of the Mass.

◀ The Roman Missal

4. Discuss We Celebrate All Year Long on page 44.

- Have the children silently read this section.
- Call attention to the Word to Know *liturgical year*.
- Invite volunteers to describe special Masses they have attended. Invite other children to tell which feast days they enjoy most and why.

5. Option Help the children complete the activity Check Your Calendar on page 44.

6. Discuss We Follow the Rites of the Eucharist on page 44.

- Read this section aloud and call attention to the two Words to Know.

- Show the children the *Roman Missal*. You may choose to pass it around or to have small groups come forward at an appropriate time.






7. Option BLM 22 Have the children work BLM 22 A Community of Faith and Love.

- God wants us as members of a community of faith and love to give one another support. People help you grow in faith and love. You help others. Think about this for a minute.
- Have the children complete BLM 22 independently.
- When the children have had sufficient time, invite volunteers to share and fully explain their answers.

8. Go over the main portions of the Mass.

- ♦ If you have displayed the two posters that show the parts of the Mass, direct the children's attention to them. Otherwise use the graphic on page 45 of the student book.

The Parts of the Mass

THE PARTS OF THE MASS	
 Introductory Rites Entrance Chant Greeting Penitential Act Gloria	 Liturgy of the Word First Reading Responsory Second Reading Gospel Announcement Gospel Reading Homily Profession of Faith Prayer of the Faithful
 Liturgy of the Eucharist Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts Eucharistic Prayer Preface Holy Eucharist History of Faith Agnus	 Communion Rite The Lord's Prayer Sign of the Cross Lamb of God Communion Prayer after Communion
 Concluding Rites Blessing Dismissal	

Part 1

- ♦ What is the first part of the Mass? (the Introductory Rites) During this part, we get ready for the great action about to take place.

- ♦ The two main parts are next—the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. What is liturgy? (public worship)

- ♦ In what main part of the Mass does God speak to us? (the Liturgy of the Word)

- ♦ During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we join in Jesus' sacrifice to God our Father. The high point of the Liturgy of the Eucharist is the Eucharistic Prayer. During this prayer of thanksgiving, the bread and wine are consecrated and become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

- ♦ In the Communion Rite, we receive Holy Communion.
- ♦ We end the celebration of the Mass with the Concluding Rites.

9. Discuss Matthew 5:23–24.

- ♦ Give to a volunteer a Bible opened to Matthew 5:23–24 and have that child read the passage aloud.
- ♦ What does Jesus tell us to do before we exchange gifts? (leave our gift there before the altar, go and make up with the person with whom we are at odds, and then come offer our gift)
- ♦ Why do you think Jesus wants us to do this? (so we can offer a gift of love at Mass)
- ♦ If we don't love others whom Jesus loves, how can we say we

The Introductory Rites Prepare Us for Worship

Prepare the way of the Lord . . .

Matthew 3:3

Introductory Rites
Liturgy of the Word
Liturgy of the Eucharist
Communion Rite
Concluding Rites

I am Father Thomas. I am here to explain all the parts of the Mass. The Mass is the most important prayer for Catholics. We must get ourselves ready for it. Sometimes we may come to church distracted. We may feel happy about something or feel sad. We may be tired, or we might be excited about what is going to happen later that day. The Introductory Rites help us clear these things away and focus on why we have come together.

The Introductory Rites of the Mass are the prayers and actions at the beginning of the Mass. They prepare us to hear the Word of God, to offer ourselves with Jesus, and to receive him in Holy Communion.

To prepare ourselves, we remember why we have come. We have come to

- praise and thank God, who is so great and good.
- pray and sing of God's great love with the Christian community.
- hear God's Word and respond to it with love.
- offer ourselves as a gift with Jesus to God our Father.
- receive Jesus in Holy Communion and grow in his love.



When we arrive at church, we take holy water and bless ourselves. As we come into the presence of Christ, we genuflect. We greet him, and we adore him.

Entrance Chant

While everyone praises God in joyful song, members of the community who have a special role in the Mass join me in a procession to the altar. As a people who belong to God and who are on a journey to him, we come to worship God with faith and love.

We Come Together to Celebrate CHAPTER 7 45

love him? To show Jesus we really love him, we must love others.

10. Discuss the first half of The Introductory Rites Prepare Us for Worship on page 45.

- ♦ Invite volunteers to read aloud page 45.
- ♦ What are the Introductory Rites of the Mass? (the prayers and actions at the beginning of Mass)
- ♦ What do they prepare us to do? (hear the Word of God, offer ourselves with Jesus, and receive him in Communion)
- ♦ When we come to celebrate Mass, we want to remember why we have come. What are some reasons we come to Mass? (to praise and thank God, to pray and sing of God's love with the Christian community, to hear God's Word and respond to it, to offer ourselves

as a gift with Jesus to God our Father, to receive Jesus in Holy Communion and grow in his love)

- ♦ What is the first thing we do when we enter the church? (take holy water and bless ourselves)
- ♦ What do we do to show that we adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament? (genuflect)
- ♦ What are some appropriate things to do while we wait for Mass to begin? (Examples: adore Jesus, recognize Christ in one another, get our song books or papers ready)
- ♦ We come to Mass to participate, not just to watch. What can we do to participate during the entrance procession? (Examples: sing, think about the fact that God has called us to worship, think about our community of faith and love)

11. Discuss the rest of The Introductory Rites Prepare Us for Worship on page 46.

- ✦ Invite volunteers to read aloud each section.
- ✦ What do we do as the priest begins Mass with the Sign of the Cross? (We also make the Sign of the Cross.)
- ✦ What does the priest's greeting call to mind? (that God is present)
- ✦ If the priest says, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all," how should we answer? (And with your spirit.)
- ✦ What do we do during the Penitential Act? (call to mind our sins and ask forgiveness)
- ✦ When we pray the Kyrie (Lord, have mercy), what do we trust that God will do? (forgive us and give us strength to live as his people)
- ✦ At what Masses would you expect to pray the Gloria? (special feast days, such as Easter and Christmas; most Sundays of the year)
- ✦ What should we do during the Gloria? (sing or pray with our whole hearts)
- ✦ Why does the priest pause after he says "Let us pray"? (so that we can ask for special favors and graces we need)
- ✦ How can we prepare for this moment? (Before Mass, we can think about what we want to pray for at that time)
- ✦ Why do we respond to the Collect with "Amen"? (It is how we say yes to the prayer.)

12. Introduce the children to the Celebrating the Eucharist booklets.

- ✦ Have the children carefully remove and assemble the Celebrating the Eucharist booklets from the back of their books.



Greeting

We begin the Mass by making the Sign of the Cross. This reminds us that God loved us so much that he sent his Son to die for us. It reminds us that at our Baptism, we were called to worship God our Father with Jesus.

I greet everyone gathered to worship, the assembly, recalling that God is present. Then I pray that God's grace and peace will be with everyone.

Penitential Act

Our sins separate us from God and his people. In the Penitential Act, we call upon the Lord to forgive our sins and to heal us.

When we pray the Kyrie ("Lord, have mercy"), we show our trust in God's great mercy. We trust that God forgives us and gives us strength to live as his people.

Gloria

This prayer is a powerful hymn praising almighty God. We pray it on most Sundays and on special feast days. The Gloria is meant to be sung. If you recite it, pray it aloud with life and joy! We should pray it with our whole hearts. It speaks of the greatness of the all-holy God.



Collect

Then I invite everyone to pray. In silence, we pray for our personal intentions and for those of the Church. Then I pray a prayer that asks for a special grace for all of us. By responding "Amen," you say yes to this prayer. Now we are ready to hear God speak his holy Word.



46 We Celebrate the Eucharist

- ✦ Allow the children to examine their booklets.
- ✦ This booklet will be our guide as we study the parts of the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

13. Go over the Introductory Rites in the Celebrating the Eucharist booklets.

- ✦ If you choose to use a missalette, you may want to share alternative options for each section, such as the Greeting or Collect.
- ✦ Have the children recite or sing the Gloria.

14. Option BLM 24 Help the class use missalettes or the Celebrating the Eucharist booklets to complete BLM 24 We Begin the Mass with the Introductory Rites.

discuss it with them. Have the children complete the activities. When they are finished, have them share their answers in small groups.

Acting

- Lead the children in prayer using **A Moment with Jesus** on page 44.

- Invite the children to prepare for prayer by becoming still and taking several deep breaths.
- Read aloud this section to lead the children through the prayer experience.
- Allow sufficient time for silent reflection.

- Option** Lead the children through the Summary and the Review activities on pages 47–48.

- Option** **BLM 25** Administer BLM 25 Chapter 7 Quiz.

- Have the children tear out pages 47–48 to review at home.

- BLM 21A–B** Distribute copies of BLM 21A–B Unit 2 Family Letter and instruct the children to share these letters with their families.

CHECKPOINT

- Were the learning outcomes achieved?

7

Summary



We Remember

Why do we have Introductory Rites at Mass?
The Introductory Rites remind us that Jesus calls us together as a community of faith and love to worship the Father. They prepare us to listen to God's Word and to celebrate the Eucharist.

We Respond

Lord, help me to prepare for the eucharistic celebration by being a more loving member of the Christian community.

Words to Know
Eucharistic Liturgy
liturgical year

Penitential Act
The Roman Missal

Things to Do at Home

- What is the last celebration you had at home? Start a conversation about it with family members who attended. What were some ways you celebrated? What were you celebrating? Write a paragraph about the event. Then write a paragraph telling why we call Mass a celebration. What are we celebrating? How do we celebrate?
- The Introductory Rites prepare us to hear the Word of God. What are some things you could do to prepare yourself before the Mass even begins? Talk with a family member about ways you can prepare at home before going to church. Make a list and follow it before the next Mass.
- Mark a calendar with the major seasons of the liturgical year. Hang the calendar in your home.
- Often we dress in special ways for celebrations. Discuss with your family how you can dress in a special way for next Sunday's eucharistic celebration. Remind one another as the day gets closer.



Visit www.christianlife.org/family for more family resources.

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Chapter 7 Enriching the Faith Experience

Use the following activities to enrich a lesson or to replace an activity with one that better meets the needs of your class. For additional enrichment ideas, such as preparing for the Sunday Scripture readings or using activities on the Christ Our Life Web site, see page T342. For activities related to the liturgical season, see Special Seasons and Lessons, which begin on page T229.

- As the children study the different parts of the Mass, they may find it helpful to make a booklet or scrapbook on the significance of these rites for the Christian today. For each rite, have the children write a few sentences that tell the meaning of that part of the Mass. Let them illustrate it by using magazine pictures, photos, or drawings. They may also include examples of the prayers of the rites, readings, responses, and other appropriate materials.
- Direct the children to find events in the New Testament that emphasize the theme of welcome. If the children are having trouble finding stories on their own, you might suggest the following passages: Luke 1:39–45 (Elizabeth welcomes Mary), Luke 15:20–24 (a father welcomes his lost son), Luke 24:28–31 (disciples invite Christ for a meal). These stories might be dramatized as live-action skits or puppet shows. Use the performances to emphasize the importance of welcome and how the Introductory Rites welcome us.
- Encourage the children to compose unfinished sentences on life situations in which forgiveness can be applied. Have each child read a sentence to the class and call on another



Name the Right Rite
List the Introductory Rites of the Mass in the correct order on the lines below.
After each one, write the letter of the phrase that best describes it.

- Entrance Chant C
- Greeting D
- Penitential Act A
- Gloria E
- Collect B

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child to add the ending.
(Examples: If I am hit by a ball on the playground, I should . . . ; If someone pushes me in the cafeteria line, I should . . .)

- Have the children make their own slide show of the Introductory Rites of the Mass. Divide the children into groups and have each group draw a picture of one of the rites. Have them also plan the narration to accompany the picture. If possible, make transparencies of the drawings and present them on an overhead projector as a member of each group reads the narration for that picture.

CHAPTER 7 Review

Five Facts Answer these questions about the Eucharist.

- What do we celebrate?
the Paschal Mystery of Jesus
- When do we celebrate?
at Mass
- Who is present under the form of the consecrated bread and wine?
Jesus Christ
- What does the word *Eucharist* mean?
thanksgiving
- What do we call the part of the Mass that prepares us to listen to God's Word?
Introductory Rites

Word Scramble Unscramble the words.

- a season of the Church year Easter
TEERSA
- saint who has Masses in her honor Mary
RMYA
- a feast day celebrated by a special Mass Ascension
INSAONCSE
- word that means "yes" Amen
NEAM
- what we ask the Lord for in the Penitential Act mercy
REYMC
- book containing the prayers for Mass The Roman Missal
HTE NAROM SSIMLA

Gloria Penitential Act Collect

Entrance Chant Greeting

- our prayer asking for healing and forgiveness
- the Church's prayer for a special grace
- action reminding us that we are a people on the way to our Father
- the prayer that God's grace and peace be with us
- a joyful hymn of praise

- BLM 23** Use BLM 23 **Come to Mass with Gifts** to help the children understand the exchange of gifts that occurs at Mass. Have the children read the opening paragraph and discuss it with them. Have the children complete the activities. When they are finished, have them share their answers in small groups.