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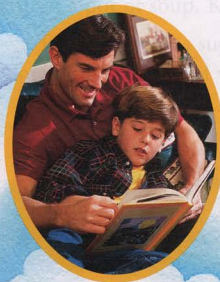


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Let's Celebrate



*Every day has its holy moments,
snippets of time when we stand in
wonder at God's love in our lives.
But to appreciate such moments, we
have to notice them first. Sometimes
they slip by too quickly. Talk with
your child about such times. What does
he or she notice about those instances when
God seems near?*



In the space, trace the outline of
your child's hand. Then on and
around the hand, write or draw
about moments when family
members can be aware of God
touching their lives.

Let's Celebrate

I will add the flour, Joel," Cora said. "This will be one super, terrific, amazing cake!"

Joel smiled. Cora was a neighbor, yet like family. She always said "super, terrific, amazing" about everything: cakes, sunsets, songs, and even Joel himself.

"Now the eggs!" she declared.



Dad went to the airport to pick up Grandma.
Mom ironed a dress for Joel's sister. Joel's cousin
stirred a pot of soup. Karen put flowers in a vase.

"This will be one super, terrific, amazing cake,"
Cora said again. "And we will feast and sing!"



What do you think Joel and his family
are celebrating? _____

What special times do you enjoy celebrating?

More Than Enough

“Where can we buy bread for these people?”

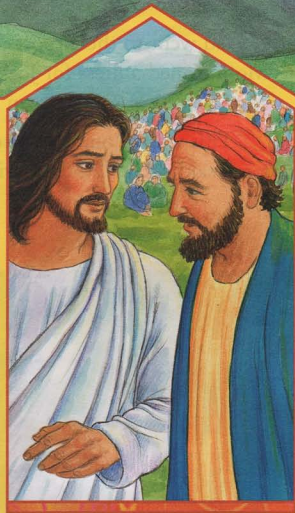
Jesus spoke to Philip as they looked out at the huge crowd of people. The people had come to be with Jesus. There were thousands!

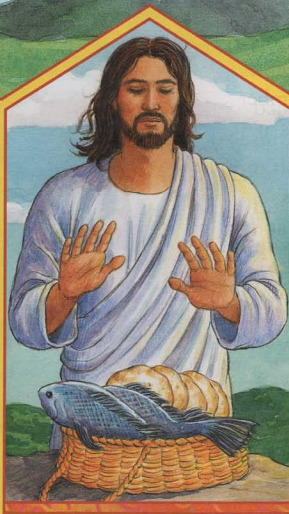
“Two hundred days of wages would not buy enough food!” Philip answered.

“A boy has five loaves of bread and two fish,” Andrew said. “But that is nothing in this crowd.”

“Have the people sit on the ground,” Jesus told them.

Jesus took the bread and the fish. Looking up to heaven, he blessed and broke them. He gave them to the disciples for the people.





All the women, children, and men ate. When they were finished and no one was hungry, there were still twelve baskets of food left!

Based on John 6:1–14

The Goodness of God!

Jesus calls the community of his followers to give thanks to his Father. We became Jesus' followers at Baptism. We especially remember we are God's people when we give thanks at the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is one of the sacraments of initiation. A sacrament is a most special celebration. It is an action of Christ who comes to us in the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

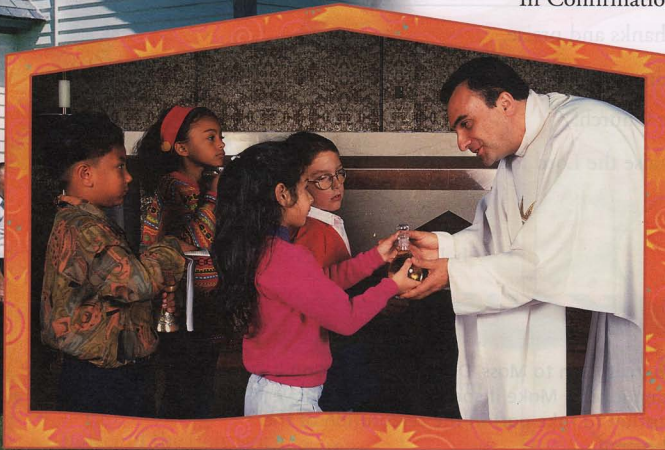


The word Eucharist means "giving thanks."
We also call our celebration the Mass.

Baptism and Confirmation are sacraments of initiation, too. In Baptism we are welcomed into the family of Jesus' followers, the Church.

In Confirmation the Holy Spirit helps us to follow Jesus even more closely. In the celebration of Eucharist we thank God for the gift of Jesus.

So we go to church to marvel at the blessings God gives to us. Before we receive the gift of Jesus for the first time, we receive forgiveness in the sacrament of Reconciliation.



An Invitation for You



Jesus invites _____
to give thanks and praise.

Jesus invites you to join with us, the People of
God, the Church!

Come praise the Lord for all he has done for us!



Create an invitation to Mass. Decorate it, making it colorful and joyous. Make it special, for it is your very own invitation to take part in the celebration of the Eucharist often!

In the spaces, write words you know that tell about the celebration of the Eucharist.

Celebration of the Eucharist

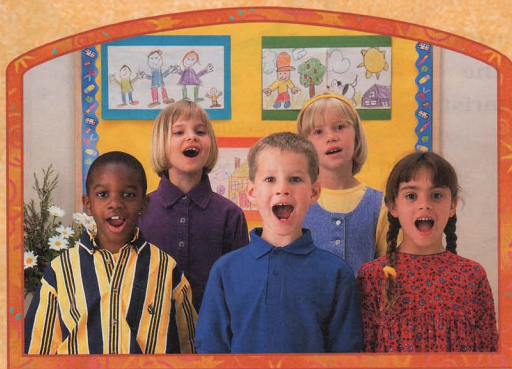
We Believe

- We are the People of God, the Church.
- We gather together to thank and praise God in the celebration of the Eucharist, also called the Mass.
- The word Eucharist means "giving thanks."
- The Eucharist is one of the sacraments.
- A sacrament is an action of Jesus Christ who comes to be with us in the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Family Time

Read together the Scripture story found on pages 14 and 15.

We Remember and Celebrate



With our Church community, we sing and delight in God's gifts. Gather into a circle to pray and sing together.

O come, let us sing to the Lord.

Let us make a joyful noise!

**Rejoice in the Lord always,
again I say rejoice!**

**Let us come into the Lord's
presence giving thanks!**

**Rejoice in the Lord always,
again I say rejoice!**

**Let us make a joyful noise to
him with songs of praise!**

**Rejoice in the Lord always,
again I say rejoice!**

Based on Psalm 95:1-2



We Celebrate at the Lord's Table

We gather together to give the Lord thanks and praise.

Priest: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.



We pray together as the People of God.
We might pray,

Priest or deacon: Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest or deacon: Christ, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Priest or deacon: Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.



We raise our voices in praise to the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.



We hear several readings from Scripture.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

We stand for the most important reading of all, the Gospel.

People: Alleluia!

The priest or deacon reads the Gospel.

Priest or deacon: The gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,



We declare what we believe. The creed tells the story of how Jesus saves us. It also tells us about God's love for us from the beginning of time to the end of time. The creed begins,

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**



We pray for ourselves and others during the Prayer of the Faithful.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.



We bring gifts of bread and wine to the altar. The priest asks God to bless the bread that will become Jesus.

People: Blessed be God forever.

**Priest: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours may be
acceptable to God, the almighty
Father.**

**People: May the Lord accept the sacrifice
at your hands for the praise and
glory of his name, for our good,
and the good of all his holy Church.**



The Eucharistic Prayer begins.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

**Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord
our God.**

People: It is right and just.



With joy in our hearts, we praise God.

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.



In the Eucharistic Prayer we remember all that Jesus did to save us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Priest: The mystery of faith.

**People: We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**



We pray with and for our Church leaders and one another in heaven and on earth. We bless God.

**Priest: Through him,
and with him,
and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
for ever and ever.**

People: Amen.



Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Amen.



We show that we are one, the People of God, at the Sign of Peace.

**Priest: The peace of the Lord be with
you always.**

People: And with your spirit.

**Priest or deacon: Let us offer each other
the sign of peace.**



We see the priest break the large host, which is the Body of Christ. We remember how Jesus broke the bread for his followers at the Last Supper.

**People: Lamb of God, you take away the
sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the
sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the
sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

**Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold
him who takes away the sins of
the world.
Blessed are those called to the
supper of the Lamb.**

**All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should
enter under my roof, but only say the
word and my soul shall be healed.**



We receive Jesus in the Eucharist.

**Priest, deacon, or extra-ordinary
minister of Holy Communion:**

The Body of Christ.

Response: Amen.

**Priest, deacon, or extra-ordinary
minister of Holy Communion:**

The Blood of Christ.

Response: Amen.



We receive God's blessing and go to share
his love with others.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

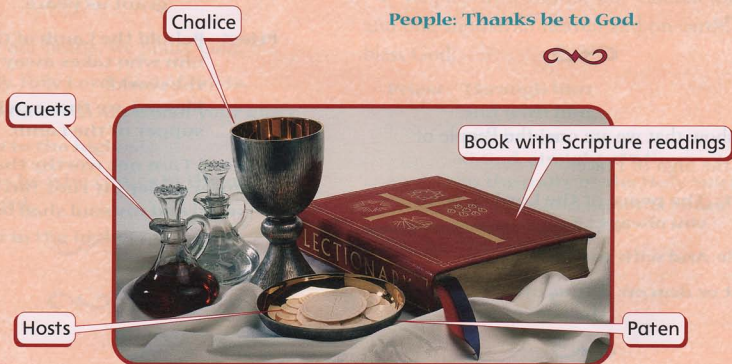
**Priest: May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and
the Holy Spirit.**

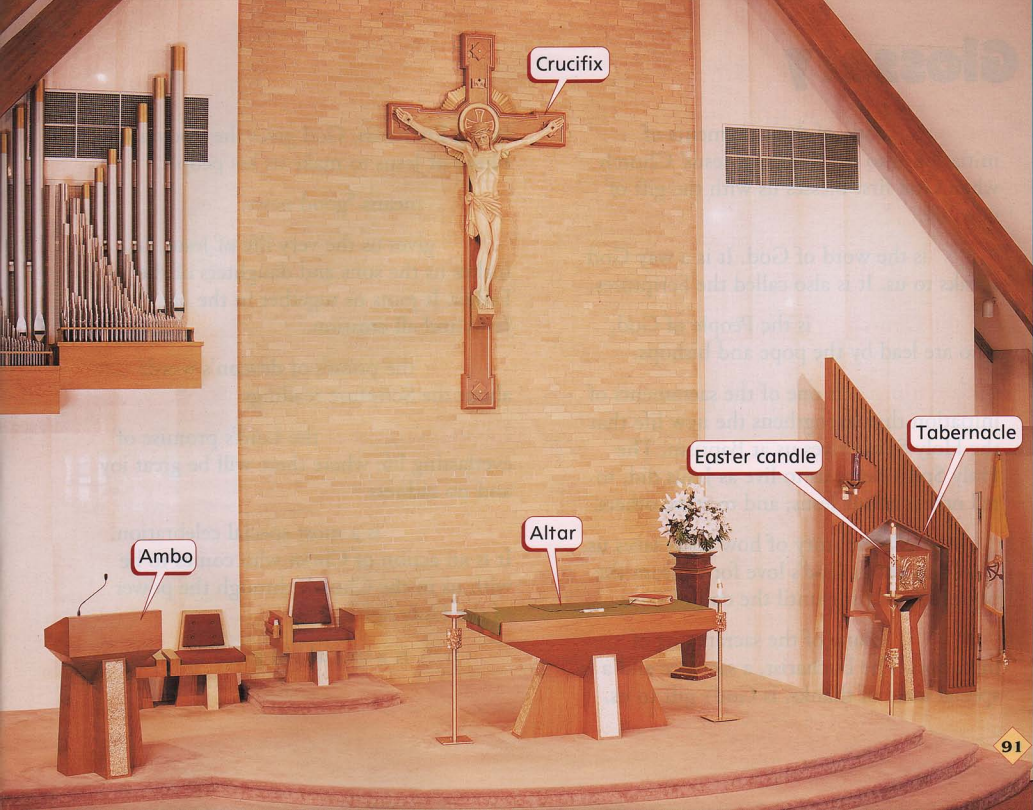
People: Amen.

Then we are sent to share the Lord's gifts to us.

**Priest: Go and announce the Gospel of
the Lord.**

People: Thanks be to God.





Crucifix

Ambo

Altar

Easter candle

Tabernacle