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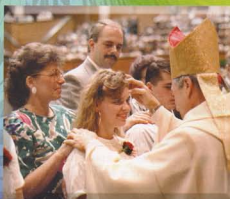
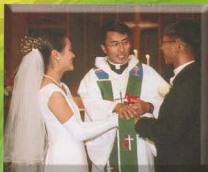
# Unit 2 Opener

The unit opener pages are designed to assess, through a variety of questioning techniques, the children's prior knowledge about the key faith concepts presented in the unit. Processing these pages should not take more than ten or fifteen minutes.

## USING ILLUSTRATIONS

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

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



What are some times the Church celebrates as a community?

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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.

## Getting Ready

### What I Have Learned

*What is something you already know about these faith words?*

Paschal Mystery

Responses will vary.

The liturgical year

Responses will vary.

The Eucharist

Responses will vary.

### Words to Know

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

**Faith Words**

Responses will vary.

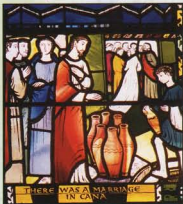
- \_\_\_\_\_ liturgy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Eucharist
- \_\_\_\_\_ Blessed Sacrament
- \_\_\_\_\_ parable
- \_\_\_\_\_ Reconciliation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Holy Orders

### Questions I Have

*What questions would you like to ask about the Eucharist?*

Responses will vary.

### A Scripture Story



Wedding in Cana

*What did Jesus do at the wedding in Cana?*

Affirm appropriate responses.

## GETTING READY

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

### What I Have Learned

This section asks the children to share something they already know about the liturgy and the liturgical year. Read to the children the faith terms and ask volunteers to share ideas they know about each term.

### Words to Know

This section is a quick assessment of the children's familiarity with some of the faith vocabulary they will be learning. Have them put an X next to terms they already know and a ? next to the terms they need to learn more about. At the end of this unit, the children will be asked to return to this page and once again share their understanding of these faith vocabulary terms.

### Questions I Have

This section provides an opportunity for the children to ask questions that they have about the Eucharist. Write their questions on a chart. As you work through the unit always refer back to the chart and ask volunteers to answer the questions. This affirms for the children what they are learning about their faith.

### A Scripture Story

This section uses the wedding in Cana to introduce Scripture used in this unit. Have the children look at the picture and answer the question. Their responses will help you become more aware of their knowledge of Scripture.

## Teaching Tip

**Sensitivity to Diversity.** The faith life of the families of the children in your group is more than likely quite diverse. Some families may participate in the liturgy and the life of the Church on a very regular basis; others may participate mostly on special occasions, such as the Baptism of children, the marriage of family members, and so on. It is your responsibility to remind the children and their families of their obligation to take part in the celebration of Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation. Be aware of this diversity as you call for a sharing of the children's faith experiences. Try to provide clear clues that will help the children respond to the questions.



# The Church's Year

## Background

### A Celebration of the Paschal Mystery

The Church's year evolves in an annual cycle of seasons and feasts that celebrate Christ's birth, life, Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension. In each celebration and retelling of the mystery of Christ, the entire Christian story is remembered and its fountain of grace is continually poured out for all ages.

Sunday is the Lord's Day. The Church, since the days of the Apostles, has celebrated the Paschal Mystery of Christ on the first day of each week to commemorate the Lord's Resurrection. "Sunday must be ranked as the first holy day of all" (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar* 4).

### Advent-Christmas

The liturgical year begins with the first Sunday of Advent. During the season of Advent the Church reflects on and anticipates for four weeks the coming of Christ among us—past, present, and future. The Advent season, which is filled with joyful expectancy and hope, gives way to Christmas, a festive season lasting from the celebration of Christ's birth on December 25 through the Sunday after the feast of the Epiphany. Over

the course of several weeks the Church celebrates the wonder of the Incarnation.

### Lent-Easter

Lent is a period of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday. The weeks of Lent are a preparation for the celebration of the sacred Triduum and the Easter season. The Triduum is the sacred period of three days, beginning with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and climaxing with the celebration of Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday.

Easter begins a season of fifty days, concluding with the celebration of Pentecost. Throughout Easter the Church rejoices. Joined to Christ in Baptism, we have passed from death to life, from slavery to freedom, and from sin to glory.

### Ordinary Time

All the remaining weeks of the year—about 33 or 34 weeks—are known as Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time is a bridge, linking what has gone before and what is to come. Ordinary does not indicate that these weeks are



unimportant. Rather, the designation *ordinary* is derived from the Latin *ordo*, meaning "order." Ordinary Time indicates these Sundays and weeks are numbered in order.

### For Reflection

*In what ways does my participation in the seasons and feasts of the liturgical year enrich my life of faith?*

*What more can I do to make the Sunday celebration central to my life of faith?*

## Catechist to Catechist

### Holidays and Holy Days

The liturgical year is a celebration of the faith of the Church. Season after season, week after week, day in and day out, the Church gathers to remember and share in the Paschal Mystery of Christ. For children, holidays and holy days mark the passage of time from one season to the next. The rituals connected with each holiday, holy day, and season become highlights in the lives of third graders. The way a family celebrates special days and times of the Church's year often includes customs, traditions, and rituals that are passed down from generation to generation.

#### Celebrate

One of the best ways you can teach children about the liturgical year is to celebrate it. As part of your discussion of each season of the Church's year, ask the children to share what their families do to celebrate this time of the year. By giving children a chance to share their family traditions, you are enriching the experience of all the children.



## The Church Teaches . . .

*The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* reminds us:

Holy Mother Church believes that it is for her to celebrate the saving work of her divine Spouse in a sacred commemoration on certain days throughout the course of the year. Once each week, on the day which she has called the Lord's Day, she keeps the memory of the Lord's resurrection. . . . In the course of the year, moreover, she unfolds the whole mystery of Christ. SC 102

That is why *Faith First* emphasizes the liturgical year through seasonal lessons and celebrations.

### See the Catechism . . .

For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on the liturgy and the liturgical year, see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1135–1186.

## CATECHIST PRAYER

*Spirit of God,  
fill our hearts with  
gratitude to the Father  
for the gift of Jesus,  
his only Son. Help  
us to give thanks  
for the gift of Jesus.  
Amen.*



# LESSON PLANNER

## Focus

To identify ways the Catholic Church celebrates its faith in Jesus Christ throughout the year

## Engage

### Page 97

#### Focus

To assess the children's knowledge about the Church's year of worship

## Teach and Apply

### Pages 98–100

#### Focus

To discover the meaning of the seasons and feasts of the liturgical year

## Connect

### Pages 101–102

#### Focus

To discover ways the liturgical year helps us live our faith

## Opening Prayer

### Discussion

Celebrating with family and the Church

### Presentation

Read, discuss, and summarize content.

#### Scripture

Psalm 111:1

#### Activities

- Share how you celebrate Advent and Christmas.
- Identify the liturgical seasons.
- Choose a favorite Bible story and identify what it teaches about Jesus.

#### Faith-Filled People

The Elect

## Our Church Makes a Difference

The Catholic Church celebrates feasts of the Lord to remember that he is the Son of God and Savior of the world.

#### Our Catholic Faith

Liturgical Colors

## What Difference Does Faith Make?

### Activity

Complete the sentences about celebrating living as a follower of Jesus.

#### Faith Choice

Choose a way to celebrate that you are a follower of Jesus this week.

## We Pray

### Page 103

#### Prayer Form

Thanksgiving

#### Prayer

Practice signing the prayer; sing an appropriate hymn.

## We Remember

### Review

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

### Preview

Highlight features of the "With My Family" page.

## Materials

- Bible
- newsprint
- pens or pencils
- crayons or markers

## Enriching the Session

### Blackline Masters

Additional Activities booklet:  
Chapter 11

Remembering God's love  
Writing a letter

Assessment Tools booklet:  
Chapter 11 Test

### Enriching the Lesson (CG page 181)

Creating a Liturgical Dance  
Celebrating the Triduum  
Literature Connection

### 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 Stories
- Make a Difference

### Kids' Clubhouse

- Faith First Activities
- Chapter Reviews
- Games
- Saints

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

# The Church's Year

# 11

## We Pray

With all my heart  
I praise the LORD,  
our God.

Based on Psalm 111:1

**Father, always  
and everywhere  
we give you  
thanks through  
Jesus Christ,  
your Son. Amen.**

*What days do you  
and your family like  
to celebrate?*

Celebrating special  
times is fun. The  
Church celebrates  
too. We gather to  
celebrate our faith in  
Christ.

*What are your  
favorite celebrations  
of the Church?*

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## Liturgy Tip

**Celebrating the Church's Year.** Children today live in a highly commercial culture. The strategies you choose to help the children observe each season of the Church's year are of tremendous value. Simple observances such as praying with Advent wreaths, choosing Lenten sacrifices, and venerating the cross can make lasting impressions. Connect Christmas gift-giving and dyed Easter eggs with the profound religious themes related to God's generosity in bringing us new life through Jesus.

# Engage

## PRAY

- Gather the children for prayer and pray the Sign of the Cross.
- Have a volunteer read the Psalm verse and then pray the opening prayer together.
- Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross together.

## DISCOVER

**Purpose:** To discover what the children know about the Church's year

- Invite the children to talk about celebrations they have with their families during the year.
- Read the introductory paragraph and invite responses to the question that follows.
- Invite the children to look at the picture. Ask them why they think this image of nature was chosen. **Affirm appropriate responses.**

# Teach

## FOCUS

Read the "Faith Focus" question aloud. Share with the children that the Church gathers all year long to celebrate faith in Jesus Christ. Tell them they are going to learn more about these seasonal celebrations.

## DISCOVER

- Point out that the Church's year helps us recall the important events in the life of Jesus.
- Invite the children to read silently "The Liturgical Year" to discover the meaning of the term *liturgical year* and what seasons are a part of the *liturgical year*.
- Beginning with Advent, list the liturgical seasons on the board. Ask the children to tell you what the Church celebrates during each liturgical season.

# Apply

## REINFORCE

Ask volunteers to read the faith words *worship* and *liturgy* and their meanings. Have them make word cards for these terms.

## INTEGRATE

Have the children look at the pictures and share with a partner how they celebrate Advent and Christmas.

## The Church's Year

### Faith Focus

How does the Church celebrate its faith in Jesus Christ throughout the year?

### Faith Words

#### worship

Worship is the adoration and honor we give to God.

#### liturgy

The liturgy is the Church's work of worshipping God.

### The Liturgical Year

The Church gathers all year long to celebrate its faith in Jesus Christ. We gather to worship God. We call this work of the Church the *liturgy*.

The Church's year of worship is called the *liturgical year*. The *liturgical year* is made up of the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time.

#### Advent and Christmas

Advent begins the liturgical year. We prepare for Christmas. We wait in hope for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. During Christmas we praise and thank God for sending us Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Share with a partner how you like to celebrate Advent and Christmas. Responses will vary.



Advent



Christmas

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### Liturgy Tip

**A Year of Grace.** The Church calls each liturgical year a year of grace. Grace is a free gift from God. Grace makes us sharers in the life of God and helps us live as children of God and followers of Jesus. We celebrate God's grace in our lives through the events of the Church's year. Use the liturgical lessons beginning on page 235 of the student text to enrich the children's understanding and celebration of the Church's year of grace.



## Lent and Easter

During Lent we prepare for Easter. We join with those preparing for Baptism. We prepare to renew the promises we made at our Baptism. At the conclusion of Lent during Holy Week, the Church celebrates the Easter Triduum. The Easter Triduum is the center of the liturgical year. The word *triduum* means "three days."

The Easter Triduum begins on Holy Thursday evening and ends on Easter Sunday evening. It includes the celebrations on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday. During these three days we celebrate and share in Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection.

The fifty days of the Easter season are celebrated next. During Easter we celebrate and remember Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension. The remaining weeks of the liturgical year are called Ordinary Time.



Lent

## Faith-Filled People

## The Elect

At the Easter Vigil you may see a special group of people. They are called the Elect. They have accepted God's invitation to become members of the Church. At the Easter Vigil they receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Look at the four pictures. On the lines write the Church season each shows.



Easter

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## FOCUS

Point out that the highlight of the liturgical year is the Easter Triduum.

## DISCOVER

- Ask the children if they have ever been to church services during Holy Week. Have them share what they remember about these liturgies.
- Write the word *triduum* on the board and next to it the words *three days*.
- Invite the children to read silently "Lent and Easter" to discover what three days make up the Easter Triduum. Explain that during these three special days we celebrate and share in Jesus' suffering, dying, and being raised from the dead to new life which is called the *Paschal Mystery*.
- Invite a volunteer to read about the Elect in "Faith-Filled People." You may wish to add material from the background box below.

## Apply

## REINFORCE

Have the children read the directions to the activity and complete it. Go over their responses together. Ask them to describe what each picture depicts.

## INTEGRATE

Talk with the children about how their families might celebrate Lent and Easter. Sharing from your own experience may help to elicit the children's responses.

## Background: Liturgy

**The Elect.** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a time of evangelization and conversion. It is a formation process by which adults and children are received into full communion with the Catholic Church. The word *elect* signifies that they have accepted God's invitation to be baptized. The rite of election takes place at the beginning of Lent. Thus Lent becomes a time of spiritual formation to help candidates prepare for full initiation into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

# Teach

## FOCUS

Remind the children that the liturgical year has five seasons. Point out that Ordinary Time is the longest season in the Church's year.

## DISCOVER

- Ask the children what the word *ordinary* means to them.
- Explain that the Church's longest season is called Ordinary Time. This does not mean that this season is less important.
- Tell the children it means that the weeks are numbered in order, such as the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
- Remind them that each Sunday is important because it is the Lord's Day, a celebration of the Paschal Mystery.
- Invite volunteers to read "Ordinary Time" to find out what stories of the Gospel tell us about Jesus.

# Apply

## REINFORCE

Have the children turn to page 236 in their text to look at "The Liturgical Year." Let them look at the pictures and notice how the pictures represent the seasons.

## INTEGRATE

Explain the activity and encourage the children to complete it and share their favorite Gospel story.

## Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time is the longest part of the liturgical year. Ordinary Time includes the weeks that are not part of the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter.

There are two parts of Ordinary Time. The first part begins after Christmas and continues to Lent. The second part begins after the fifty days of the Easter season and continues to Advent.

During Ordinary Time we listen to stories from the Gospels that tell us about Jesus' life and his saving work while he was on earth. We come to know Jesus more and more. We learn how we can live as his followers.

*On the line write the title of one of your favorite Gospel stories. Draw or write something from the story in the space.*

*Responses will vary.*

## My Favorite Gospel Story

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## Teaching Tip

**Introduce Liturgical Colors.** Ask the pastor or a parish staff member for permission to borrow a variety of the vestments worn during the liturgical seasons and special feasts. Share with the children the significance of each of the liturgical colors. Purple is the color of penance, white and gold signify rebirth and joyful celebration, and green is the color of life and hope. Cover your prayer table each week with a cloth that is the color of the liturgical season.

## Our Church Makes a Difference

### Feasts of the Lord

All throughout the liturgical year we celebrate the faith of the Church in Jesus Christ. In addition to Christmas and the saving events of Jesus' Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension, the Church celebrates other feasts of the Lord.



Epiphany



Baptism of the Lord



Annunciation



Transfiguration



Presentation of the Lord



Christ the King

These feasts of the Lord remember and proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God and Savior of the world. He is the new and everlasting Covenant of friendship that God has made with all people.

*Talk about how celebrating these six feasts can help you grow in your faith in Jesus Christ.*

### Our Catholic Faith

#### Liturgical Colors

The Church uses colors to remind us of the liturgical seasons. Purple or violet is used for Advent and Lent. White or gold is used for Christmas and Easter. Green is used for Ordinary Time. On special days, such as Good Friday and Pentecost, red is used. The color white is used on the feasts of the Lord.

## Connect

### HIGHLIGHT

Help the children recall that we celebrate the faith of the Church in Jesus Christ throughout the liturgical year.

### DISCOVER

- List on the board the six feasts of the Lord.
- Invite the children to read aloud "Feasts of the Lord" to discover what all these feasts have in common. **They all proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior of the world. He is the new and everlasting Covenant of friendship that God has made with all people.**
- Ask a volunteer to read aloud "Our Catholic Faith."

### INTEGRATE

- Ask the children to share with one another how celebrating the feasts of the Lord may help them to grow in faith.
- Tell the children what season the Church is now celebrating and ask them to notice what color the celebrant is wearing the next time they are at Mass.

## Special Needs

**Learning New Vocabulary.** Play a game called *Rivet* to learn and reinforce the vocabulary for feasts of the Lord. For each word draw the appropriate number of blanks on the board for the letters in the word. Begin to write a word one letter at a time. Allow students to try to guess the word or words as more letters are revealed. As each word is guessed, talk about the feast. You will want to do this activity with student books closed so they do not have the words in front of them!

**Need:** Children with learning difficulties



# Connect

## HIGHLIGHT

Remind the children that the Church's liturgical year helps us to live as followers of Jesus.

## RESPOND

- Read aloud the opening paragraph and introduction to the activity.
- Invite the children to complete the phrases that describe how the current season helps them to live as followers of Jesus.

## CHOOSE

- Invite the children to respond to "My Faith Choice."
- After a moment of prayerful reflection have the children write their choices on the lines provided.
- Encourage the children to put their choices into practice this week.

## What Difference Does Faith Make in My Life?

The Church's liturgical year helps you keep your faith alive. When you take part in the celebrations of the liturgical year, you share in God's love.

*Describe how the liturgical season the Church is celebrating now helps you live as a follower of Jesus.*

*Responses will vary.*

### Living as a Follower of Jesus

The Church is now celebrating the season of \_\_\_\_\_.

During this season I will remember that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.

I will try to follow Jesus by \_\_\_\_\_.

### My Faith Choice

This week I will celebrate that I am a follower of Jesus. I will \_\_\_\_\_.

*Affirm appropriate responses.*

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## REINFORCE

Have the children turn to page 126 in their text to look at "The Liturgical Year." Let them look at the pictures and notice how the pictures represent the seasons.

## INTEGRATE

Explain the activity and encourage the children to complete it and share their favorite Gospel story.



## Teaching Tip

**Focusing on the Season.** Reflect for a moment on the current season of the Church's year. Think about how you are living the season in your day-to-day life. Consider how you might work to incorporate the lessons of the current liturgical season into lessons for the children. How can you highlight the season in prayer, through activities, and in discussion?

# Pray

## We Pray

### Thank You, God

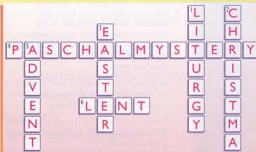
Learn to sign this prayer of thanksgiving. Pray it alone and with other people.



Thank you, God, for everything.

## We Remember

Use the clues to complete the puzzle.



### DOWN

- The Church's work of worshipping God.
- We celebrate Jesus, the Son of God, coming to us as the Savior of the world.
- We celebrate Jesus' being raised from the dead.
- We prepare for Christmas.

### ACROSS

- The suffering, death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus.
- We get ready for Easter.

### To Help You Remember

- The Church's year of worship is called the liturgical year. The seasons of the liturgical year are Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time.
- The center of the liturgical year is the Easter Triduum.
- Ordinary Time is the longest part of the liturgical year.

Grade 3 • Chapter 11 103

## WE PRAY

- Explain that the children are going to learn to sign a prayer of thanksgiving and pray it together.
- Have the children work with partners and practice the signs one word at a time.
- When they are ready, gather in the prayer center and pray the prayer together.

# Review

## WE REMEMBER

- Scramble the letters to the words *Advent*, *Triduum*, and *Easter*.
- Ask the children to unscramble the letters to name different parts of the Church year.
- Challenge the children to create a definition for each word.
- Introduce the crossword puzzle activity and invite the children to complete it on their own.



## Liturgy Tip

**Signs of the Liturgical Year.** Teaching children the American Sign Language signs for simple prayers serves several purposes. First, from a liturgical standpoint, it stimulates participation by allowing the children to use their bodies in prayer. This especially appeals to kinesthetic learners. Second, it shows respect for an important segment of the faith community. If signing is used at Masses in your parish, ask the children to watch for signed prayers they have learned.

# At Home

## ENCOURAGE

Have the children carefully tear out pages 103 and 104 along the perforation. Encourage the children to share the pages with their families 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 families.

## VISIT FAITHFIRST.COM

- Share with the children the many activities on the *Faith First* Web site.
- Encourage the children to visit [www.FaithFirst.com](http://www.FaithFirst.com).

## 11 With My Family

### This Week . . .

In chapter 11, "The Church's Year," your child learned about the Church's year of worship, or the liturgical year. Like the calendar year, the liturgical year is made up of a cycle of seasons and important days. The Easter Triduum, or the three days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday, is the heart of the liturgical year. The seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter revolve around this solemn three-day celebration of Christ's Passion, death, and Resurrection. The remaining weeks of the liturgical year are called Ordinary Time.

For more on the teachings of the Catholic Church on the liturgy and the liturgical year, see Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph numbers 1135-1186.

### Sharing God's Word

Reread the Gospel passage that you heard proclaimed at Mass this week. You can find the reading by clicking "Gospel Reflection" at [www.FaithFirst.com](http://www.FaithFirst.com). Emphasize how the reading helps you grow and live your faith in Jesus Christ.

### Praying

In this chapter your child learned to sign a short thanksgiving prayer. Ask your child to teach you the prayer on page 103. Pray the prayer together.

### 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 Mass this weekend, look at the color of the vestments and identify what liturgical season it is. Look around the church for other clues that tell you about the liturgical season.
- At dinnertime talk about how celebrating the liturgical year helps you grow in and live your faith in Jesus Christ.
- Create place mats for the current season of the liturgical year. Use the place mats at family meals.

For more ideas on ways your family can live your faith, visit the "Faith First for Families" page at [www.FaithFirst.com](http://www.FaithFirst.com). This week take time to read an article from "Just for Parents."



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### 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 some of the students?*

### Evaluate

Take a few moments to evaluate this week's lesson.  
I feel (circle one) about this week's lesson.

- a. very pleased
- b. OK
- c. disappointed

The activity the children enjoyed most was . . .

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

because . . .

Something I would like to do differently is . . .



# ENRICHING THE LESSON

## Creating a Liturgical Dance

### Purpose

To reinforce the different seasons of the liturgical year (taught on page 98)

### Directions

- Brainstorm with the children some movements and gestures appropriate for each season.
- In small groups have the children create a dance for one of the seasons.
- Invite them to choose streamers appropriate for their season to use in their dance.
- Have the different groups present their dance and allow the other children to name the season.

### Materials

crepe paper streamers

## Celebrating the Triduum

### Purpose

To reinforce that the Easter Triduum is the center of the liturgical year (taught on page 99)

### Directions

- Help the children recall the events of each day of the Triduum.
- Have the children work with partners to create a diorama for one of the days of the Triduum.
- Using shoe boxes and colored paper, have the children create the background for one of these days.
- Then, using pipe cleaners and other art supplies, have the children place the people in the scene.
- Ask the children to display and describe their scenes.

### Materials

colored paper and other art supplies  
shoe boxes  
pipe cleaners  
scissors and markers

## Literature Connection

### Purpose

To reinforce that during Ordinary Time we listen to stories from the Gospels that tell us about Jesus' life and his saving work on earth (taught on page 100)

### Directions

- The Gospels tell the story of Jesus Christ. Choose the Gospel that is being read during Ordinary Time of the current liturgical cycle to draw the children into the stories the Church is reflecting on this year.
- List several of the Gospel stories for the current year on the board.
- Pass out Bibles to the children and point out to them how to find the passages listed by using the guide words and numbers at the top of the pages.
- Have the children work in groups of three or four. Assign a Gospel story to each group.
- After the children have read their passage, have them prepare and perform a role-play of it for the class.
- Discuss the message of each story.

### Materials

Bibles



## Music Connection

- "I Come with Joy," A. Buchanan. *Singing Our Faith* (SOF) #184.
- "Pues Si Vivimos/If We Are Living" (Spanish traditional), arr. D. Kodner. SOF #180.
- "Walking By Faith," D. Haas. SOF #179.
- "We Are Many Parts," M. Haugen. SOF #182.