

Contents

WELCOME TO FAITH FIRST	7
-------------------------------------	---

Unit 1—We Believe

GETTING READY	12
----------------------------	----

CHAPTER 1 God Speaks to Us	13
---	----

Faith concepts: Revelation, the gift of faith, the Holy Trinity, Bible, Old Testament, New Testament, Apostles, Catholic Church, Christian art

Scripture: Psalm 104:1; Acts 2:42, 45–47
20:24–29; 2 Timothy 3:15–16

Prayer: Praying the Creed

CHAPTER 2 God the Creator of Heaven and Earth	21
--	----

Faith concepts: God, loving Creator, creation of people, body and soul, caring for creation, divine Providence

Scripture: Genesis 1:3–27, 31; Psalm 104:1, 24, 25

Prayer: Praying a psalm

CHAPTER 3 Mary Trusted in God	29
--	----

Faith concepts: The Annunciation, the Visitation, Mary's faith and trust in God, Mary's love for God, the Magnificat, the Incarnation, devotion to Mary

Scripture: Luke 1:28, 31, 35, 41, 46, 49

Prayer: The Angelus

CHAPTER 4 Women of Faith: A Scripture Story	37
--	----

Faith concepts: Sarah, Hannah, Ruth, Queen Esther, the virtue of trust, praying the Scriptures

Scripture: Exodus 15:1; Esther C:14, 25; Psalm 148:5

Prayer: Litany of the Saints

CHAPTER 5 Jesus, the Son of God	45
--	----

Faith concepts: The name Jesus, presentation in the Temple, Jesus the Messiah and Savior of the world, finding of the child Jesus in the Temple, public ministry of Jesus

Scripture: Psalm 79:9; Luke 2:30, 46–47, 51–52

Prayer: Lord, have mercy

CHAPTER 6 Jesus' Death and Resurrection	53
--	----

Faith concepts: The Paschal Mystery, Crucifixion, sacrifice of the cross, Resurrection, Ascension, the Way of the Cross

Scripture: Psalm 33:22; Matthew 27:59–60, 28:1, 5–7; Luke 23:26, 33–34, 44, 46; John 13:34

Prayer: Praying the Scriptures

CHAPTER 7 The Holy Spirit: A Scripture Story	61
---	----

Faith concepts: Promise to send Holy Spirit; Pentecost; Holy Spirit, Advocate, Helper, Guide; work of Holy Spirit; fruits of Holy Spirit

Scripture: Ezekiel 36:27; Acts 2:1–4, 14, 41

Prayer: Prayer to the Holy Spirit

CHAPTER 8 We Are the Church	69
--	----

Faith concepts: The founding of the Church; the Church as Body of Christ, People of God, and temple of the Holy Spirit; the Apostles; the Catholic Church; the members of the Church; works of mercy

Scripture: Matthew 28: 19–20; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Colossians 3:12–13, 15, 17

Prayer: Praying with gestures

CHAPTER 9 Paul the Apostle: A Scripture Story	77
--	----

Faith concepts: Saul the Pharisee, Law of Moses, conversion of Saul, faith and work of Paul the Apostle, missionaries

Scripture: Psalm 9:2; Acts 9:3–6, 8, 17–18

Prayer: Memorial acclamation

CHAPTER 10 The Communion of Saints	85
---	----

Faith concepts: The saints of the Church, the Communion of Saints, heaven, purgatory, All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day, the one Body of Christ

Scripture: Psalm 24:5–6; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27

Prayer: Prayer of intercession

UNIT 1—REVIEW	93
----------------------------	----

Unit 2—We Worship

GETTING READY	96
----------------------------	----

CHAPTER 11 The Church's Year	97
---	----

Faith concepts: The liturgy and worship of the Church, the liturgical year, Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter, Easter Triduum, Ordinary Time, Feasts of the Lord

Scripture: Psalm 111:1

Prayer: Signing a prayer of thanksgiving

CHAPTER 12 Celebrations of God's Love	105
--	-----

Faith concepts: The seven sacraments, Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism and Confirmation, sacramentals

Scripture: Psalm 66:1–2, Matthew 5:14–16

Prayer: Prayer of meditation

CHAPTER 13 We Celebrate the Eucharist 113

Faith concepts: The Last Supper, sacrament of the Eucharist, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, real presence, Blessed Sacrament, holy days of obligation

Scripture: Psalm 92:2, Matthew 26:26–28

Prayer: Prayer based on preface of Mass

CHAPTER 14 The Pharisee and the Tax Collector: A Scripture Story 121

Faith concepts: Parables, Pharisees and tax collectors in Jesus' time, virtue of humility, divine mercy

Scripture: Psalm 25:2; Luke 18:10–11, 13

Prayer: Prayer of mercy

CHAPTER 15 We Celebrate God's Healing Love 129

Faith concepts: Parable of the Forgiving Father, Sacraments of Healing, Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick

Scripture: Psalm 51:3, Luke 15:16–24

Prayer: Act of Contrition

CHAPTER 16 The Wedding Feast in Cana: A Scripture Story 137

Faith concepts: Weddings in Jesus' time, miracles, the wedding in Cana, presence of God and power of God at work in world

Scripture: Psalm 145:18, John 2:3–11

Prayer: A prayer for families

CHAPTER 17 The Sacraments of Service 145

Faith concepts: Last Supper teaching on service, vocation, sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony

Scripture: Psalm 119:34; John 13:4–5, 15

Prayer: A prayer of intercession

UNIT 2—REVIEW 153

Unit 3—We Live

GETTING READY 156

CHAPTER 18 Jesus Teaches Us How to Love: A Scripture Story 157

Faith concepts: The Covenant, original sin, the Great Commandment

Scripture: Psalm 119:33, Matthew 22:35–40

Prayer: An act of love

CHAPTER 19 The Ten Commandments Teach Us to Love 165

Faith concepts: Moses and the Ten Commandments; First, Second, and Third Commandments; divine love and the Holy Trinity

Scripture: Psalm 1:1–2; Exodus 20:2–3, 7, 8; Matthew 5:48

Prayer: Prayer of adoration

CHAPTER 20 We Love and Respect One Another 173

Faith concepts: The Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Commandments

Scripture: Psalm 119:10; Exodus 20:12–18

Prayer: Praying for others

CHAPTER 21 The Psalms and Stewardship: A Scripture Story 181

Faith concepts: The Psalms, types of psalms, Psalm 104, stewards of God's creation

Scripture: Psalm 67:6, 7; 104:1, 10–12, 24, 31, 33; 150:3–6

Prayer: A prayer of praise

CHAPTER 22 God Shares His Life with Us 189

Faith concepts: Sanctifying grace, actual grace, eternal life, human body and soul, heaven and hell

Scripture: Psalm 27:13; Luke 14:16, 18–21, 23; John 14:2–3

Prayer: An act of hope

UNIT 3—REVIEW 197

Unit 4—We Pray

GETTING READY 200

CHAPTER 23 Jesus Teaches Us to Pray 201

Faith concepts: The prayer of Jesus, the Our Father, personal prayer and public prayer

Scripture: Psalm 5:2, 3; Matthew 6:9; Luke 23:34, 46

Prayer: The Our Father

CHAPTER 24 The Church Is a People of Prayer 209

Faith concepts: Prayers of petition and intercession, prayers of blessing and adoration, prayers of praise and thanksgiving

Scripture: Psalm 92:2, Matthew 18:20, Luke 17:15–16

Prayer: Divine Praises

CHAPTER 25 We Profess Our Faith 217

Faith concepts: The Holy Spirit, creeds of the Church, profession of faith at Mass, Nicene Creed, Apostles' Creed

Scripture: Psalm 106:12, Romans 8:26, 1 Corinthians 12:3

Prayer: Te Deum

CHAPTER 26 The Hail Mary: A Scripture Story 225

Faith concepts: The Annunciation, the Visitation, the Hail Mary

Scripture: Luke 1:30, 41–42, 46–49, 56

Prayer: The Magnificat

UNIT 4—REVIEW 233

We Celebrate: The Liturgical Seasons

THE LITURGICAL YEAR	236
The seasons of the Church's year	

ORDINARY TIME	237
The Church's year, liturgical colors, Ordinary Time	

THE SEASON OF ADVENT	
<i>The First Week of Advent.</i> Jesse Tree, ancestors of Jesus.	239
<i>The Second Week of Advent.</i> John the Baptist, the coming of Christ in glory	241
<i>The Third Week of Advent.</i> The promise of the prophets Jeremiah and Isaiah, Jesus the Messiah	243
<i>The Fourth Week of Advent.</i> The announcement of the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world, to Mary.	245

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS	
<i>The First Week of Christmas.</i> The birth of newly born King and Savior, the shepherds	247
<i>The Second Week of Christmas.</i> Jesus the Savior of the world, the Magi, the presentation in the Temple	249

THE SEASON OF LENT	
<i>The First Week of Lent.</i> Preparing for Easter and the welcoming of new members into the Church.	251
<i>The Second Week of Lent.</i> The Lenten discipline of praying, fasting, and almsgiving	253
<i>The Third Week of Lent.</i> Pray always, spending time with God alone	255
<i>The Fourth Week of Lent.</i> A time for sharing our blessings and making a difference	257
<i>The Fifth Week of Lent.</i> Celebrating Reconciliation, the gift of peace and forgiveness.	259

HOLY WEEK

<i>Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion.</i> Hosanna, Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem	261
<i>Triduum/Holy Thursday.</i> Holy Thursday, the beginning of the Triduum; the Last Supper, the institution of the Eucharist, the washing of the disciples' feet, and the call to service	263
<i>Triduum/Good Friday.</i> The Crucifixion, Jesus' prayer of forgiveness	265
<i>Triduum/Easter.</i> Celebrating Easter, Alleluia, Christians as Easter people	267

THE SEASON OF EASTER

<i>The Second Week of Easter.</i> Witnesses for Christ, appearances of the Risen Christ to the disciples in Emmaus and to Thomas the Apostle	269
<i>The Third Week of Easter.</i> Jesus the Good Shepherd, the Christian ministry of service	271
<i>The Fourth Week of Easter.</i> The newly baptized, the Eucharist, Christians as lights in the world	273
<i>The Fifth Week of Easter.</i> Love one another, putting faith into action	275
<i>The Sixth Week of Easter.</i> The Church grows, the life of the first Christians	277
<i>The Seventh Week of Easter.</i> Sharing the Gospel with others	279
<i>Pentecost.</i> The work of the Holy Spirit in the Church, Peter's proclamation of Jesus	281

CATHOLIC PRAYERS AND PRACTICES	283
---	-----

WE CELEBRATE THE MASS	291
--	-----

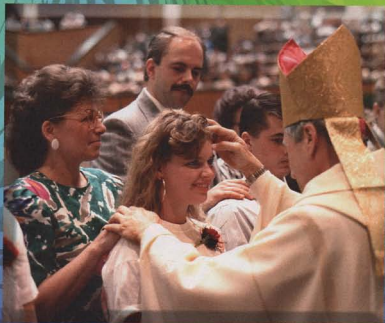
THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION	296
--	-----

GLOSSARY	297
---------------------------	-----

INDEX	302
------------------------	-----

CREDITS	304
--------------------------	-----

Unit 2 • We Worship



What are some times the Church celebrates as a community?

Getting Ready

What I Have Learned

What is something you already know about these faith words?

Paschal Mystery

The liturgical year

The Eucharist

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

- ☐ liturgy
- ☐ Eucharist
- ☐ Blessed Sacrament
- ☐ parable
- ☐ Reconciliation
- ☐ Holy Orders

Questions I Have

What questions would you like to ask about the Eucharist?

A Scripture Story



Wedding in Cana

What did Jesus do at the wedding in Cana?

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?*

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.



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.

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.



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.

My Favorite Gospel Story

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.

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.

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 _____.

We Pray

Thank You, God

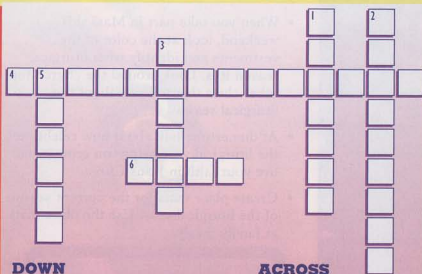
Learn to sign this prayer of thanksgiving. Pray it alone and with other people.



Thank you, God, for everything.

We Remember

Use the clues to complete the puzzle.



DOWN

1. The Church's work of worshiping God.
2. We celebrate Jesus, the Son of God, coming to us as the Savior of the world.
3. We celebrate Jesus' being raised from the dead.
5. We prepare for Christmas.

ACROSS

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

To Help You Remember

1. 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.
2. The center of the liturgical year is the Easter Triduum.
3. Ordinary Time is the longest part of the liturgical year.

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. 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. This week take time to read an article from "Just for Parents."

