

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains that the Mass is central to Catholic life because it unites Christ's followers more closely to him and to one another, including those who have died in God's friendship.

Scripture



Read **Joel 2:15b–16** to find out about calling an assembly of believers.

Catholics Believe

- The wheat bread and grape wine become the Body and Blood of Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
- Participation in the Mass is a duty and privilege,

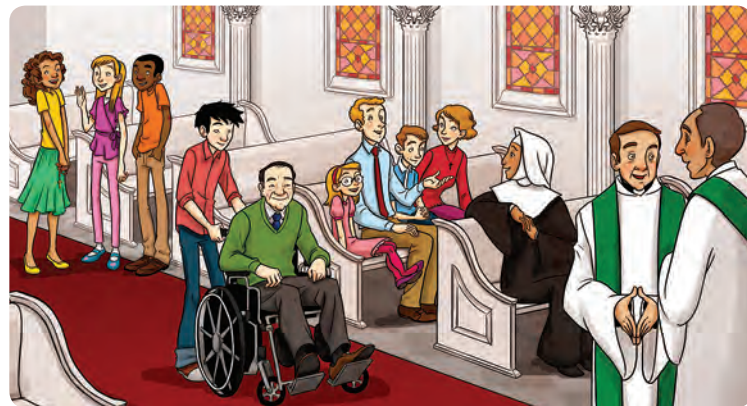
To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1141, 1373–1381 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Louis de Monfort, who influenced Pope Saint John Paul II's devotion to Mary.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Sunday Mass Children at this age may sometimes complain of being bored in Mass. They may see Mass as primarily an adult activity, not something geared toward them. However, they are at an age at which they can participate in Mass more than ever before. They can prepare by reading the Sunday readings before Mass, sing the hymns, and often can even participate in liturgical ministries, such as being an usher or altar server or singing in the choir. This participation can help children feel more a part of the community and more engaged in the liturgy.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Have you ever experienced someone's presence after they died?

We hear about those experiences of presence in poetry, plays, and movies. We hear them from family and friends. These experiences confirm for us that love is stronger than death. Jesus' love for us conquered death. He gave us his Real Presence in the Eucharist so that we can continue to experience God's love—a love that is stronger than death. As Catholics, we recognize that “by the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ is present in the proclamation of God's Word, in the Eucharistic assembly, in the person of the priest, but above all and in a wholly unique manner in the Eucharist” (*USCCA*, p. 223). The true presence of Christ in the Eucharist under the appearance of bread and wine is called the Real Presence.

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain why the Eucharist is central to Catholic life.
- Talk about how your family celebrates the Lord's Day.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Louis, help us to use our words to help people come to love Jesus and Mary. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.