

The Church Celebrates

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 105,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 211

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Describe worship as adoring and honoring God, especially at Mass and in prayer
- Discover that at the Last Supper Jesus celebrated the Passover with his Apostles
- Identify liturgy, including the Seven Sacraments and forms of daily prayer, as the public prayer of the Church
- Understand that Catholics are required to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
- Recognize the Blessed Sacrament as the Holy Eucharist, especially the Body of Christ, which is kept in the Tabernacle

Turn to Page 97,
The Church Celebrates
Vivos en Cristo, Page 195

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *Making Sunday liturgy and Holy Days of Obligation part of your regular family life is a priceless gift to your child. Every liturgy is an encounter with the loving God. Here, Catholics experience Christ's presence most fully in the Eucharist, but also in the Word, the priest, and the assembly. As we come week after week to be nourished, we find help to face daily joys and struggles with hope and faith.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Praise the Lord
- Five Loaves

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that we already have something to thank God for when he opened our eyes in the morning—the gift of our life.

Say: Even if we tried, we could not keep count all of the gifts that God gives us in a single day. We should give thanks to God at all times and in all ways. Jesus knew how much we need God in our lives.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God’s Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God’s Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Invite your child to respond and also share what you heard.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: Jesus ate many meals with his family and friends. But, Jesus knew that people were hungry for more than food. He knew they were hungry to learn about God and his love. God, our Father, knows what we need. If we trust in God, we do not need to worry. We learn to trust God as we trust those who care for us in our everyday life.

Share a way you like to give thanks to God.

Have your child read the questions in the box and respond. Prompt what else they might wonder about giving thanks to God.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 98,
Special Celebrations
Vivos en Cristo, Page 197

Read aloud the first paragraph. Have your child find and point to the words **Seven Sacraments**. Have your child read the rest of the page. Then have them point to the words **Last Supper** in the last paragraph. Move to the Catholic Faith Words box and ask your child to read the definitions there.

Turn to Page 99,
The Last Supper
Vivos en Cristo, Page 199



Proclaim the Scripture.

Have your child recall a time when he or she expressed thanks.

Ask: Why were Jesus and his friends celebrating in the story? (it was the Jewish feast of Passover) Discuss how Jesus’ words are used at every celebration of the Mass.

Activity

Do the Share Your Faith activity. Have your child decide what the special celebration is and write the story together.

Parents, Consider This: *We remember things we celebrate. Keep in mind the dates of your child's Baptism and First Communion. As a family, celebrate them in some special way; light your child's Baptismal candle on the anniversary date of their Baptism or bake or buy some special bread together on the anniversary date of your child's First Communion.*

Turn to Page 100,
The Heart of Our Worship
Vivos en Cristo, Page 201

Ask your child to describe what they know happens at Mass.

Read the first three paragraphs. Discuss how all the ways we worship are pleasing to God, but the Eucharist, or the Mass, is the most important to Catholics.

Direct your child to the Catholic Faith Word box and identify **liturgy** and **Nicene Creed**. Review the definitions.

Read the paragraphs under the heading, "At Mass."

Turn to Page 101,
At Mass
Vivos en Cristo, Page 203

Move to the Catholic Faith Word Box and have your child read the definitions of the **Tabernacle** and the **Blessed Sacrament**.

Activity

Read the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity. Complete the activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Children learn what is important by what we say to them, what we teach them, and what we do with them. Describe to your child how the Blessed Sacrament, as the Holy Eucharist, the Body of Christ, is kept and reserved in the Tabernacle at church. Visit your church when you can spend some quiet time together in prayer and adoration. A short reverent visit is a great way to pray with your child and pass on your belief in the importance of the Eucharist.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 102,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 205

Discuss the question, "How do you show respect at Mass?"

Summarize the information presented on this page. Demonstrate and practice with your child the gestures that show respect at Mass.

Remind your child that Christians celebrate both inside and outside of the church building. Within a church, Church members gather for Mass and joyously celebrate the Sacraments. Recall family gatherings that have been held as extensions of Church celebrations such as Baptisms, First Communion, and weddings.

Turn to Page 103,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 207

Read the paragraph about Saint Mary MacKillop.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about what your child's favorite part of the Mass is.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *The Eucharist is a sacrifice and a shared meal. The sacrifice offered is Jesus suffering and death. The meal that Christians share unites them with Jesus and with one another. It also nourishes us to do God's work. Family life also involves both sacrifice and shared meals. When someone sacrifices something for someone in your family, praise that action. When you gather to share a meal, make it a regular practice to thank God and bless the food that nourishes your family.*

Turn to Page 105,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 211

Parents, Consider This: *It is important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Glory Be (see Page 321), during your night prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.