

## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter identifies the Seven Sacraments as special signs and celebrations that Jesus gave his Church.

### God's Word



Read **John 14:20** to learn what Jesus says about being one with him and God the Father.

### Catholics Believe

- The Church has Seven Sacraments. They are signs and celebrations that Jesus gave his Church.
- The Sacraments allow us to share in the life and work of God.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1131–1134 at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child met Mary and learned a little about the Annunciation. Mary trusted the Holy Spirit, even when she didn't fully understand.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand the Sacraments** As visible signs of invisible, spiritual realities, the Seven Sacraments are difficult for children at this age to understand. Still, they are such a vital part of the life of the Church that we want children to be exposed to learning about the Sacraments very early. As time goes by, your child will understand more fully. In the meantime, you can explain that a Sacrament is something we can see that helps us understand something that we can't see. The people performing the visible sign and the community gathered work together with God making present the invisible, spiritual reality.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

What are some signs you recognize when your child is sick?

Is it flushed ears, or watery eyes? Or perhaps it is when he or she just wants to be held? We see these signs as indicators of something more. In the Seven Sacraments, we see signs that indicate something more—God's love and presence. "As we come to understand the Sacraments, it is important to recognize that the Sacraments have a visible and invisible reality, a reality open to all the human senses but grasped in its God-given depths with the eyes of faith" (*USCCA, p.168*).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- At Mass, ask your child to point out some objects or actions that help people celebrate the Sacraments.
- Get out pictures from family Baptisms, First Communions, or weddings. Talk about the Sacraments that were celebrated on those days.

## LET'S PRAY >>>



Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us now and always. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).