

The Liturgical Year

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 231,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 463

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Describe the Paschal Mystery as the mystery of Jesus' suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension through which he saved all humans from the power of sin and everlasting death
- Recognize that the liturgical year is made up of the feasts and seasons of the Church calendar that celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ
- Name the seasons of the Church year as Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Triduum, and Easter

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

Parents, Consider This: *The rhythm of the liturgical seasons matches the cycle of life. During the Church year, the faithful experience the anticipation of Advent; rejoice at the Savior's birth on Christmas; live faithfully in Ordinary Time; grow reflective in Lent; and know suffering, death, and rising to new life in Christ through the Triduum and Easter. As Catholics, we do not simply watch the drama unfold; we are drawn into the reality of God's presence in our lives. Connect these seasons in your home with some small signs of the liturgical seasons (i.e. display an Advent calendar or a purple placemat during Lent).*

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.

- We Proclaim Your Death, O Lord
- A Circle of Colors

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 223,
The Liturgical Year
Vivos en Cristo, Page 447

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.

Say: Time after time, year after year, we offer God heartfelt thanks and praise for sending Jesus. He is our refuge.



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: We celebrate Jesus’ life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension at each Mass, and especially during Holy Week and Easter. By joining our life—our good and bad days—with Jesus, we receive the gift of knowing he is with us in each moment of our lives. Jesus is asking us to accept his gift of salvation and to connect ourselves more deeply with him.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about Jesus’ life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension and his presence with us.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 224,
A Time for Everything
Vivos en Cristo, Page 449

Read aloud the opening question and the first paragraph. Tell your child that you are about to read, in your Bible, a poet’s observations about different times and events.



Read the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box. Alternate reading lines with your child.

Ask: What message was God giving us through this writer? **(There are different times for different things in our life.)**

Turn to Page 225,
The Paschal Mystery
Vivos en Cristo, Page 451

Have your child silently read the text.

Review the words, **Ascension, Paschal Mystery,** and **liturgical year,** and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: Before the beginning of a new liturgical season, have a family discussion about some of the changes that they might see in their parish church environment. For example, what colors and types of decorations might be in your church? At the start of a new liturgical season, take a walk through your parish to see if your family's predictions were correct.

Turn to Page 226,
The Church's Seasons
Vivos en Cristo, Page 453

Read the opening question and summarize the first paragraph.

Read the text about Advent. Point out Advent on a liturgical calendar.

Have your child read the text about Christmas.

Ask: How does our family prepare for Christmas? How does the parish prepare for Christmas during Advent?

Read the section on Lent. Show your child the start and end dates of Lent on a current calendar.

Activity

Have your child choose their favorite liturgical season. On a separate piece of paper, have them write a paragraph about why that liturgical season is their favorite.

Parents, Consider This: In our society, consumerism causes advertisers to anticipate the seasons and try to create, in us, a state of mind to buy things for a particular season. For example, Easter candy will start showing up in stores shortly after Valentine's Day. When experiencing this strategy in stores or on commercials, remind your family that the purpose of ads is to sell things and the purpose of holy days of feasts and seasons are to celebrate the works of God.

Turn to Page 227,
The Liturgical Seasons
(cont'd)
Vivos en Cristo, Page 455

Have your child read the text about Triduum. Then you read the text about Easter. Show the lengths of these seasons on a calendar. Point out that Easter is the second longest season of the Church year. Only Ordinary Time is longer.

Read the text on Ordinary Time. Show your child this season on a calendar and point out that Ordinary Time comes in two parts of the year.

Ask: What is the color green a sign of? (**hope and growth**)

Refer to pages 312–313 of the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child's book to learn more about the liturgical year.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 228,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 457

Have your child silently read the opening question and two paragraphs.

Read aloud the blocks of text in the “Celebrating the Seasons” chart.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 229,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 459

Read the paragraph about Saint Juan Diego.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about when God has shown you a sign of love.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 231,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let’s Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 463

Parents, Consider This: *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (see Page 323), 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.