In order for children to enter into worship at Mass, they need to become increasingly familiar with the story of our salvation in Jesus. This story is communicated through our sacred Scripture, which is of great importance in the liturgy. The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy explains, “For it is from Scripture that the readings are given and explained in the homily and that psalms are sung; the prayers, collects, and liturgical songs are scriptural in their inspiration; it is from the Scriptures that actions and signs derive their meaning” (24).

The Second Vatican Council named “a warm and living love for Scripture” as essential in the restoration and renewal of the liturgy, and called for a greater and varied use of Scripture within the liturgy itself (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 24). Helping children to learn the stories from the Bible and to recognize the scriptural references in the other parts of Mass helps to engage them in the story of our faith and bring them into deeper relationship with Christ, both of which are essential to understanding and participating in the liturgy.

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

- What role have the Scriptures played in your faith development and life of faith?
- What do you wish you had a better understanding of regarding our Scriptures? How might you seek this out?

**ACTIVITY**

Look up the Gospel passage that will be proclaimed this coming Sunday. Have your child help you find that passage in the Bible. Spend some time reading it and talking about it as a family. What is taking place in this passage? What does this Gospel reading tell us about Jesus? What is the good news in this Scripture? What might Jesus be telling us through this piece of Scripture? What do we want to tell Jesus as a response to this Gospel? Take note of how this practice affects your family’s experience during Mass.

(Note: the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has a calendar of the daily Mass readings on their website: www.usccb.org. You can access helpful footnotes by clicking on the green link that names the passage.)