

Overview

In this chapter the children will learn about the parts of the Mass and how we are sent forth from Mass to serve God and other people.

For Adult Reading and Reflection <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>	
Doctrinal Content	
The children will learn:	Paragraph
• We gather to praise God.	1359
• We listen to God’s Word.	1349
• We receive Jesus Christ.	1355
• We go out to love and serve the Lord.	1694

Catechist Background

What are some of the rituals that mark my day?

We participate in many daily rituals. Some are as mundane as washing and dressing ourselves. Others are more significant, like the ritual we may use to begin class with the children. For most of us, these daily rituals are essential.

The Mass also has an order. According to the Second Vatican Council, “This full and active participation by all the people is the aim” of all liturgical worship (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 14). The order of the Mass was established in Christian Tradition and has been maintained throughout the Church’s history. We begin with the Introductory Rites, the time for gathering and preparation. We confess our sins and give praise for God’s mercy in the “Gloria.” The Liturgy of the Word follows, in which we listen to God’s Word proclaimed and are called to respond in our daily lives. After the homily, we profess our faith in the Creed and present our needs to God in the Prayer of the Faithful.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the presentation of the gifts of bread and wine at the altar. The Eucharistic Prayer follows, when, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the words and actions of the priest, the bread and the wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. We pray the Lord’s Prayer, offer one another a sign of peace, and then approach the altar to receive Holy Communion. The Concluding Rites sends us forth.

How can I more fully participate in the Mass?

Focus on Life

Chapter Story

Amanda left school feeling very confident. In her class today they were talking about being a good Christian. Amanda was sure she had that well under control. After all, she went to Mass every Sunday, loved her religion class, and even sang in the choir. How could she possibly be a better Catholic?

Then she noticed two of her classmates ahead of her. They had taken a second grader’s book and were holding it up, just out of his reach. He was in tears because they were laughing at him and teasing him. Amanda crossed the street and tried to ignore them as she walked past. Suddenly the words from her class that day came to her. “Jesus wants me to be a disciple of peace and love,” Amanda said to herself. She realized that she was not doing what a disciple of Jesus should do.

Amanda gathered her courage and crossed the street. She approached the two and said, “Terry and Craig, give that boy his book back!”

“Go away, Amanda!” said Terry.

“We’re just having some fun!” said Craig. However, Craig grudgingly gave the book to the younger boy.

Craig and Terry were irritated with Amanda. “Why did you do that?” Terry asked.

“Don’t you remember our lesson from today, Terry?” she replied. “We are supposed to help others, not hurt them.” Terry and Craig looked at Amanda a bit sheepishly.

When Amanda got home, she noticed that her music player was on the coffee table in the living room. That meant that her little sister, Kate, had gone into her room and taken it. Amanda was angry and went to find Kate.

What do you think Amanda did next?

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