

Gathered as One

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 231,
the Family + Faith page.

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

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize that the Mass is central to Catholic life because it unites Christ's followers more closely to him and one another
- Describe Christ's presence in the assembly, priest, Word of God, and most especially in the Eucharist
- Appreciate the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist
- Develop an understanding of the Mass as both a duty and a privilege
- Recognize that ordained ministers lead the Mass but other members of the community also serve in the celebration

Parents, Consider This: *Praying as an assembly is different from praying alone. When we gather as believers, especially in celebrating the Eucharist, we become a liturgical assembly. We are encouraged to be more than observers. Active participation of all the faithful in the Mass is both our right and responsibility. At the same time, we want to be mindful of the essential supernatural character of the Mass. Whenever the liturgical assembly gathers for the Eucharist, Christ is present. Consider how your family participates faithfully in the Eucharist to nourish your spiritual life.*

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.

- Savior of the World
- The Supper of the Lamb

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 223,
Gathered as One

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: We are the people of God, the Body of Christ. We all come together to make the whole, but each part is important. That is why—big and small, old and young—we regularly gather together to offer God thanks. Being Catholic is not something we can be on our own.



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: Gathering to celebrate the Eucharist is the most important thing we can do as Catholics, and we do it together. Through the Holy Spirit, we give the Father praise and thank him for his many gifts, and we are united to Christ and to one another.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about Mass and praying as an assembly.

DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

Turn to Page 224,
United in Christ’s Body

Read aloud the opening question and introductory sentence.



Proclaim the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box.

Have your child silently read the paragraph at the bottom of the page. Point out the artwork that relates to the text.

For further discussion of the Church as a community of people who come together to worship, turn to page 309 in the Our Catholic Tradition reference section of your child’s book.

Turn to Page 225,
In His Name

Have your child silently read the two paragraphs.

Discuss how your experience at Sunday Mass is similar to and how it is different than Sally’s.

Ask: What sights and sounds make you feel welcome at Mass?

Read aloud the two paragraphs under Real Presence. Tell your child to listen for the various ways that Jesus is present in the Eucharist.

Read the definitions of **Real Presence** and **Communion of Saints** in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 224.

Ask your child to name the ways Jesus is present.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: For Catholics, the teaching of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is vital to our understanding of the importance of the Sacraments in the practice of our faith. This doctrine distinguishes the belief of Catholics from that of Protestants, who believe the Communion Rite is only a symbolic commemoration of the Last Supper. While we may not be able to adequately explain this in words, we can demonstrate our reverence and teach our children that it is the most important thing Catholics do, because it unites us with Christ and one another.

Turn to Page 226,
Participation in
the Community

Ask your child to think about why we celebrate the Lord's Day. Have your child silently read the text.



Proclaim the Scripture in the Parchment Paper box. Have your child explain in his or her own words what St. Paul is calling these Christians to do.

Turn to Page 227,
Sunday Observance

Summarize the text under "Sunday Observance."

Discuss how your family observes Sunday. Consider if there is anything you might do differently to honor this day. Ask your child to name the various roles people take at Mass.

Read aloud the text under "Role and Responsibilities."



Do the gold-star activity.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 228,
Our Catholic Life

Read the opening question and discuss what your child knows about liturgical ministers. Then read aloud the introductory paragraph.



Review the "Roles and Responsibilities" chart and do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: As a family, discuss who makes you feel welcome in your parish during the Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day. Consider ways any members of your family might participate in liturgical roles and responsibilities and contribute to your faith community.

Turn to Page 229,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Louis de Montfort.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about what stories you can tell about Jesus.

Turn to Page 231,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

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 322), 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.