

Jesus Gives Us the Gift of Himself

- ✦ Before beginning Unit 4, read A Letter Home, found on page 112 of your child's book. Then begin the next paragraph with your child.
- ✦ Say: **In Unit 4 we will learn how to prepare for our First Holy Communion and become familiar with the parts of the Mass.**

CHAPTER 15 Jesus Promised the Gift of Himself

Centering PAGE 111

- ✦ Ask your child to uncover a loaf of fresh bread. Ask: **What is your favorite kind of bread?** Say: **Bread is a gift from God. It gives us life because it gives us strength. Bread is a food that people everywhere eat almost every day. Some people eat it at every meal.**
- ✦ Read aloud the title and the Bible verse on page 111. Say: **Today I have a story to tell you about how Jesus fed a crowd of hungry people. What do you think Jesus fed them?** (bread)

Sharing PAGE 113

- ✦ Use your family Bible to read aloud the story of the multiplication of the loaves and fish (John 6:1–15). Ask: **Why did the people follow Jesus and stay so long with him?** (They liked to be with him. They were listening to him teach and watching him heal people.) Say: **Jesus showed how much he cared about people. He knew they were hungry and tired, so he did something wonderful to feed them. Jesus did this to prepare his friends for a special bread he would soon give them.**
- ✦ Discuss Holy Communion with your child. Say: **We receive the Body and Blood of Christ under the appearances of bread and wine in Holy Communion.**

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the title and the first section of page 113. Ask: **What does Jesus say about himself?** (He is the Bread of Life.)
Can you find a picture of the Bread of Life on the page? Say: **We call the bread we receive at Mass a host. When the host is consecrated, it becomes the Body of Christ. When you receive Holy Communion for the first time, you will receive the Body of Christ.**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the bottom section and point to the word *miracle*. Find the meaning of this word in the Glossary. Ask: **What can our family do to help feed those who are hungry?**

Sharing PAGES 114–115

- ◆ Read aloud page 114. Have your child point to the term *Holy Communion* and find its meaning in the Glossary. Ask: **What kind of bread did Jesus promise to give us?** (living bread) **When do we receive Jesus, the living bread?** (when we receive Holy Communion) **What did Jesus promise those who ate the special bread?** (that they would live forever)
- ◆ Ask: **Why is it important to prepare for your First Holy Communion by showing love for God and for others?** (Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commandments.” When we receive Holy Communion, we show that we want to be more like Jesus.)
- ◆ Say: **First Holy Communion is so wonderful that some children have parties and receive gifts to celebrate. Parties and presents are nice, but they are not the most important thing about First Holy Communion.** Ask: **What is?** (Jesus comes to us.)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the directions on page 115 and complete the activity.
- ◆ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Ask your child to close his or her eyes. Read the reflection slowly, pausing where appropriate.

Acting PAGE 116

- ◆ Give your child the invitation to prepare for Holy Communion found at the back of his or her book. Make sure your child’s name and your priest’s signature are already on the invitation. Ask: **What does your special invitation from our priest ask you?** (whether or not I wish to prepare for Holy Communion)
- ◆ Give your child the response card found at the back of his or her book. Read aloud the card together. Say: **To show that you want to prepare to receive Jesus, circle the words “I would like to prepare to receive Jesus in Holy Communion” and sign your name in the space provided. I will make sure that Father [Name] receives it.**
- ◆ Help your child complete the Chapter 15 Review on page 116.
- ◆ Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 117–118**INSPIRE**

- ✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 117. Say: **Catholics believe that we are united with one another in the Eucharist. We are separate people, but when we come together in the Eucharist, we all share in the Body of Christ. We are one in Christ.**

PROCLAIM

- ✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **What is a miracle?** (something only God can do) Say: **Miracle stories in the Bible amaze us. But God wants us to think more about these stories. He wants us to connect them to our own lives.**
- ✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Jesus feeds us in the Eucharist, and he always will. This is why we call Jesus the living bread.**
- ✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 118. Say: **The order of sisters started by Elizabeth Ann Seton is called the Daughters of Charity. These sisters have helped millions of people.**
- ✦ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ✦ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ✦ Ask: **How do you think Jesus wants us to live in his grace as members of his Body?** (Possible answers: to help others; to make the world beautiful)
- ✦ Say: **Think of someone who doesn't have much energy. Maybe he or she is sad or sick. Ask: How can you use the energy you receive from your faith to help that person?** Discuss ideas with your child.

CHAPTER 16 We Celebrate God's Love

Centering

- ◆ Ask: **What special meals did you learn about in the last chapter?** (the multiplication of loaves and fish, Holy Communion) Say: **Today you will learn about another meal that is special for God's people.**
- ◆ Talk about favorite foods that your family likes to have at birthday celebrations. Ask: **What other occasions do we celebrate by having special food?** (weddings, Thanksgiving, Christmas) **Why do you think meals are an important part of parties?**

Sharing PAGE 119

- ◆ Have your child look at the picture at the top of page 119. Say: **Every year, Jewish families have a special meal to remember God's goodness. The holy day they celebrate with this meal is called Passover. During the Passover meal, the father tells the story of how the Jewish people were freed from slavery.**
- ◆ Use a children's Bible to read or tell your child the Passover story. Say: **Every year since that day when God saved them, the Jewish people celebrate the feast of Passover. They recall how God freed them from Egypt long ago.** Ask: **Why is the feast called Passover?** (The angel of death passed over their houses.) Say: **Because Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were Jewish, they also celebrated Passover.**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the directions on page 119 and point out the word *Passover*. Find the meaning of the word in the Glossary. Have your child complete the activity.

Sharing PAGES 120–121

- ◆ Say: **Catholics also celebrate a special meal to honor God's goodness.** Ask: **What is this special meal called?** (the Eucharist)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud page 120. Ask: **How do you think the Apostles felt when Jesus washed their feet? How would you have felt? By doing this, what do you think Jesus wanted his Apostles to do?** (be thoughtful and helpful to others)
- ◆ Ask: **What are some things we could do for others in order to be like Jesus?** (pick up toys, be patient with people who bother us, be kind to people we don't like, show someone how to do something, help clear the table and wash the dishes, take out the trash, dust)
- ◆ Share the story of the Last Supper with your child (Luke 22:14–20).

- ◆ Have your child read aloud page 121. Say: **Jesus wanted to give himself in Holy Communion not only to the Apostles but also to all the people who would ever live. He wanted to give himself to us too. So Jesus made his Apostles the first priests when he told them, “Do this in memory of me.”**
- ◆ Say: **At Mass, the priest repeats the actions of Jesus at the Last Supper. Listen and watch the priest during this part of the Mass.**

Sharing PAGES 122–123

- ◆ Have your child read page 122 and point out the word *sacrifice*. Have your child check the Glossary if he or she is unable to explain the meaning of *sacrifice*. Ask: **What is happening in the picture on the bottom?** (The Gospel is being read.) **What does God do during this part of the Mass?** (speaks to us through the words of the Bible) **What is happening in the top picture?** (The Body and Blood of Christ are held up for all to see.) **What does Mass help us remember?** (God’s love)
- ◆ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Read aloud the reflection slowly and reverently, pausing where appropriate.
- ◆ Help your child do the crossword puzzle on page 123.

Acting PAGE 124

- ◆ Introduce your child to the Morning Prayer. Say: **One way we give the gift of ourselves to God each day is by praying the Morning Prayer.** Read aloud the prayer on page 124.
- ◆ Help your child remove the My Morning Offering card from the back of his or her book. Have your child decorate it and decide where he or she will place the card to remember this prayer each morning.
- ◆ Reflect on the gift of the Holy Eucharist. Say: **Let’s imagine that we are at the Last Supper with Jesus and the Apostles. Watch Jesus and listen to what he says.** [Pause.] **How good Jesus is to invite us to receive him in Holy Communion!** [Pause.] **How good God is to make us members of the Catholic Church. Thank Jesus for being so good to you.** [Pause.]
- ◆ Help your child complete the Chapter 16 Review on page 124.
- ◆ Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 125–126**INSPIRE**

- ✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 125. Say: *Sacrifice* means “a gift given in love.” **Jesus made the biggest sacrifice of all. He gave us the gift of himself.**

PROCLAIM

- ✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **At the Last Supper, Jesus offered himself to his Father by doing what the Father wanted him to do. This was very hard. Jesus knew he would give up his life. He used the bread and wine at the meal to help his friends understand what he was about to do.**
- ✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **What did Jesus say after he gave himself to his friends at the Last Supper?** (Do this in memory of me.)
- ✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 126. Say: **Teresa never gave up, even when praying seemed pointless. But after many years, Teresa connected with God. She was filled with his light.**
- ✦ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ✦ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ✦ Discuss the rewards of helping someone. Write the word *anonymous*. Explain that the word means “secret” or “unknown.” Say: **If someone gives an anonymous gift, he or she gives it without telling whom it is from.**
- ✦ Challenge your child to give an anonymous gift to someone. Say: **As you do your secret sacrifice, offer it to God. Then watch how your gift changes someone’s day.**

CHAPTER 17 Jesus Invites Us

Centering

- ✦ Say: Often in cartoons and movies, you see a hero fight against evil and “bad guys.” Ask: Who are some of these heroes? How do you feel when the hero wins?
- ✦ Say: Jesus is the greatest hero. He fought against the Devil, sin, and death, and he won. Ask: How did he do this? (by dying and rising from the dead) How do we celebrate his wonderful victory and his great love? (by participating in Mass)
- ✦ Say: Today you will begin to study what happens at Mass from beginning to end.

Sharing PAGE 127

- ✦ Ask: What do all the people do together to celebrate Mass? (pray, sing, listen, offer themselves, receive Jesus in the Eucharist) Say: We do many things together at Mass, but some people do special things to help us celebrate.
- ✦ Say: The priest serves God in a special way at Mass. Ask: What have you seen the priest do? (enters in procession, gives the Homily, leads the Lord’s Prayer, blesses the people and sends them forth at the end of Mass) Invite your child to demonstrate something he or she has seen the priest do during Mass. Say: Watch and listen carefully to our priest the next time we attend Mass.
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the title and the text on page 127. Point out Jesus’ special invitation to the children.

Sharing PAGE 128

- ✦ Say: There is a procession at the beginning of Mass. A procession is a kind of parade that is sometimes a sign of joy and victory. Ask: When we see the procession come in, what do we do? (We stand and sing.)
- ✦ Say: The song we sing at the beginning of Mass is really a prayer that tells God why we have come. We call it the Entrance Chant.
- ✦ Say: The priest begins Mass with the Sign of the Cross. The priest gives us a special greeting. He welcomes us and wishes us God’s blessing. Ask: How do we answer? (“And with your spirit.”) Say: When we say this, we wish the priest God’s grace and peace too.
- ✦ Have your child read aloud page 128 and point out the word *altar*. Find its meaning in the Glossary. Read aloud the directions and have your child complete the activity.

Sharing PAGE 129

- ◆ Help your child understand the Penitential Act. Say: **At the beginning of Mass, we think about how we have sometimes been selfish and mean. We confess to God and to our brothers and sisters that we have been unloving. We pray a special prayer asking for forgiveness.**
- ◆ Read aloud We Ask for Mercy on page 129 and have your child repeat the prayer. Say: **When sins are forgiven, we are one with God and with one another. We can join together as God’s loving family to celebrate Mass.**
- ◆ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus.

Sharing PAGES 130–131

- ◆ Together look at the picture on page 130. Say: **We praise God because he created us and all that exists.** Have your child read aloud the first section. Say: **This prayer is called the *Gloria*, or Glory to God. We pray or sing this prayer on Sundays and feast days.**
- ◆ Explain the Collect, or opening prayer. Say: **After we pray the Glory to God, the priest says “Let us pray.” Then he gives us time to pray quietly. Then the priest prays a prayer aloud. He gathers, or collects, all our prayers into one prayer to God. We listen carefully.**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the bottom section and write *Amen* in the space provided. Ask: **What does *Amen* mean?** (It means “yes”; we agree that the priest’s prayer is ours too.)
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the directions and complete the activities on page 131.
- ◆ List these introductory parts of the Mass in random order on a sheet of paper and help your child number them in the order that they happen. (1. Entrance Chant and procession; 2. Sign of the Cross; 3. Greeting; 4. Penitential Act; 5. *Gloria*; 6. Collect Prayer)

Acting PAGE 132

- ◆ Together look through your child’s Mass booklet. Have your child practice the Introductory Rites of the Mass.
- ◆ Help your child complete the Chapter 17 Review on page 132.
- ◆ Have your child read aloud the introductory parts of the Mass.
- ◆ Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 133–134**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 133. Say: **When Catholics are serving God, it fills us with gladness.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **At Mass, we celebrate how Jesus gave us the gift of himself. We sing and pray and thank God for all his gifts. Our hearts are full of joy.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **All the members of God’s family are one. There are many of us, but we are united. We are one in our belief and in our eucharistic celebration.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 134. Say: **Father Miguel can help us remember Jesus’ great sacrifice. He can also remind us to be joyful in the service of God, even when we are asked to make sacrifices.**
- ◆ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ◆ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ◆ Ask your child to act out these ways of helping at Mass: singing, listening, using the right gestures, bringing up the gifts, helping with the collection, greeting people, giving the sign of peace.
- ◆ Encourage your child to tell a non-Catholic friend or relative about the parts of the Mass.

CHAPTER 18 We Listen and Pray

Centering

- ✦ Read aloud the Chapter title on page 135. Ask: **What is the person in the picture doing?** (reading at Mass) Ask: **Why do we listen carefully at Mass?** (to show respect for the reader, to hear something important)
- ✦ Say: **Just as people long ago heard God’s Word when Jesus spoke to them, we can hear God’s Word today.** Ask: **When do we hear his Word?** (when the Bible is read)
- ✦ Say: **Today you will learn about the next part of the Mass in which God speaks to us.**

Sharing PAGE 135

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the text on page 135.
- ✦ Say: **The First Reading at Mass tells us something about God’s love. When the reader finishes, he or she says “The Word of the Lord.” Let’s read together our response. Our response is “Thanks be to God.”** Have your child practice the response and color the words.
- ✦ Say: **On Sundays and feast days, there is a Second Reading.**

Sharing PAGE 136

- ✦ Say: *Gospel* means “good news.” Friends of Jesus wanted all people to know about him. They wrote about his life. Their writings are called the Gospels.
- ✦ Say: **To show we are happy to hear the good news, we sing *Alleluia*, a word of joy. We also stand to show we are listening to someone important.** Have your child read aloud page 136 and decorate the *Alleluia*. Point out the names of the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Say: **Write the name of one of the four Gospels on the line after “according to.”**
- ✦ Say: **We sign ourselves with the cross three times before the good news is read. We make a small cross on our forehead, lips, and heart to show we want Jesus’ words to be in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.** Practice this with your child.
- ✦ Say: **After the Gospel Reading, we sit to listen to the priest or deacon tell us how to live God’s Word in a talk called a Homily.** Ask: **What should we do during the Homily?** (listen carefully)

Sharing PAGE 137

- ✦ Together look at the picture on page 137. Say: **The stained-glass windows in our churches show what we believe.** Ask: **What truth is shown in the window?** (Jesus rose from the dead.)
- ✦ Take turns reading aloud the text. Ask: **Look at the sentences in bold letters. Who are the Three Persons in God that we believe in?** (God the Father, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit)
- ✦ Say: **At Sunday Mass, when we gather together as God’s people, we tell God we believe in him. We tell what we believe as Catholic Christians. The prayer starts: I believe in one God, the Father almighty . . .**
Continue saying the Creed together as your child follows along on the page.

Sharing PAGE 138

- ✦ Use your family Bible to read aloud the story of Jesus curing the lame man through Peter (Acts of the Apostles 3:1–10). Ask: **How did Peter show that he cared about the man?** (He helped him get up and then walk.) Say: **Peter was praying a prayer asking Jesus to help the man. And Jesus did!**
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 138. Discuss the needs of the people shown in the pictures. Say: **Jesus still cares about people and wants us to ask him to help those in need.**
- ✦ Say: **At Mass, we pray with others who believe in Jesus. We call our prayers the Prayer of the Faithful. This prayer often begins with the word *For* and ends with *let us pray to the Lord*.** Write on a sheet of paper:
For _____, let us pray to the Lord.
- ✦ Say: **Then we often respond with “Lord, hear our prayer.”** Have your child read silently the third paragraph and complete the activity.
- ✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus.

Sharing PAGE 139

- ✦ Say: **God always gives us what is best for us. When we can’t understand God’s plan, we have to trust him.**
- ✦ Have your child read aloud page 139 and complete the activity.

Acting PAGE 140

- ✦ Encourage your child to use his or her Mass booklet to review what was learned in this chapter.
- ✦ Help your child complete the Chapter 18 Review on page 140.
- ✦ Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 141–142**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 141. Say: **When we take God’s word to heart, we follow it because we love it. It becomes part of who we are.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Ask: **What do the readings from the Gospels tell us?** (what Jesus said and did) **Why is listening to the Gospels important?** (We hear Jesus’ words, and we learn how he wants us to live.)
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **After we pray the Creed at Mass, we pray to God to help us.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 142. Say: **Saint Mark was a witness for Christ. We are called to use our gifts to witness for Jesus too.**
- ◆ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ◆ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ◆ Say: **When we gather at Mass, we listen to God’s Word.** Ask: **What should we do with God’s Word when we go forth after Mass is over?** (Share it.)
- ◆ Together brainstorm ways to share God’s Word. Help your child make a booklet out of a few sheets of drawing paper. Have your child write and illustrate a way to share God’s Word on each page of the booklet. After your child decorates the cover, encourage him or her to place the booklet somewhere in your home where others will read it.

CHAPTER 19 We Prepare Our Gifts

Centering

- ✦ Ask: Have you ever helped get the table ready for a party or a special meal? What kind of celebration was it? What did you put on the table?
- ✦ Say: We prepare the table before we eat with our family and friends. We want everything to be just right before we enjoy a good meal together.
- ✦ Say: Today you will learn about the part of the Mass in which we prepare for Jesus Christ offering himself under the appearances of bread and wine.

Sharing PAGE 143

- ✦ Say: After we have prayed for the needs of the people, it is time to prepare the altar table for the very special meal in which Jesus offers himself to the Father for us. We call this part of the Mass the Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts.
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the title and the text on page 143. Ask: Why do we give a gift to someone? (to show love or thanks) Say: Gifts are also a way of giving ourselves to someone we love. Bread and wine may not seem like very much, but at Mass, they are transformed into Jesus Christ, the best gift of all.
- ✦ Say: At Mass, you might think of something that has happened in your life and offer it to God. Ask Jesus to change it as the bread and wine are transformed.
- ✦ Say: At some Masses, people give their church offering or collection envelopes during this time. Refer your child to the picture. Ask: How is the money used? (for bread and wine, candles, song books, lights, heat, helping people in the parish, helping priests)
- ✦ Say: Sometimes we call the Mass a eucharistic banquet. *Eucharist* means “thanksgiving.” The Mass is a thanksgiving banquet or meal.

Sharing PAGE 144

- ✦ Discuss the Preface. Have your child turn to page 11 in his or her Mass booklet. Say: At Mass, the priest leads us in a special prayer of thanks and praise. He extends his arms to invite us all to pray.
- ✦ Say: He begins the prayer by greeting us with “The Lord be with you.” Look in your Mass booklet to see how we answer. (“And with your spirit.”) The priest tells us to think about what will soon take place. He says, “Lift up your hearts.” We answer, “We lift them up to the Lord.” Practice these lines with your child.

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the top section of page 144. Say: **The priest invites us to thank God. He says, “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.” We think of those gifts and answer, “It is right and just.”**
- ◆ Have your child read aloud We Sing Holy, Holy, Holy. Say: **The priest invites us to join with the angels and saints in praising God by praying “Holy, holy, holy.” At Mass, we celebrate with everyone in heaven.** Play a recording of “Holy, Holy, Holy” for your child.
- ◆ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Ask your child to relax and close his or her eyes. Prayerfully read the reflection, pausing where appropriate. Give your child some quiet time with Jesus.

Acting PAGES 145–146

- ◆ Have your child read aloud the directions on page 145 and complete the activity.
- ◆ Encourage your child to use his or her Mass booklet to review what was learned in this chapter.
- ◆ Help your child complete the Chapter 19 Review on page 146.
- ◆ Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 147–148**INSPIRE**

- ✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 147. Say: **When we receive Jesus in the Eucharist, we “will never hunger.” When Jesus said this, he wasn’t talking about a growling stomach. He was describing our longing for God. Jesus fills us with God’s love.**

PROCLAIM

- ✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **When we offer the bread and wine to God at Mass, the priest thanks God for creation and all its goodness.**
- ✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and ask: **What other gift do we thank God for in the Eucharist?** (Jesus)
- ✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 148. Say: **We can live our lives as Saint Miguel did. The first thing on our mind can always be God’s gift of Jesus.**
- ✦ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ✦ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ✦ Say: **To keep a thankful heart, it is good to thank God before and after a meal, just as we do when we receive Holy Communion at Mass.**
- ✦ Have your child copy the Grace After Meals prayer found on the inside back cover of his or her book on a sheet of paper. Invite your child to decorate the paper and then pray the prayer with your family after the evening meal.

CHAPTER 20 Jesus Offers Himself

Centering

- ✦ Display a picture of a wrapped gift. Ask: **Did you know that every gift brings a message with it, even if there's no note inside?**
- ✦ Ask: **Have you ever given someone a present? What were you telling that person when you gave the gift? (Thank you; I love you.)** Say: **It is the message behind the gift that makes it important or valuable.**
- ✦ Ask: **What gifts do we give God during Mass? (bread and wine, ourselves, Jesus)** Say: **Today you will learn about Jesus' great gift.**

Sharing PAGE 149

- ✦ Ask: **What do we call a gift given to God? (sacrifice)** Say: **Jesus offered himself at the Last Supper. The next day he died on the Cross for us. He sacrificed himself out of great love for the Father and for us.**
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the title and the text on page 149. Together look at the picture at the top of the page. Say: **The priest remembers what Jesus told us to do at the Last Supper. The bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. We watch and listen carefully. This is the most important part of the Mass. It is called the Eucharistic Prayer.**
- ✦ Ask: **What does the priest say over the bread? ("This is my Body.") What happens when he prays this prayer? (The bread becomes the Body of Christ.) What does the priest say over the wine? ("This is the chalice of my Blood.") What happens when he prays this prayer? (The wine becomes the Blood of Christ.)**

Sharing PAGES 150–151

- ✦ Say: **The priest asks us to pray a prayer that states what we believe. He says, "The mystery of faith." Then we pray a special prayer, like the one on page 150. Have your child read aloud the top section of page 150.**
- ✦ Say: **At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, we pray *Amen*. Sometimes we say this *Amen* three times. In this *Amen*, we say yes to all that happened during the Mass. We mean, yes, we praise and thank the Father. Yes, we offer Jesus and ourselves. When we offer ourselves with Jesus, we offer a wonderful gift. The love of Jesus makes this the greatest gift we can offer.**
- ✦ Ask: **How can we show that we really mean the *Amen*? (by praying or singing it with a strong voice full of love)**
- ✦ Say: **This part of the Mass might seem long, and you might have a hard time paying attention. Remember that Jesus wants us to be with him in his sacrifice. If it is hard for us, we will show even greater love by joining in with our whole heart.**

- ◆ Have your child read aloud *We Offer Ourselves with Jesus*.
- ◆ Lead your child in prayer using *A Moment with Jesus*. Allow time for his or her conversation with Jesus.
- ◆ Have your child refer to the top section of page 150 to help him or her fill in the blanks in the activity on page 151.

Acting PAGE 152

- ◆ Help your child complete the Chapter 20 Review on page 152.
- ◆ Encourage your child to review pages 12–17 in his or her Mass booklet.
- ◆ Say: **Remember to pay special attention to the priest as he says the words and performs the actions of the Eucharistic Prayer during Mass.**
- ◆ Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 153–154**INSPIRE**

- ✦ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 153. Say: **Jesus said, “This is my body.” Catholics believe that Jesus meant this exactly. We believe that Jesus is with us in a real and special way when we celebrate the Last Supper at Mass.**

PROCLAIM

- ✦ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Offering ourselves to God means saying, “God, thank you for giving me life. I love you. I will follow you.”**
- ✦ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Jesus is with you in your heart and imagination. He is also present to you at Mass when we celebrate the Last Supper in the Eucharist.**
- ✦ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 154. Say: **We can ask Saint Joseph to help us build strong families by sharing our gifts with one another.**
- ✦ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ✦ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ✦ Remind your child that *Eucharist* means “giving thanks.” Write on a sheet of paper: *God, thank you for giving me life. I love you. I want to receive the Eucharist often.*
- ✦ Give your child a precut paper doorknob hanger. Have him or her write the prayer on the doorknob hanger and decorate it. Suggest that your child draw symbols of the Eucharist and of good things in his or her life on the hanger. Have your child give the doorknob hanger to a loved one.

CHAPTER 21 We Receive the Bread of Life

Centering

- ✦ Ask: **What is your favorite food? What would happen if we didn't have anything to eat or drink for a long time?** (We would get very hungry and thirsty. We might get sick or die.) **What do food and drink do for us?** (help us grow; keep us alive; give us strength to work, play, and think)
- ✦ Ask: **In what form is Jesus offered to the Father during the Eucharist?** (bread and wine) **Who says the words that transform the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ?** (the priest)

Sharing PAGE 155

- ✦ Say: **After the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ through the words of the priest, we prepare to receive the Bread of Life. We pray the prayer Jesus taught us. Ask: What prayer is this?** (the Lord's Prayer, or the Our Father)
- ✦ Say: **Look at the top picture on page 155. Ask: What are the children doing?** (praying together) Say: **In this prayer, we ask God to "give us our daily bread." What bread are we asking for?** (all food that keeps us strong and healthy) Say: **We are also asking for the Eucharist, which is the Bread of Life that helps us live as God's children.**
- ✦ Pray aloud the Lord's Prayer together.
- ✦ Say: **After we pray the Our Father, we are still not ready to receive the Eucharist. We give the sign of peace to those around us to show that we want to be at peace with everyone.** Demonstrate a simple sign of peace.
- ✦ Say: **While the priest breaks the bread, we say or sing a prayer calling Jesus the Lamb of God. This reminds us of the lambs that Jewish people used to sacrifice to God. In this prayer, we ask Jesus to forgive us for anything we have done to disrupt the peace in his family.**
- ✦ Have your child read aloud the title and the text on page 155.
- ✦ Take turns reading aloud pages 18–20 in your child's Mass booklet.

Sharing PAGE 156

- ✦ Have your child look at the picture on page 156. Then choose parts and read aloud the page.
- ✦ Ask: **What did the soldier believe Jesus could do?** (that Jesus could cure his servant by just saying that the servant would be healed) **Why did Jesus cure the servant?** (because the soldier had great faith in the power of Jesus)

- ✦ Say: **Like the soldier, we feel unworthy to have Jesus come to us. We feel this way because Jesus is the Son of God. We know we can never love Jesus as he loves us. That is why we pray a short prayer before Holy Communion that is very much like the prayer of the soldier: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."**

Sharing PAGE 157

- ✦ Have your child read aloud the directions on page 157. Say: **The sentences refer to the lesson of the story of the Roman soldier.** Have your child read aloud the sentences when he or she has filled in the missing words.
- ✦ Lead your child in prayer using A Moment with Jesus. Ask your child to look at the picture on page 156 or to close his or her eyes as you guide your child to reflect.

Sharing PAGE 158

- ✦ Practice how to receive Jesus in Holy Communion with your child. Read aloud page 158. Point out the word *holy* and find its meaning in the Glossary.
- ✦ Say: **If you wish to receive Jesus on your tongue, open your mouth and extend your tongue so the host can be placed on it. If you wish to receive the host in your hands, make your right hand like a seat for your left hand and hold your hands up high.** (Reverse the position if your child is left-handed.) **After the host is in your hand, step to one side, pick up the host with the hand that is underneath, and slowly eat the Bread of Life.**
- ✦ Say: **If we are invited to drink from the chalice, we take the chalice very carefully and drink only a sip of the Precious Blood.**

Sharing PAGE 159

- ✦ Say: **The time after Holy Communion is special. Jesus makes us one with him in a wonderful way. He is closer to us than before because now he is in us. He helps us be united with one another in love.**
- ✦ Have your child read aloud page 159 and write in the word. (altar)
- ✦ Have your child read silently pages 22 and 23 of his or her Mass booklet.

Acting PAGE 160

- ✦ Let your child practice receiving the bread and wine using unconsecrated altar bread and grape juice.
- ✦ Help your child complete the Chapter 21 Review on page 160.
- ✦ Encourage your child to share the Building Family Faith section with other members of your family, or together read aloud the section to review.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 161–162**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 161. Say: **When we receive Holy Communion, Jesus Christ is truly present within us. We become filled with his love and his Spirit.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **The priest offers the bread and wine to God our Father.** Ask: **What else do we offer the Father?** (ourselves; thanks and praise)
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **When we offer ourselves to the Father in love, we become one with Jesus. Jesus offered himself to the Father in love.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 162. Ask: **How can Saint Julie help us?** (Possible answers: She reminds us that there is always a way to share Jesus' love; she can pray for us.)
- ◆ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ◆ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ◆ Ask: **What does God promise those who eat and drink the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion?** (eternal life with God in heaven; being one with Christ)
- ◆ Have your child make a poster that shows the Body and Blood of Christ. Tell him or her to write something that tells what is given and received. Encourage your child to share the poster with a friend or relative.

CHAPTER 22 We Share God's Love with Others

Centering

- ✦ Make three signs with the headings *Home, School, and Everywhere*. Brainstorm ways that Jesus can love through you and your child and list them on the appropriate sign. Visualize situations such as a family argument or a new student at school to help you think about what you would do. Place the signs in your home as reminders of how to love and serve the Lord at home, at school, and everywhere.
- ✦ Say: **In Holy Communion, Jesus comes into our hearts and makes us like himself. Today you will see how we are sent to go forth from the Mass to live in the world as Jesus did.**

Sharing PAGE 163

- ✦ Say: **Before Jesus went to heaven, he said what he wanted his Apostles to do. He said, "Go out to the whole world and tell the Good News." At Mass, Jesus teaches us to love and serve God just as he taught the Apostles. Ask: When does he do this? (in the readings and Homily)**
- ✦ Explain the last parts of the Mass. Read aloud the title and the text on page 163.
- ✦ Say: **At the end of the Mass, the priest blesses us and says, "May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." We pray the Sign of the Cross and answer *Amen*. The priest blesses us so that God will stay with us to help us glorify the Lord by living and serving him and one another. (Repeat the prayer and have your child pray the Sign of the Cross and respond "Amen.")**
- ✦ Say: **After the priest says, "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life," we answer, "Thanks be to God." We usually sing a closing song to praise and thank God.**

Sharing PAGES 164–165

- ✦ Say: **When the priest tells us to "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life," he is telling us to bloom where we're planted. We are bringing Jesus' love wherever we are. Where might this be? (at home, in school, on the playground)**
- ✦ Say: **Sometimes we may find it difficult to bloom where we're planted. We may find it hard to bring to others the love Jesus shares with us in Holy Communion. But Jesus helps us.**

- ◆ Have your child complete the activity at the top of page 164. Then have your child read aloud the paragraph at the bottom of the page. Point out the words *tabernacle* and *Blessed Sacrament* and look up the meanings in the Glossary.
- ◆ Have your child complete the activity on page 165.

Reviewing PAGE 166

- ◆ Help your child complete the Unit 4 Review on page 166.
- ◆ Prior to the activity, write these words on ten flower shapes: *Gospel, bread, wine, thank, gift, sorry, Amen, Jesus, praise, believe*. Place the flowers facedown. Take turns picking a flower and using the word in a sentence.

Celebrating PAGES 167–168

- ◆ Lead your child in the celebration *The Lord Is Our Shepherd* on pages 167–168. Take turns reading aloud the different parts. Allow your child enough time for quiet reflection after the reading.
- ◆ Choose a song that your child will sing during his or her first eucharistic celebration.

Acting

- ◆ Help your child remove the Response Wheel from the back of his or her book and attach the spinner with a metal fastener. Tell your child that the responses can be found in their Mass booklet on pages 6, 11, 14, 17, 21, and 24. Say: **Spin the spinner and give the response to the prayer on which it stops.**
- ◆ When you've completed this unit, help your child tear out the Family Feature section on pages 170a–170d and encourage him or her to share it with other family members, or read and complete the section together.

Gather and Go Forth PAGES 169–170**INSPIRE**

- ◆ Read aloud the text and the Scripture in the sidebar on page 169. Say: **Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us do his work. In a similar way, the priest sends us forth to do Jesus' work at the end of Mass.**

PROCLAIM

- ◆ Read aloud the Know and Proclaim text and the chart. Say: **Often, consecrated hosts are taken by extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to those who are sick or homebound.**
- ◆ Read aloud the question and answers in Test Your Catholic Knowledge. Have your child answer the question and say: **Jesus Christ is present in the tabernacle.**
- ◆ Read aloud A Catholic to Know on page 170. Say: **Martin cared for people who were ignored, unloved, and disrespected. When he saw someone who was hurting, Martin asked, "How can I help?"**
- ◆ Read aloud the Witness and Share introductory text. Then read aloud each faith statement in My Way to Faith, pausing to allow time for your child to reflect on each one.
- ◆ Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions and have your child complete the activity.

TRANSFORM

- ◆ Say: **All of us feel tired, afraid, worried, or hurt sometimes. We can pray to God to be brave and strong. If we keep our eyes and ears open, we will find people we can help, heal, or serve.**
- ◆ Invite your child to serve someone today. Say: **Thank you for sharing Jesus' love with others.**