

We Give Thanks

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 259,
the Family + Faith page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 519

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Recognize the Last Supper as the meal Jesus shared with his disciples the night before he died
- Define the Eucharist as the Sacrament in which Jesus gives himself, and the bread and wine become his Body and Blood
- Describe the Mass as the gathering of Catholics to worship God and celebrate the Eucharist
- Understand that in the Mass we hear God's Word, give thanks for his gifts, and receive Jesus in Holy Communion

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

Parents, Consider This: *As a parent, you help form your child's identity. How she/he comes to define her/himself in this world is deeply influenced by your family story. Your child will also need to connect her/his identity to the family story of the Church. Helping her/him grow with this sense of belonging to both families will shape the way she/he sees her/himself in the world. Research tells us that rituals form identity. Rituals affect our brains in ways that help us to access the places where we experience peace and communion. The Mass is the ritual where Catholics are shaped more deeply into their identity as the Body of Christ. As your family celebrates the Eucharist with your parish, both you and your child are deepening your identity as Catholics.*

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.

- Come Share this Meal
- Supper of the Lamb

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 251,
We Give Thanks
Vivos en Cristo, Page 503

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.

Explain that Jesus gave his life for us.

Say: Jesus gave his life for us and shares that life with us every day. Let's listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew to hear how.



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: Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He told them that he was giving them a special gift. He gave them himself in Holy Communion.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about this meal that Jesus shared with his disciples.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 252,
The Eucharist
Vivos en Cristo, Page 505

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Explain to your child that an important part of the Mass recalls Jesus' last meal with his friends before his Death. Tell him/her this meal is known as the Last Supper.

Hold up an index card with the Catholic Faith Word, **Last Supper**, written on it. Have your child read it. Go to the Catholic Faith Words box and read the definition. Ask your child to retell it to you in his/her own words.



Proclaim "The Last Supper."



Complete the gold-star activity.

Ask: When do you hear these words at Mass? Explain that the priest says these words when God changes the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Tell your child that Jesus promised that he would always be with his friends. Explain that Jesus is present in every Sacrament.

Turn to Page 253,
Giving Thanks
Vivos en Cristo, Page 507

Read aloud the paragraph.

Show an index card to introduce your child to the Catholic Faith Word, **Eucharist**. Have your child practice pronouncing the word. Read the definition from the Catholic Faith Words Box. Ask your child to retell it to you in his/her own words.

Tell your child that the Eucharist has words and actions that show that Jesus is present.

Ask if she/he recalls the words of Jesus that the priest says during Mass. Tell your child that the priest and people at Mass continue to do what Jesus told the disciples to do at the Last Supper.

Explain that Jesus' Body and Blood are under the appearances of bread and wine, by saying, "It still looks like bread and wine, but it is really Jesus himself."

Direct your child to tell you what they think is happening in the picture on this page.

Turn to Page 254,
During Mass
Vivos en Cristo, Page 509

Read aloud the two paragraphs.

Show your child index cards with the Catholic Faith Words, **Mass** and **Holy Communion**, written on them. Read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask your child to retell it to you in his/her own words.

Point out the pictures.

Ask: What things do Catholics do at Mass?

Have your child name key words from each caption of the pictures on this page and on page 255. (*gather, sing, pray, listen to readings, Body and Blood of Jesus, receive Jesus in Holy Communion*)

Turn to Page 255,
During Mass (cont'd)
Vivos en Cristo, Page 511

Tell your child that family celebrations and Mass have similarities.

Talk about your favorite family celebration and why it's your favorite. (*people are gathered, special food, candles, etc.*)

Tell them that Mass is our special meal because bread and wine become Jesus himself. If applicable, explain to the children that next year they will prepare to receive Jesus in Holy Communion.

You may want to sing "Come Share this Meal" or "Supper of the Lamb" from the *Songs of Scripture* CD. The lyrics are available at aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 256,
Our Catholic Life
Vivos en Cristo, Page 513

Read aloud the introduction.

Have your child follow along in their books as you read aloud the lists. Pause to describe people, items, and actions as necessary, referring to the pictures when appropriate.



Have your child complete the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 257,
People of Faith
Vivos en Cristo, Page 515

Read the paragraph about Blessed Pope John XXIII.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- How can your family show its love for the Mass?

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *God has given your family so many wonderful gifts. The Mass is one of them. It brings the people, who are the Body of Christ, together in unity and worship and sends them out in mission. When you are present at the Eucharist, you provide spiritual support for other members of the Body of Christ. You model faith for your children and all the youth of your parish. Your expression of faith becomes a gift for others. So give praise and thanksgiving for God's loving gift, his Son Jesus! Fervently sing a hymn of praise, listen intently, pray from the heart, and extend Christ's peace.*

Turn to Page 259,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.
Vivos en Cristo, Page 519

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Morning Prayer (see Page 318), during your morning prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.