

Gathering for Mass

Engage: Page 147

- ▶ Invite your child to sit and listen quietly for sounds. Ask your child to share what he or she heard. Say: *Listening is an important skill. At Mass, we need to listen closely to God's Word.*
- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture.
- ▶ Read aloud Luke 6:46–49. Then say: *The Gospel of the Lord.* Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Read aloud the paragraphs on page 147. Ask: *What can listening to Jesus' words help us do?* (love and forgive others, obey our parents, make good choices)
- ▶ Say: *When we gather for Mass, we turn our hearts toward God.* Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying together *Amen.*

Explore: Pages 148–149

- ▶ Discuss the jobs of people you see participating in Sunday Mass. Say: *The priest leads us in the celebration of the Mass in the name of Jesus Christ. He is helped by deacons, altar servers, lectors, cantors, and choir members.* Ask: *What are we all called to do at Mass?* (sing, respond)
- ▶ Read aloud The Mass Begins. Ask: *What happens at Mass after the Entrance Procession?* (The priest greets everyone and leads people in asking God to forgive their sins.) Guide your child to look up the terms *ambo*, *Lectionary for Mass*, and *Homily* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definitions. Then read aloud We Hear God's Message. Say: *During the Homily, the priest or deacon tells us more about the readings we have just heard and how their message connects to our daily lives.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Say: *This verse tells us how important it is to listen to God's Word.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud page 149. Guide your child to look up the term *Liturgy of the Word* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Explain: *The Liturgy of the Word is the part of Mass when we listen to God's Word from the Bible.* Review information in the section The Order of Mass, which begins on page 260.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Discuss how the Third Commandment calls us to keep holy the Lord's Day.

Art Exploration: Page 150

- ▶ Find in a book or online a picture of the symbols of the four Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

- ▶ Say: ***What do you see in this picture?*** Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the symbols shown to represent each Gospel writer. Say: ***The Gospels contain God's special messages for us to learn and live by. Listen for them each time you attend Mass.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 150. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud The Four Gospels. Then guide your child to look up the word *Evangelists* in the Glossary. Read aloud and discuss the definition. Say: ***The Gospels tell about the life of Jesus.*** Have your child name each of the four Evangelists and his symbol.
- ▶ Read aloud the Symbol Match. Allow time for your child to complete the activity. Discuss the responses.
- ▶ Invite your child to design and draw a symbol that represents him or her, such as the ones for Jesus and the Evangelists. Encourage your child to think about his or her talents and incorporate it into his or her symbol. Ask your child to explain the finished symbol.

Reflect: Pages 151–152

- ▶ Together look at page 151. Say: ***Mass is a special time to pray for the forgiveness of our sins, ask for God's blessings, and listen to God's Word from the Bible.***
- ▶ Slowly read aloud the paragraphs. Say: ***Let's take some time to think about the Mass. Listen closely and be with Jesus in your heart.*** Pray aloud the reflection slowly and reverently, pausing where appropriate. Conclude by praying together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Mass on page 152 and complete the activity. Discuss the responses when he or she is finished.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. Take turns acting out the role of the lector and the role of the people.

Respond: Pages 153–154

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways to show that he or she is like Jesus. Invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Then pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 154. Together as a family, complete the page and do the activity. Pray the family prayer. Say: ***This Sunday at Mass, listen carefully to God's Word and join in the responses. Remember not to just listen to God's words, but put them into practice. When we act on God's Word, we become strong and nothing can shake us!***