

Celebrating the Eucharist

Engage: Page 147

- ▶ Invite your child to quiet himself or herself and prepare to hear Sacred Scripture. Read Luke 22:14–20. Then say: ***The Gospel of the Lord.*** Invite your child to respond *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ▶ Invite your child to share stories of being reunited with relatives after a long time apart. Say: ***We experience joy when those we love are present with us. In the Eucharist, we experience joy at Jesus' presence with us.*** Read aloud the paragraphs. Ask: ***How is Jesus present with us in the Eucharist?*** (through the consecrated bread and wine, which have become Jesus' Body and Blood) Say: ***Let's pray, giving thanks for Jesus' presence with us.*** Pray aloud the prayer. Conclude by praying *Amen.*
- ▶ Discuss your favorite family dinners. Ask: ***Who is there? What do we like to eat? What do we talk about?*** Say: ***The divine meal we share with our parish family is called the celebration of the Eucharist.*** Discuss with your child how you celebrate Sunday—the Lord's Day—together.

Explore: Pages 148–149

- ▶ Read aloud Do This and Remember Me on page 148. Say: ***As part of the Eucharistic Prayer in Mass, the priest prays words from this Scripture passage.***
- ▶ Read Body and Blood of Christ with your child and have him or her label the picture to show where we receive each one (the Body of Christ from the paten, the Blood of Christ from the chalice).
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. Tell your child that Jesus said this to his disciples, and discuss with your child the meaning of these words. (Jesus gives us himself in the form of bread; he is our nourishment; he gives us life.)
- ▶ Have your child look at the picture on page 149. Ask: ***What does this picture show?*** (Jesus with the disciples at the Last Supper) Have your child read aloud Our Central Celebration. Ask: ***How is Christ present with us at Mass?*** (He is in the people gathered, the priest, the Scripture readings, and the Eucharist.) Say: ***We celebrate the Eucharist regularly to worship God.***
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. If you and your child have prayed together before the Blessed Sacrament, ask your child what he or she remembers about it. If not, suggest that the two of you do so soon.

Art Exploration: Page 150

- ▶ Find in a magazine, a book, or online an image of the Eucharist in art. As you look at the image with your child, share ideas about the scene represented. Say: ***When we receive Holy Communion, we are one with Jesus.***
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 150. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question. Have your child read aloud The Mass Makes Us One Family. If you and your child have ever attended Mass in another church or another country, discuss anything about the experience that made an impression on each of you.
- ▶ Read aloud Your Special Day. Allow time for your child to write about his or her First Communion. Together share your memories of that day. If your child has not yet had his or her First Holy Communion, invite your child to write what he or she imagines it will be like.

Reflect: Pages 151–152

- ▶ Together look at page 151. Say: ***The girl in the picture is imagining herself present with Jesus at the Last Supper.*** Have your child get comfortable. Pray the reflective prayer aloud, pausing after each paragraph as you and your child imagine the scene. Pray together the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Celebrate the Lord's Day on page 152. Say: ***On the Lord's Day, Catholics all over the world celebrate the Mass in a similar way.*** Read aloud Days of Celebration. Say: ***An obligation means a duty to do something. As Catholics, it is our duty to attend Mass on holy days of obligation, just as we do on Sundays.***
- ▶ Read aloud My Family, Parish Family and have your child complete the activity. Review your child's lists and make any further suggestions you may have for him or her.

Respond: Pages 153–154

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can gather for Mass and celebrate the Eucharist. Then invite your child to complete the activity.
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud With My Family on page 154. Talk with your child about showing Jesus we love him by celebrating Sunday, the Lord's Day, with our parish family at Mass.