

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 1 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 23 AT MASS

Objectives

- Identify ways family members celebrate together.
- Compare the Mass to a family celebration.
- Associate the Sacrament of the Eucharist with the first Eucharist.
- Identify and practice ways to celebrate at Mass.

Step 1: *We Are Invited* (Life Experience), page 138

Begin this lesson on page 138 by reading the photo caption. Have your child share the best birthday celebration he or she has ever experienced, either a party for himself or herself or for someone else. Then share a similar experience of your own.

Remind your child that the Church has a special celebration, too, called the *Eucharist*. Note the chapter title: **At Mass**. Pray aloud the opening **Prayer**. Encourage your child to respond, *Amen*.

Read aloud the story on page 138. Remind your child that he or she has met Tía Lidia and her family in Chapter 15. Explain that the word *gracias* means “thank you.” Point out that a tortilla is a round, flat bread made from cornmeal or flour and rolled around fillings such as meat or cheese. If possible, show your child a tortilla. Ask: How did Tía Lidia’s family celebrate her birthday? (with food, thanks, stories, presents, and a song)

Step 2: *We Explore* (Doctrine), pages 139–141

Read aloud **The Eucharist** on page 139. Use the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook to clarify the meaning of the word *Eucharist*.

Draw attention to the children bringing up the gifts of bread and wine at the presentation of the gifts. Remind your child of a time when your family may have brought up the gifts.

Take some time to review with your child the parts of the Mass listed on page 180. Then have your child complete the **Activity** on page 139.

Read aloud **Catholics Believe**. Invite your child to name some of the things God has done for him or her. (Possible answers: God loves us and cares for us; God gives us loving families, the beautiful world around us, and the gift of his Son, Jesus.)

Explain to your child that Jesus celebrated the first Eucharist with his friends before he died on the cross. This special meal is known as the *Last Supper*.

Read aloud the **Scripture Story: The First Eucharist** on page 140. Point out that Jesus' words at the first Eucharist are the same words used today when the Sacrament of the Eucharist is celebrated. Emphasize that when the priest repeats the same words Jesus used at the Last Supper, the bread and wine we presented to God earlier in the Mass become the Body and Blood of Jesus. Ask: What did Jesus ask us to remember every time we celebrate the Eucharist? (that he is with us)

Read aloud the **Scripture Signpost** quotation. Ask: How did God show kindness to us? (Review with your child our belief that God our heavenly Father sent his own Son to save us. This saving action is what we remember and thank God for in the Eucharist.)

Read aloud the introductory paragraph of **Stepping Stones: Celebrating the Mass** on page 141. Use the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook to clarify the meaning of the highlighted word *assembly*.

Ask your child to point to the picture of the priest. Then read aloud the caption. Explain that a homily is a reflection given by the priest or deacon to help us use God's word in our lives.

Continue counterclockwise, discussing the photographs and reading the captions, using these suggestions: *Learn the prayers and songs*: Ask your child which of the prayers and songs he or she knows by heart. *Celebrate with your whole body*: If your child is unfamiliar with when he or she is to stand, kneel, and so on, suggest he or she watch an adult near them. *Pay attention*: Ask your child to look at the picture of the boy sitting at Mass. Ask: How is the boy in the picture showing respect? (He is sitting quietly with folded hands.)

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 142

Review the material taught in this lesson by discussing **Recall, Think and Share**, and **Continue the Journey** on page 142. Have your child complete the activity.

Read **We Live Our Faith: At Home and In the Parish**. Try to follow through on the suggestions found there.

Complete the **Unit Six Review** on page 144–145.

Complete the **Faith Journal** pages 45–46.

Step 4: We Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 143

Read aloud the introductory paragraph of **We Thank God**. Use the **Language of Faith** at the back of the textbook to clarify the meaning of the *Eucharistic Prayer*. Remind your child that it is during this prayer that the bread and wine become for us the Body and Blood of Jesus.

Ask your child to look carefully at the picture on page 143. Ask: How do you think the child in the picture feels? (Possible answers: happy, joyful, and free because she is enjoying nature; she is thankful because of all that God has given her.)

Explain to your child that the **Prayer** you are about to pray is taken from a Eucharistic Prayer used at special Masses for children. Then practice the response several times. When your child is prepared, begin the prayer. Help your child pray the response. Close by praying together the Sign of the Cross.

For additional activities contact your director of religious education or teacher regarding *Reproducible Activities*, pages 68–70.