

Chapter 13

Liturgy

I rejoiced when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

Psalm 122:1

For the Parents:

In chapter 13 your child learned to:

- Explain why the Church celebrates the liturgy
- Name some of the rituals of the Catholic Church
- Praise God through liturgical prayer

Everyone experiences moments when everything becomes crystal clear. For Christians, the pivotal moments in history were the birth, life, death, and resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. The historical window was open for about 33 years, a mere moment in time. But it changed everything!

That moment defines who we are and what we believe. The paschal mystery occurred in history, but it transcends time and lives in eternity. It is remembered and celebrated by the Church through the rituals of the liturgy. Although some of the details of the liturgy have changed over the centuries, its core meaning remains the same.

With Your Child:

1. Plan special family rituals for before and after Mass. For example, parents might bless their children before leaving the house for Mass, or you might all share a meal together after Mass. You can change these rituals to match your own situation.
2. Read about Kateri Tekakwitha on the Review and Explore page.

Chapter 14

New Life in Christ

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

For the Parents:

In chapter 14 your child learned to:

- ?? Explain why the Church baptizes new members
- ?? Interpret the four baptismal signs
- ?? Tell how he or she can share in the work of Jesus

Baptism is the foundational sacrament, beginning a loving relationship between Father and child. It also begins a relationship with Jesus, our savior, brother, and friend, and with the Holy Spirit---guide advocate, and Comforter.

The story of the Baptism of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew vividly portrays both of those aspects. As he emerged from the water, Jesus saw the Spirit of God hovering in the form of a dove. He heard a voice that filled the skies saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

Baptism also welcomes people into the Christian community---a community of believers---who share and support each other’s faith and mission.

With Your Child:

1. Plan to celebrate family members’ baptismal anniversaries just as you celebrate birthdays. Mark baptismal days on your family calendar. Think of ways to celebrate, including looking at videos or photos of the ceremony, lighting baptismal candles (or a family candle), and sharing a special meal with godparents or extended family members. Write a prayer for your baptismal celebrations.
2. Read about John the Baptist on the Review and Explore page.

Chapter 15

Receive the Holy Spirit

You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and your children.

Acts 2:38

For the Parents:

In chapter 14 your child learned to:

- ?? Understand the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation.
- ?? Name and describe the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
- ?? Identify ways the gifts of the Holy Spirit can help them

Of the four Gospels, Luke's most often presents Jesus' concern for the poor--the neglected, oppressed, forgotten, and afflicted. And it is the poor who accept Jesus' message of salvation. Times have changed but people have not. Who are the poor, the captive and the blind in your community? Among your acquaintances, who is held captive by disease, addiction, or depression? Who is burdened with worries, forgotten in a nursing home, out of a job, or working too much?

With Your Child:

1. Make a Holy Spirit candle for your family table. Decorate a large white pillar candle with flames or a dove, using permanent paint pens or tissue paper applied with white glue. Place a candle on a saucer or candle base. Once a week, light your Holy Spirit candle and pray for those in your parish or diocese who are preparing for Baptism and Confirmation.
2. Read about Frederic Ozanam on the Review and Explore page.

Chapter 16

Eucharist

Jesus said, “I am with you always.”

Matthew 28:20

For the Parents:

In chapter 16 your child learned to:

- ?? Describe how Jesus is present in the Eucharist
- ?? Identify signs of Jesus in his or her life
- ?? List some ways he or she can serve Jesus in others

In the Eucharist, ordinary bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus, and the ordinary people become the Body of Christ. As the Eucharist puts you in communion with Jesus, the Eucharist changes your relationship with Jesus. As you grow to understand that Jesus lives in the people who receive communion, the Eucharist changes the way you relate to those people.

With Your Child:

1. Plan a special family meal for after Mass this weekend. Encourage family members to get involved in planning, preparing, and cleaning up after the meal. Write a special meal blessing that will remind your family that Jesus is present at your family table.
2. Read about Katharine Drexel on the Review and Explore page.