

9

We Gather for Mass

Family Celebrations

Think about your family's celebrations.

Which recent celebration was your favorite?

When was the celebration?

Who was there?



Check the celebration activities in which you participated. Add your own.

- sharing a meal
- telling family stories
- listening to family stories
- singing
- dancing
- taking photos or a video
- _____



How will you remember the celebration?

- look at photos or watch the video
- make scrapbook pages
- write about the celebration in a diary or journal
- talk about the celebration with family and friends

We Will Learn...

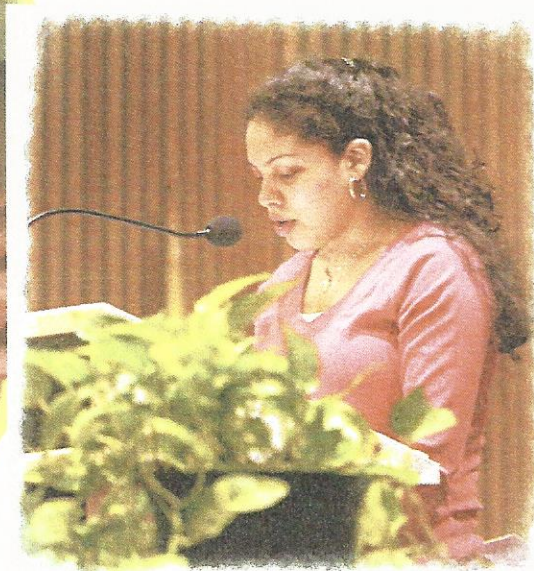
- 1 At Mass we praise God, and we listen to his Word.
- 2 We offer gifts, and the Eucharistic Prayer begins.
- 3 We receive Holy Communion, and we are sent to bring God's love to others.

1 At Mass we praise God, and we listen to his Word.

The Mass is the celebration of the Eucharist. The community of people who gather for this celebration is called the liturgical **assembly**. Only an ordained priest can preside at Mass. He leads the assembly in the celebration of the Mass. The Mass has four parts: the Introductory Rites, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and the Concluding Rites.



- The first reading is usually from the Old Testament. We respond to this reading by singing or praying a psalm.
- The second reading is from the New Testament, most often from one of the letters of Saint Paul.



The part of the Mass that unites us as a community is the **Introductory Rites**. It prepares us to hear God's Word and to celebrate the Eucharist. During the Introductory Rites, we make the Sign of the Cross with the priest, who greets us in Jesus' name. Together we recall our sins and ask for God's mercy. Then, on most Sundays of the year, we praise God by saying or singing the Gloria—a prayer giving glory to God. The priest prays the Opening Prayer, known as the *Collect*. It is prayed to God the Father through Christ in the Holy Spirit.

Then we participate in the **Liturgy of the Word**, which is the part of the Mass when we listen and respond to God's Word. We hear about God's great love for his people. We hear about the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. On Sunday, we listen to three readings from the Bible, the Word of God.

- The last reading is always taken from one of the four Gospels. These are accounts of the Good News of Jesus Christ in the New Testament according to: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. We stand to listen as the priest or deacon proclaims the Gospel.

After the readings and the Gospel, the priest, or deacon gives a *homily*. We listen as he explains the meaning of the readings and teaches us about our Catholic faith. Then, together, we say the Creed, stating our beliefs in God and in all that the Church teaches. Next, we pray together the Prayer of the Faithful for the needs of the Church, the world, and our local community.

How would you explain the Introductory Rites and the Liturgy of the Word to a younger child?



2 We offer gifts, and the Eucharistic Prayer begins.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the third part of the Mass. The **Liturgy of the Eucharist** is the part of the Mass when the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, which we receive in Holy Communion.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins as the deacon or priest prepares the altar and the gifts that we offer. Members of the assembly present to the priest gifts of wheat bread and grape wine and our collection for the Church and the poor. These gifts are a sign that we give to God all that we are and all that we do. The priest then gives thanks to God for the gifts. We respond, "Blessed be God for ever."

Then the priest in the name of the entire community prays the Eucharistic Prayer, the Church's greatest prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

During this prayer the priest says and does what Jesus said and did at the Last Supper. As the priest takes the bread, he says,

"TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU."

As the priest takes the cup of wine, he says:

"TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD...."

This part of the Eucharistic Prayer is called the *Consecration*. Through these words and actions of the priest, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. This change that the bread and wine undergo is called *transubstantiation*.

At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, we say or sing "Amen." Together we are saying "Yes, we believe."

Explain what happens during the Eucharistic Prayer.



3 We receive Holy Communion, and we are sent to bring God's love to others.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist continues as we prepare to receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. Together we pray the Lord's Prayer, also called the Our Father. We offer a Sign of Peace to each other. We say aloud or sing the Lamb of God, asking for God's mercy and peace. Then the priest breaks the large Host.

At the proper time we come forward to receive Holy Communion. We sing to show our unity with Christ and one another. We receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion.

During the last part of Mass, the **Concluding Rites**, the priest blesses us. Then he or the deacon says these or similar words, "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord."

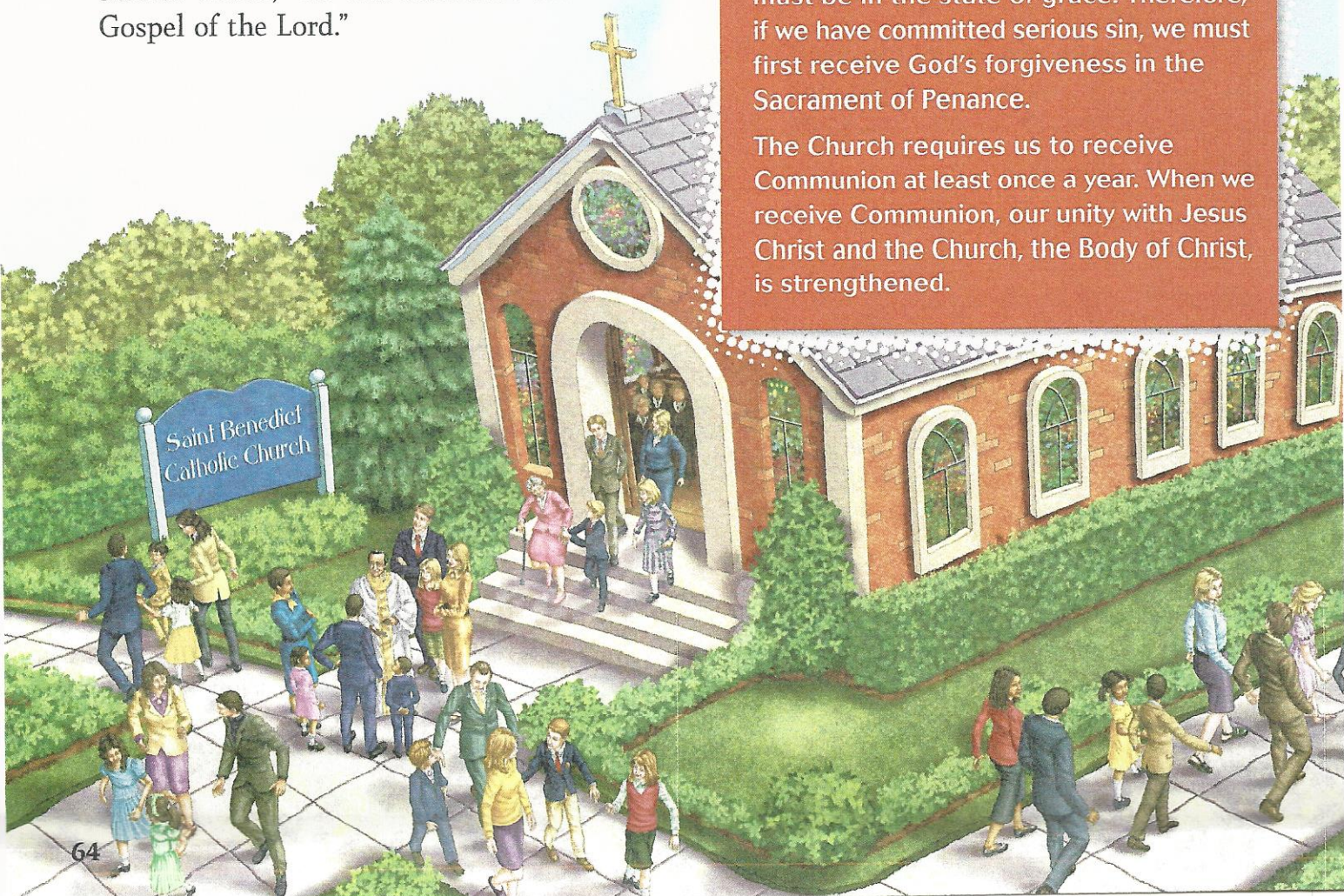
We have been nourished by the celebration of the Eucharist. Now we are sent to love and serve the Lord each day by bringing the peace and love of Jesus to everyone we meet. We can share our time and talents. We can care for the poor, sick, and lonely people we see around us. As members of the Church, we are called to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those around us. This is what it means to live the message of the Eucharist we have celebrated, and what it means to be followers of Christ.

How will you share your time and talents with others this week?

Do You Know?

The Church urges us to receive Holy Communion each time we participate in the Mass. To receive Holy Communion we must be in the state of grace. Therefore, if we have committed serious sin, we must first receive God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance.

The Church requires us to receive Communion at least once a year. When we receive Communion, our unity with Jesus Christ and the Church, the Body of Christ, is strengthened.



Review

Complete the following sentences by writing the correct part of the Mass.

1. Members of the assembly present gifts of bread and wine during the _____.
2. We sing or say the Gloria during the _____.
3. We are sent to serve God and others during the _____.
4. Bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ during the _____.
5. The priest or deacon proclaims the Gospel during the _____.

Discuss the following.

6. Explain what happens during the Introductory Rites of Mass.
7. Explain what happens during the Liturgy of the Word.
8. Explain what happens during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Faith Words

assembly (page 62)

Introductory Rites (page 62)

Liturgy of the Word (page 62)

Liturgy of the Eucharist (page 63)

Concluding Rites (page 64)

With My Family

Sharing Our Faith

- 1 At Mass we praise God, and we listen to his Word.
- 2 We offer gifts, and the Eucharistic Prayer begins.
- 3 We receive Holy Communion, and we are sent to bring God's love to others.

PRAYING TOGETHER



At the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the priest invites us to lift up our hearts. We respond, "We lift them up to the Lord." Then we praise God by praying or singing:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in
the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Living Our Faith

In the Concluding Rites at Mass, we are sent to live out the message of the Eucharist. Write ways you can do this.

at home

at school

in the neighborhood

MORE for You to Know

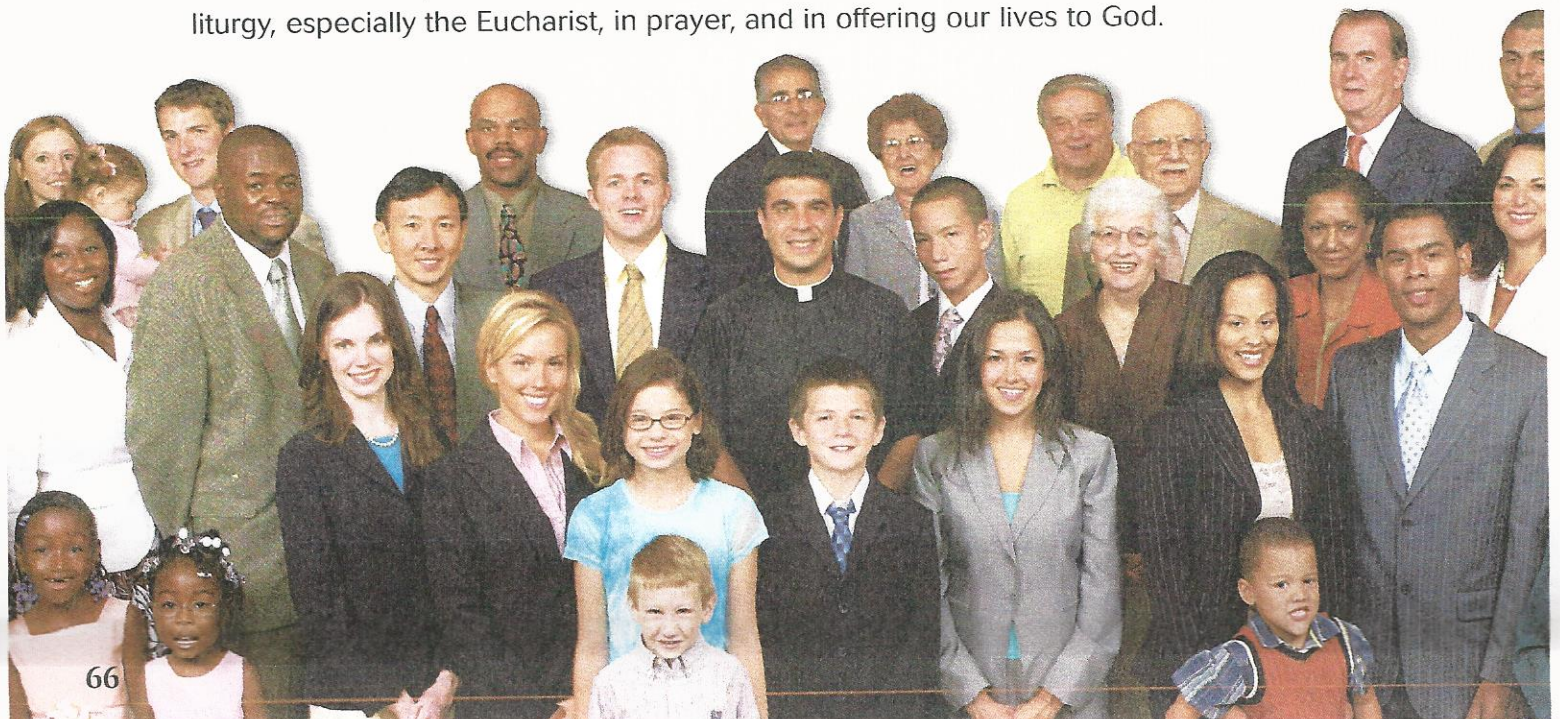
THE LITURGY The liturgy is the official public prayer of the Church. The liturgy includes the celebration of the Eucharist and the other sacraments. It also includes the Liturgy of the Hours. We each bring our own selves and our relationship with God to every celebration of the liturgy. We join together as Jesus' true friends and disciples, just as Jesus' first followers did. We proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and celebrate his Death and Resurrection. Whenever the liturgy is celebrated, the whole Church is celebrating.

OUR COMMON VOCATION A vocation is a calling to a way of life. As baptized Christians we share a common vocation. Our common vocation is a call from God to grow in holiness and to spread the message of Jesus' life and saving work.

PRIESTHOOD OF THE FAITHFUL When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him. This baptismal anointing by the Spirit made it known that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Anointed One. Jesus' relationship with God his Father was revealed, and God the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus, marking him as Priest, Prophet, and King.

In the Sacrament of Baptism, we too are anointed. We are called to share in Christ's priestly mission. As baptized members of the Church, we share in Christ's priesthood. This priesthood is not the ordained priesthood but is known as the *priesthood of the faithful*.

As sharers in the priesthood of the faithful, we can all participate in the liturgy, especially the Eucharist, in prayer, and in offering our lives to God.



UNIT 3 Assessment

Match the columns.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. _____ Liturgy of the Eucharist | a. The priest blesses us, and we go out to bring God's peace and love to others. |
| 2. _____ Liturgy of the Word | b. We prepare to hear God's Word, and to celebrate the Eucharist as a community. |
| 3. _____ Introductory Rites | c. The bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ which we receive in Holy Communion. |
| 4. _____ Concluding Rites | d. We listen and respond to God's Word. |

Write the term that best fits each statement.

5. During this sacrament the bishop says, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit." _____
6. We are anointed with this oil at both Baptism and Confirmation.

7. This is the Church's great act of worship. _____
8. Through this sacrament, we become children of God and are freed from sin.

9. In this sacrament we receive the Body and Blood of Christ. _____

Write your responses on a separate piece of paper.

10. What happens during the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass?
11. Write two reasons why the Sacrament of Baptism is so important.
12. Name two ways we participate at Mass.
13. What are some ways we can love and serve the Lord?
14. What action connects the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation?
15. Why is the celebration of the Eucharist, the Mass, at the center of the Church's life?