

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 3

The Church

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Our Sunday Visitor

The Church Celebrates

Let Us Pray

Leader: Holy Father, we celebrate your love for us. Let us look at all that you have made and say, “This is awesome!”

“Give praise with tambourines and dance,
praise him with strings and pipes.” **Psalm 150:4**

All: With all that you have given us God, our hearts are full of praise and we thank you. Amen.

God's Word

A very large crowd gathered to listen to Jesus. They were hungry. Jesus told the people to sit down. “Then, taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to [his] disciples to set before the people; he also divided the two fish among them all.” Everyone ate until they were full. **Based on Mark 6:34–42**

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What Do You Wonder?

- How do you give thanks to God?
- How does Jesus feed us today?

Special Celebrations

Why do Church members celebrate together?

Parties or meals with family and friends are great ways to celebrate important events, birthdays, and holidays. As Catholics, we celebrate special times in our faith and the life of the Church. We come together to worship God, honoring him with prayers and actions. We do this in a special way when we celebrate the **Seven Sacraments**.

Jesus taught his followers how to celebrate and thank God. He told stories and shared meals with them. His last meal with them was the most memorable one of all.

When Catholics celebrate the Mass, we remember what Jesus said and did at the **Last Supper**. We gather to give praise and thank God for the many gifts he has given us, most especially the gift of Jesus' Body and Blood, our greatest reason to celebrate.

➔ **What are some ways we celebrate and thank God?**

Catholic Faith Words

Seven Sacraments

special signs and celebrations that Jesus gave his Church. The Sacraments allow us to share in the life and work of God.

Last Supper the meal Jesus shared with his disciples on the night before he died. At the Last Supper, Jesus gave himself in the Eucharist.





God's Word

The Last Supper

Jesus and his disciples were together to celebrate the Jewish feast of Passover.

Jesus blessed the bread and broke it. He gave the bread to his friends, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me."

Jesus then took the cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you."

Based on Luke 22:14-20



At Mass, the priest blesses the bread as Jesus did at the Last Supper and it becomes the Body of Christ.

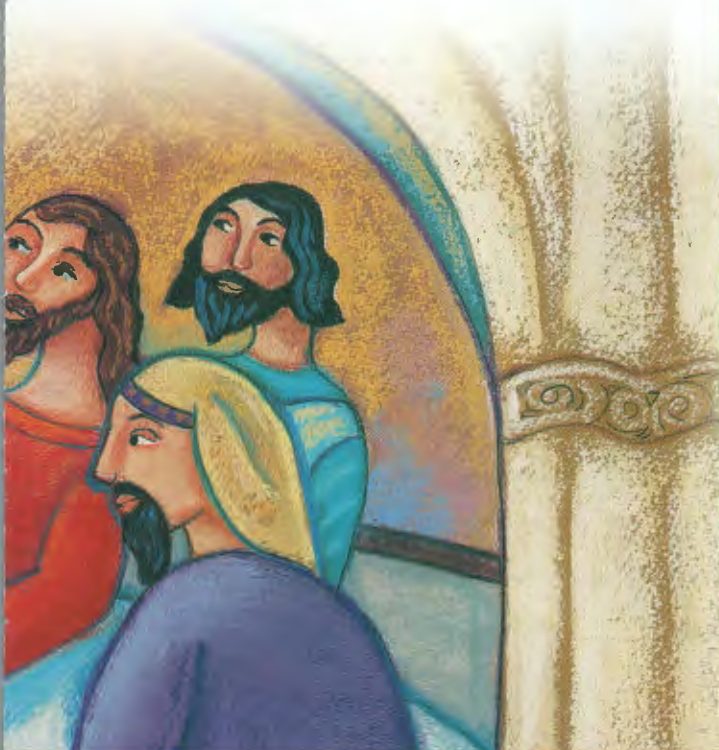


Underline what Jesus did with the bread.

Share Your Faith

Think Write about your favorite special celebration that you share with your family.

Share with a partner.





The Heart of Our Worship

What happens in the Mass?

You can worship God alone or with your Church parish community. Worship is a way to return the love that God shows you. You can worship God with words, silence, music, and actions.

At the celebration of the Eucharist and in the other Sacraments, Catholics worship as a community. This kind of public, community worship is called **liturgy**.

Although Catholics have many ways to pray and worship, the Eucharist, or the Mass, is the most important. In the Eucharist, the community joins with Jesus to worship God the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit. The community joins in the love of the Holy Trinity.

At Mass

At Mass, Catholics gather to hear God's Word in Scripture. We profess our faith, or say what we believe about the Holy Trinity and the Church. We usually do this by saying the **Nicene Creed**. During the Mass, we remember and celebrate what Jesus said and did with his disciples at the Last Supper.

Catholic Faith Words

liturgy the public prayer of the Church. It includes the Sacraments and forms of daily prayer.

Nicene Creed a summary of basic beliefs about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit and about other Church teachings. We usually say the Nicene Creed during Mass.

Every time you go to Mass, you are encouraged to receive Jesus' Body and Blood in Holy Communion. The Church requires that you do this at least once during the Easter Season.

The Church teaches that Catholics must attend Mass on Sundays, or Saturday evenings, and Holy Days of Obligation. The celebration of the Eucharist is the center of the Church's life. When you do this, you follow the Third Commandment, "Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day."

Outside of Mass, Catholics also show love and respect for Jesus in the Eucharist by visiting the **Blessed Sacrament** in church. The Body of Christ is kept in the **Tabernacle**. Jesus Christ remains truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

➔ How does your family keep holy the Lord's Day?

Catholic Faith Words

Blessed Sacrament

a name for the Holy Eucharist, especially the Body of Christ kept in the Tabernacle

Tabernacle the special place in the church where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved after Mass for those who are ill or for Eucharistic Adoration

Connect Your Faith

Give Praise Write a verse of joy, praise, or thanks for the gift of the Eucharist in the space below.



Our Catholic Life

How do you show respect at Mass?



Underline one way that you have shown respect for God at Mass.

One way to show honor and respect for God is to always act your best at Mass.

- Bow or genuflect before sitting down. When you bow, bend the upper part of your body from the waist. When you genuflect, you respectfully bend one knee and touch it to the floor.
- Sing the songs and pray the prayers.
- Listen to the priest.
- Stand in line with your hands folded when processing up to receive Holy Communion and bow slightly as the person before you is receiving.
- Stand up straight and tall, and make sure that you are a part of the celebration!

Worship Together

Members of the Church use certain actions during Mass to show respect for God. You make the Sign of the Cross and sit, stand, and kneel at certain times.

The prayers of the Church are special ways of honoring God. At Mass, you pray the Lord's Prayer and other prayers. When you pray the prayers of the Church, you join Catholics all over the world.



People of Faith

Saint Mary MacKillop, 1842–1909

August 8

Saint Mary MacKillop is the first person to become a Saint from Australia. She was a teacher. She rode horses a long way into the desert, called the Australian Outback, to teach children. She taught the children of farmers and miners. She also used to teach the native Australians, called Aborigines. When she was made a Saint, many Aborigines came to the ceremony in Italy. They wore face paint, danced traditional dances, and played special musical instruments called didgeridoos during the Mass. It was their way of showing how much they loved Saint Mary. Saint Mary loved them, too.



Discuss: What is your favorite part about going to Mass?

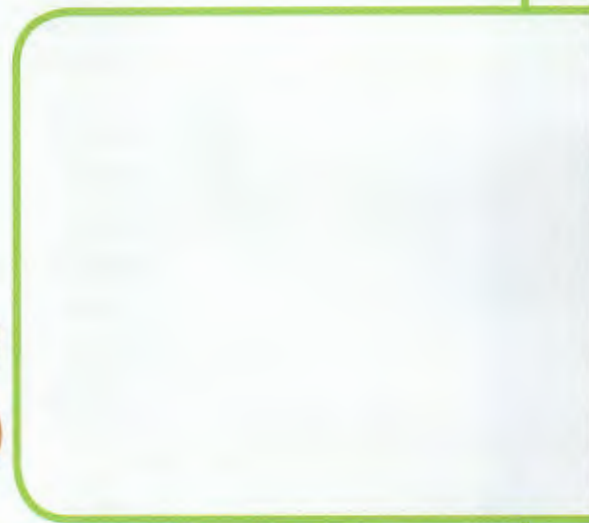
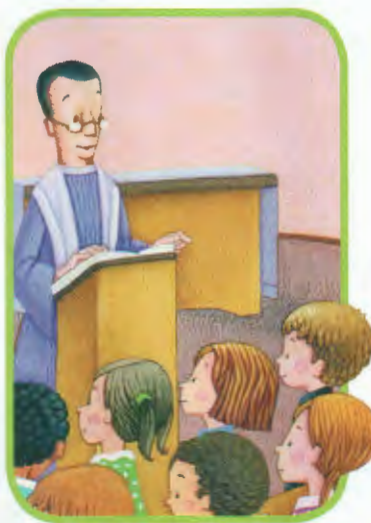


Learn more about Saint Mary MacKillop at allveinchrist.osv.com

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Live Your Faith

Draw Yourself Under each picture, describe what is happening. Then, draw yourself at Mass in the empty box.



_____ Me at Mass _____

 Let Us Pray

Glory to God

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

All: Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify
you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God,
heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ,
Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



Sing "Praise the Lord"
Praise, praise the Lord.
Praise, praise the Lord.
Praise the name of the Lord God
most high.

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YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains how we worship as Catholics and the special place of the Eucharist among the Seven Sacraments.

God's Word



Read **Mark 6:34–42** and talk about how God gives you what you need.

Catholics Believe

- The celebration of the Eucharist is the Church's most important form of worship.
- In the Eucharist, the Church remembers what Jesus said and did at the Last Supper and receives the Body and Blood of Christ.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1333, 1407 at uscgb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint Mary MacKillop, the first Saint from Australia. Point out the continents on a map and talk about how there have been Saints from every part of the world.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand the Mass The Mass is the gathering of the parish community to remember and be present with Jesus Christ. At Mass, we gather to praise God and give him thanks for the many gifts he has given us, most especially the gift of Jesus' Body and Blood. This understanding of the Mass as a community celebration and the vehicle Jesus has chosen to be continually present with us is an important one to third-graders, who are developing in their understanding of community.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Why do you teach your children to say thank-you?

Gratitude has its own rewards. It creates a loving connection to those we thank. It acknowledges that we understand the value of the gift. If we pay attention to our lives, we begin to recognize that everything is a gift from God. Our hearts fill to the point of bursting—with gratitude. We devotedly participate in Mass to say thank-you. "The Eucharistic sacrifice is offered to adore and thank God, to pray for all our needs, and to gain pardon for our sins" (*USCCA, p. 221*). As a result of our participation, our relationship with God intensifies.

LET'S TALK >>>

- Explain that the Mass is the same no matter where you go.
- Share what you find most meaningful in the Mass and then have your child do so as well.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Dear God, Saint Mary MacKillop brought God's Word to different parts of the world. Help us to worship you with our minds, our hearts, and our bodies at Mass. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 5 Review

A Work with Words Complete each sentence with the letter of the correct word or words from the Word Bank.

1. At his last meal, Jesus and his friends celebrated the Jewish feast of .
2. The Holy Eucharist, especially the Body of Christ kept in the Tabernacle is called the .
3. At Mass, Catholics gather to hear God's Word in .
4. The Third Commandment says to keep the Lord's day.
5. After Mass, the Eucharist is kept in the .

Word Bank

- a. Tabernacle
- b. Blessed Sacrament
- c. holy
- d. Passover
- e. Scripture

B Check Understanding Fill in the blanks with the correct answers.

6. What is worship? _____
7. What is the most important way Catholics worship God?

8. How often and when must Catholics receive Holy Communion?

9. What is liturgy?

10. When must Catholics attend Mass?

