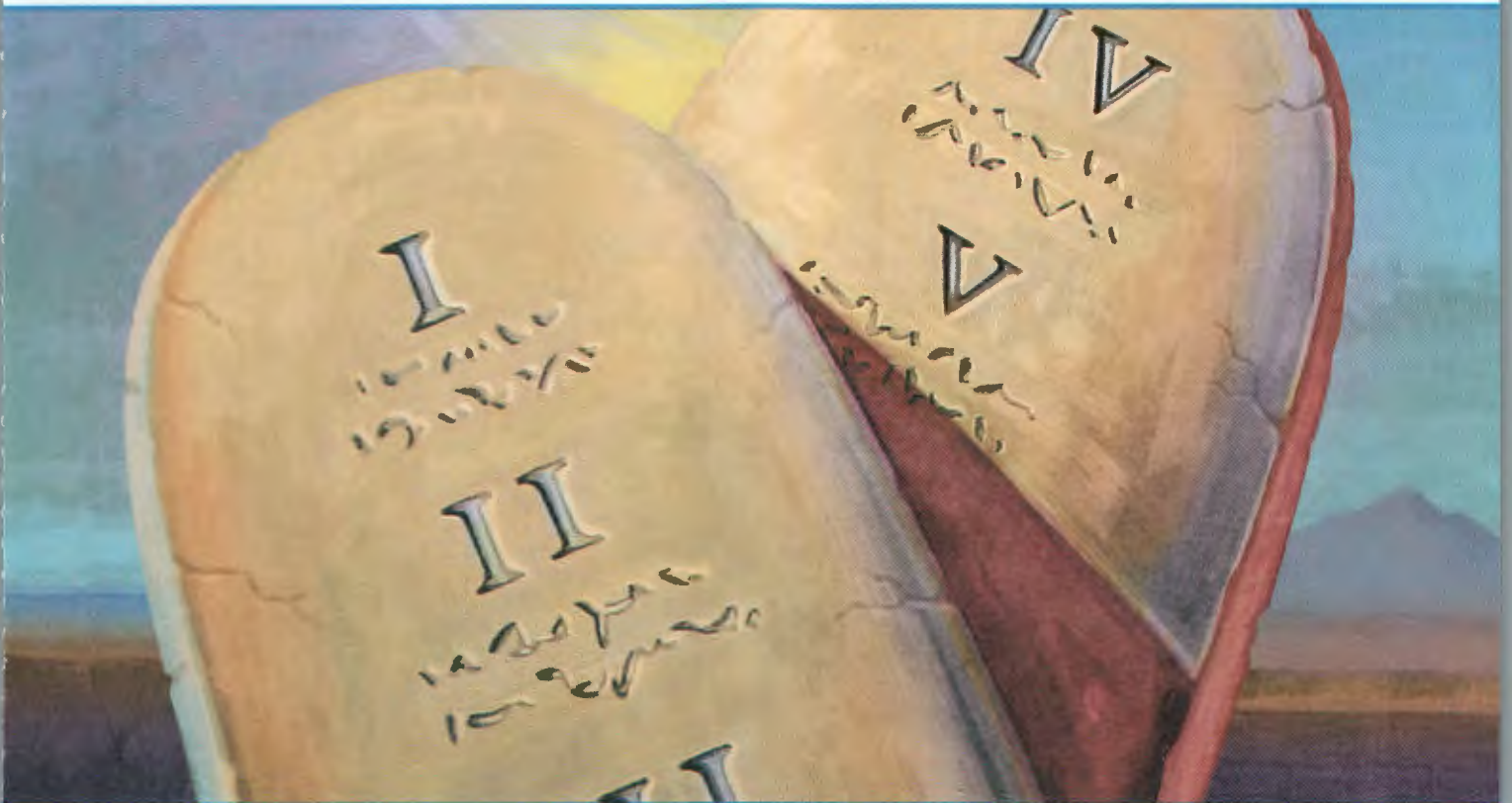


ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 4

The Moral Life

aliveinchrist.osv.com



Our Sunday Visitor

The Seven Sacraments

Let Us Pray

Leader: With joy and gladness, Lord, we celebrate the signs of your great love.

“Shout joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
serve the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful song.” **Psalm 100:1–2**

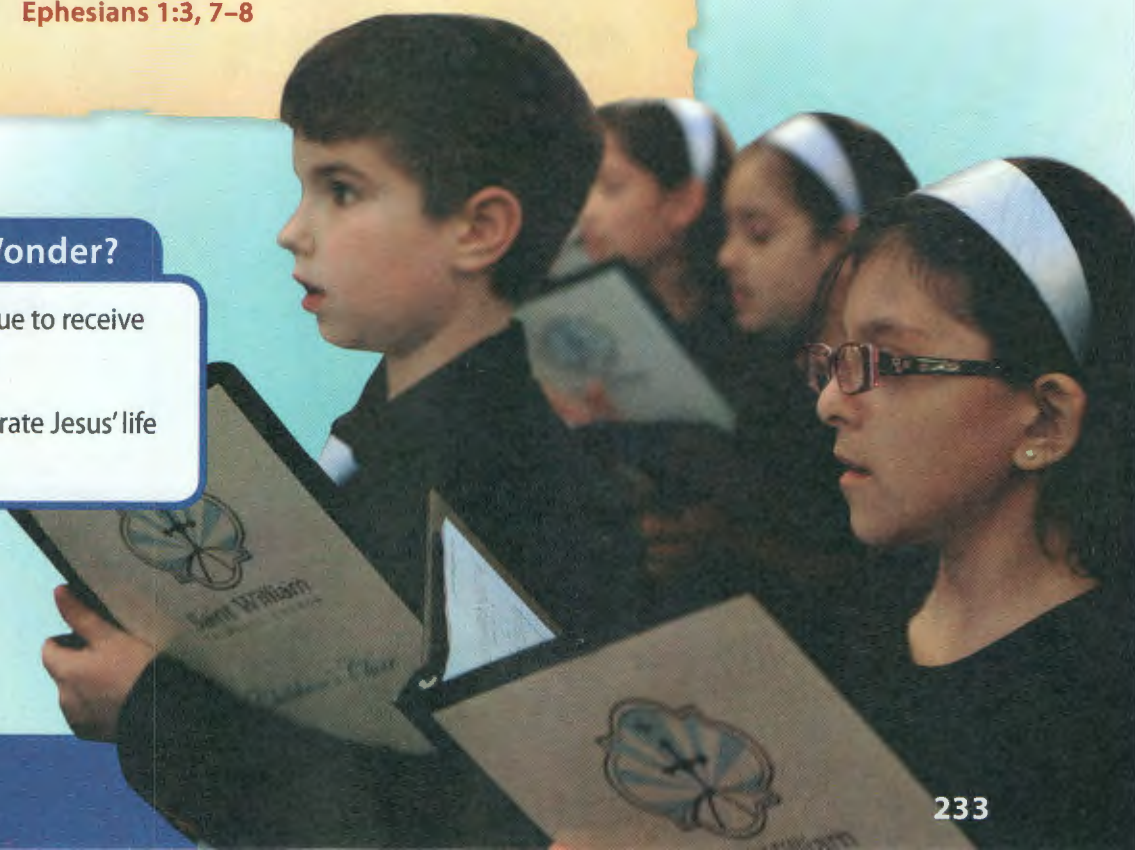
All: With wonderful signs of your love, you bless us, Lord. No wonder we shout, “Praise and thanks!”
Amen.

Scripture

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens. . . . In him we have redemption . . . the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us. **Ephesians 1:3, 7–8**

What Do You Wonder?

- How do you continue to receive spiritual blessings?
- When do you celebrate Jesus' life and love?



Present Through Time

What is a Sacrament?

Your life is filled with many signs. However, some signs have a deeper meaning, like a trophy that you worked hard to win or an American flag. Christians received the most precious sign of all in the **Incarnation**, when the Son of God became man. God the Father sent his Son, Jesus, as a sign of his love for all people. He pointed the way to God for all who followed him.

Jesus welcomed people like Peter and Zacchaeus, and they changed their lives for him. Jesus showed people God the Father's forgiveness. He healed some and called others to serve. Through Jesus' words and actions, many people experienced God's saving love. Because he is both Divine and human, Jesus made God and his love present.

"No one comes to the Father except through me," Jesus said to his Apostles at the Last Supper. "If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him" (**John 14:6-7**).

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Catholic Faith Words

Incarnation the mystery that the Son of God became man in order to save all people

Seven Sacraments effective signs of God's life, instituted by Christ and given to the Church. In the celebration of each Sacrament, there are visible signs and Divine actions that give grace and allow us to share in God's work.



Baptism
Forgiveness of sin
and new life in Christ



Confirmation
Being sealed and
strengthened in
the Holy Spirit



Eucharist
Unity and salvation in
Christ through the Body
and Blood of Christ

Sacraments of Initiation

Visible Signs and Divine Actions

It was only after Jesus' Resurrection that his Apostles began to understand that Jesus was really God! Jesus had promised his followers that he would always be with them and that they would continue his saving work. A very important way that Jesus does this is through the **Seven Sacraments**. The Sacraments are effective signs of God's life, instituted by Christ and given to the Church. They are actions of the Holy Spirit at work in Christ's Body, the Church. Jesus is present in each of the Sacraments.

In each of the Sacraments, there are visible signs and Divine actions that give grace and allow us to share in God's work. Each one celebrates a way that Jesus' saving work continues in the world.



Underline what Jesus promised the disciples and one way he fulfills this promise today.

Share Your Faith

Reflect Choose a Sacrament you have received.

Share Explain to a partner how Jesus was with you in that Sacrament.

Sacraments at the Service of Communion



Matrimony
Marriage covenant as a sign of Christ's covenant with his Church



Holy Orders
Ministry to Christ's Body, the Church



Penance and Reconciliation
Conversion and forgiveness through Christ

Sacraments of Healing



Anointing of the Sick
Spiritual and physical healing in Christ



The Last Supper,
by Remigio
Cantagallina

The Eucharist

What is the heart of our Catholic life?

Jesus often ate meals with his friends. On the night before he died, Jesus shared a Passover meal with his Apostles.



Scripture

The Last Supper

Then [Jesus] took a cup, gave thanks, and said, "Take this and share it among yourselves; for I tell you [that] from this time on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you." **Luke 22:17–20**

After Jesus was raised to new life and returned to the Father, his followers gathered weekly for the "breaking of the bread." They knew, as Catholics do today, that Jesus was present when they blessed and broke bread together as Jesus commanded. This celebration is called the **Eucharist**, the Sacrament in which Jesus gives himself and the bread and wine become his Body and Blood.

Act of Thanksgiving

In the Eucharist, we remember, give thanks for, and share in the life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus. The word *Eucharist* means “thanksgiving.” At the beginning of Mass, you ask God’s mercy because of your sins. Your venial sins can be forgiven by your participation in the Eucharist. You listen to the Word of God. You thank God the Father for the great gift of his Son. When you receive Jesus in Holy Communion, you are united with the other members of the Body of Christ.

When Jesus told the Apostles to “do this in memory of me,” he did not mean only that they should break bread together. He meant that they should live their lives as he did. Living the Eucharist means loving, welcoming, and forgiving others. You live the Eucharist when you share with those who do not have what you do.

➔ **When did you first receive Jesus in Holy Communion? Tell what you remember about the day.**

Activity

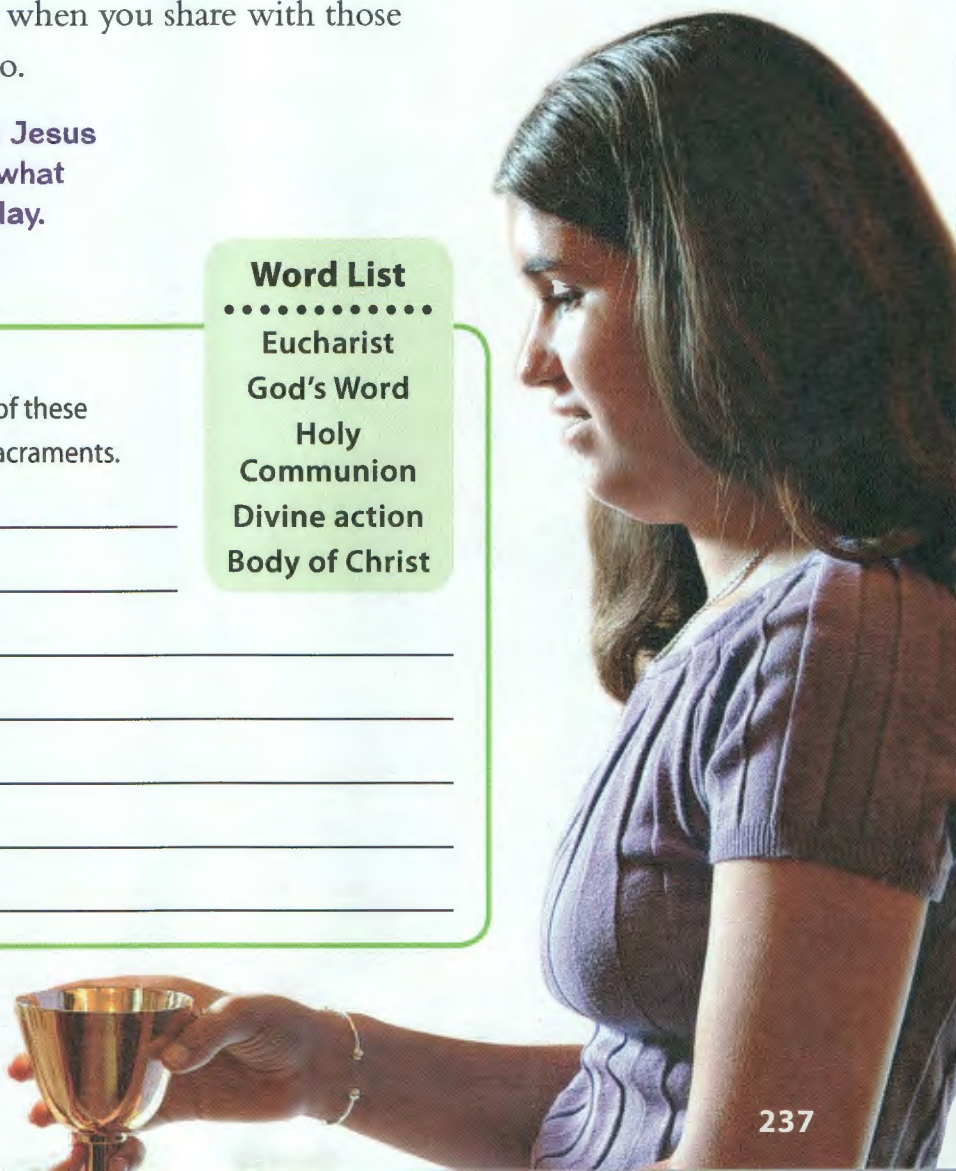
The Sacraments Use some of these terms in a paragraph about the Sacraments.

Word List

.....
Eucharist
God’s Word
Holy
Communion
Divine action
Body of Christ

Catholic Faith Words

Eucharist the Sacrament in which Jesus gives himself and the bread and wine become his Body and Blood



Our Catholic Life

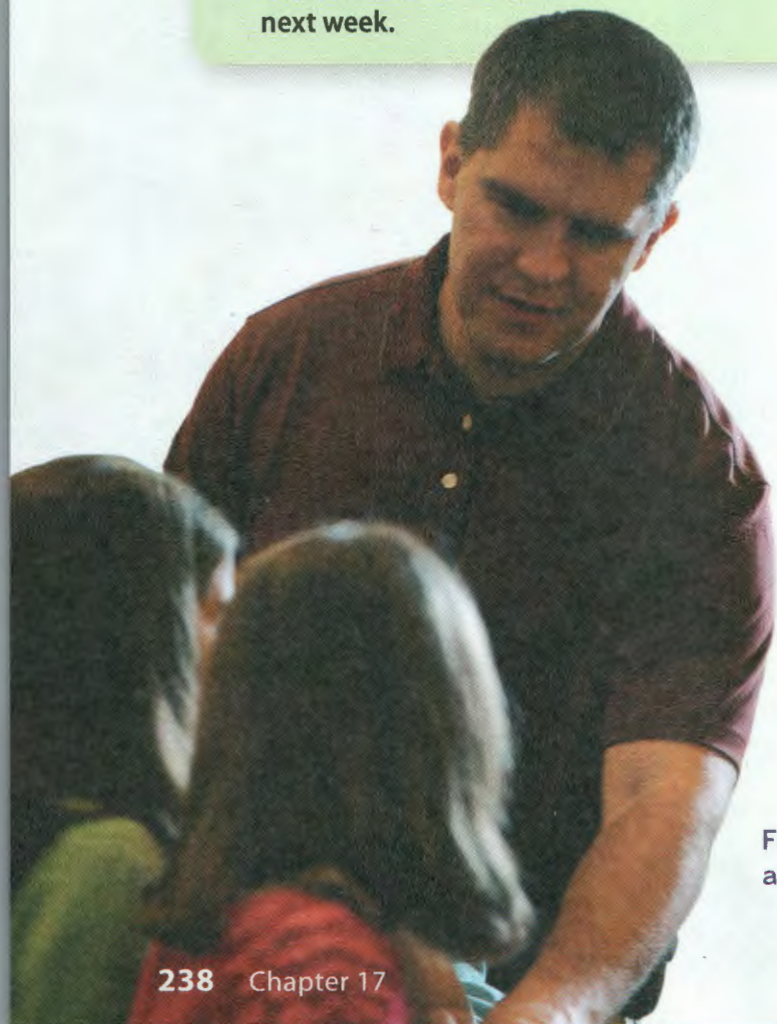
How can you participate actively in Mass?

Do you go to Mass or do you participate in Mass? Do you know the difference? If you arrive at church on Sunday, slink into the pew, and daydream for the next hour, you are only going to Mass.

Mass is an excellent time for you to take an active role in your relationship with God. It is your chance to join with the rest of your parish in lifting your voices and souls in praise of God.



1. Put a star beside a part of the Mass in which you feel especially close to God.
2. Draw a heart next to one part you will concentrate on more next week.



Take Part

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| • Join in singing the hymns and responses. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Listen to the Word of God as it is proclaimed in the Scriptures and the homily. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Pray with the priest as he says the Eucharistic Prayer. Think about the meaning of the words, especially those Jesus used at the Last Supper. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Offer a greeting of peace to the people around you. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Open your heart to Jesus and the Church as you receive Holy Communion. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Think of one way to live the Eucharist during the following week. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Family members share a sign of peace.

People of Faith

October 16

Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, 1647–1690

Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque was born into a peasant family in France. From the time she was little, she had a special love for Jesus in the Eucharist. When she grew up, she joined a convent. While she was praying, she had several visions in which Jesus told her about his loving heart. He told her that he will give love and mercy to everyone who asks. Saint Margaret Mary taught people about the Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It includes going to Mass and receiving the Eucharist on the first Friday of each month.



Discuss: How do you show your devotion to the Eucharist?



Learn more about
Saint Margaret Mary
at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Make a Eucharist

Poster Create a poster for your parish hall or church entrance for people to see as they come to Mass. On your poster, draw some ways people can live the Eucharist.



 Let Us Pray

Prayer of Petition

This is a traditional prayer by Saint Francis de Sales. It asks God to help us prepare to receive him each time we celebrate the Eucharist.

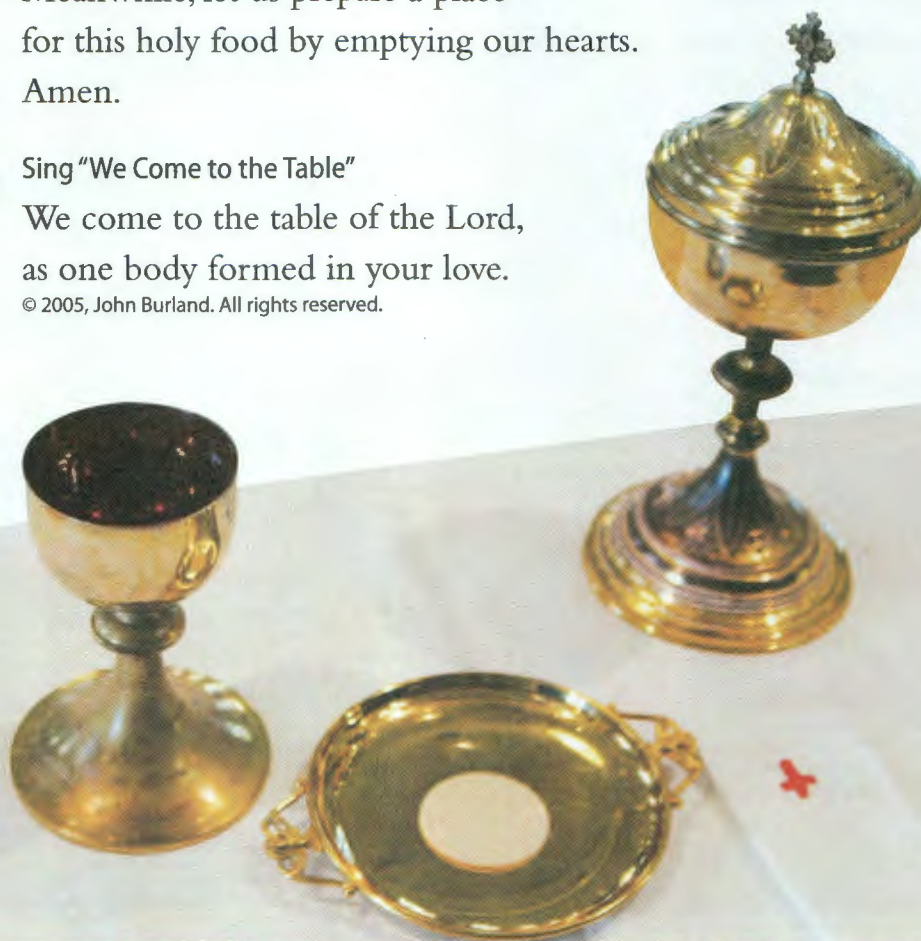
All: Divine Savior,
we come to Your sacred table
to nourish ourselves,
not with bread but with Yourself,
true Bread of eternal life.
Help us daily to make a good and perfect meal
of this Divine food.
Let us be continually refreshed
by the perfume of Your kindness and goodness.
May the Holy Spirit fill us with his love.
Meanwhile, let us prepare a place
for this holy food by emptying our hearts.
Amen.



Sing "We Come to the Table"

We come to the table of the Lord,
as one body formed in your love.

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FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains that in the celebration of each Sacrament, there are visible signs and Divine actions that give grace and allow us to share in God's work.

Scripture



Read **Ephesians 1:3, 7–8** to find a blessing for God for all the blessings the early Christians received.

Catholics Believe

- The Seven Sacraments are effective signs, instituted by Christ, that give grace and continue his saving work in the world.
- The Sacrament of the Eucharist is at the heart of Christian life.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1210, 1407 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, the promoter of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand the Sacraments Fourth-graders, while still bound to their five senses, are better able than younger children to see the connections between rituals and their meanings. This can help them gain a deeper appreciation of the Seven Sacraments as they know that what they are seeing and hearing in sacramental celebrations is a sign of, and participation in, something invisible as well.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Who do you know who understands the Eucharist as a sacred gift and not an obligation?

Perhaps we might see it the same way if we became more aware that Jesus' gift of his life is given again for us each time we receive the Eucharist. We need to open our hearts to receive the gift we long for: the gift of knowing we are loved that perfectly, that completely. As Catholics, "we need to remember that the Eucharist is the summit and source of our Christian life. Why? Because in the Eucharist is found the entire treasure of the Church—Jesus Christ" (*USCCA, p.228*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to name the Seven Sacraments.
- Talk about the different Sacraments family members have celebrated.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, pray for us that we may learn to love Jesus in the Eucharist as much as you did. Amen.



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

Chapter 17 Review

A Work with Words Fill in the circle next to the answer that best completes each statement.

1. There are _____ Sacraments.
 seven
 eight
 nine
2. _____ is present in all of the Sacraments.
 Water
 Jesus
 The Bible
3. The early Christians _____ the Eucharist.
 celebrated
 did not celebrate
 invented
4. Eucharist means “ _____ .”
 morality
 Heaven
 thanksgiving
5. When you _____ , you continue Jesus’ work in the world.
 go to religion class
 sing hymns
 live the Eucharist

B Check Understanding Complete each sentence by circling the correct answer. Then answer the last two questions.

6. After Jesus’ Resurrection, the Apostles began to understand that **(he was God/he was gone forever)**.
7. The Sacraments are actions of the **(priest/Holy Spirit)** at work in Christ’s Body, the Church.
8. When you receive Jesus in Holy Communion, you **(forgive/are united with)** the other members of the Body of Christ.
9. What are some ways you can live the Eucharist?

10. What are some ways you can participate actively in the Mass?

