In the Mass, we gather together to worship God.

The Mass has two main parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Scripture tells us that
like the early disciples, we devote ourselves to “the breaking of the bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). At Mass, we are nourished by Scripture and the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist through the actions of the priest by the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

The Catechism teaches us that
our celebration of the Mass is two great parts that form a fundamental unity and one single act of worship: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (CCC, 1346).

the Eucharist is the heart and the summit of the Church's life (CCC, 1407).

This Week's Scripture Story
This Week’s Scripture Story helps us understand about the two parts of Mass.

The Two Parts of Mass
At Mass, we listen to readings from God’s Word in the Bible. This part of the Mass is called the Liturgy of the Word. We also share a holy meal and remember Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross. This part of the Mass is called the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Here are two readings from the Bible that help us understand about these important parts of the Mass.

At the synagogue Jesus was given the honor of reading from the Holy Scriptures. He stood up and was handed the scroll. Jesus unrolled it to the place he wanted. So everyone could hear, he read the Scripture respectfully.

Based on Luke 4:16–17, 20

Jesus was with his friends. While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed, and broke it. Giving it to his friends, Jesus said, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Then he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”


Parents can make this lesson come to life by instilling a sense of anticipation about Mass. Talk about what will happen in the Mass (especially on special days).

Review the parts of the Mass and help your child participate. Practice basic prayers, such as the Our Father, that provide opportunities for your child to participate with others in the Mass.

How Five- and Six-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Many young children struggle to behave and stay engaged in Mass because it appears to be an activity for adults. The readings and prayers of the Mass can be difficult to understand, and children are not receiving Communion yet. However, Mass is intended to be an intergenerational, family experience. Children this age can learn basic information about the Mass and begin to learn some of the words of the Mass and what they mean. This prepares them to participate more fully when they are ready to receive their First Communion.
Who Needs These Items for Mass?

Match items on the left with items on the right. Then in the middle, draw a picture of yourself at Mass.

Shout, shout joyfully
To the Lord of all!
Worship the Lord with cries of gladness.
Come before him now!

Based on Psalm 100

Saint of the Week
David, shepherd, musician, and king (died 970 B.C.)

Did you know?
Whether he was a young shepherd, a good leader, or a great king, David loved and trusted God and worshiped Him through song.
King David, pray for us!
Families celebrate special times.

Sacraments are the family celebrations of our Church.

The Catechism teaches us that families celebrate important milestones, such as birthdays and graduations. Our Church is also a family, and we have ‘family celebrations’ in the form of the Seven Sacraments. The Sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is given to us (CCC 1131, 1153). They are meetings with God and are visible signs of invisible, spiritual realities. In the sacraments, human actions cooperate with God in order to bring about God’s will.

• through the Sacraments, we welcome new members into the Church, we celebrate Christ’s Real Presence in the Eucharist. For the forgiveness of sins committed after Baptism, we reconcile with God, the Church, and one another in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Penance.

How Five- and Six-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

While children this age will have only a very limited understanding of God’s actions (the “invisible, spiritual realities”) of the Sacraments, we can explain to them that in every sacramental ‘family celebration’ of the Church, there are things people are doing that we see, and things God is doing that we don’t see. Children can understand a sense of mystery and awe, and if they see our enthusiasm and reverence for the Sacraments, they will know that there is more that they will come to understand in time.

• Help children know what to expect in a sacramental celebration. Try to attend Mass at a time when a baptism will occur. In child-friendly language, explain both the human actions (what the priest or deacon and others are doing) and the divine actions (what God is doing). Tell your child that when someone is baptized, God is making him or her a part of our Church family.

• When you attend a wedding as a family, tell your child that when a man and a woman make promises to each other in the Sacrament of Matrimony, God makes them husband and wife.

Signs of God-with-Us

Jesus was talking with many of his disciples. They asked him, “What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do?”

Based on John 6:30

A Sacrament is a special celebration of the Church! We know that when we celebrate the Eucharist, we see the bread and the cup and we know Jesus is there. It is a sign that God is with us.

Baptism is another Sacrament. When a person is baptized, he or she becomes a part of God’s family, the Church, and we celebrate with him or her. In this celebration, we see the pouring of water, and it is a sign that God is with us.

In the Sacrament of Matrimony, when a man and a woman get married, we hear the lifelong promises of love they make to one another, and we know that it is a sign that God is with us!

Sharing Faith at Home

Share the story with your child about signs of God’s presence by talking about the story or reading it aloud at bedtime.

Discussion Starter: “Where have you seen signs of God in the world?”
Set the Family Table

Dear God,

You are always with us. We thank you especially for the time when__________.

All:

Let us come before God with thanksgiving.

Amen.

Based on Psalm 95:2

Celebrating Special Times

Circle the triangle, circle, rectangle, and oval hidden in the pictures. In the space below, draw a picture of your own family celebration.

Through the Week

Show pictures or videos from a family wedding or baptism. Share something you see!

Ask Me!

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What are some special times that families celebrate? (birthdays, graduations, holidays, other special events)
2. What do we call the special “family celebrations” of the Church? (sacraments)
3. As a family, recall times when you especially felt God’s presence.

Saint of the Week

Josephine Bakhita (1869–1947)

Feast Day: February 9

Did you know?

Saint Josephine Bakhita was enslaved as a child. Despite no exposure to religion, she experienced God’s love. As a young adult, she was able to show this love to others.

Saint Josephine Bakhita, pray for us!
Praising God means telling how wonderful he is.
We praise God in the Mass when we sing “Glory to God.”

Scripture tells us that truly, God is beyond our comprehension. As amazed as we are by all we see in God’s creation, we cannot begin to fathom all that God is, but we praise him as his children. “Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture” (Psalm 100:2).

The Catechism teaches us that the Catechism of the Catholic Church describes praise as “the form of prayer which recognizes most immediately that God is God,” giving him glory not just for what he has done, “but simply because HE IS” (CCC, 2639).

Let your child see you singing in Mass and reverently praising God. Tell your child why we sing the words of the Gloria and what they mean, and encourage him or her to sing along.

The best evidence for a young child of the existence of an invisible God is a parent who gives God praise. When children see their parents in prayer, singing out in praise at Mass, and talking about the good things God has done, this ignites their own natural tendency to recognize and love God.

This Week’s Scripture Story focuses on how we can sing God’s praises.

A Good King
King Hezekiah was a good king who loved God. He had a celebration to praise God. He got some people to play gentle harp music. Some others had cymbals that they could crash together. Others had trumpets, which made a strong sound. And, he had singers too! Together they played and sang God’s praises until they were full of joy!

Based on 2 Chronicles 29:25–30

How Five- and Six-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.
The best evidence for a young child of the existence of an invisible God is a parent who gives God praise. When children see their parents in prayer, singing out in praise at Mass, and talking about the good things God has done, this ignites their own natural tendency to recognize and love God.
**Mealtime Prayer**

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.

Amen.

---

**Setting the Family Table**

**Glory to God**

*Count* the horns, halos, songbooks, and harps. *Write* the number in the box below each item.

---

**Through the Week**

As a family, talk about all the wonderful things God can do.

---

**Ask Me!**

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. **What does it mean to “praise God”? (to tell how wonderful he is)**
2. **When do we praise God in the Mass? (when we sing the Gloria and the Holy, Holy)**

---

**Saint of the Week**

*Tutilo* (died 915)

Feast Day: March 28

**Did you know?**

Saint Tutilo was an immensely talented Benedictine monk who used his gifts for honoring God. He was instrumental in the creation of Gregorian Chant music.

Saint Tutilo, pray for us!
Everyone Has Rules

This Week’s Scripture Story
Reminds us of how God has rules for us.

God’s Good Rules

In the days when most people did not know God and God’s love, there was a man named Moses. Moses did know God. God had made Moses to be a good leader, and now Moses was helping a large group of people called the Israelites.

One day, Moses understood that God wanted to talk with him. God told Moses the rules he wants people to follow. Some of the rules are:

- Don’t hurt each other.
- Be kind and helpful to your parents.
- Tell the truth.
- Don’t wish you could have something that belongs to someone else.
- And of course, love God! God wants us to love him, because he so loves us!

Based on Exodus 20

How Five- and Six-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson,
by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Most young children learn very early that there are expectations placed on their behavior. They tend to see these expectations more as limitations than as help for them. However, children need the structure of rules, and there is a certain comfort in knowing what the boundaries and parameters are for their actions.
Pray this prayer as a family.

Mealtime Prayer

We pray for (name), who is (reason).
All: Lord, hear our prayer.
Amen.

Through the Week
Pray the Mealtime Prayer as a family. Pray for the people you love, adding your reasons for praying for them (illness, safe travels, the arrival of a new baby).

Ask Me!
Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)
1. Who has to follow rules? (Everyone has rules they must follow.)
2. Why does God give us rules? (so we can be safe and happy)
3. What are some of the rules in our house? (Answers will vary.)

God’s Rules
Circle the children who are following God’s rules. Mark an X on those who are not following the rules. In the space below, draw a picture of yourself following God’s rules.

Saint of the Week
Moses (twelfth century B.C.)
Did you know?
One of the most significant figures in the Bible, Moses, was a mystic as well as a great leader. Not only did he lead the Israelite people out of slavery, but also it was through Moses that God gave us our “ground rules” for life, the Ten Commandments.
Moses, pray for us!
In this week’s lesson your child learned

• Jesus taught about times when we are especially blessed by God.
• The lesson about blessings that Jesus taught on the mountain is called the Beatitudes.

It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that

• those who live the Beatitudes (people who are sorrowful, lonely, or show mercy, for example) are especially blessed by God (Matthew 5:3–12).
• God judges by different standards than people do (Isaiah 55:8). What might seem to us to be unfortunate circumstances are special occasions of blessing in God’s eyes.

The Catechism teaches us that

• “the Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus’ preaching” (CCC, 1716). God gave each of us a desire for true happiness, which the Beatitudes fulfill (CCC, 1718).

Keep It Simple

• Point out practical examples of beatitude living at home. For example, make your child aware of opportunities to “be a peacemaker” or to be kind to others for no reason.
• Jesus’ pattern of living is given as a series of “do’s,” rather than “don’ts.” Practice stating family rules in terms of what you want to see, versus what you don’t want to see. Focus on the positive expectations.

How Five- and Six-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Five- and six-year-olds often want to please adults in their lives, but Jesus’ list of blessings in the Beatitudes may at first appear paradoxical to them. Why does Jesus declare special blessings for those who are sad, poor in spirit, or meek? Still, it is important that they begin to understand that God’s standards are different from ours, and that he sees our good deeds even when others don’t appreciate them (or when they make fun of us for doing what is right).

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Visit Allelu.com and click on the Lectionary link for weekly Scripture readings, reflections, and activities.
Pray this prayer as a family.

Mealtme Prayer

Bless you God, for blessing us with all that we need. Let us bless our friends and family with love. Amen.

Setting the Family Table

You Are Blessed

Follow the maze to the top of the mountain, where it says “Blessed.”

Through the Week

Make a special effort to talk about how you and other family members see your family living out the Beatitudes. Pray that God will help to make you a “Beatitudes family.”

Ask Me!

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What is the name of the lesson Jesus taught about being blessed? (Beatitudes)
2. What are some of the times when we are especially blessed by God? (When we are peacemakers, when we do the right thing even if someone makes fun of us.)

Saint of the Week

Claire of Assisi
(1194–1253)

Feast Day: August 11

Did you know?

Claire worked closely with another saint, Saint Francis of Assisi. She led a group of women who lived a life of poverty and prayer. Even though she chose to live by begging, she was happy!

Saint Claire, pray for us!
**Showing Kindness**

**This Week’s Scripture Story**

Le/ser.001/s.001on 17, Kindergarten

**Sharing Faith at Home**

Share the story with your child of how we should encourage each other, by talking about the story or reading it aloud at bedtime. Discussion Starter: How can you encourage others?

**Help One Another**

This is a letter written by Saint Paul to his friends:

Encourage one another. Tell each other that your work is good! We urge you to cheer up those who are sad, help those who are worried or sick, and be patient with everyone! Always seek what is good for each other and for everyone.

Be happy and keep praying. Greet everyone for us. And may the grace of Jesus be with you.

Love,

Paul

Based on 1 Thessalonians 5:11, 14–17, 26, 28

**It Helps to Know**

The Catechism teaches us that

- the good of each individual is related to the common good. It is important that we recognize and appreciate the dignity of each person, especially within our own families and communities.

The General Directory for Catechesis states that

- the following attitudes are necessary for living in community: the spirit of simplicity and humility, special concern for the least among us, common prayer, and an attitude of forgiveness and reconciliation, all summed up in an attitude of love for one another (GDC, 86).

**Keep It Simple**

- Begin by helping your child recognize opportunities to be helpful to others at home and in other daily life situations. Can they help a younger sibling get a drink of water, or hold the door for you as you carry groceries? A family outing to buy supplies and deliver them to a food pantry or someone in need can be an important learning opportunity.

**How Five- and Six-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.**

Because they have little information and experience regarding the lives and perspectives of other people, children this age still have some difficulties recognizing the needs of others. However, with some discussion and prompting, they can begin to recognize other people’s needs, and they enjoy having the opportunity to be helpful to others.

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Visit Allelu.com and click on the Lectionary link for weekly Scripture readings, reflections, and activities.
Try to make a special effort to assist, as a family, those in need in your community.

Ask Me!
Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What are some ways to help others? (Answers will vary.)
2. How can we be kind to others in the things we say? (Answers will vary.)
3. What is something kind someone has done for you? (Answers will vary.)

Who Is Showing Encouragement?
Color the pictures of people who are encouraging others. Tell how you have encouraged others.

Mealtime Prayer
Jesus, our loving brother and God, I will try to _______ today.
All: This little act I do, will help somebody too.
Amen.

Saint of the Week
Thérèse of Lisieux (1873–1897)
Feast Day: October 1
Did you know?
Saint Thérèse of Lisieux is one of our best-known and most beloved saints. Despite her short life span of twenty-four years, she quietly developed an incredible spirituality, aided greatly by her “little way” of doing small things with great love.
Saint Thérèse, pray for us!
God forgives us when we do wrong things. God will help us do better if we ask for his help.

Scripture tells us that:

- in the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32), Jesus describes a father who never gives up on his son, even when the son has forsaken him and the rest of the family. When the son returns, the father is already outside looking for him. He runs to the son and embraces him, calling for a celebration that his son was lost and has been found. Jesus tells this story to teach us that God always loves us, no matter what. When we have sinned, he is ready to forgive and welcome us home again.

The Catechism teaches us that:

- Sin is an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience… It has been defined as “an utterance, a deed, or a desire contrary to the eternal law” (CCC, 1849).

- The sacrifice of Christ on the Cross is how we are saved from all sin. (CCC, 1851).

When your child has done something wrong, try to remain calm and steady, even as you impose consequences. (You may have to take a break for a few moments to calm down first.) Make sure the consequences you impose can teach your child something about the behavior or help to make amends. This helps children realize that the rules and consequences are just. Let your child know that you love him/her, and that’s why you feel so sad or disappointed when he/she breaks the rules.

One of the most endearing qualities of most young children is their desire to please adults, particularly their parents. Knowing that they are always loved, even when they have done wrong, does not give them license to break the rules (there will still be consequences!), but it can give them the opportunity to start again when they have been impulsive or disobedient and begin to feel the disruption to the relationship between themselves and those they love.

This Week’s Scripture Story

God Forgives

The Prodigal Son

This is a story that Jesus told:

Hoping to have a more exciting life, a young man said to his father, “Some day, you will give me part of your money. I’d like to have it now.”

The father gave the money. Taking the money, the son went away. He lived wildly and was not careful how he spent his money. Soon it was gone, and he had no house or food!

He got a job feeding pigs. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the pigs’ food!

One day he thought, “I’ll go home and tell my father that I know I did something wrong. I’ll ask him to forgive me. Then I’ll ask him if I can work for him, for I no longer deserve to be called his son.”

While the son was still a long way off, the father saw the young man returning.

Filled with joy, he ran and flung his arms around his son, hugging and hugging him.

The son started to say, “Father, I know I have done wrong. I shouldn’t be treated like your son anymore, but if you will let me, I will work for you.”

But the jubilant father forgave his son before he could finish speaking. He gave the son new clothes and a ring.

Then the father gave a big, happy party to celebrate that his son had come back to him.

Based on Luke 15:11–24

How Five- and Six-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

One of the most endearing qualities of most young children is their desire to please adults, particularly their parents. Knowing that they are always loved, even when they have done wrong, does not give them license to break the rules (there will still be consequences!), but it can give them the opportunity to start again when they have been impulsive or disobedient and begin to feel the disruption to the relationship between themselves and those they love.

Keep It Simple

- When your child has done something wrong, try to remain calm and steady, even as you impose consequences. (You may have to take a break for a few moments to calm down first.) Make sure the consequences you impose can teach your child something about the behavior or help to make amends. This helps children realize that the rules and consequences are just. Let your child know that you love him/her, and that’s why you feel so sad or disappointed when he/she breaks the rules.

Visit Allelu.com and click on the Lectionary link for weekly Scripture readings, reflections, and activities.
Pray this prayer as a family.

Mealt ime Prayer

Dear God, 
We know you always, always forgive us. Thank you!
Amen.

Setting the Family Table

What’s the Order?
Place the events in the correct order by using the numbers 1 to 4. Then color the pictures.

Saint of the Week
Anthony of Padua (1195–1231)
Feast Day: June 13

Ask Me!
Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)
1. Does God forgive us when we do wrong things? (Yes, God always forgives us.)
2. How do we know if he forgives us? (All we have to do is ask and we are forgiven.)
3. What is a rule you can ask God for help with? (Answers will vary.)

Did you know?
Saint Anthony of Padua, one of the most beloved of saints, was born in Portugal, but spent his short adult life in Italy and France. He joined the Franciscans when Saint Francis was still alive. Anthony became such a phenomenal teacher and speaker, he was named a Doctor of the Church.
Saint Anthony, pray for us!
Jesus Is Welcomed

This Week’s Scripture Story

focuses on Jesus’ arrival to Jerusalem.

Jesus Enters Jerusalem

It was Passover, a time when people traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate. Jesus and his Apostles were going there too.

Among the many, many people visiting and living in Jerusalem were those who knew and loved Jesus. When they heard he was on his way, they went to where he would arrive. They took off their cloaks and spread them on the ground. They did this so Jesus would not have to walk on the ground. It was a way of honoring him. Then the people also cut branches from palm trees.

Then Jesus arrived, riding on a donkey. All the people were joyful to see him! They cried out, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Based on Matthew 21:1–3, 6-9; John 12:12–14

Palm/Sunday

How Five- and Six-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Children are intrigued by the story of Jesus’ entry in Jerusalem and can usually identify well with the warm reception he received. More difficult to understand, for a young child, are the misconceptions of the people about who Jesus was and what he intended, as many of the people probably greeted Jesus so warmly because they expected him to lead a revolution against their Roman oppressors.

Sharing Faith at Home

Share the story with your child of when Jesus entered Jerusalem, by talking about the story or reading it aloud at bedtime. Discussion Starter: How would you greet Jesus to your town?

Palm Sunday

Lesson 24, Kindergarten

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It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that

• Jesus entered into Jerusalem and was greeted by the people, who called out, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” (Matthew 21:9)

Today in the Mass, we greet Jesus in a similar way as we begin the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Keep It Simple

• Be sure to attend Palm Sunday Mass as a family, and use the palm leaves you receive to make a special sign of welcoming Jesus into your home.
• As a family, create a banner that says, “Hosanna in the highest.” Place these items on the family table, and talk about how you will also welcome Jesus in your home this week through special acts of love for one another.

In this week’s lesson your child learned

• Jesus was welcomed as he entered the city of Jerusalem.
• The people called out, “Hosanna!” to Jesus. We sing this in Mass today.

How Five- and Six-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.

Children are intrigued by the story of Jesus’ entry in Jerusalem and can usually identify well with the warm reception he received. More difficult to understand, for a young child, are the misconceptions of the people about who Jesus was and what he intended, as many of the people probably greeted Jesus so warmly because they expected him to lead a revolution against their Roman oppressors.

Sharing Faith at Home

Share the story with your child of when Jesus entered Jerusalem, by talking about the story or reading it aloud at bedtime. Discussion Starter: How would you greet Jesus to your town?
**Setting the Family Table**

**Welcome, Jesus!**

**Color** by number and then **trace** the letters to say **Hosanna!**

1. Red
2. Yellow
3. Blue
4. Purple
5. Green
6. Brown

**Through the Week**

Think and share ways you can praise and welcome Jesus in your home.

**Ask Me!**

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What happened when Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? (The people greeted him by waving palms and calling out, “Hosanna!”)
2. When do we say the words of the people who greeted Jesus? (in Mass, when we sing, “Hosanna in the highest”)

**Mealtime Prayer**

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

**Saint of the Week**

Philip (first century)

Feast Day: June 6

**Did you know?**

Saint Philip was one of the twelve Apostles. Through his teaching, he often reached out to people who were not traditionally connected with the Jews, thus bringing many others to the teachings of Christ.

**Saint Philip, pray for us!**
**Jesus Dies**

**This Week’s Scripture Story**

focuses on the crucifixion of Jesus.

**When Jesus Died**

Some people did not understand who Jesus was. They hurt and made fun of him. Then they put him on a cross to die. This is the story of how it happened.

The morning passed but Jesus had not yet died. It became dark, even though it was the middle of the day!

Later, Jesus called out to God the Father, and then he died.

Suddenly, the earth shook! It was an earthquake! A soldier said, “Truly, this was the Son of God!”

A good man, a follower of Jesus, took Jesus’ body down from the Cross. He wrapped the body in a clean cloth and placed it in a tomb, a place like a cave. Then he rolled a huge stone in front of the opening to the tomb. He then went home. Mary Magdalene and another woman stayed near the tomb.

Based on Matthew 27:45–61 and John 19:17–42

They did not know that this was not the end of the story about Jesus!
**Mealtim e Prayer**

Jesus,  
In good times,  
In bad times,  
In all times,  
You are with us, and we thank you!  
Amen.

**Through the Week**

Remember that even though the day Jesus died was a sad day, we call it “Good Friday,” because God brought something good out of it.

**Ask Me!**

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What happened to Jesus in Jerusalem when people did not like what he was saying and didn’t understand who he was? (The people hurt and killed him.)

2. Was this the end of the story? (No, Jesus had told his friends that death would not win.)

**Jesus Dies for Us**

Find and circle the items below.

- Robe
- Tomb
- Cross
- Mary

**Saint of the Week**

**John (first century)**

Feast Day: December 27

**Did you know?**

One of the first of the Apostles to meet and follow Jesus, John was probably the one referred to as the one Jesus loved. He was the brother of James, and Jesus' nickname for them was “sons of thunder” which might allude to their fiery tempers. John was also one of the four Evangelists.

Saint John, pray for us!
In this week’s lesson your child learned
• On the Sunday after he died, Jesus was alive again. Death could not hold him!
• Jesus came back and visited with his friends.

It Helps to Know
Scripture tells us that
• on the Sunday after he died, when Jesus’ friends went to his tomb, they saw an angel, who told them, “He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said” (Matthew 28:6). Over the next several days, Jesus appeared, in bodily form to many of his followers.

The Catechism teaches us that
• “the Father’s power ‘raised up’ Christ his Son and by doing so perfectly introduced his Son’s humanity, including his body, into the Trinity. Jesus is conclusively revealed as Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his Resurrection from the dead” (CCC, 648).
• finally, Christ’s Resurrection—and the Risen Christ himself—is the source of our future resurrection (CCC, 655).

How Five- and Six-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.
Because of their limited understanding of death, children also struggle with the idea of resurrection. They may wonder why a favorite pet or an elderly grandparent cannot “come back to life.” However, it is important for them to know that Jesus is alive, and that Jesus’ life gives us hope that even though we all die, someday we will live forever with God in Heaven.

Sharing Faith at Home
Share the story with your child of Jesus’ Resurrection, by talking about the story or reading it aloud at bedtime.

Discussion Starter: Is Jesus still with us?

Jesus Is Alive!

Jesus Is Risen!
Two disciples were walking away from Jerusalem. They had just found out that Jesus had risen from the tomb. While they were walking and talking, a man came up to them. It was Jesus, but they did not recognize him. When they got to the place they were going, they asked Jesus to come in and have dinner with them. When they broke the bread, and Jesus blessed it, they suddenly recognized him, then he disappeared. They remembered that when he was talking, he had been speaking truth from the Scriptures. He knew what he was talking about. They were amazed that they had walked and talked with Jesus and did not know it until now.

Based on Luke 24:13

Keep It Simple
• Decorate the family table or home altar with flowers, such as lilies, that are signs of new life.
• Take a walk as a family and discuss the growth of things in nature (the green trees, flowers, etc.), and how these are reminders that God brings new life.

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Visit Allelu.com and click on the Lectionary link for weekly Scripture readings, reflections, and activities.
**Pray this prayer as a family.**

**Mealtime Prayer**

Jesus is risen! Alleluia!
All you hills and mountains, rejoice!
All you tiny blades of grass and tall trees, rejoice!
All you angels and saints, rejoice!
Alleluia!

**Jesus Is Risen! Alleluia!**

*Connect* the dots from 1 to 11.
Then *color* the picture.

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**Through the Week**

In your family prayers, at meals, bedtime, and other times, remember to thank God that Jesus is alive.

**Ask Me!**

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What happened on the Sunday after Jesus died? (He was alive again.)
2. Who saw Jesus after he came back to life? (his disciples, Mary Magdalene, other friends)

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**Saint of the Week**

**Peter (first century)**

Feast Day: June 29

**Did you know?**

We know a great deal about Saint Peter, as he is mentioned one hundred ninety-five times in the New Testament! He was lovable, energetic, impulsive, weak at times and strong at other times. Most importantly, we know he was a tremendous leader who loved Jesus with his heart, soul, and mind.

Saint Peter, pray for us!
In this week’s lesson your child learned

- Jesus left the earth and went into Heaven, but he promised his friends that he would always be with them.
- Jesus is with us in God’s Word, through the actions of the priest at Mass, in the people gathered at church, and especially in the Holy Eucharist.

How Five- and Six-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson,
by Joseph White, Ph.D.

The idea of Jesus’ continued presence with us is an abstract one, and rather difficult for young children. As children grow and prepare for Holy Communion, they will begin to understand this more clearly, particularly with respect to Jesus’ Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

It Helps to Know

Scripture tells us that

- Jesus said, “I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).
- “taken up to heaven and glorified after he had thus fully accomplished his mission, Christ dwells on earth in his Church” (CCC, 669).

The *Catechism* teaches us that

- “taken up to heaven and glorified after he had thus fully accomplished his mission, Christ dwells on earth in his Church” (CCC, 669).

This week at home, read a short story about Jesus from Scripture and talk about what it means.

At the parish, stop by the Tabernacle to say a prayer. Talk about how Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Keep It Simple

- This week at home, read a short story about Jesus from Scripture and talk about what it means.
- At the parish, stop by the Tabernacle to say a prayer. Talk about how Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

Sharing Faith at Home

Share the story with your child about the Ascension, by talking about the story or reading it aloud at bedtime. Discussion Starter: Name some ways Jesus is with us always.
Pray this prayer as a family.

Mealtine Prayer

Jesus, thank you for being with us through our Holy Scriptures.
Jesus, thank you for being with us in the Eucharist.
Jesus, thank you for being with us in our hearts.
Amen.

“B_ _ _ _ _ _ them in the name of the F_ _ _ _ _ _ , the S_ _ _ _ _ _ , and the H_ _ _ _ _ _ S_ _ _ _ _ _ .”

Key: ● ★ ✚ ♥ ▼ ▲
● ✚ ✤ ▲ ♦ ✴ ❖ ✴ ◗ ✖ ★ ♥ ♦ ♥ ✚

Settling the Family Table

Jesus Is with Us
Decode the message.
Then draw a picture of yourself in the box.

Through the Week

Thank Jesus for being present with us in God’s Word, in the Eucharist, and living with us at home.

Ask Me!

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What promise did Jesus make to his friends when he went up into Heaven? (that he would always be with them)

2. How is Jesus with us today? (He is with us in God’s Word, in the Church, in the poor and needy, in our hearts, and most especially in the Holy Eucharist.)

Through the Week

Thank Jesus for being present with us in God’s Word, in the Eucharist, and living with us at home.

Ask Me!

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. What promise did Jesus make to his friends when he went up into Heaven? (that he would always be with them)

2. How is Jesus with us today? (He is with us in God’s Word, in the Church, in the poor and needy, in our hearts, and most especially in the Holy Eucharist.)

Jesus Is with Us
Decode the message.
Then draw a picture of yourself in the box.

Saint of the Week
Dominic Savio
(1842–1857)
Feast Day: March 9
Did you know?
Dominic Savio was one of Saint John Bosco’s students, and became a saint himself. Dominic lived a short life, dying of an illness at age fifteen. However, even though he was a child, his mature spirit was inspirational.
Saint Dominic, pray for us!
This Week’s Scripture Story

**The Spirit of Love**

Focuses on Pentecost and being filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Pentecost**

After Jesus had ascended into Heaven, his followers were together in a room.

Suddenly, there came a sound like the mighty wind, a strong, noisy wind. It filled the house with sound. They were then ready to go out and teach everyone about Jesus. They were filled with the Holy Spirit! Their hearts were filled with the Spirit of Love.

*Based on Acts 2:1—4*

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**It Helps to Know**

Scripture tells us that

- Jesus said, “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you” (John 14:26).

The *Catechism* teaches us that

- “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (CCC, 733; Romans 5:5). “The Holy Spirit, whom Christ the head pours out on his members, builds, animates, and sanctifies the Church” (CCC, 747).

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**How Five- and Six-Year-Olds Understand the Lesson, by Joseph White, Ph.D.**

While children sometimes struggle to grasp the idea of an invisible Holy Spirit, they can better understand this from a practical point of view, when they know that the Holy Spirit is the Person of God who helps us make good choices. We can also point out that the love between family members is of God’s Spirit of Love, poured out on our families.

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**In this week’s lesson your child learned**

- When Jesus went back to Heaven with the Father, God sent the Holy Spirit to live with us.
- The Holy Spirit helps us to make good choices and show love to God and one another.

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**Discussion Starter:** What is the Holy Spirit like?

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**Keep It Simple**

- When encountering situations that can sometimes be difficult, behaviorally, for your child (e.g., a trip to the store, a playdate with a cousin with whom your child sometimes fights), pray with your child, asking the Holy Spirit to help him or her to make good choices and behave in ways that show love to others.

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**Parent Notes**

- When Jesus went back to Heaven with the Father, God sent the Holy Spirit to live with us.
- The Holy Spirit helps us to make good choices and show love to God and one another.

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Visit *Allelu.com* and click on the Lectionary link for weekly Scripture readings, reflections, and activities.
**Mealt ime Prayer**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.

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**Spirit Search**

Find the hidden Pentecost words.

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G A G T J C G O Q V
M S F I R E S E G N
H H C R U H C Q I W
S B A I S E O V W O
B X X P W X C L D O
L D E S A I X O Y Q
L A H T E N N B P O
K C O M S F N D Z J
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- **church**
- **fire**
- **holy**
- **speak**
- **spirit**
- **wind**

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**Ask Me!**

Ask your child these questions, and see if he or she can give you the answers. (If not, give a hint, and review the questions again later.)

1. Who did God send to be with us after Jesus returned to God in Heaven? (the Holy Spirit)
2. What does the Holy Spirit help us to do? (The Holy Spirit helps us to make good choices and show love to one another.)

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**Saint of the Week**

**Bartholomew/Nathaniel**

(First century)

Feast Day: August 24

**Did you know?**

The names of Bartholomew and Nathaniel are mentioned in the New Testament in such a way that some scholars believe these are two names for the same person. Bartholomew may possibly be a type of surname, since it connects him with his father.

Saint Bartholomew, pray for us!