

Overview

In Chapter 15 the children learned that the Mass is both a sacrifice and a meal. In this chapter the children will learn that at Mass we are united to Jesus Christ and one another.

Doctrinal Content		For Adult Reading and Reflection <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>
The children will learn:		Paragraph
• We are united to Jesus Christ and to one another.	1348	
• The Church celebrates the Mass.	1368	
• The parish gathers for the celebration of Mass.	1389	
• When Mass begins, we praise God and ask for his forgiveness.	2643	

Key Word
assembly (p. 142)

Catechist Background

How does the Eucharist strengthen you?

As a young child you probably began to go to Mass on Sunday. It was an automatic thing; you hardly even thought about it. Besides, how could you think about Mass when its meaning was such a mystery?

As adults, we gain insight into the meaning of Mass by reading Chapter 15 of Saint John’s Gospel. There we learn that Jesus is the vine; we, the Church, are the branches. In sacred art wheat and a vine are used to symbolize the Eucharist. The vine signifies the union we have through Jesus. During the eucharistic celebration, we announce our union with Christ and with one another each time we hear, “The Lord be with you,” and we say, “And with your spirit.”

When we gather for Mass, we also acknowledge our sinfulness and seek God’s forgiveness and mercy. Knowing that we are weak, we seek the

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- Six Tasks of Catechesis
- Catholic Social Teaching.

strength of Jesus in the Eucharist so that we can become more like him.

Saint Paul emphasized our union with Jesus. When he wrote to the Christians at Corinth, he challenged them, “Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?” (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Perhaps the challenge of Mass is not so much the mystery of its meaning but the mystery of being transformed into Jesus. If we were to test ourselves as Saint Paul suggests, would we find ourselves living in faith?

In your words and deeds are you becoming more like Jesus?

We Gather for the Celebration of the Eucharist

Overview

In this chapter the children will learn that at Mass we are united to Jesus Christ and one another.

Doctrinal Content

For Adult Reading and Reflection
Catechism of the Catholic Church

The children will learn:	Paragraph
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• The parish gathers for the celebration of Mass. . .	1389
• When Mass begins, we praise God and ask for his forgiveness.. . . .	2643

Catechist Background

How does the Eucharist strengthen you?

You probably began to go to Mass when you were a child. It was an automatic thing; you hardly even thought about it.

As adults, we gain insight into the meaning of Mass by reading chapter 15 of Saint John’s Gospel. There we learn that Jesus is the vine; we, the Church, are the branches. In sacred art wheat and a vine are used to symbolize the Eucharist. The vine not only refers to the Blood of Jesus but also to the union we have through him. During the Eucharistic celebration, we announce our union with Christ and one another each time we hear, “The Lord be with you,” and we say, “And with your spirit.”

When we gather for Mass, we also acknowledge our sinfulness and seek God’s forgiveness and mercy. Knowing that we are weak, we seek strength in the Eucharistic Jesus so that we can become more like him.

Saint Paul emphasized our union with Jesus. When he wrote to the Christians at Corinth, he challenged them, “Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?” (2 Corinthians 13:5)

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Focus on Life

Chapter Story

Roberto’s sister, Maris, is in fifth grade. Almost every day after school Maris talks and laughs with her friend Patrice. Last Tuesday afternoon Roberto was surprised when he got home from school.

Maris was very serious as she walked back and forth in the kitchen. She was carrying a broom, and Patrice was walking behind her. Roberto asked, “What are you two doing? Last week you told me you were too old to play games. Now you look like you’re playing one.”

Maris answered, “Well, for your information, little brother, we are not playing a game. I’m going to be one of the altar servers for the Saturday evening Mass. I’m going to carry the cross when Mass begins. Patrice is helping me to practice.”

Dad was standing by the sink. He said, “Roberto, don’t make fun of your sister. Saturday will be the first time she is serving. She’s going to practice during the week, and we’re going to help her.”

On Wednesday night Roberto helped Maris. He timed her to see how long she could stand without fidgeting. On Thursday night Roberto listened as their dad read the Mass prayers and Maris said the responses. Roberto knew some of the responses and said them aloud with Maris.

After Mass on Saturday night, Maris met Roberto and their dad outside. She said, “Thanks for all your help. And guess what, Roberto? Father Perez said I did so well tonight that I can be one of the altar servers for Mass on your first Holy Communion Day!”

Would you like to be an altar server? Why?

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