BASILICA FIRST EUCHARIST - PARENT ZOOM MEETING

Melissa Streit, Director of Engagement and Family Life

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OPENING PRAYER

We bless your name, O Lord, for sending your Son,
to become part of a family, so that, as he lived its life,
he would experience its worries and its joys.

We ask you, Lord, to protect and watch over these families,
so that in the strength of your grace its members may enjoy prosperity,
possess the priceless gift of your peace, and,
as the Church alive in the home, bear witness in this world to your glory.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from USCCB Prayer for Families

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TOPICS

- Signs of Readiness for First Eucharist
- Catechesis for Children
- Preparation Within The Family
- Review the Curriculum
- Preparation for Sacrament – May 3

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SIGNS OF READINESS

A child age seven or older who is ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time, meaning by May:

- Has age-appropriate knowledge of Christ and the Paschal Mystery.
- Recognizes that the Eucharist is different than ordinary food.
- Is able to receive the Body and Blood of Christ with reverence.
- Has celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation

(Code of Canon Law #913, #914; National Directory for Catechesis, p. 135).

Together, parents, the pastor, and catechetical leaders prepare a child to celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time.

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CATECHESIS FOR CHILDREN

Catechesis for children on the Eucharist focuses on

- Preparing them to understand the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist
- Parts and significance of the Mass
- The importance of reverent reception of the Eucharist
- Sending forth to glorify the Lord by living as followers of Jesus

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KEY ASPECTS OF CATECHESIS

Real Presence of Christ
- Different than ordinary bread and wine
- A living memorial to Christ's sacrifice

Mass Participation
- Parts of the Mass
- Their significance
- Key phrases and gestures

Core Themes
- The Last Supper
- Gather as a community
- Prayer and gratitude

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WHAT CHILDREN LEARN

- The Holy Spirit came, just as Jesus promised.
- We are baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity.
- The Sacraments of Initiation help us belong to the Church.
- Jesus gives us the Sacraments to help us live as His followers.
- We gather with others to celebrate God's presence and honor the Lord's Day.
- The Eucharist is a special way that God is present with us at Mass.
- We prepare to worship God at Mass by asking for God's mercy.
- We can and should give praise to God every day.

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WHAT CHILDREN LEARN

- We listen to the Word of God and let it take root in our hearts.
- Our actions can show that we are living according to God's Word.
- God's Word is shared at Mass in the Liturgy of the Word.
- Jesus promised to give Himself to us as spiritual food.
- At the Last Supper, Jesus kept his promise to give us himself.
- The Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, shared at the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- We are united to one another through the Lord's Prayer.
- We go from Mass to live as followers of Jesus, bringing love to others.

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FAMILY PREPARATION

Since the family is intimately involved with the formation of a child's moral conscience and integrates the child into the wider ecclesial (faith) communities, parents should be involved in the preparation of their children for this sacrament so that they can affirm and reinforce frequent participation in the sacrament. They orient the child toward God and encourage continual growth in the understanding of God's mercy and love.

(Cf. National Directory of Catechesis 135-136)

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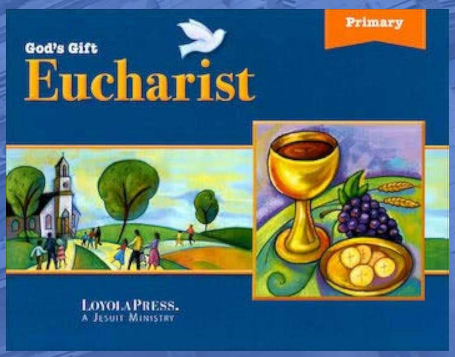
FAMILY PREPARATION

March 1: Family Meeting 11am
in the Chapel

March/April: Chapters 1-5

1. Belonging
2. Gathering
3. Reflecting
4. Listening
5. Preparing



Holy Week- Palm Sunday (March 29) through Easter (April 5)

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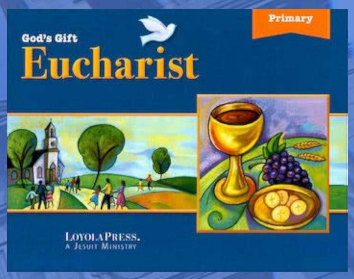
FAMILY PREPARATION



1. Belonging
- The Holy Spirit came, just as Jesus promised.
- We are baptized in name of the Holy Spirit.
- The Sacraments of Initiation are connected to belonging to the Church.
- The Sacraments are helps Jesus gives us to live as His followers.

Baptism Trinity Confirmation Eucharist Holy Communion Mass

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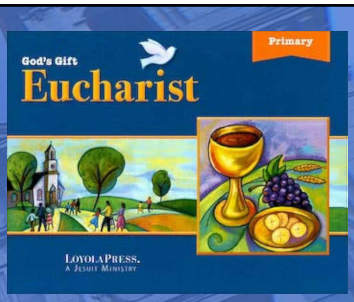
FAMILY PREPARATION



2. Gathering
- We gather with others to celebrate God's
- presence and honor the Lord's Day at Mass.
- The Eucharist is a special way that God is present with us at Mass.
- People who help at the Mass are part of the procession.
- We participate in the Introductory Rites at Mass.

Altar Bible Lector

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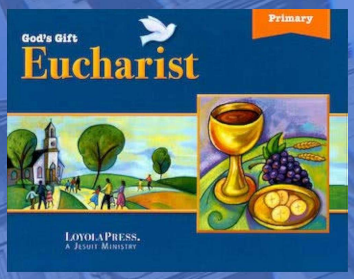
FAMILY PREPARATION



3. Reflecting
- God's presence makes church a holy place.
- We prepare to worship God at Mass by asking for God's mercy.
- The *Gloria* is a song of praise to God.

Mercy

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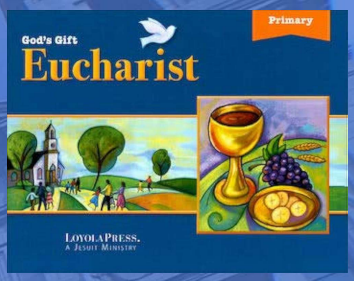
FAMILY PREPARATION



4. Listening
- Jesus often teaches us through parables.
- At Mass, God's Word is shared in the Liturgy of the Word.
- It is important to let God's Word take root in our hearts.
- Our actions can show we are living according to God's Word.

Creed *Gospel* *Homily* *New Testament* *Old Testament*
Psalms *Sacred Scripture*

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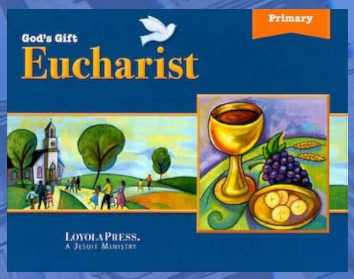
FAMILY PREPARATION



5. Preparing
- Jesus promised to give Himself to us as spiritual food.
- This gift is Presented and Prepared at Mass.
- The Bread and Wine represent all that we offer to God.
- We can offer God our actions and prayers as gifts.

Blessing *Sacrifice*

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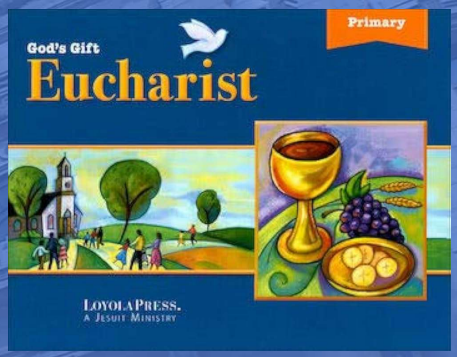
FAMILY PREPARATION

April 19: Family Meeting 11am
in the Chapel

April: Chapters 6-8
6. Remembering
7. Receiving
8. Journeying

Making a banner for your seat



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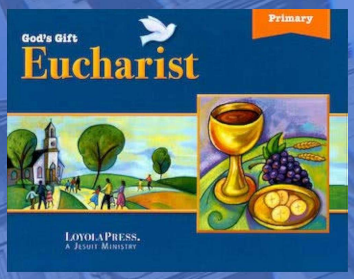
FAMILY PREPARATION



6. Remembering

- At the Last Supper, Jesus kept his promise to give us himself as spiritual food.
- The Eucharistic Prayer is a prayer of thanksgiving and praise.
- The Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
- We respond at Mass with important words during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Last Supper *Consecration* *Eucharistic Prayer*

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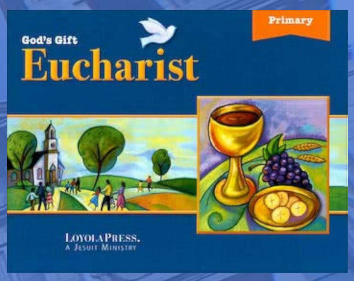
FAMILY PREPARATION



7. Receiving

- Early Christians gathered to remember Jesus.
- We gather to remember Jesus' Last Supper, as did the early Christians.
- We are united with one another when we pray the Lord's Prayer, the prayer that Jesus taught us.
- We receive Holy Communion, and pray afterwards.
- Receiving Holy Communion unites us with all members of the Church.

Chalice *Host*

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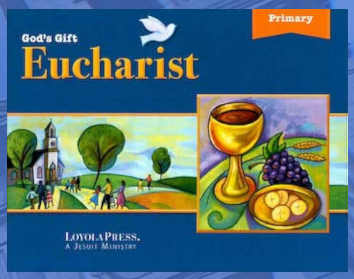
FAMILY PREPARATION



8. Journeying
- Two disciples encountered the resurrected
- Christ on the road to Emmaus.
- We encounter Christ in the Eucharist.
- The Mass ends with Concluding Rites, where we are sent forth from Mass to live as followers of Jesus Christ.
- What are ways we can bring Jesus' love to others?

Grace

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PARISH COMMUNITY

- First Eucharist: Sunday, May 3
- Noon Mass
- Teresa of Calcutta Hall

- Faith Formation Students participate and sing
- Celebration afterwards

- Short rehearsal on Saturday, May 2 at 10am

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