

We Prepare Our Gifts

FOCUS: In this chapter, you will be helping your child to understand that at the Eucharist, we offer ourselves to God and give praise and thanks.

During Mass, we present bread and wine, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, as signs of ourselves with all our gifts and limitations. Through these gifts, we show our desire to praise and thank God for being so good to us. Our imperfect gifts become a perfect offering when, during the Eucharistic Prayer, we offer the Body and Blood of Christ to the Father.

We prepare for that offering by recalling the mystery of our salvation: that the Father's love sent the Son, who gave his life for us, and that, risen from the dead, he sent his Holy Spirit to help us glorify his name in each prayer, work, joy, and suffering of our days. The Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts ends with a prayer asking the Father to bless and accept the gifts we offer.

Scripture in This Chapter

1 Corinthians 12:7–11 Diversity of Spiritual Gifts

James 3:14–17 True Wisdom

John 6:35 I Am the Bread of Life.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1333–1334, 1350–1352, 1357

In this chapter, help your child to

- ✦ describe the symbolism of the presented gifts.
- ✦ describe the Mass as a banquet to praise and thank the Father.
- ✦ explain the purpose of the prayers of the Preface.
- ✦ identify wheat and grapes with bread and wine through making a picture.
- ✦ discuss the symbols of bread and wine.
- ✦ describe the vestments and articles the priest uses at Mass.

Key Terms for Your Information

- ✦ banquet—a special meal
- ✦ Eucharist—the Mass; the word means “thanksgiving”
- ✦ Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts—the part of the Mass when the altar is prepared and the gifts are brought up
- ✦ vestment—special clothing that the priest wears during Mass