

Jesus Offers Himself

FOCUS: In this chapter, you will be helping your child to understand that at the words of the priest, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, who offers himself to the Father.

The word *sacrifice* comes from two Latin words, *sacrum facere*, which mean “to make holy.” Any gift that we give to God is called a sacrifice. When we consider the Mass a sacrifice, we understand it as the offering of a gift to God. This giving of a gift expresses our desire to be united to the Father in love.

The gift we offer at Mass is the same gift that Jesus offered to his Father on the night before Jesus died and as he was dying on the Cross. Whenever we join the priest in doing what Jesus did at the Last Supper, we offer the perfect sacrifice, the gift of the Lord’s life, given so that God may live in us and unite us to himself and to one another. Jesus’ life is God’s life, given to us in the Holy Eucharist. During the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass, Christ becomes present among us and for us.

Scripture in This Chapter

John 19:1–23 Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus
Mark 14:22 This Is My Body.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1106, 1353–1354, 1361, 1375

In this chapter, help your child to

- ✦ explain the meaning of the first part of the Eucharistic Prayer.
- ✦ describe that the Mass is Jesus’ perfect sacrifice to the Father.
- ✦ explain that after the consecration, we pray to the Father.
- ✦ describe the Amen after the Concluding Doxology as assent to the offering of Jesus and ourselves.
- ✦ create a clay model of the bread and chalice used at Mass.

Word Your Child Should Know

- ✦ Body and Blood of Christ

Key Terms for Your Information

- ✦ consecrate—to transform bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass
- ✦ Eucharistic Prayer—the central part of the Mass, during which bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, and he offers himself to the Father
- ✦ Amen—our response of assent or agreement to the sacrifice of Jesus during the Eucharist
- ✦ host—the sacred bread
- ✦ sacrifice—a gift offered to God