

Gathering to Give Thanks and Praise

Believe

In the first part of the session, your child will learn how, through the grace of Baptism, we are connected to Jesus and his Church.

- Use the activity on page 22 to talk about places where you meet new people and connect with friends.
- Read page 23 together. Name people you know in your parish. Discuss what it means to be part of the Catholic community.
- Turn to page 24 and read together the account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Reflect together on what words or phrases touched your heart in this reading. Together look at the Scripture art on pages 24 and 25 as you read the Scripture story again. What do you see?

Celebrate

In the next part of the session, your child will learn about worshipping together with the parish community and the Introductory Rites of the Mass.

- Read page 26 together. Talk about the way your family takes part in the Mass at your parish.
- Read page 27. Look at the picture and read the caption about the role of the priest. Tell your child the name(s) of your parish priest(s).
- Read pages 28 and 29 together. Review the meaning of the Introductory Rites. Together identify what is happening in the photos.
- Review with your child any highlighted words, and help your child understand what each one means. You can also look up the definitions in the glossary on page 95.



Live

The last part of the session invites your child to think about ways to participate in the life of the parish community.

- Take turns offering your responses to the statements on page 30.
- Read the story about the saint on page 31. Provide assistance as your child completes the activity.
- Bring the session to a close with a hug and a sharing of what each of you enjoyed during your time together.

Spiritual Practices for the Home

Choosing a gathering place for prayer is one of the most helpful ways to establish prayer as a regular spiritual practice. For some families the kitchen table serves as this space; for others it

might be the living room or another place in the house. Once a spot is chosen, prayer might be spontaneous or focus on a liturgical season, a devotion such as the Rosary, or Scripture.