

❖ Every person is a child of God, and we all belong to his family. When you were baptized, you joined the Catholic family. You also belong to the big Christian family of all people who believe in Jesus.

PAGE 4

❖ The Bible is filled with stories of how God speaks to his people and how his people respond in faith.

PAGE 4

❖ God told Abram to leave his home and go to a distant land. God promised that Abram would be the father of a great nation. Abraham showed faith in God. Although Abraham and Sarah were old, they had a son. They called him *Isaac*, which means “laughter.”

PAGE 5

❖ Faith helps us believe in God. It also helps us believe in his care for us and that we will live forever with him in heaven.

PAGE 5

❖ When Naomi told her daughter-in-law, Ruth, that she was going to go back home to Israel, Ruth said, “Wherever you go, I will go” and went with Naomi. She also said, “Your people shall be my people and your God my God.” Ruth was from a country where people believed in false gods. She learned about the one true God from her husband and from Naomi. Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David. Into this family, the Savior, Jesus, would be born.

PAGE 6

❖ We receive the gift of faith at Baptism when we become Christians.

PAGE 7

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God Gives Us Gifts

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 2*.

❖ In the parable of the talents, the master tested the servants to see how they would use their gifts. He praised the two servants who doubled their money. He said that he was proud of them and that he knew he could trust them.

PAGE 9

❖ God gave all of us talents, or gifts, that make us special. God has a plan. We can help God carry out his plan by using the gifts and special abilities he has given us.

PAGE 10

❖ As a boy, David took good care of his father's sheep in Bethlehem. He even killed a lion and a bear that attacked them. David also protected his country by killing the warrior Goliath, using his skills with the slingshot.

PAGE 11

❖ David wrote psalms of praise and thanks. Psalms are poems written as songs.

PAGE 12

❖ When Samuel was sent by God to look for a new king, young David was called in from the fields. Samuel knew that David's heart pleased God. David won the love of all the people. He served his country well as its leader.

PAGE 12

❖ Talents are great things to have, and they come in all forms. All abilities are real talents if they are used to praise God and to help others.

PAGE 13

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We Are God's Holy People

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 3*.

❖ When God the Father made us, he called us to be holy. God called us to know, love, and serve him. Remember that Jesus, the saints, and other holy people care for God's creation and for all people. Their caring serves God.

PAGE 15

❖ Francis was a rich young man, but God called him to give everything away and live like an apostle. He did that with joy, but it was not easy. Many of the stories about Francis involve animals.

PAGE 17

❖ Francis believed that people and animals should praise God. Francis preached to the birds. He told them to praise God for the blessings he had given them. The birds sang to show their joy. Francis is said to have made peace between a village and a wolf. Francis told the villagers to care for the wolf. He asked the wolf not to hurt anyone. He taught the people and the wolf to be kind to each other.

PAGE 17

❖ Like her friend Francis, Clare and her followers gave away everything they owned to serve God. The Poor Clares did not own anything. They relied on the kindness of others for their food and clothing. When invaders were attacking, Clare went to an open window and held up the Blessed Sacrament. At the sight of the Blessed Sacrament, the invaders turned around and ran away!

PAGE 18

❖ Saint Clare and Saint Francis show us that happiness is not about having a comfortable life. Happiness comes from knowing, loving, and serving God.

PAGES 17–18

❖ We are holy when we are kind and loving. Think about how you might act as Jesus would.

PAGE 19

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God Called Mary

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 4*.

❖ At the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel told Mary that God had chosen her to be the mother of Jesus. Mary said yes to God's call. She said she would be his handmaid and do his will. When we pray the Hail Mary, we say the beautiful words said to Mary at the Annunciation.

PAGES 21–22

❖ Our Lady of the Rosary appeared to three children—Lucy, Francisco, and Jacinta. They lived in Fatima, a small village in Portugal. Her message was one of peace. She said that praying, seeking forgiveness, and following Mary's examples would help promote peace.

PAGE 23

❖ Prayers, objects, and blessings given by the Church to help us grow in our spiritual life are called sacramentals. The Rosary is a sacramental. Each decade of the Rosary begins with an Our Father and ends with a Glory Be to the Father.

PAGE 24

❖ There are 20 mysteries of the Rosary in four groups of five. They are the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries.

PAGE 24

❖ The feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary is October 7.

PAGE 24

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We Believe in God

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 6*.

❖ At Mass, we pray the Nicene Creed. Another creed is the Apostles' Creed. A creed tells what we believe as Catholics.

PAGE 37

❖ A mystery is a religious truth that we cannot completely understand with our minds. With God's help, we will understand them with our hearts.

PAGE 38

❖ There are three Persons in one God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This is called the mystery of the Trinity.

PAGE 38

❖ God made all of creation. He made the universe, the planets, and the stars. He made all the creatures, plants, and rocks on earth.

PAGE 39

❖ God's most special creation was the human family. He made us in his own image. He made us because he loves each one of us.

PAGE 39

❖ The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for many years. The story of their escape is told in the Book of Exodus. According to the Book of Exodus, God spoke to Moses through a flaming bush. He said that he had chosen Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery.

PAGES 40–41

❖ Moses asked Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Pharaoh refused. Moses warned him that terrible things would happen, but Pharaoh still refused to free the slaves. After other signs of his power, God sent an angel to take the oldest son of each family. The Israelites were told to put lamb's blood on their doors. Death passed over the houses with lamb's blood on the doors.

PAGE 41

❖ God promised to send us a Savior. He sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from sin and death.

PAGE 42

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God Is Powerful and Loving

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 7*.

❖ After the Israelites escaped from Egypt, Pharaoh changed his mind about letting them go and sent his army after them. Moses told the Israelites that God would save them. God made a path of dry land to let them cross the Red Sea. The waters flowed back upon Pharaoh's army.

PAGE 45

❖ Just like the Israelites, we must trust in God's power to save us. God is all-powerful and frees us from our greatest enemy, sin.

PAGE 46

❖ God fed his people manna, a kind of bread, in the dry, empty desert until they came to Canaan. God looked after them like a loving father or a caring mother. God told his people to take only the bread they needed each day. He wanted them to trust that he would care for them enough to send bread every day.

PAGE 47

❖ God shows his loving care for us today. He feeds us with the Body and Blood of his own Son, Jesus Christ, in the Holy Eucharist. Jesus told us in John's Gospel that he is the living bread sent from heaven, and if we eat of him, we will live forever.

PAGE 47

❖ God made an agreement, or covenant, with the Israelites. He would be their God, and they would be his people. Through the Ten Commandments, God and his people were bound together with love. They would worship and obey him, and he would care for them.

PAGE 48

❖ We are the people of God today. We also have a covenant of love with God. To honor our covenant, we promise to live by God's laws and to follow his Son, Jesus.

PAGE 48

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God Is Holy and Great

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 8*.

❖ Compared to God, we are small. We fear God, but our fear is full of love and praise. When we feel his love for creation, we feel wonder and awe. God revealed, or showed, his holiness through his Son, Jesus. Jesus is the holy one of God.

PAGE 51

❖ The name *Yahweh* is the holy name of God. It tells us who he is. He is God; he is the holy one. God's name means God himself.

PAGE 52

❖ The Second Commandment tells us to speak God's name with love and respect. It tells us to honor everything related to God.

PAGE 52

❖ Using a cloud, God led his people on their journey through the desert. He showed his people that he was with them. When the cloud rose, the Israelites packed up their camp and followed it.

PAGE 53

❖ Jesus lives with us today in his Church through the Holy Spirit. He is with us when we receive Holy Communion. He also dwells in our hearts by grace.

PAGE 53

❖ God loves us best of all, and he knows all things. He knows everything about us. He knows what we think and feel. He knows the secrets of our hearts. God knows everything that is happening now. He knows about everything that happened long ago. He knows all that will happen in the future.

PAGE 54

❖ Jesus is our best role model for living. Many other people—religious sisters and brothers, lay people, and priests—also make good role models.

PAGE 56

❖ Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and her Sisters of Charity showed us how to put God first in our life. She and her sisters served God by helping people in need.

PAGE 56

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❖ The Scriptures say that God created human beings in his own image. Humans have the power to think, choose, and love. No other creature has these special gifts. We use this power to care for God's world.

PAGE 69

❖ The human family received natural gifts from God. He also gave us a supernatural gift—a share in his own life.

PAGE 70

❖ Grace is a share in God's divine life. He gives us grace freely. Because we have grace, we have the supernatural gifts of faith, hope, and charity.

PAGE 70

❖ Faith is a gift from God that helps us believe in him. Faith is a supernatural gift that we have through God's grace.

PAGE 70

❖ Hope is the gift of confidence in God. Like faith, hope is a supernatural gift that we have because of God's grace.

PAGE 70

❖ Charity is the gift of putting love of God and others ahead of selfish desires. It is a supernatural gift that we have through God's grace.

PAGE 70

❖ Adam and Eve sinned by turning away from God's love and eating the forbidden fruit. They did the one thing God had told them not to do. Adam and Eve's sin was the first sin. This act spoiled God's plan of love. As a result, we all must struggle against evil and sin.

PAGE 71

❖ God promised to send a Redeemer to save us from sin and death. The Redeemer he sent was his own Son, Jesus Christ.

PAGE 72

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❖ When Mary said yes, the Son of God became man through the power of the Holy Spirit. This mystery of our faith is called the Incarnation. **PAGE 75**

❖ Joseph was from the family of King David. David was one of the many people who prepared the world for Jesus. **PAGES 75–76**

❖ Caesar, the Roman emperor, ordered a census to count every person. This is why Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem, even though Mary was with child. When Jesus was born as baby, he was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Christ's birth was announced by an angel to shepherds who were watching their flocks nearby. They hurried to see the baby and to praise God. **PAGE 76**

❖ In the story of the Presentation, Mary and Joseph took the child Jesus to the Temple to present him to the Lord. There Simeon and Anna met Jesus. Simeon, an old man, knew that Jesus was the light of the world. Simeon was happy that he had lived to see the Savior God had promised. Anna was a prophetess praying in the Temple. When Anna saw Jesus with Simeon, she told the people waiting for the Savior what she had seen. **PAGE 78**

❖ The Fourth Commandment tells us to honor our parents. Jesus lived this commandment. He was obedient and respectful to his parents and teachers. He probably worked as a carpenter, like Joseph, until he was about 30 years old. **PAGE 78**

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❖ John the Baptist baptized people, allowing them to show sorrow for their sins. That baptism was different from our Sacrament of Baptism today. Jesus was the Son of God. He had never sinned, and he did not need to be baptized before he began his mission. Jesus' baptism was a Revelation of God's will. It showed who Jesus was and that his mission came from God. As Jesus came out of the water, the heavens opened, and God said that Jesus was his Son and that he was pleased with him.

PAGE 81

❖ After his baptism, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert. For 40 days, he fasted and prayed in order to prepare to do his Father's work. Satan tried to turn Jesus away from God's plan. He mocked Jesus' hunger, offered Jesus earthly power, and asked him to prove that he was the Messiah.

PAGE 82

❖ Jesus' miracles showed that he was the Messiah. They showed his power over nature and showed how he could overcome all evil.

PAGE 83

❖ Jesus revealed the Kingdom of God in his preaching. In parables, Jesus used everyday language and examples to help people understand.

PAGE 84

❖ In one parable, Jesus compared God's kingdom to a mustard seed because the mustard seed starts out tiny, but grows into something large. Read this parable in Mark 4:30–32 in the Bible.

PAGE 84

❖ In another parable, Jesus compared the Kingdom of God to a pearl. The pearl is of such great price that a merchant sells all he has to buy it. God's kingdom is also so valuable that we could never pay enough to get it. You can read this parable in Matthew 13:45–46.

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❖ Lepers often had to live apart from other people. Jesus healed many lepers and reunited them with their communities.

PAGE 87

❖ Sin separates us from God and from one another. It weakens us and makes us less able to use our gifts for the good of God's family. In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, Jesus heals us of sin by forgiving us. He makes us one with God and with one another.

PAGE 87

❖ Jesus saw a widow's dead son being carried out of the city of Nain. Jesus raised the man from the dead and reunited him with his mother.

PAGE 88

❖ Jesus worked miracles that brought life. Those miracles showed people that the Kingdom of God had come.

PAGE 89

❖ When a blind man heard that Jesus was passing by, he showed his belief by crying out for Jesus to help him. Faith, our ability to believe in God and his love for us, helped Jesus give the man back his sight.

PAGE 89

❖ A woman with a terrible illness thought that if she touched Jesus' coat, she would be healed. As Jesus passed by, she touched his coat and was healed.

PAGE 90

❖ While a man named Jairus came to ask for Jesus to help his daughter, the girl died of her illness. Jesus went to Jairus's house and raised her from the dead.

PAGE 90

❖ Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus gives us gifts to help us respect and protect life.

PAGE 91

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Jesus Suffered and Died for Us

Keep these ideas in mind as you study Chapter 15.

❖ Jesus rode into Jerusalem and was welcomed as a king by the people, who spread palm branches on the road. On Palm Sunday, we carry blessed palms to remember Jesus' ride into Jerusalem and to proclaim him as king of heaven. Most Jewish people thought that the Messiah would free them from Roman rule, but Jesus' victory would be over sin and death.

PAGE 103

❖ At a Passover meal, the Israelites celebrated God freeing them from slavery. Jesus shared a Passover meal with his apostles the night before he died. Lamb's blood was used to signal death to pass over the homes of the Israelites in Egypt. In Jesus' time, a lamb was offered as a sacrifice on Passover. At his last meal, Jesus made a New Covenant with God and gave us a new commandment. He offered himself as the lamb that saves us from sin and death.

PAGE 104

❖ In the Sacrifice of the Mass, we celebrate the New Covenant. It is also our covenant meal celebrated and shared by God's holy people.

PAGE 104

❖ Jesus was fully human. He went to pray in the garden of Gethsemane with Peter, James, and John. Like all people, he did not want to suffer or die. But he said to his Father that he would do his Father's will. While Jesus prayed alone, his apostles fell asleep. Jesus was disappointed.

PAGE 105

❖ The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, questioned Jesus. Pilate knew that Jesus was not guilty of any crime. But the people had turned against Jesus and demanded that he be crucified.

PAGE 106

❖ Jesus suffered and will share his glory with those who share his cross. We know that our sufferings can lead to eternal happiness with God.

PAGE 107

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❖ Mary of Magdala and some friends found Jesus' tomb empty. Stories spread quickly. Some thought Jesus' body had been stolen. Others knew he had risen.

PAGE 110

❖ Jesus came and stood among his disciples. He showed them his hands and side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord. Jesus sent the disciples to spread the Gospel and told them to receive the Holy Spirit. This allowed them to forgive sins.

PAGE 110

❖ Jesus wished peace on his disciples. They took his message of peace to the world. Today, Jesus wants us all to take his message of peace to everyone.

PAGE 111

❖ Easter is the day we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection. It is the greatest feast of the whole year. It is Christ's victory over sin and death.

PAGE 112

❖ We celebrate Jesus' victory over death every Sunday. It should be a day of joy, relaxation, and peace. This is our response to all that Jesus has done for us. A paschal candle is lighted at the Easter Vigil to remind us that Jesus, the light of the world, is still with us.

PAGE 113

❖ If we love Jesus, he promises to take us to God's heavenly kingdom when we die. There we will be perfectly happy with God forever.

PAGE 113

❖ It is hard to say goodbye to people we love when they die. However, we can feel happy that they are at home with God in heaven. We keep the people we love who have gone to heaven in our hearts through prayer, services for those who have died, and visits to their graves.

PAGE 114

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Jesus Christ Is Lord and King

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 17*.

✦ At the Ascension, the disciples saw Jesus being lifted up to be reunited with his Father in heaven. Jesus told the disciples to go back to Jerusalem and wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told the disciples that the power they received from the Holy Spirit would make them witnesses before the whole world.

PAGE 117

✦ Jesus is called Christ the King because he saved us and sits at the right hand of the Father. Where Christ reigns, there is truth, justice, and peace. Jesus does not force us to accept him as king. We can choose to be greedy and selfish. We can choose to be hurtful to ourselves or to others.

PAGE 118

✦ Jesus saved us through his passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension. This is called the Paschal Mystery, and we celebrate it at every Mass.

PAGE 118

✦ Jesus will come in glory at the end of time to judge all people. He told a story about separating sheep and goats to explain what it would be like. In the story, those who followed Jesus' way were rewarded.

PAGE 120

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Jesus Gives the Spirit to the Church

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 18*.

❖ Jesus promised his apostles that he would send them the Holy Spirit who would teach them about Jesus and help them teach others. Fifty days after Jesus rose, the Holy Spirit was sent from heaven, and the Church was born. We celebrate this event on Pentecost. When the Spirit came, it was with the signs of wind and fire.

PAGE 123

❖ On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit had come with the power to help the whole Church do what Jesus had done. We are God's people today. The Holy Spirit comes to live in our hearts at Baptism and gives us the grace to love God and others. The Holy Spirit wants us to become like Jesus. The Spirit speaks quietly—often when we are not expecting him. We must always be ready to listen!

PAGES 124–125

❖ Jewish children used the name *Abba* for their earthly fathers. It is like “Dad.” Jesus called God by that name and says that we may do so also.

PAGE 126

❖ The Holy Spirit was always with Mary. At the Annunciation, the Spirit asked Mary to be the mother of Jesus. Mary was visited in a special way by the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. She celebrated the Spirit's arrival with the rest of the disciples.

PAGE 127

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❖ Adam and Eve had the power to choose. They turned away from God's friendship. They chose to disobey and sinned. God shared a part of his life with Adam and Eve. That gift was grace. Because of the first sin, we are born in original sin, without grace.

PAGE 141

❖ God's love for us was so great that he sent his own Son to save us from sin and death. Through Jesus' death on the cross and his rising, he gives God's life to those who believe in him.

PAGE 141

❖ Jesus told Nicodemus that we must be baptized with water to enter God's kingdom. We are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

PAGE 142

❖ When the words and water of Baptism are used, we are given new life in Jesus. In Baptism, God gives us grace, takes away original sin, and forgives our sins.

PAGE 143

❖ The Apostles' Creed is a statement of what we believe as Christians. The belief in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting is among those beliefs. That means we will go to heaven. Heaven is more beautiful and joyous than anything we can imagine here on earth. Words cannot describe the joy of an eternity spent with our Creator.

PAGE 143

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The Holy Spirit Lives Within Us

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 21*.

❖ When a rich young man asked Jesus what he needed to do to have eternal life, Jesus told him to keep the commandments. Jesus also told the young man that to show love, he had to let go of his earthly treasure. Then he would gain more valuable treasure in heaven. The rich young man had a hard time giving up everything. Sometimes it is hard for us to follow Jesus. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to help us follow him.

PAGES 147–148

❖ Paul tells us that if we are like mirrors of the Lord, we will grow brighter and brighter as we change into the image of Jesus. The Spirit helps us be like Jesus. The Spirit shares good things with us such as patience, kindness, generosity, love, faith, joy, and peace.

PAGE 149

❖ When you are tempted, you want to do something that is wrong or hurtful. Temptation is not the same as sin.

PAGE 150

❖ Personal sins are active choices that we make to do what we know offends God. When we sin, we may hurt ourselves and others. Our sins offend God.

PAGE 150

❖ In a letter to the Galatians, Paul said that the Spirit will help us not be selfish. The Holy Spirit will help us do what is good and avoid sin.

PAGE 150

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❖ Jesus warned Peter that the devil would try to make him do something wrong. Jesus prayed that Peter's faith would not fail. Peter promised Jesus that he would be a loyal friend. But Jesus knew that Peter was weak. He said that Peter would deny him three times. Jesus knew that Peter had been scared and that he was truly sorry for denying Jesus. When Peter asked for forgiveness, Jesus gave it. Jesus loved Peter and made Peter the head of his Church.

PAGE 153

❖ In the story of the two men in the Temple, God was most pleased with the man who was sorry for his sins.

PAGE 154

❖ A woman washed Jesus' feet with her tears in sorrow for her sins. Jesus told her that her sins were forgiven and that she had shown great love.

PAGES 154–155

❖ The good shepherd loved all his sheep. When he lost one of his 100, he searched for it and rejoiced when he found it. Jesus is like this shepherd with us.

PAGE 155

❖ Zacchaeus was a tax collector who climbed a tree to see Jesus. Jesus said he wanted to go to Zacchaeus's house. People grumbled that Zacchaeus was a sinner. Zacchaeus was sorry for cheating people. He promised to repay four times those he cheated and to give half his belongings to the poor. Jesus was pleased.

PAGE 155

❖ A daily examination of conscience helps us remove those things from our hearts that offend God. We become more loving disciples of Jesus.

PAGE 156

❖ In the Act of Contrition, we tell God about our sins and how sorry we are for them. We ask for his mercy in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PAGE 156

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❖ In Jesus' story of the father and son, the son told his father that he was tired of living at home. He wanted to travel and see new things. The son was happy spending his money at first, but not for long. The money ran out, and he felt bad for wasting his father's money. The son had to find work because he had nothing to eat. The only job he could get was feeding pigs. He was sad that the pigs ate better than he did. The son knew that he had made a mistake and was very sorry. He went home to ask for his father's forgiveness. The father ran out to greet his son with joy. He forgave his son and celebrated his return.

PAGES 159–160

❖ God loves us, even when we do not do his will. God is like the father in Jesus' story who welcomed his son with joy. God will always welcome us with joy.

PAGE 161

❖ There are many ways to prepare for Reconciliation. We can pray the Act of Contrition, ask the Spirit for help, and examine our conscience.

PAGE 161

❖ We meet Jesus in Reconciliation in our hearts and through the priest who hears our confession. During Reconciliation, you may tell the priest any problems you are facing, and you may ask questions.

PAGE 162

❖ A penance should be done as soon as possible. If it is a prayer, pray it right away. If it is a deed, do it as soon as you can.

PAGE 162

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❖ Catholics share a eucharistic celebration. We also call it Mass. The Mass is a meal in memory of Jesus that we share with the entire Catholic family.

PAGE 165

❖ Jesus said that the bread was his body and the wine was his blood. He shared himself as bread and wine with the apostles, and he shares himself with us today in Holy Communion. In the Eucharist, Jesus becomes present in the bread and wine so that we can share in his death and Resurrection.

PAGE 165

❖ In benediction, the priest gives us a blessing with the sacred host. We bless ourselves by making the Sign of the Cross.

PAGE 166

❖ If people are too sick or otherwise cannot come to church, people from the parish can bring Holy Communion to them.

PAGE 166

❖ Jesus compares those who hear his words but don't act on them to a man who built his house on sand. Wise people build houses on rock.

PAGE 167

❖ In the Liturgy of the Word, we celebrate God's speaking to us. He teaches us through his words in the Bible.

PAGE 168

❖ Epistles are letters written by members of the early Church. Many were written by Saint Paul. The epistles are found in the New Testament.

PAGE 168

❖ The Homily is an explanation of God's Word, especially of the words that we hear in the Bible reading. The Homily comes after the Gospel Reading.

PAGE 168

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