



# The Church, Our Community in the Spirit

## Begin

Write the word *mission* on a sheet of paper. **Ask:** *What is a mission?* (a job or goal to achieve) **Say:** *In Unit 2 we learned that Jesus sent his apostles and disciples on a mission. What was the mission?* (to proclaim God's Word and to continue the work of Jesus Christ) Read aloud the unit title on page 43. **Say:** *Since then, many members of the Church have accepted a mission to continue the work for Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. In this unit we will learn more about the Catholic Church and its gifts, as well as about important leaders of the Church.*

## Introduce the Saint

Focus your child's attention on the picture. **Say:** *Katharine Drexel accepted a mission from the pope to serve the Kingdom of God. People who go places to help people and tell about God are missionaries.*

Have your child read aloud the first three paragraphs. **Say:** *Katharine Drexel continued the work of Jesus Christ through her generosity to Native American and African American people.*

Read aloud the last paragraph. **Ask:** *What group did she organize to help others?* (Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament) *What is Jesus' mission for you?* (be generous and kind, help and respect others, obey your parents, share God's love)

With your child add Saint Katharine's feast day, March 3, to your calendar. Plan an event together to celebrate the generosity of Saint Katharine Drexel.



## Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit

### Engage: Page 43

- ▶ **Say:** *Imagine that today is your birthday and that we are throwing you a big party. How do you feel? (excited, loved) What other kinds of events make you feel this way?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child's response.  
**Ask:** *What is a disciple? (a person who is a follower of Jesus')* **Say:** *The disciples were excited when the Holy Spirit visited them. In this session we will learn how the Holy Spirit is part of our lives.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about how the Holy Spirit helps him or her. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 44–45

- ▶ Place a fan in front of your child. Turn it on its highest setting for a few seconds.  
**Say:** *There was a strong wind when the Holy Spirit first visited the disciples.*
- ▶ Read aloud page 44. **Ask:** *What amazed the crowd about the disciples? (The crowd spoke different languages, but each person could understand everything the disciples said.)* Point out the picture. **Say:** *The Holy Spirit was making it possible for the disciples to reach all people with God's message.*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Accepting Jesus' Mission on page 45. Point out the vocabulary word. **Say:** *Every Christian has a duty to give witness to the Good News about Jesus, which is that he loves us and wants us to love God and one another.*
- ▶ Read aloud The Holy Spirit Builds the Church. **Ask:** *How does the Holy Spirit continue to build the Church today? (by giving us the strength to spread God's Word)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus' Mission in Our Lives and complete the activity. Encourage your child to share his or her responses with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *On Pentecost Sunday, priests wear red vestments in memory of the tongues of fire at the first Pentecost.*

### Art Exploration: Page 179

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a dove representing the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting.
- ▶ **Say:** *Sometimes we feel closest to God and the Holy Spirit when we are with God's wonderful creations in nature.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 179. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *The Holy Spirit Is with Us*. **Ask:** *What does the Holy Spirit help us do? (to live prayerful lives and to guide us on our journey to Heaven)* Give your child time to complete the sentence.
- ▶ Read aloud *Doves*. **Ask:** *What does a dove remind you of? (peace, hope, forgiveness, inspiration, the presence of the Holy Spirit)* Have your child complete the activity and invite him or her to share it with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Site feature. **Say:** *A shrine is a place that is set aside for people to visit because it is associated with a special person or event.*
- ▶ Remind your child that a dove is often used to represent the Holy Spirit. Before taking a walking tour around your home, hide several doves made out of white paper inside or outside. Give your child time to see if he or she can find the hidden doves. Remind him or her that the Holy Spirit is always with us.

### Reflect: Page 46

- ▶ Together look at page 46. **Ask:** *How does the mother in the picture comfort her daughter?* **Say:** *We open our hearts to the Holy Spirit so our actions show the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.*
- ▶ Have your child get comfortable as you read aloud the first paragraph. Invite your child to pray aloud the prayer with you. Read aloud the last sentence and give your child time to reflect. Lead him or her in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Read aloud *The Fruits of the Holy Spirit*. **Ask:** *What happens when we let the Holy Spirit guide our actions? (We see the results of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.)*
- ▶ Give your child time to complete the activity and invite him or her to share the sentences with you.

### Respond: Page 47

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Word I Learned in this session. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can show kindness to others.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the *With My Family* suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



## The Catholic Church

### Engage: Page 48

- ▶ **Ask:** *What are important jobs to have in our neighborhood? (teachers, crossing guards, police officers, firefighters) Why are these jobs important to our community?*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child's response. Point out the picture. **Say:** *This family is a member of both the community they live in and of the Catholic Church, their church community. In this session we will learn that a church is not just a building. The word Church describes our community as we gather to pray and praise God.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think of things to do in your Church community. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 48–49

- ▶ **Ask:** *What does a coach do? (helps train and support the team and serves as a leader)*
- ▶ Read aloud *Serving the World in God's Name*. **Say:** *It takes many people to lead the Church.* **Ask:** *Who is the Vicar of Christ? (the pope)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Leading the Church*. Help your child fill in the names of your parish, pastor, bishop, and pope.
- ▶ Take turns reading aloud *Our Holy Catholic Church* on page 49 with your child. Point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *Name some keywords for each of the Marks. (one: one faith, one life; holy: Body of Christ, sacraments; catholic: accepts everyone, universal; apostolic: apostles, Church leaders)*
- ▶ Read aloud the *Link to Liturgy* feature. **Say:** *We pray for the Church, its leaders, and others during the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass.*

### Art Exploration: Page 180

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Saint Peter.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the objects shown in the artwork.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus told Peter he was the rock on which Jesus would build his Church and that Jesus would give Peter the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.*



- ▶ Have your child turn to page 180. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Peter and the Church. **Ask:** *To what object did Jesus compare Peter? (a rock) What will Jesus give Peter? (keys to the Kingdom of Heaven)*
- ▶ Read aloud Symbols of Peter and have your child complete the sentences. Share your own responses to the questions.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know...? feature. **Say:** *When we look at a rock, we can think of how Jesus chose Peter to be the foundation on which to build the Church.*
- ▶ Invite your child to make a key out of modeling clay that hardens. While the clay is still moist, make a hole with a pencil. Then have your child thread string through the hole to hang the key. Tell your child to keep the key as a symbol of faith.

### Reflect: Page 50

- ▶ Together look at page 50. **Say:** *The boy in the picture looks happy and calm.* Tell your child to focus on his or her breathing before praying.
- ▶ Remind your child that you have been learning the parts of the Apostles' Creed together. Read aloud the first paragraph. **Say:** *Repeat each line of the last part of the Apostles' Creed after me.* Then invite your child to pray the entire Creed with you. Read aloud the last paragraph pausing, after each sentence. Allow time for your child to talk to Jesus silently and then pray *Amen*.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the heading and the first paragraph of Who Am I? Read aloud the words in the box and have your child answer the questions. Ask your child to share his or her answers with you.

### Respond: Page 51

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can spread God's love in your parish community.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



## The Church Prays

### Engage: Page 52

- ▶ Show your child pictures of signs that do not have words on them, such as a railroad-crossing sign or a poison sign. Together identify the meaning of the signs. **Say:** *These signs give us directions and protect us.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child's responses. Point to the picture. **Say:** *Like the stop sign, God's signs give direction and send important messages to us. In this session we will learn more about God's messages.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about signs that God gives us. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 52–53

- ▶ **Ask:** *When you go to Mass, who is there with you?* (family, friends, the priest, Jesus)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Jesus Is Present in the Sacraments on page 52. **Ask:** *What do the sacraments do for us?* (They help us grow in faith and live as God wants.)
- ▶ Call attention to the picture of the child receiving Holy Communion. Focus the discussion on how your child felt on the day of his or her First Holy Communion. Ask your child to read aloud My First Holy Communion and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs on page 53. **Ask:** *What is grace?* (the gift of God that fills us with God's life and makes us his friends) **Say:** *Both objects and actions can be sacramentals.* **Ask:** *What action is a sacramental?* (a blessing) **Say:** *A blessing is a prayer that calls upon God to care for a person, a place, a thing, or an activity.*
- ▶ Read aloud A Sacramental at Your House and have your child write his or her description. Discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know ... ? feature. **Say:** *Sacramentals help prepare us to receive the grace of the sacraments.*

### Art Exploration: Page 181

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Jesus healing the servant through the Roman officer's faith.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the actions of Jesus and the soldier.
- ▶ **Say:** *Jesus Christ reaches out to all people.*





- ▶ Have your child turn to page 181. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and the Scripture passage. **Ask:** *Why did Jesus heal the man's servant? (Jesus was impressed by the man's faith, and he wanted to show that his mission was to all people.)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the last paragraph and complete the activity. Discuss the ideas that your child has written, such as sharing, kind words, and helping others.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *As we prepare to receive Holy Communion, we ask for God's healing grace.*
- ▶ Provide art supplies for your child. **Say:** *The picture does not show the servant because Jesus is healing him from a distance. Invite your child to imagine he or she is present when the servant realizes he is well again. Encourage your child to draw the scene.*

### Reflect: Page 54

- ▶ Together look at page 54. **Say:** *It is important to feel comfortable as you prepare to pray. Let's relax our neck, shoulders, arms, and legs. Let's close our eyes and take three deep breaths.*
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs in a reverent tone, pausing after the questions. Read aloud the next paragraph. Pause so that your child has time to talk to Jesus. Lead your child in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud the first paragraph of Gifts from God. Have your child complete the sentences.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What does Jesus' answer mean to you? (When we are helping people, Jesus is working through us. The Kingdom of God is among us.)*

### Respond: Page 55

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can be helpful to another person.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



## Mary Is Holy

### Engage: Page 56

- ▶ Write the word *mother* vertically down the side of a sheet of paper. Together think of words and phrases beginning with each letter that describe why mothers are special.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text below it. Discuss your child's response.  
**Say:** *We are going to talk about a mother whom everyone shares.* **Ask:** *Who is she? (Mary)* **Say:** *In this session we will learn about how Mary was blessed by God.*
- ▶ Invite your child to transfer the words about mothers from your paper to a large poster board to display in your home. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 56–57

- ▶ Together find images of Mary in books and online. **Ask:** *Where else can we see images of Mary? (statue in church, statue or painting in a museum, on Mass cards)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *The Church Celebrates Mary and We Are All One* on page 56. **Say:** *Mary is an excellent example of what it means to be a saint because she devoted her life to serving God.* **Ask:** *How can we be like Mary? (trust in God always, care for others, listen to God)* **Say:** *When we pray together as the Church, we become one body with those who have already died.* **Ask:** *What is one word to describe the Communion of Saints? (togetherness, one, united)*
- ▶ Read aloud *We Pray the Rosary* on page 57 and point out the vocabulary words. **Say:** *We just finished learning the last part of the Apostle's Creed, so you now know all the prayers used for the Rosary.*
- ▶ Read aloud the *Did You Know...?* feature. **Say:** *The Rosary is such an important prayer that the Church encourages us to pray it. October 7 is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.*

### Art Exploration: Page 182

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of Mary receiving good news from an angel about God's blessing.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including how Mary feels about the angel.
- ▶ **Say:** *God called Mary to be the mother of his Son, of the Church, and all of God's children.*





- ▶ Have your child turn to page 182. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Mary, Full of Grace*. **Ask:** *What did Gabriel say to Mary? (that she was going to have a baby) How did Mary react? (happy, excited, felt blessed)*
- ▶ Read aloud *Mary As Our Mother* and have your child complete the activity. Together discuss your child's response.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *Why did Elizabeth say that Mary was blessed? (Because Mary trusted in God, he gave her his most precious gift of all—his Son, Jesus.*
- ▶ Invite your child to think about what it would be like to visit a mother and her new baby. **Ask:** *What would you say and do? Would you ask to hold the baby, help with chores, bring food, ask questions? Role-play visiting Mary and baby Jesus, improvising a conversation with her.*

### Reflect: Page 58

- ▶ Together look at page 58. **Say:** *As you pray each Hail Mary, think about one of the five Joyful Mysteries and its importance in the lives of Mary and Jesus.*
- ▶ **Say:** *Try to picture each event I describe.* Invite your child to close his or her eyes as you read aloud each description of the Joyful Mysteries, pausing between each one. Read aloud the last paragraph and give your child time to reflect. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud *Mary's Song of Praise*. **Ask:** *Why were Mary and Elizabeth so happy? (They were going to have very special children.) Who were these children? (Jesus and John the Baptist) Say: Mary prayed the Magnificat to praise God for the great things he had done for her.*
- ▶ Give your child time to reflect before he or she makes the list.

### Respond: Page 59

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud *Ways of Being Like Jesus*. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can show love for Mary and follow her example of faith and love.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the *With My Family* suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.



## Celebrating Christmas

### Engage: Page 60

- ▶ Play or sing a song about the birth of Jesus, such as "Silent Night." **Ask:** *What is this song about?* (the birth of Jesus)
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss the picture. **Ask:** *When does the Christmas season begin?* (at the celebration of Mass on Christmas Eve) *When does it end?* (at the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord) *Who are the Magi?* (the three Wise Men) **Say:** *In this session we will learn about how Christmas is the time of year when we celebrate Jesus' birth and learn how we can be more like Jesus.*
- ▶ Invite your child to listen to the words of a Christmas carol about Jesus' birth that you have never heard before. **Ask:** *How does this song help prepare you for Christmas?* Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 61

- ▶ Discuss how your family celebrates Christmas with other people in your family or with your neighborhood. **Ask:** *What are some of our Christmas traditions?*
- ▶ Read aloud We Celebrate During Christmas. **Ask:** *How is celebrating the Eucharist different on Christmas than on any other Sunday?* (We are celebrating Jesus and his birth on Christmas.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Christmas Morning and complete the activity. Invite him or her to share the sentences with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *How has what was foretold in the Book of Micah been fulfilled in the birth of Jesus?* (Jesus has come to be a leader of the people.)

### Reflect: Page 62

- ▶ Look at pictures of two different Nativity scenes and discuss how they are the same and how they are different. **Say:** *All Nativity scenes have the same essential pieces: Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Christmas. **Ask:** *What is the Hebrew meaning for Bethlehem?* (house of bread) *Who is the Bread of Life?* (Jesus) *As the Bread of Life, what does Jesus come to bring to all who hunger?* (bread)
- ▶ Read aloud What We Experience. Discuss the symbols of Christmas that your child might see at Mass, such as a Nativity scene, evergreens, lights, and the color white. Then invite your child to read aloud Your Nativity Scene and complete the activity.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know...? feature. **Say:** *The modern word Christmas comes from the Old English word Cristes Maesse, meaning "Mass of Christ."*



## Art Exploration: Page 183

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the night Jesus was born.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the expression on the people's faces.
- ▶ **Say:** *When we celebrate Christmas, it reminds us of how much God loves us.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 183. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrating Christmas. **Ask:** *What does the Feast of the Epiphany celebrate?* (When the Wise Men visited Jesus, he was revealed to the whole world.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Gift of Jesus. **Ask:** *What do you think the Scripture reading means?* (that God and love are the same)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Gift for Baby Jesus. Give him or her time to draw the picture. Ask your child to explain the gift he or she chose for Jesus.
- ▶ Play a Christmas song, such as "O Come All Ye Faithful," which expresses the joy of Jesus' birth. Together sing along. Play other favorite Christmas carols and discuss the lyrics.

## Respond: Page 63

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can help people in your community who are in need.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.