

Queen of Angels School of Religion
Sunday Morning Classes
Grade 2 – Preparation for First Communion

Student Text: Christ Our Life God Cares For Us Level 2 (Loyola Press)

Unit IV: Jesus Gives Us the Gift of Himself

- The children will understand the meaning of the Eucharist.
- The children will learn the parts of the Mass and be able to join in.
- The children will be able to receive their First Holy Communion with love and joy.

Lesson 19: We Prepare Our Gifts

At the Eucharist, we offer ourselves to God and give praise and thanks. We bring to the altar the bread and wine that will become the Body and Blood of the Lord. The priest invites the people to lift their hearts to God and join Christ in giving thanks and praise to God. The gifts of bread and wine that we bring to the altar at Mass are signs that we want to return to God the gifts of life and love that he has given to us.

Scripture:

- John 6: 35 Christ gives himself as bread from heaven.
- Luke 12: 13 – 21 We must render an account for gifts we receive from the Lord.

Class Discussion:

- how do we feel when we receive a gift we really like
- how do we feel when we give a gift that someone really appreciates
- what are the gifts brought up at Mass
- what will the bread and wine become at Mass
- what do people put in the collection, how is it used

Group Prayer:

Blessed be God forever. We will read the prayers of the priest as he lifts up the bread and wine and offers them to God and learn the responses for this part of the Mass. We will think of the things that we want to do for God this week as the work of our hands and say “Blessed be God forever.”

Ways to Extend the Lesson at Home:

- Make a family banner for your child’s First Communion
- Visit a bakery with your child and see how many different kinds of bread are made
- Volunteer to carry the gifts up at Mass on Sunday
- Make up a new prayer that your family will say at meals
- Read one of the following books: A Birthday Party for Frances by Russell Hoban or Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present by Charlotte Zolotow and talk about the importance of gift giving

Teacher Comments:

Giving gifts is an important part of showing love. At Mass we take gifts (bread and wine) that have been made by human hands and give them to God. Through the priest, these gifts become the Body and Blood of Jesus. If your family is asked to bring up the gifts, make sure that your child is included. This is an opportunity for your child to participate in a real way at Mass when he/she can take up the gifts.