

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 20: Jesus Offers Himself

At the Last Supper, Jesus accepted his death with compelling words and gestures. He offered his life as a sacrifice to free us from sin, and he gave the Church the means to join in his self-giving to the Father. "Take this Body which is given for you...drink this Blood poured out for you." In the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass, we join Christ in praising the Father for all that he has done for us. We unite our sacrifice with Christ's and stand before the Father, open to his transforming love.

Scripture: Philippians 2: 5 – 11 Christ is the best example of a sacrifice for the benefit of others. Hebrews 7: 24 – 25, 9: 24 – 28, 13: 15 Christ's saving work reconciles us to the Father and enables us to offer him the continuous sacrifice of praise.

Class Discussion:

- what gifts have you received that were precious to you
- the best gifts have been personal, from the heart, gifts of love
- Jesus gave us Himself in the Eucharist as his gift of love
- what has Jesus done to show us his love
- read section of Mass book that deals with Eucharistic prayer
- talk about our posture and attention to the details of this part of the Mass
- we join in with Christ by saying "Amen" at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer.

Group Prayer:

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life, Lord Jesus, come in glory.

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free; You are the Savior of the world.

Ways to Extend the Lesson at Home:

- Remind your child to listen for the Great Amen at Mass so he/she can respond.
- Help your child learn the Memorial Acclamations found above in Group Prayer.
- Encourage your child's efforts to love others as Jesus loves them. Praise your child's acts of sharing, kindness, and patience. Let your child know that these are ways of letting Jesus live in him/her.

Teacher's Notes:

This part of the Mass is very important because it contains the consecration of the bread and wine. This mystery seems remote to the child and cannot be really understood because it is a sacred mystery. This moment of belief in the Eucharist lets us know if the child is ready to proceed to the Table of the Lord and receive Holy Communion.