

Teacher's Note

This lesson is very important. Prayer is the foundation of our relationship with Jesus. Without a personal relationship with Jesus, we will not develop a relationship with God the Father or with the Holy Spirit. Daily prayer does not need to be lengthy, just daily. Daily prayers can be a simple prayer said before meals to thank God for the love and food that is shared at that meal. In times of need, it may seem easier to call on God and ask for His help, but we should Praise God for all that He has done in our lives and thank Him for His many blessings. A simple "Thank You, God, for this beautiful day" can be a profound prayer for a seven-year-old who delights in the changing colors of the fall leaves or the first snow.

Sunday Mass is very important. We often refer to liturgical experiences during class. It is very hard for a child to relate to an experience that he/she can't remember when he/she last was present at a Eucharistic celebration. This time of preparation for First Communion is not about planning a party or buying a white dress and veil or even deciding who will sit in the pew with the family on the big day. As the year progresses, especially the weeks after Christmas, will be spent going through the parts of the Mass. It really helps if the child can recognize the parts of the Mass from personal experience. I often spend a few minutes of each class to talk about the scripture readings heard at Mass and summarize what the priest said about the reading at the 9:30 Mass. Your child can feel left out if other children can answer questions about the readings or the color of the vestment that the priest wore that morning at Mass and he/she cannot, because he/she did not go to Mass.