

Celebrating Ordinary Time

Engage: Page 27

- ▶ Look at a calendar together. **Ask:** *How many seasons are there? (four) Discuss important holidays and celebrations we celebrate each season.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. Discuss the picture. Then ask your child to turn to page 151 in his or her book and locate both periods of Ordinary Time on the liturgical calendar. **Ask:** *When do we celebrate Ordinary Time? (between Christmas and Ash Wednesday, and between Easter and the first Sunday of Advent) **Say:** *In this session we will learn about Ordinary Time—the time of year when we learn to be grateful for our Church community.**
- ▶ Have your child make a time line that shows each month of the year. Encourage him or her to make Ordinary Time stand out. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Page 28

- ▶ Talk about the community in which you live. **Ask:** *What makes up a community? (people sharing common interests) *What is a Church community? (people serving Jesus together)**
- ▶ Read aloud the first two paragraphs. **Say:** *One way Church communities can be Christ to the world is by working in soup kitchens. **Ask:** *What are some other ways they can be Christ to the world? (outreach programs, mission trips)**
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Be Like Christ. **Say:** *One way I can be more like Christ in my home and work is by being patient with others. Invite your child to complete the activity and discuss his or her response.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *How do you feel when someone tells you thank you? How do you think God feels when we remember to say thank you to him?*

Reflect: Page 29

- ▶ Together look at a recent parish bulletin. **Ask:** *What kind of information do you read in the parish bulletin? Discuss the various items in your bulletin.*
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and the first two paragraphs. **Ask:** *What do the activities found in a parish bulletin say about the Church community? (Parish members look to serve others in the community and around the world)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud What We Experience. **Ask:** *How would Sunday Mass feel different if you attended alone?*
- ▶ Read aloud My Parish and have your child complete the activity. Discuss your child's answers.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *A parish missal contains the information needed to participate in Mass and states the season or feast being celebrated that week. Together look for that same information in your parish bulletin.*

Art Exploration: Page 231

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a celebration of the Eucharist.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the Bread and Wine.
- ▶ **Say:** *Every Sunday during Mass, we acknowledge God's presence in our lives with the celebration of the Eucharist. When we gather at Mass, we are surrounded by the Church community.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 231. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Rejoice and Be Glad. **Say:** *During Ordinary Time we celebrate our Church community.* **Ask:** *How does the Church community spread love?* (through religious education classes, parish activities, visiting those who are sick)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Give Thanks for Your Gifts and complete the activity. **Say:** *We will celebrate Ordinary Time by being aware of and thankful for that gift.*
- ▶ Ask your child to trace his or her hand on several sheets of paper. Then have him or her use markers to decorate the hands with symbols, words, and art representing the gifts he or she contributes to the community. Cut out the hands. Arrange them as a mural on a wall in your home as a reminder of how your child can help the community.

Respond: Page 30

- ▶ 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 other ways he or she can spend time with someone 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.