

## Celebrating Ordinary Time

### Engage: Page 35

- ▶ Say aloud the word *ordinary*. Invite your child to name words he or she associates with this word. Point out that words can have multiple meanings. **Say:** *In this context the word ordinary comes from the word ordinal, and it means "counted time."*
- ▶ Read aloud the title Celebrating Ordinary Time and the sentences in the blue box. Discuss the questions. Then read aloud the page. **Say:** *In this session we will learn how we can celebrate Ordinary Time in ways that will help us grow in our relationship with God and the Church.*
- ▶ Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 36–37

- ▶ Display a memento, such as a photo, that reminds you of an important person in your life. Share why that memento helps you remember the person. **Say:** *We are going to learn about relics, which are physical reminders that help us remember the saints.*
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud the article title Saints Show Us the Way and the first three paragraphs. **Ask:** *What is one thing we do during Ordinary Time?* (reflect on Jesus' call to discipleship and how we can best use our gifts to respond to this call) *What can we do to help us reflect?* (pray, celebrate the sacraments, read Scripture)
- ▶ To help your child understand the differences among the types of relics, draw a two-by-three-cell chart. In the left column, list the three types of relics. Then together list in the right column examples of objects that represent each type of relic.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Our Catholic Character. Emphasize that Catholics do not worship Mary, the saints, or physical objects. **Say:** *To worship anyone or anything other than God is a sin against the First Commandment.* Point out that we turn to Mary and the saints as examples of how to live and that we ask them to intercede on our behalf.
- ▶ Together read aloud Saints and Feast Days. Explain that while the Church has a universal liturgical calendar for major feast days, each diocese may have a slightly different calendar that includes important local celebrations. Name any local feasts that are celebrated in your parish or diocese.
- ▶ Point out that as members of the Communion of Saints, we celebrate our joys through the Church's feast days and that we support one another in living as Jesus' disciples.
- ▶ Read aloud the section Models of Discipleship on page 37. Give your child time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

### Explore: Pages 38–39

- ▶ Display various images of Mary. **Ask:** *What do these images tell us about Mary?* (Possible answers: She is a prayerful person. She practiced the virtue of humility. She is Jesus' mother.)

- ▶ Take turns reading aloud the article title Turn to Mary and the first two paragraphs. Explain that the grace Mary received to remain obedient to God is the same grace that we receive through Baptism. **Say:** *Like Mary, our lives are a pilgrimage of faith. God calls us to grow in our relationship with him, and he has given us the gift of faith to help us do so.*
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for Confirmation feature. **Ask:** *When do we first make a commitment to our Catholic faith?* (at Baptism) Explain that one way for us to respond to the gift of grace is to thank God in prayer.
- ▶ Invite your child to read aloud Devotion to Mary on page 39. Emphasize that all the good that comes to us through Mary actually comes from God the Father. **Ask:** *Why does Mary have a special place in the life of the Church?* (She is the mother of our Savior, and she is a person of great virtue and holiness.) Explain that the words of the *Magnificat* are the words Mary used to greet her cousin, Elizabeth, after John the Baptist leapt for joy in Elizabeth's womb.
- ▶ Read aloud the Sacred Art feature. Point out in the painting the symbolic images that are mentioned. **Ask:** *In addition to the symbols that were mentioned in the text, what else does this painting tell us about Mary?*
- ▶ Use the Study Corner as a quick review of the article.

### Reflect: Pages 40–41

- ▶ Read aloud the title Praying with Mary and the paragraphs in the left column. Remind your child that we can always pray to Mary and the saints. Point out that we do not worship them but turn to them for guidance and ask them to pray to God on our behalf.
- ▶ Pray aloud the *Magnificat* together. Then **say:** *Quietly pray the reflection to yourself.* After giving your child time to reflect, pray aloud the Hail Mary.
- ▶ Read aloud the introductory paragraph in Where Do I Fit In? on page 41. Point out that humans are sensory beings and that we tend to collect physical objects that remind us of our identity. Explain that the Church does the same thing.
- ▶ Together read aloud What Good Are Relics? **Ask:** *How are Church relics similar to personal ones?* (Possible answers: They remind us that we are not alone. They remind us of God's love.) Discuss any relics in your church.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Living Reminder and then complete the activity independently. Encourage him or her to share the experience with you.

### Respond: Page 42

- ▶ Have your child read aloud the directions and the terms. Remind him or her to use the page references to help find correct answers as he or she completes the activity independently.
- ▶ Ask your child to list, define, and use in sentences the terms under Say What? Use the Glossary if necessary.
- ▶ Read aloud Now What? Have your child complete the activity. Remind him or her to reflect on the lives of the saints during the next week. Together pray the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Invite your child to pray a 3-minute Retreat at [www.loyolapress.com/retreat](http://www.loyolapress.com/retreat).