



## Gathering for Mass

### Engage: Page 105

- ▶ Discuss with your child how your family prepares to go to Mass. What are some things that your family does to get ready for Mass that are different from other activities?
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *What do you think the boy and his mother might be preparing for?* **Say:** *In this session we will learn more about how we prepare for Mass and then gather with others to celebrate Mass.*
- ▶ Ask your child to think about what people do to prepare for Mass once they arrive at church. Suggest that he or she think about how the altar and offertory table are prepared, how the musicians practice, and how the ushers seat people. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Pages 106–107

- ▶ Discuss the jobs of people you see participating in Sunday Mass. **Say:** *Some people have jobs such as altar servers, lectors, and choir members.* **Ask:** *What things are we all called to do at Mass?* (sing, say the responses)
- ▶ Read aloud The Mass Begins on page 106. **Ask:** *What happens at Mass after the Entrance Chant?* (The priest greets everyone and leads people in asking God to forgive their sins.)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Hearing God's Message. Discuss the vocabulary words.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Ask:** *What does this verse tell us?* (how important it is to listen to God's messages)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Responding to God's Word on page 107. **Say:** *The Liturgy of the Word is the part of Mass when we listen to God's Word from the Bible.* Review the information in the section The Order of Mass, which begins on page 202.
- ▶ Read aloud the Ready for the Sacraments feature. Discuss how the Third Commandment calls us to keep holy the Lord's Day.

### Art Exploration: Page 252

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a plaque with the symbols of the four Gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- ▶ **Say:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the symbols shown to represent each Gospel writer.



- ▶ **Say:** *The Gospels contain God's special messages for us to learn and live by. Listen for them each time you attend Mass.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 252. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Four Gospels. **Ask:** *What do we call the four Gospel writers? (Evangelists) Ask your child to name each Evangelist and his symbol.*
- ▶ Read aloud the activity directions in Symbol Match. Allow time for your child to complete the activity. Discuss your child's responses.
- ▶ Invite your child to design and draw a symbol that represents him or her, such as the ones for Jesus and the Evangelists. Encourage your child to think about his or her talents and incorporate them into the symbol. Ask your child to explain his or her choices when sharing the finished symbol with you.

### Reflect: Pages 108–109

- ▶ Together look at page 108. **Say:** *Mass is a special time to pray for the forgiveness of our sins, ask for God's blessings, and listen to God's messages from the Bible.*
- ▶ Slowly read aloud the paragraphs. Pause after each one to give your child time to reflect. Invite your child to open his or her eyes and join you in praying the Sign of the Cross.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Mass on page 109 and complete the activity. Discuss the responses when he or she is finished.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Ask:** *Where have you heard these words before? (at Mass) Take turns acting out the role of the reader and the role of the people.*

### Respond: Page 110

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways to show that he or she is like Jesus.
- ▶ 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.