

Chapter 19

Celebrating the Eucharist

Because the loaf of bread is one, we though many, are one body, for we partake of the one loaf.

1 Corinthians 10:17

For the Parents:

In chapter 19 your child learned to:

- Name and describe the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Explain his or her role in celebrating the Eucharist
- Describe how he or she can be a person who shares daily in Jesus' life-giving sacrifice

Distraction can keep us from a full experience of the Eucharist. We may notice children crying during Mass, or we may be struggling with mental or physical fatigue after many hours of work, making it difficult to focus. We may have had the experience of listening to the Gospel or to the homily and of catching only a word or two, or we may have heard the words "Do this in memory of me" interrupted by sirens outside the church door. We may leave Mass feeling that we have missed the experience of the Eucharist altogether, but God is still present in the celebration, speaking to us and nurturing us.

As members of the Body of Christ, we are called to celebrate the Eucharist. Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me" (*Luke 22:19*). So every Sunday, we gather together to tell our Christian story, to break bread with one another, and to recall Jesus' sacrifice and joyful resurrection.

With Your Child :

1. Begin a family tradition of sharing Sundays together. First go to Mass, then plan how to spend the rest of the day.
2. Create a family book on *Ways to Share Joy*. Brainstorm ideas. Put one on each page. Decorate and bind your book. Read it and use it!
3. Read about Saint Jerome on the Review and Explore page.