

Chapter 19

Passover and Eucharist

Jesus said to his Apostles, “I have eagerly desired to eat the Passover with you before I suffer.”

Luke 22:15

To the Parents:

In chapter 19 your child learned to:

- Relate the Eucharist to the Jewish Passover
- Discuss the ways that Jesus is present in the celebration of the Eucharist
- Identify how he or she, through words, actions, and attitudes, can share Jesus’ presence with others

The Eucharist was instituted by Christ at the Last Supper, and in every Eucharistic Prayer we hear the story told again. It is a celebration of the Paschal mystery, centered in Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. The Passover foreshadows Christ’s Paschal mystery that the Church celebrates in the Eucharist with Jesus’ passing over to his father by his death and resurrection. Christ offers humanity freedom from sin and from the power of death. The Eucharist is foretaste and promise of the heavenly kingdom, where all will be reconciled to God in Christ. From the Eucharist flows the power to witness and to build up the kingdom of God.

With Your Child:

1. This week, go to Mass as a family. Plan a special meal before or after Mass. Prepare the meal together as a family, as the disciples prepared the Passover meal for Jesus.
2. Give up a snack or eat a simple meal, such as bread and soup. Use the money you save to help feed people who are hungry.
3. Read about Abraham Heschel on the Review and Explore page.