

What Do I Teach?

The Resurrection of Christ

The unconditional and overwhelming love of God for us, made visible through the Incarnation, does not disappear and fade with the crucifixion of Jesus on the cross. Indeed, that passionate, unfathomable love of God for humankind enthroned upon the cross, is proclaimed to the world for all to see and believe.

The revelation of divine love transcends the cross and the tomb in the raising of Jesus from the dead. The chains of death are truly broken. The Son of God, who took on our humanity in all things but sin, experienced death as we do. But he was also raised from death, an event and promise in which we place our hope. We, who share in his death and resurrection, believe that death is a change in, not an end to, life. We believe that through death we shall enter everlasting life. We shall share in the life of God and live in communion with God forever.

The resurrection of Jesus is a passing over from death to a new life. Jesus' resurrection, as was his death, is an actual, historical event. The meaning of the Resurrection is so central to our faith that Paul taught that if Christ did not rise from the dead, our faith is in vain. Today, we continue to pray "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again" (Roman Missal).

More Background: For further reading and reflection see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraphs 639–655.

For Reflection

*How does my faith in the Risen Jesus strengthen me to live my faith each day?
In what ways am I a sign of hope for other people?*

First Thoughts



SR. MARIE:

You may be concerned how well you are getting a certain truth or concept across to the children. Trust and believe that the Spirit is guiding you in your ministry as a teacher and catechist. You have the privilege to share the faith of the church community with the children—not on your own but as a believer who relies on the guidance and grace of the Holy Spirit. Trust in the One who speaks through you.



JANICE:

God is *always* with us, in good times and in bad times. Model for the children your own awareness of God's presence in your life. Share stories of your own faith in and love for God. Children enjoy hearing stories about the life of their teachers. Share your faith with them. The children will especially enjoy hearing stories about your childhood days.

Part 3



Teach

OBJECTIVE

Explain ways we take part in the Mass.

DISCOVER

- Recall with the children some of the things that they see and hear at Mass.
- Read aloud to the children page 103 to discover two important things that happen at Mass.
- Tell the children that at Mass (1) we listen to readings from the Bible and (2) Jesus is with us and shares his life and love with us.
- Remind the children what they learned in chapter 6 about the Bible: In the Bible God tells us about his love for us.



Apply

INTEGRATE

- Have the children look at the three photos and explain what is happening at Mass.
- Emphasize that the pictures show the two main parts of the Mass: (1) We listen to the Bible and (2) Jesus shares his life and love with us.
- Tell the children that the prayer on page 103 is one of the prayers we pray at Mass.
- Invite the children to repeat the prayer after you.



We Take Part in the Mass

At Mass we listen to the Bible.

At Mass Jesus is with us.

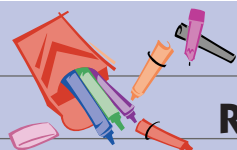
At Mass Jesus shares his life and love with us.



The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Roman Missal

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Bright Ideas

Responses at Mass

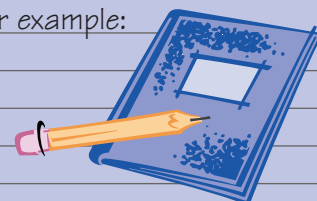
At Mass there are special prayers that we say. Some of these prayers are called responses. The priest says something to us and we respond to what he says. One of the most common prayers is when the priest says to us, “The Lord be with you” and we all respond, “And with your spirit.” This is a beautiful prayer asking Jesus to be with us and bless us. You might want to review with the children some other response-type prayers used at Mass. For example:

—The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

—The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Celebration

OBJECTIVE

Celebrate and give thanks to God.

GETTING READY

- Give each child a circle cutout of heavy paper.
- Have the children print the words “Thank you, God” on the circle. Ask the children to color and decorate their circles.
- Place a basket, large enough to hold all of the paper circles on the prayer table.
- Review the words to the **Faith First** song “God’s Church Is Made of People” or another appropriate song with the children.

AND NOW WE PRAY

- Play the instrumental version of the **Faith First** song as you gather the children in the prayer area. Have the children bring their paper circles with them.
- Help the children focus on the prayer celebration. When the children are ready, lead them in prayer.

LEADER: Blessed be God.

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

LEADER: Jesus said, “When you come together because you are my friends, I am there with you” (Based on Matthew 18:20).

LEADER: *(Invite each child to say one thing that they want to thank God for. After each child says what he or she is thanking God for, have the child place the paper circle in the basket. Invite everyone to say:)*

ALL: Thank you, God.

LEADER: *(Lead the children in singing the song after the last child has placed his or her paper circle in the basket.)*

ALL: *(Sing the song “God’s Church Is Made of People.”)*



God’s Church Is Made of People

Chorus:

**God’s Church is made of people,
not bricks, not wood, not glass.
God’s Church is in the hearts of all
who worship him at Mass.**

Verse 1:

**Most were small, and can’t remember
the day that they became a member.
When baptized, each of us became
a friend of God in Jesus’ name.**

Repeat chorus

Verse 2:

**At Mass we give our thanks and pray
to God who helps us ev’ry day.
All ’round the world, and ev’rywhere,
God’s Son invites us all to share.**

Repeat chorus



Teach

OBJECTIVE

Explore and celebrate Easter.

INTRODUCE

- Ask the children: What do you think about when you hear the word *Easter*?
- Have the children look at the pictures on page 169 of their books. Ask: Which of the things in the pictures do you see at Easter?

EXPLORE

- Read the text at the top of page 169 aloud to the children.
- Explain that the items in the pictures are things that help us to celebrate Easter and to understand that Easter is an important day for all the friends of Jesus.
- Tell the children that since Jesus, the Son of God, loved us so much, he came to earth to live with us. Talk about the wonderful things Jesus did. Tell the children that Jesus was raised to new life after he died.
- Explain to the children that the things in the pictures shown on this page remind us of new life. Make this connection by talking about the pictures with the children. (This is a difficult concept for children. Hearing about it will prepare for the future catechesis of the children on the meaning of the Paschal mystery.)



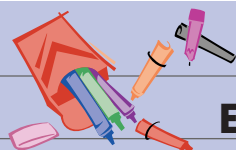
Easter

At Easter we see signs of new life. We remember that Jesus is alive. At Easter the Church sings, “for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.”

Roman Missal



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Bright Ideas

Easter Eggs

From ancient times the egg has been a religious symbol of the gift of life, a symbol of joy and happiness associated with the renewal of life in nature. Eggs were colored to represent the sunlight and bright colors of spring. The origins of Christians coloring eggs as part of the celebration is unknown. There are many ethnic customs and traditions associated with Easter eggs. For example, Greek Christian children customarily tap red-colored eggs together. One child says, “Christ is risen.” The other replies, “Truly, he is risen.” Distribute egg shapes made of various materials and a variety of brightly colored markers and paints. Have the children color the egg shapes to make Easter eggs. Display the finished Easter eggs in the classroom throughout the fifty days of the Easter season.