

Celebrating the Paschal Mystery

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 149, the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Examine the ways Blessed Mother Teresa joined her life to Christ in the Paschal Mystery
- Identify Jesus as Redeemer—bringing us back from the slavery of sin and death
- Describe the Paschal Mystery as Christ's work of redemption through his suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension
- Relate the Paschal Mystery to the experience of the Seven Sacraments

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *At our Baptism, we were baptized into Jesus' Death and reborn as sons and daughters of God. Because of this, we may be able to see our own lives as a series of endings and new beginnings. Your child, at his or her age, due to limited life experience and a concrete stage of development of thinking, may not be able to make this abstract connection. As you continue to frame the lived experience in your family, reflecting on this mystery, you lay the foundation for finding the greater meaning in the endings and beginnings of life.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- **Your Child Learned.** This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- **Children At This Age.** This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Alle, Alle, Alleluia
- The Supper of the Lamb

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 141, Celebrating the Paschal Mystery

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Say: Jesus Resurrection changed everything. In Jesus' rising, we have the promise of new life, life beyond death. Let's listen to what the New Testament says about the new life Jesus brings.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Invite your child to respond and also share what you heard.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: The Paschal Mystery is how Christ saved us through his suffering (also known as the Passion), Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. The Sacraments celebrate the Paschal Mystery by inviting you and all believers to die to a new life of love.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about the Paschal Mystery and how all things can be made new.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 142,
A Witness to God's Love

Read aloud the introductory paragraph and Mother Teresa's biography.

Explain that a religious vocation is often referred to as a "calling from God." Discuss what a "call within a call" would be.

Point out the photos on page 142-143 and discuss what they show about Mother Teresa.

Turn to Page 143,
The Mission Expands

Have your child silently read this section and, on a separate piece of paper, have him or her outline the different ways that Mother Teresa and her sisters helped people.

Ask your child why Mother Teresa became so famous. (because of her dedicated work with the poor, because of her Christ-like love, because she was inspiring to others)

Discuss Mother Teresa's reason for accepting awards.

Have your child write a short explanation of how Mother Teresa's work lives on today.

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: In your home, include images of Jesus' death (such as a crucifix) and images that relate to the Resurrection. As Saint Paul teaches, the Death of Jesus only makes sense in light of the Resurrection. Children learn from visual images.

Turn to Page 144,
Work of Redemption

Have your child read silently the opening question and text.

Review the words **sacrifice**, **Paschal Mystery**, and **liturgical year** and their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Ask: What has Jesus' Death done for all people? (It broke the power of evil.)



Proclaim the Scripture.

Turn to Page 145,
The Celebration of the Mystery

Read aloud the two paragraphs.

Together, review the chart, "Participating in the Pascal Mystery." Allow your child an opportunity to ask questions about any of the Sacraments.

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 146,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the introductory question and paragraph.

Explain how images help people understand religious concepts or teachings. Discuss some visuals that you have experienced at Church or at home.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: The Sacraments incorporate Catholics into Christ's own body; therefore, those celebrating the Sacraments experience both the Death that Christ endured and his Resurrection to new life. Trusting in God, Christians endure disappointments, trials, and the death of those they love. They also experience new life when they help those in need or reconcile with those whom they have been estranged. Finally, they experience the physical death that completes their incorporation into Christ and makes possible their own resurrection to eternal blessedness. As a parent you will experience all of these things and you have the opportunity to demonstrate the hope that is possible in the faith of a Christian life.

Turn to Page 147,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Paul Miki.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how offering up something you don't like to do helps you share in the Paschal Mystery.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Hope is the gift of embracing the Paschal Mystery. Point out hopeful things when your family experiences them. Virtues, such as hope, are born out of the habits of our life.*

Turn to Page 149,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 321), during your night prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.