

# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 1

1. Find Psalm 148 in your family Bible and read it. Then write your own poem that praises God. Read aloud your poem to your family before dinner.
2. Think of one small thing you do every day, such as brushing your teeth or tying your shoes. Every time you do that activity, pray a short prayer of thanks to God.
3. Collect five prayers of praise. Ask people for ideas, look in prayer books or in the Book of Psalms, or make up your own.
4. Interview an older family member about how he or she worships God.
5. Make a list of five good deeds you could do around your home or neighborhood. Talk with a family member about how your service is a way of worshiping God. Post your list where everyone can see it. Check off each item on your list as you do that good deed.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 2

1. How many sacraments have the members of your family celebrated? List each person's name and the sacraments he or she has received. Invite each person to share his or her memory of receiving the sacraments.
2. Make a yearly planner of important dates. Include the following dates for each member of your family: birth, Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and marriage.
3. Reread Matthew 26:36, Mark 1:29–31, Luke 4:31–32, and John 19:29–30. Think about which of Jesus' ways of worshiping the Father you are most thankful for. Draw a picture of the scene. Pray a prayer of thanks to Jesus.
4. Find a family member who was present at your Baptism. Ask that person to describe the event for you.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 3

1. Ask an adult family member where your name comes from.
2. Find out more about your patron saint. How did he or she imitate Christ?
3. On drawing paper or poster board, make a diagram that shows the steps of an infant's Baptism. Illustrate the diagram with drawings of sacramentals.
4. Learn how the OCIA program is carried out in your parish.
5. Talk with an adult family member about your godparents. Ask why they were chosen for this important role.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 4

- 1.** Imagine a crowded Jerusalem at Pentecost. Imagine Mary and the Apostles gathered in the same room where the Last Supper had taken place. Write a paragraph about what they may have felt when they experienced the coming of the Holy Spirit and how they might have described the experience to others. Share what you wrote with a family member.
- 2.** Draw a picture of a person at his or her Confirmation. Include the bishop, the sponsor, other people, and the sacramentals. Label each part of your drawing.
- 3.** Talk with a family member about his or her Confirmation. Ask who the person's sponsor was. Invite the family member to explain why he or she chose that person as a sponsor.
- 4.** Make a list of people you might ask to be your sponsor at your Confirmation. After each name, write one sentence telling your reason for choosing that person. Discuss your list with a family member.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 5

- 1.** The Apostles prepared a special Passover meal for Jesus. With a family member, plan a special meal for your family to eat after Mass. Make a list of all the ways you can help prepare the meal. Then carry out your plan when you are able.
- 2.** The real presence of Jesus Christ is received in the Eucharist. The Eucharist also binds you more closely to God. It brings you together with all people. Make a list of family activities that bring your family closer together. Talk to members of your family and list their ideas too.
- 3.** Write a letter of thanks to Jesus Christ for being present with you as your friend in the Eucharist. Decorate your letter with symbols relating to the Eucharist.
- 4.** Make a list of the things you must do to prepare yourself for Holy Communion. Talk with a family member about why each item is important.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 7

- 1.** What is the last celebration you had at home? Start a conversation about it with family members who attended. How did you celebrate? What were you celebrating? Write a paragraph about the event. Then write a paragraph telling why we call Mass a celebration. What are we celebrating? How do we celebrate?
- 2.** The Introductory Rites prepare us to hear the Word of God. What are some things you could do to prepare yourself before the Mass begins? Talk with a family member about ways you can prepare at home before going to church. Make a list and follow it before the next Mass.
- 3.** Mark a calendar with the major seasons of the liturgical year. Hang the calendar in your home.
- 4.** Often we dress in special ways for celebrations. Discuss with your family how you can dress in a special way for next Sunday's eucharistic celebration. Remind one another as the day gets closer.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 8

1. Copy on a card the Responsorial Psalm or the Gospel verse from Mass. Decorate the card and post it where your family can refer to it.
2. In your family meal prayer, include a verse from the Sunday reading that gives a message to remember.
3. Think about the Homily at last Sunday's Mass. Discuss what the Homily was about with someone else who was there. Think of ways the Homily can inspire or help you this week.
4. Memorize the Nicene Creed if you do not already know it by heart. Have a family member help you practice reciting it.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 9

1. It has been a custom since Old Testament times to tithe. This means to give one-tenth of all your money to support the work of the Church. Figure out what this would mean for you. Do you receive an allowance? Talk to a family member about how you might reserve part of your allowance to tithe to the Church. If you do not have spending money, think about tithing your free time. Pray and ask God what he wants you to give to the Church. Talk your decision over with other family members.
2. Find a missalette that you can mark up. Then sit down with someone in your family and review Eucharistic Prayers II and III.
  - Place a box around the words Jesus spoke at the Last Supper.
  - Place a straight line under the words offering Jesus to his Father.
  - Place a wavy line under the Mystery of Faith we pray after the words of consecration.
  - Place a colored box around the Amen we pray at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer.
3. At a meal, tell each family member one thing he or she did that you are especially thankful for. Thank each family member. Tell him or her that you will always remember this kindness. Then pray a prayer of thanks for your family.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 10

1. Share with your family why the Lord's Prayer is a good mealtime prayer. Suggest that you pray it together this week as your prayer before dinner.
2. Make a list of five things at Mass that remind us we are united with Jesus and with one another. Share the list with your family. Review it before you go to church next Sunday. During the Mass, pay special attention to the things you listed.
3. Talk with your family about people in need. Some people may need food. Others may need kindness and love. Can you think of other needs? As a family, talk about people you know who might have a need. Think of some ways that your family can help. Make a plan and carry it out.
4. Find a time to talk with two people who are extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Ask them how they were called to this ministry. What do they think about or feel as they give the Eucharist to others? Write their answers and share your discoveries with other family members.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 11

- 1.** Review the works of mercy with a family member. Work together to come up with an example of how you might practice each one. Watch for chances to practice the works of mercy in your everyday life.
- 2.** Locate some mission magazines or use the internet to find information about missions. Read at least one article about missionaries and what they do for others. Research the area where these missionaries live and work. What difficulties do they face? Share your findings with your family. Together, think about how your family can help those missionaries.
- 3.** Read the story of a well-known missionary, such as Frances Xavier Cabrini, Isaac Jogues, or Mother Teresa. Prepare a report telling what gifts he or she offered to God and how God used the gifts. Share your report with family members. Invite each family member to think of a gift that he or she can offer to God to be used to help others.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 13

1. Share with your family what you have learned about making good choices. Talk over ways of choosing good television programs to watch. Decide what you will do if the choice that has been made turns out to be a poor one.
2. Get into the habit of praying a short Act of Contrition at certain times. You might pray it before going to bed or before you go on a trip. You might pray it when you realize you have done something wrong or when you are in danger. A good one to pray is “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”
3. Talk with each member of your family about a difficult choice he or she had to make. Ask who or what helped that person in making that decision. Talk with your family about your own resources. Discuss who and what you can turn to when you have to make a difficult choice.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 14

1. Find out when the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is celebrated in your parish. Decide when you will go, and invite someone in your family to go with you. Prepare a homemade item or other special treat to celebrate God's forgiving love together.
2. Read Luke 7:36–50 and Luke 15. Draw a picture of your favorite story about God's forgiving love. Put the picture where you pray your night prayers. When you see it, pray your Act of Contrition.
3. Look at the Examination of Conscience on page 253 of the Student Book. Use it or another one you know before you go to bed. Reflect on what you have said and done that day. Is it in keeping with what the Gospel asks of us? This will help you prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Explain this form of prayer to someone in your family and share with them why it is important and helpful.
4. Write a story about someone your age who does something wrong, is sorry, and makes up for it.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 15

1. Invite someone in your family to read with you Mark 1:40–45. Then discuss the following questions:
  - Who needed help?
  - How was the person suffering?
  - What did Jesus say?
  - How did the person respond?
2. Share with your family what you know about the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Discuss together how celebrating the sacrament in times of need could bring your family closer to Jesus.
3. Talk with an adult family member about someone your family knows who is sick or suffering. Together, think of something you could make that might cheer up that person. You might bake cookies or make a wind chime. You might make up a cheerful song to sing or play. Bring your gift to that person or ask a family member to deliver it.
4. Think about the last time you were ill. What did people do for you that made you feel better? What did you appreciate the most? Make a list and include the name of the person who did each thing on your list. Pray to Jesus, thanking him for filling your life with such good people. Then circle things on your list you could do for others. Keep your list for times when people you love are in need.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 17

- 1.** Plant some flower seeds. Draw sketches of one of the plants as it grows. Notice the different stages it goes through before it blooms. Compare this growth process to your life. What steps are you taking now to become what God wants you to be? Make your own personal plan for holiness. List the steps and what you hope will “flower” as a result. Share your list with a member of your family. Talk about what other steps you could take. Add any new ideas to your plan.
- 2.** Share with two adult family members what you have learned about discovering your vocation. Interview them about how they knew what vocation God was calling them to and how they responded. Take notes on their responses. Write a paragraph summarizing what they said and what you might learn from them.
- 3.** Pray a Hail Mary tonight when you get ready for bed. Ask Mary to guide you to do with your life what God wants you to do.
- 4.** Talk to two people who have different vocations. Ask them what they like about their vocations. Ask what advice they would give someone who wants to follow those vocations.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 18

- 1.** Ask a married husband and wife to tell you about their wedding day. Ask if they have a photo album or video they could share with you. Write down three things that you found interesting about their ceremony.
- 2.** Invite an adult family member to help you look through newspapers or magazines. Find articles about marriage or family life. Discuss whether each article talks about marriage or family life in a way that is in keeping with the teachings of Christ. Be ready to share your findings with the class.
- 3.** Plan a special way to show your love for each member of your family. It might be placing a simple note under each plate at supper saying, “Thank you for being you!” Carry out your plan for each person in your family.
- 4.** Write a prayer for your family. Share it with them at a meal together or at another appropriate time. Then invite them to pray it with you.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 19

1. Share with your family what you have learned about the priesthood as a mission of service. Invite family members to tell how a priest has been of service to them.
2. Write a thank-you letter to your parish priest. Thank him for all he has done for the parish, for your family, and for you. Share your letter with an adult family member. Ask what he or she might add. Then have your family member help you send the letter.
3. If there is a deacon in your parish, ask him about the different ways he serves the community. Ask him to share how he heard the call to his vocation. Write a short paragraph that summarizes what you found out.
4. Make a booklet about your diocesan bishop. Find out when he was ordained a priest, where he has served, and when he became the bishop of your diocese. Look in your diocesan newspaper or website for a listing of events your bishop attends.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 21

1. Invite a family member to sit with you and read through one of the Gospels. Look for ways that Jesus showed respect for life. Make a list of five things Jesus did. Include the chapter and verse and write briefly what Jesus did.
2. Make a plan to keep your body and mind healthy. Write one thing you can do each day of the week to respect and care for your body. Keep to your plan. Each day, as you finish the activity, thank God for the gift of health and life.
3. Make a poster that promotes cherishing life all over the world. Explain the poster to your family and leave it at home to serve as a daily reminder.
4. Write a prayer for world peace. Mention places in need of peace. Find a time to pray your prayer together with your family. Invite them to add prayers of their own.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 22

- 1.** Ask an adult in your family to share stories of when you were a baby. Ask about what you looked like and what you did. Ask to see pictures if you can. Thank each person in your family for all he or she does for you and the rest of the family. Pray a prayer together asking God to help each of you grow in love for God and one another.
- 2.** Share with your family members 1 Corinthians 3:16. Talk about what it means to be a temple of God. Then discuss ways that you can grow in respect for one another.
- 3.** Some TV programs do not show respect for married love or for the human body. Start a discussion at home about the shows you watch and how they portray marriage and respect for our bodies. Decide together which shows are better for you to watch.
- 4.** Begin the practice of praying a Hail Mary every night. Invite others in your home to join you. Ask Mary to help you be strong and do what is right.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 23

1. Talk with your family about how you show respect for one another's things. Decide on three rules you will follow to show respect. After a week, check how well you have followed your rules.
2. Look through newspapers or watch TV to find an example of someone showing justice. Write a short paragraph about how the world has been made a little more just by this person's actions.
3. Jesus tells us to use our gifts in the right way. Talk with others in your family about how money, food, and school supplies can be used and shared. Make a list of your ideas. Then choose two that you will practice.
4. Choose one of the stories from this chapter to write as a play. You might write about the rich farmer, Lazarus and the rich man, or Saint Lawrence. Write the play in your own words. Get some friends to act out the play with you in front of your family.
5. Jesus tells us about true riches in Matthew 6:20–21. Read this passage to your family. Talk as a family about what Jesus is saying to you.



# Things to Do at Home



## Chapter 24

1. Play the Telephone Game with your family or friends to show how truth can be distorted. Have one person whisper a message to another person. Pass the message on until everyone has received it. Have the last person say it aloud and compare it to the original message.
2. Sit down with your family and discuss why Christians speak the truth. Draw a line down the middle of a sheet of paper. On the left side, list reasons why it is good to tell the truth. On the right side, list ways it can hurt you or others not to tell the truth.
3. Pray the entire Prayer to the Holy Spirit found on the inside back cover of your book. Ask the Spirit to help you speak only true and kind words.
4. Choose a time when your family is together and invite them to reflect on the Eighth Commandment. You may wish to ask how the Eighth Commandment helps families be happy. Include in your discussion why it is important for family members to protect one another's good name.

