

# REMEMBER

## Objective

To explain why we present gifts at Mass

### Faith Focus

#### What gifts do we bring to the altar?

List children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

## The Sacrifice of the Mass

Write the terms *Liturgy of the Eucharist*, *Preparation of the Altar and Gifts*, and *sacrifice* on the board or on chart paper. Explain the terms as you work through the text.

- Recall the meaning of the washing of the feet.
- Summarize the information in the first paragraph of text.
- Point out that every Mass makes present again Jesus' sacrifice.
- Read aloud the rest of the text.



### Bread and Wine

- Refer to the Words of Faith glossary on pages 82–87.
- Discuss how bread and wine are not just food for our bodies, but are food for our souls, when the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus during Mass.

## The Sacrifice of the Mass



### Bread and Wine

Bread and wine are foods that people use for special meals. At Mass we use bread that is made without yeast. The wine comes from grapes. By the power of the Holy Spirit and the words and actions of the priest, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus. They become our spiritual food.

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### Faith Focus

#### What gifts do we bring to the altar?

When Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, he showed us how to give our lives for others. Jesus gave his life for us on the cross. He saved us from our sins by his life, his death, and his Resurrection.

At Mass we remember Jesus' sacrifice during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. *Eucharist* means "thanksgiving." The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the second main part of the Mass. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and the words and actions of the priest, Jesus offers again the gift of himself to his Father.

During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we thank God the Father for Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. We bring our lives and our sacrifices to the altar.

The sacrifices we make during the week are our gifts to God. They prepare us to join in Jesus' sacrifice.



## Catechist Background

**The gifts** As early as the second century, the people began to bring material gifts to the Eucharist for the needs of the Church or for the poor. The offering of these gifts was gradually included in the celebration of the Mass.

Often the gifts included the bread and wine for the celebration. The people brought the gifts to the altar, and the priest received them as an offering.

In the Roman liturgy of the seventh century, the gifts—mostly bread and wine—were not brought directly to the altar by the

people but were collected by the celebrant and his assistants after the Gospel reading. When more was collected than was necessary for the Mass, only what was needed for Mass was placed on the altar. The rest was put on special tables and later given to the clergy and the poor.



## Preparation of the Gifts

The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the **Preparation of the Gifts**. Members of the assembly bring the bread and wine to the priest and they are placed on the altar.

We also offer gifts of money or other gifts. This offering is called a **collection**. These offerings help the parish do its work and take care of those in need. They are also a sign of our sacrifice.

The priest prepares the bread and wine and gives God thanks for his goodness.

We answer, "Blessed be God for ever."

Then the priest prays that our sacrifice be acceptable to God.

We answer, "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church."

❓ **What gifts do you bring to Mass?**

### Faith at Home

Discuss your child's response to the question. Talk about the purpose of the collection. Point out ways your child can contribute his or her time, talent, or money as a gift to God. Use this page to review the responses for the Preparation of the Gifts.

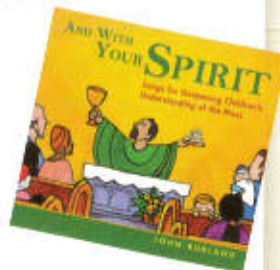


## Additional Activity

**Reflecting on Sacrifice** Expand on the concept of sacrifice by asking the children to name ways their parents have sacrificed for them. You may have to give them a few examples to start them thinking. Attach a big paper heart to the board or to a wall, and use a marker to write the sacrifices named inside the heart. Then ask them to share some ways they have sacrificed for a friend. Write those in the heart, too.

Explain that love requires sacrifice. Because of God's love for us, he sent his Son to sacrifice his life for us.

Take a large paper cross and tape it over the heart. Explain how during Mass we thank God for his sacrifice of love. Play the song "Savior of the World" (track 11) from the *And With Your Spirit* music CD.



## Preparation of the Gifts

Recall with children that members of the assembly often carry up the gifts at Saturday evening and Sunday Masses. Have children who have carried up the gifts share the experience.

- Use the Teaching Tip on page 51 to help discuss the types of gifts that are collected at Mass.
- Ask children to read the text silently and tell what the parish does with collection offerings. **The parish uses them to support the parish and take care of needy people.**
- Finish reading the text aloud. Invite children to repeat the Mass responses after you.
- ❓ Discuss the question to help children reflect on their part in the Preparation of the Gifts. **Possible responses: money, my sacrifices, my prayers, my actions**

## Review

- The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the second main part of the Mass.
- During the Preparation of the Gifts, we offer ourselves and our gifts to help others.