



Together in Jesus

**I Belong
to a
Community**



We Share Faith in Jesus

Interview a person in your parish community. Ask this person to finish the statement below.

I believe in Jesus because

Name: _____

The people of our parish believe in Jesus. Together we form a community of believers. Our parish is part of the Catholic Church. My parish community invites me to make my First Eucharist with them. Come, _____, to Jesus' table.

I Belong to the Catholic Church

The Catholic Church is a community of people who follows Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's Son, who becomes one of us to show us God's love. Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah for whom the people of Israel waited.

We become members of our Church by receiving three Sacraments of Initiation. These sacraments are Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. We receive grace in these sacraments. Grace means gift. We receive the gift of sharing God's life and love in these sacraments.

Baptism



At Baptism parents ask members of the Church to welcome their child. They want their child to grow up as a follower of Jesus. A priest or deacon pours water over the baby's head and says, "_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Parents promise to teach their children all that Christians believe. In Baptism we become children of God. We share the life of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Find the sticker showing a shell and water. Put it here.

My Baptism

I, _____,
became a child of God and member of the Catholic Church
when I was baptized on _____,
at the church named _____ in _____.

The Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found this catechetical text, copyright 2004, to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Nihil Obstat: J. Michael Byron **Imprimatur:** Harry J. Flynn, Archbishop of St. Paul-Minneapolis, April 30, 2004
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Confirmation



Confirmation completes Baptism. A bishop seals us with the gift of the Holy Spirit. God pours out the Holy Spirit on us. The Holy Spirit urges us to love people the way Jesus showed us. The Holy Spirit makes Christians one.

Jesus made himself an everlasting gift for us when he loved us unto death on the cross. God raised him up to new life. Before he died, Jesus asked his followers to gather and share a meal to remember him.

At every Eucharist we gather as Jesus asked. A priest leads us in a prayer of remembering and giving thanks. *Eucharist* means *thanks*.

We remember and give thanks for Jesus' gift of himself on the cross.
We remember and give thanks that God raised Jesus up to new life.
We remember how Jesus blessed bread and wine on the night before he died.
He made bread and wine signs of his love for us that he lived out on the cross.
Jesus comes to us in every Eucharist.
We receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion.

Eucharist



We Gather and Celebrate

Leader: Children, do you wish to prepare for First Eucharist?

Children: Yes. Our parents have taught us how much God loves us. We are old enough to hear what Jesus asks of his followers.

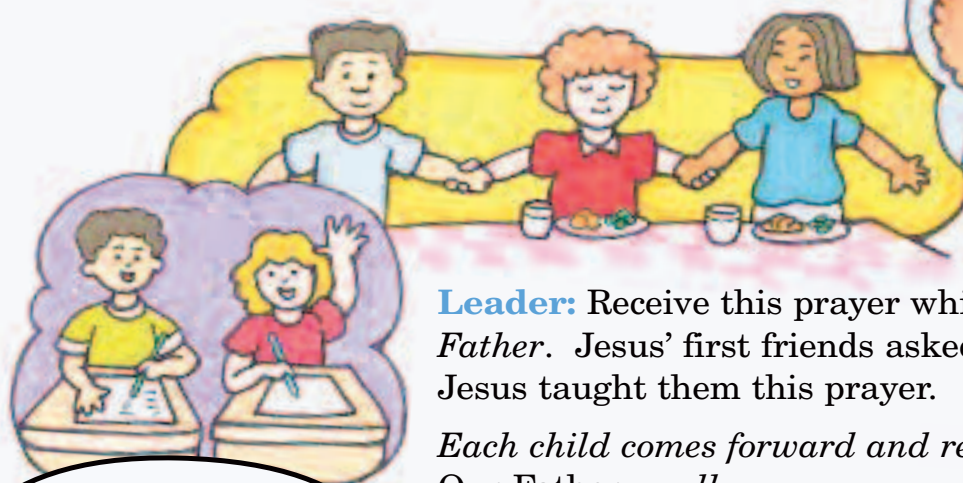
Leader: Parents, we invite you to bless your children.

Parents: We bless you in your growing up and in your preparing for First Eucharist.

Leader: Children, receive this Bible. The Bible tells many stories about Jesus, his Father, and the Spirit. You will take parts and tell Bible stories as you prepare for First Eucharist.

Class representative receives the Bible.

Children: We will use our eyes to read the stories about Jesus. We will use our ears to hear all Jesus asks. We will use our bodies to act out the stories.



Leader: Receive this prayer which we call the *Our Father*. Jesus' first friends asked him how to pray. Jesus taught them this prayer.

Each child comes forward and receives an Our Father scroll.

Children: We will use our minds to learn this prayer. We will use our voices to pray this prayer often. We will open our hearts to live the words we pray.

Leader: Welcome to First Eucharist preparation. Together we will get ready to gather around Jesus' table where you will receive Holy Communion for the first time.

Draw yourself receiving First Eucharist.

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