

## Getting Ready for Chapter 8

# Take Home



## We Give Thanks to God

God, our loving Father, gives us so much to be thankful for. In this chapter the children will identify some of God's special gifts. They will learn why we refer to God as "our Father," and that God's name is holy. They will experience thanking God with their hearts and with their voices.

### ACTIVITY

**Thanksgiving** A cornucopia, the horn-shaped basket filled with fruit and vegetables, represents the bounty we receive from the earth—from the goodness of the land God created. Tape a piece of construction paper in the shape of a cornucopia. Then fill it with fruit and vegetable shapes cut out of paper. Write something you and your child are thankful for on each shape.

### WEEKLY PLANNER

#### On Sunday

The word *Eucharist* means "thanks," and the Mass is a prayer of thanksgiving. Have a thankful heart when you come to the liturgy this Sunday.

#### On the Web

[www.blestarewe.com](http://www.blestarewe.com)



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

#### Saint of The Week



**Saint Isidore the Farmer**  
(1080–1130)

Isidore spent much of his life working on a farm in Spain. He and his wife Maria, also a saint, showed their love for God by being kind to their neighbors. Although poor, Isidore and Maria shared their food with those poorer than themselves.

**Patron Saint of:** farmers and migrant workers

**Feast Day:** May 15



**A Prayer for the Week**

God our Father, we thank you for all your gifts. Help us follow the example of Saint Isidore by praying each day, by working hard, and by sharing our food with the poor. Amen.

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### Scripture Background

#### In the Time of Jesus

**Father** In speaking of God the Father, Jesus used the Aramaic term “abba,” which is a more intimate form of the word “father,” much like “dad” would be in our language. This is probably why Christians began referring to God as “Father.” Jesus teaches us to pray to God as “Our Father” because God represents the ideal loving and forgiving father who provides for his children and protects them from harm.

You can read about praying to God the Father in Matthew 6:6–15 and 7:7–11. Then slowly pray the Lord’s Prayer.

## OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Music

**A Hymn of Thanks** A well-known hymn of thanksgiving is “Now Thank We All Our God.” The lyrics, based on Sirach 50:20–24, were originally written in German by Martin Rinkart under the title of “Nun danket alle Gott.” The hymn probably first appeared in 1636. The hymn’s composer, Johann Crüger, led the choir at St. Nicholas (Lutheran) Church in Berlin during the seventeenth century. He composed some of the finest hymn tunes of all times. Catherine Winkworth published the English translation of the hymn in 1858. Today “Now Thank We All Our God” is sung in many Catholic parishes on Thanksgiving Day.