

## Getting Ready for Chapter 4

# Take Home



## Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

Jesus connects us to God the Father through prayer. The first prayer Jesus taught his followers was the Lord's Prayer. He drew on his experience with Jewish prayer and offered a new one. We also learn different types of prayer. The intent of all prayer is to draw us closer to God.

### ACTIVITY

**Bake a Bread Wreath** Bake a loaf of bread that you have braided and made into a wreath. (You can buy frozen bread dough to make this easier.) Because a circle has no beginning or end, it is a sign of unity.

### WEEKLY PLANNER

#### On Sunday

Listen for the Lord's Prayer in the liturgy. Carefully, listen to the words and think about what they mean to you.

#### 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



**Blessed Maria Domenica Mantovani (1862–1934)**

Maria had little education. She learned religion from her parents. She was called early to religious life. At the age of 30, she helped found the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family. She was known for her intense prayer life, and her devotion to Mary.



**A Prayer for the Week**

Dear Lord, Help us pray with passion as Blessed Maria did so that our relationship with you grows stronger and stronger. May our prayers help bring peace to the world. Amen.

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### Scripture Background

#### In the Time of Jesus

**Synagogue Service** While there was only one Temple, Jews prayed regularly in synagogues throughout Israel. “Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.” (Deut. 6:4) At age thirteen, Jesus would have recited this verse during the opening of a synagogue service. It was part of a Jewish prayer called the *Shema*. Afterwards, the congregation responded to a collection of prayers called “the lifting up of hands.” A Jewish priest or layman closed with a benediction.

Read about Jesus teaching his followers to pray a new prayer called the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:5–14.

## OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Liturgy

**Eastern Rite Catholics** We belong to the Western (Roman) Rite of the Catholic Church. Several branches of the Catholic Church belong to the Eastern Rite. The Byzantine Rite is used by fourteen major groups, including Russians, Ukrainians, Slovaks, and Greeks. The Alexandrian Rite includes Egyptians and Ethiopians. The Antiochene Rite includes the East Syrian and West Syrian rites. The Armenian Church includes people on almost every continent. All these are known as Eastern Catholic Churches. You can go to these churches and attend a service that fulfills your Sunday obligation.