

Getting Ready for Chapter 2

Take Home



Praise and Thanksgiving

It is natural to express your thanks when you are given a wonderful gift. When you are in the presence of someone great, it is natural to praise that person. The faith community gathers regularly to praise and thank God who loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, and remains with us through the Holy Spirit.

ACTIVITY

Partners Is there someone you know whom you want to thank and praise? This person could be a teacher, someone you work with, a relative, or a friend. Take a few minutes to send him or her a note of thanks or praise.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Listen carefully to the Lord's Prayer. What parts of it are a prayer of praise, and what parts are a prayer of thanksgiving?

On the Web

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 Pius X
(1835–1914)

For nearly 19 centuries, Catholics first received communion around the age of 13, after being confirmed. Saint Pius X, about 100 years ago, changed the rule allowing children" at the age of reason" (about 7 years old) to receive the Eucharist for the first time.

Patron Saint of: first communicants

Feast Day: August 21



A Prayer for the Week

Lord, Saint Pius X taught that you gave us the precious gift of your own self in the Eucharist. We need you in our lives. Help us stay close to you always. Amen.

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Scripture Background

In the Time of Jesus

Sabbath On Friday evening, the Jews of Palestine listened for the sound of the ram's horn that signaled the start of the Sabbath. After the sixth blast, every family gathered for their evening meal. Dressed in their best clothes, they ate special food reserved for the Sabbath. This included freshly baked bread called *challos*. Afterwards, the family recited the benediction. The head of the family then raised a cup of wine and chanted the blessing of sanctification.

In 1 Corinthians 11:23–26, Paul reminds us when Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples at the Last Supper.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Prayer

Rosaries We think of the Rosary as a distinctly Catholic devotion, but do you know how it developed? Early Christians would recite the Lord's Prayer many times during the day to keep focused on their beliefs. Some would keep track of how many times they prayed by tying a knot on a string each time they recited the prayer. The term *prayer bead* may have come from the Middle English word *bede*, which means "prayer." The word *rosary* comes from the Latin word *rosarium*, which means "rose garden."