

Getting Ready for Chapter 2

Take Home



Sacrifice and Promise

Abraham was committed to following God's plan even when God told him to sacrifice his son Isaac. Although Abraham did not understand God's will, he had such strong faith that he was willing to do what God asked. Jesus too showed complete obedience to God, even to the point of sacrificing his own life, so that we might have everlasting life.

ACTIVITY

Weekly Sacrifices Make this "Sacrifice for Others Week." Create a chart listing each family member's name next to a different day of the week. Have each person fill in something he or she will do that day to help another person or another family.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

The Mass celebrates Jesus' sacrifice of his life and the promise of our salvation. Listen for the words *sacrifice* and *promise* at Mass.

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 Andrew Kim
Taegön (1821-1846)**

Saint Andrew Kim Taegön lived in Korea during a time when Christians there were persecuted. In spite of great risk, Andrew Kim lived out his faith. He traveled to Macao, China, to study for the priesthood. When he returned to Korea, he was arrested and executed.

Feast Day: September 20



**A
Prayer
for the
Week**

Heavenly Father, in your great love for us you sacrificed your only Son. Teach us to respond to your love with the zeal and conviction of Saint Andrew Kim. Amen.

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Scripture Background

Before the Time of Jesus

The Testing of Abraham In the Old Testament, we read of Abraham and his near-sacrifice of his son Isaac. It is hard for us to understand Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his own child. Harder still to understand is why God would call upon Abraham to make such a sacrifice. This story shows that Abraham truly believes in God and his plan. Fittingly, the story of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son is read at the Easter Vigil liturgy, when we celebrate Jesus' acceptance of his Father's will, and his great sacrifice and Resurrection. Read about the testing of Abraham in Genesis 22.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Art

The Sacrifice of Isaac The story of Abraham and Isaac represents a profound test of a human's faith in and obedience to God. The Bible account of this story also affords a very dramatic subject for a religious painting. The Italian painter Caravaggio chose this subject matter when he created his masterpiece *The Sacrifice of Isaac* (1603).

In his paintings Caravaggio often emphasized the contrast between light and dark to heighten dramatic impact. This technique is evident in *The Sacrifice of Isaac*. This painting can now be seen in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy.