



The Church Celebrates Jesus

? What is your favorite season, or time, of the year?

The Church has seasons too. Let us listen to what the Bible tells us about the seasons of the year. In the Bible, God tells us:

There is a season for everything. There is a time of the year for everything.

BASED ON ECCLESIASTES 3:1

? What is your favorite time of the year that you celebrate with the Church?



Disciple Power

Prudence

Prudence helps us ask advice from others when making important decisions. A prudent person makes good choices. Our Church family helps us to make good choices.

The Church Follows Jesus

Read to Me

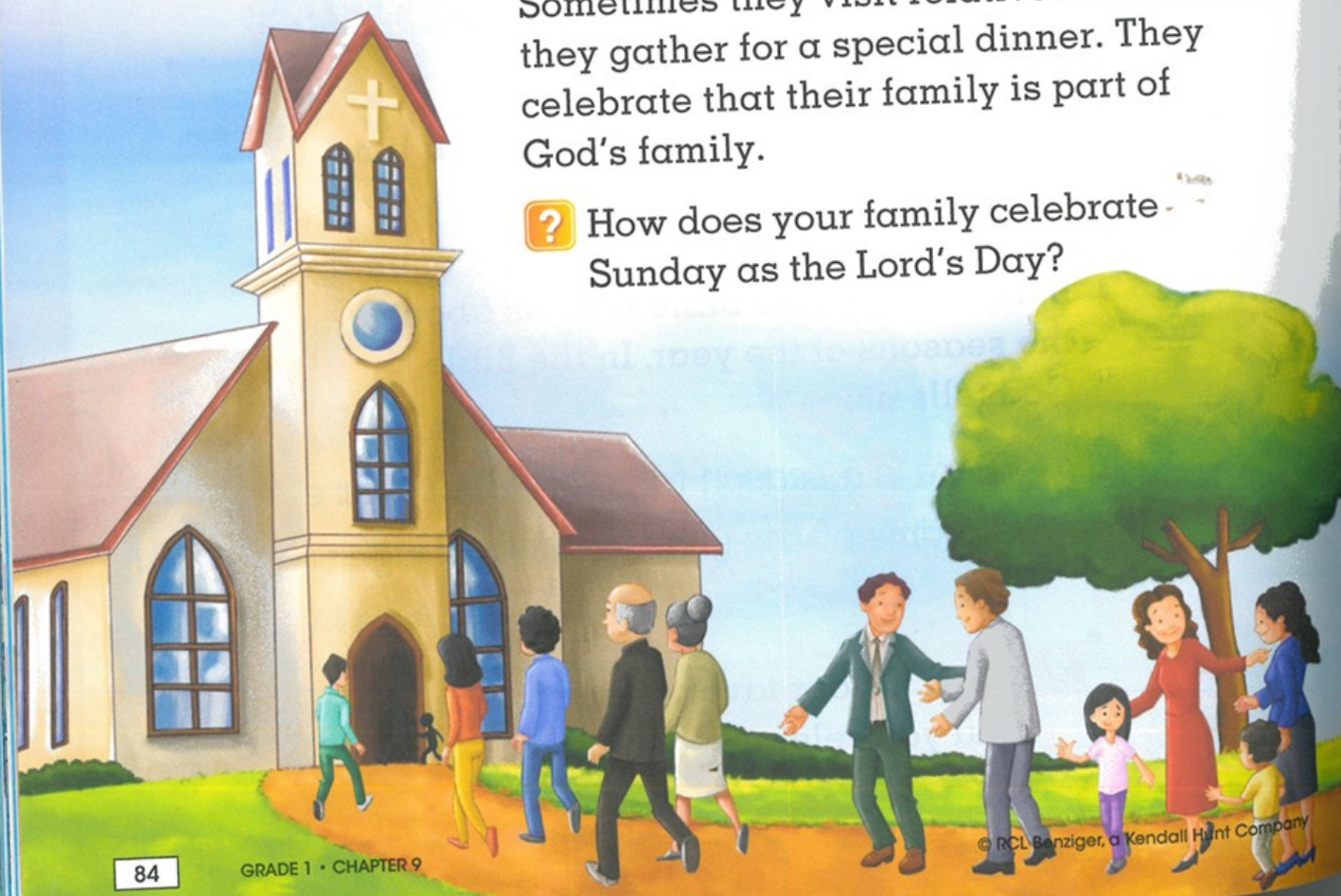
Celebrating Sunday

Sunday is the Lord's Day. Maya Lopez and her family keep Sunday holy in many ways.

Maya and her family gather with their Church family to worship God at Mass. Every Sunday they remember that Jesus was raised from the dead.

Sunday is a special family day too. Maya's family spends time together. Sometimes they visit relatives. Sometimes they gather for a special dinner. They celebrate that their family is part of God's family.

? How does your family celebrate Sunday as the Lord's Day?



The Seasons of the Church Year

The different times of the **Church year** are called its seasons. Each season of the Church year tells us something about Jesus. All year long we remember God's love for us.

Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time are the seasons and times of the Church year. Each season of the Church year has its own color. This helps us to remember the season of the Church year we are celebrating.

Advent

Advent is the first season of the Church year. The Advent season is four weeks long. The Advent wreath reminds us to prepare for Christmas. We get our hearts ready for Jesus. The color for Advent is purple.

Faith Focus

What is the Church year?

Faith Words

Church year

The Church year is made up of four seasons. They are Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

Easter

Easter is a season of the Church year. It is the time of the year when we celebrate that Jesus was raised from the dead.



Color three candles purple and one candle pink in the Advent wreath. Tell how your parish or your family uses an Advent wreath to celebrate Advent.





Faith-Filled People

Saint Joseph

Saint Joseph was the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus. An angel told Joseph that Mary was going to have a baby. An angel told Mary and Joseph to give the baby the name Jesus. The Church celebrates the feast day of Saint Joseph on March 19.

Christmas

Christmas comes after Advent. During the Christmas season we remember the birth of Jesus. He is God's Son, who came to live on Earth with us. Jesus is God's greatest gift to us.

The Church's celebration of Christmas is not just one day. The season of Christmas lasts two or three weeks. We use the color white to celebrate Christmas.

Activity

Look at the picture. Tell the Christmas story to a classmate. Ask a classmate to tell you the Christmas story.



Lent

During Lent we remember that Jesus died for us on the Cross. We also get ready for Easter. The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts forty days. The color for Lent is purple.

Easter

During **Easter** we celebrate that Jesus was raised from the dead. This is the most important time of the Church year. The season of Easter lasts seven weeks. The Easter candle is lighted to remind us that Jesus is risen. The color for Easter is white.

Ordinary Time

During Ordinary Time we listen to Bible stories about what Jesus said and did. We learn to be followers of Jesus. The color for Ordinary Time is green.

Catholics Believe

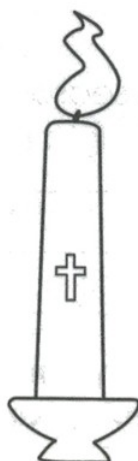
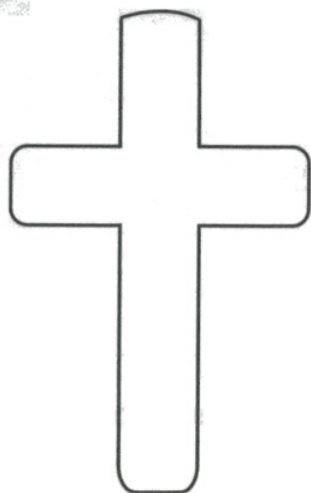


Holy Days of Obligation

In addition to Sundays, Catholics have the responsibility to take part in Mass on other days. These days are called holy days of obligation.



Color the symbols for Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. Use the colors of the seasons.



I Follow Jesus

When you celebrate the Church's seasons, you are making a good choice. Prudence helps you to make that good choice and others too.

Activity

Celebrating Jesus All Year

Look at the picture. Which season of the Church does it show?



My Faith Choice

I will celebrate the season of the Church year that we are in right now. I will



Pray, "Thank you, Holy Spirit, for helping me to celebrate the Church year. Amen."

Chapter Review

Draw lines to match the Church seasons with what we celebrate.

Season	What We Celebrate
1. Easter	We get ready for Easter.
2. Christmas	We celebrate that Jesus was raised from the dead.
3. Lent	We get ready for Christmas.
4. Advent	We remember the birth of Jesus.

TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

1. The Church has special times and seasons of the year.
2. The Church year is made up of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time.
3. Sunday is the Lord's Day.

Lord, We Praise You

When we worship God, we tell him that only he is God. Pray this prayer of praise together.

Leader Jesus taught us to praise God.

All Lord, we praise you.

Leader In the morning and the night,

All Lord, we praise you.

Leader In the summer and the fall,

All Lord, we praise you.

Leader In the winter and the spring,

All Lord, we praise you.



With My Family

This Week ...

In Chapter 9, "The Church Celebrates Jesus," your child learned:

- ▶ The Church year has special seasons just as the calendar year has. The seasons and time of the Church year are Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time.
- ▶ Sunday is the Lord's Day.
- ▶ During the Church year, we join with Christ all year long and share in his work of Salvation. All year long we give thanks and praise to God.
- ▶ The virtue of prudence helps us to consistently make good choices. This includes taking part in Mass on Sunday.

For more about related teachings of the Church, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1163–1173, and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pages 173, 175, and 178.

Sharing God's Word

Read together Psalm 150. Emphasize that, throughout the liturgical year, the Church gives praise and thanksgiving to God. Talk about the ways in which your family is already giving thanks and praise to God.

We Live as Disciples

The Christian home and family is a school of discipleship. Choose one or more of the following activities to do as a family, or design a similar activity of your own:

- ▶ When you take part in Mass this week, look around and listen for all the signs that tell you what season of the Church year the Church is now celebrating. Point them out to your child and talk about them with her or him.

- ▶ Choose an activity that helps you celebrate the current liturgical season as a family at home. For example, during Advent you can use an Advent calendar to help anticipate and prepare for Christmas.

Our Spiritual Journey

Praising God is one of the five main forms of prayer that are part of the Church's tradition. In this chapter, your child prayed a prayer of praise on page 89. Pray this version of a prayer of praise as a family.

Faith-Filled People

Saint Joseph

Feast Day: March 19

Saint Joseph was the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus.



For more ideas on ways your family can live as disciples of Jesus, visit

BeMyDisciples.com



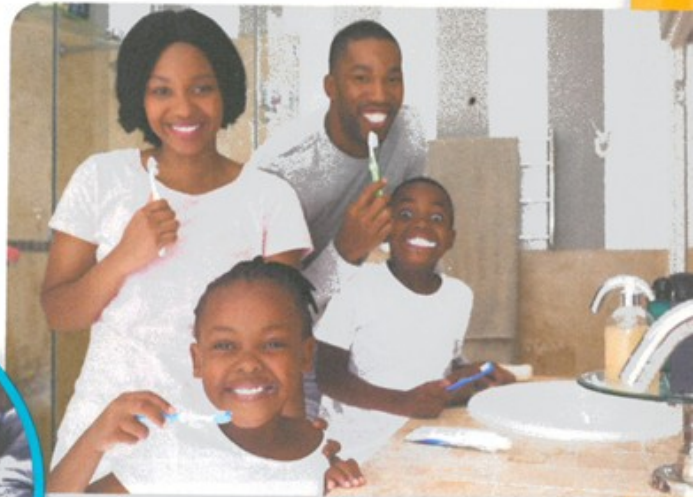
Catholics Believe

God wants us to take care of our bodies.

Healthy and Safe

Our bodies are gifts from God. Each person can care for his or her body.

Each person should keep his or her body clean. Everyone should eat good food. Everyone should get plenty of sleep.



Draw a picture to show how you care for your body.



Faith Focus

God wants us to take care of our bodies.



Healthy Habits @ Home

Establish clear family rules that help each person stay healthy, holy, and safe. Post the rules where everyone can see them.



Safer Together

Discuss with your child how to respect his or her body. Use the following to help:

- If you feel uncomfortable about someone touching you, tell the person to stop and then tell a trusted adult.
- Say "no" to inappropriate touching.
- Do not touch another person in a private area.
- If someone tells you to keep a secret about touching, tell a trusted adult.



Family Time

Cut out and hang at home

As a family, respond to these questions.

- Why do we take care of our bodies?
- Name some things you might need to say "no" to.
- Why do you think you are important to your family?



Family in Action

With your child, take a health walk in your home. Name some healthy actions for each room (brushing your teeth in the bathroom, eating healthy foods in the kitchen, and so on). List them here.

Healthy actions in our home:

