

Getting Ready for Chapter 4

Take Home



We Give Praise to God

Learning how to praise God is the focus of this chapter. The children will learn that prayers of praise celebrate God's goodness. They will say, sing, and sign their praise to God. They will learn that the Gloria at Mass is a prayer of praise. They will also learn to pray with a psalm that praises God for his works of Creation.

ACTIVITY

Collect Family Symbols With your child, set up a display of objects that symbolizes the goodness or talents of your family. Possible examples include a cookbook, an artwork, and a sport's team photo. Make a sign that says, "Our Family Gives Praise."

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

At Mass, listen to the words of the Gloria. After Mass, name the expressions of praise that you heard.

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 Benedict
About (480–543)

Benedict, a student in Rome, left the city to live as a hermit. Recognizing his holiness, other men joined him. They lived a communal life that combined work and prayer. Benedict's rule required the monks to pray together seven times a day.

Feast Day: July 11



God our Father, we praise you for all your wonderful works. Help our family follow the example of Saint Benedict by making prayer an important part of our lives each day. Amen.

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Scripture Background

Before the Time of Jesus

Psalms In Hebrew, psalms are often called “praises.” While these songs, or prayers, which make up what is often called the *Psalter* may have other themes, psalms are often personal hymns of praise to God for the marvels of his creation (Psalms 8, 148) and for his deeds for the people of Israel (Psalm 114). Other psalms of praise celebrate God as monarch (Psalms 96–99) or for his special dwelling in Zion (Psalms 46, 48, 76, 84, 87, 122). Try praising God by praying one or more of the psalms mentioned above.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Communications

Catacomb “Graffiti” Graffiti is something we usually think of as unsightly and messy. However, the early Christians in Rome created paintings and wrote messages of respect and remembrance in the form of blessings on the catacomb walls by the tombs of the martyrs. After a while, the “graffiti” became standardized. Messages from one Christian to another were sent in a code known only to other believers. Certain symbols were used over and over again, and have taken on meanings for all time.