

# Getting Ready for Chapter 16

# Take Home



## God Is Merciful

All through the Scriptures, we hear the writers of the Bible praise God for his mercy. The psalmists exhort us to “Give thanks to the LORD for he is good, for his mercy endures forever” (Psalm 118:1). In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, our loving God extends his mercy and forgiveness to us, his children.

### ACTIVITY

**Prayer Space** Create a prayer corner in your home. On a table, display a Bible, a crucifix, and some books about saints. Encourage family members to use this space whenever they wish to pray.

## WEEKLY PLANNER

### On Sunday

Remember to thank God for his great mercy!

### 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



**Saint Maria Goretti**  
(1890–1902)

Maria was born in a small mountain village in Italy. She was one of six children. At age 11, she was brutally attacked by a young man and stabbed to death. Before dying, she forgave her attacker. Maria is remembered today for her purity, courage, and merciful heart.

**Patron Saint of:** young people  
**Feast Day:** July 6



**A Prayer for the Week**

Lord, thank you for the precious gift of your mercy. Help us to be merciful, as you are, and as was your faithful servant Saint Maria Goretti. Amen.

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### **Scripture Background**

#### **In the Time of Jesus**

**Jesus Exalts the Humble** In ancient times, the Jewish people generally reviled tax collectors, whom they viewed as dishonest because they collected money for the Roman Empire. When Jesus told a parable comparing a Pharisee and a tax collector, it must have been a shock to his audience. Even more surprising is that in the parable, Jesus identified the tax collector as the person to emulate, because he asked God for forgiveness. Read the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector in Luke 18:9–14, and about Jesus' encounter with the tax collector Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1–10.

## **OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION** in Drama

**The Passion Play** In Oberammergau, Germany, the Passion play has been performed every ten years since 1634, except during wartime. During the time of the plague in Europe, the town of Oberammergau suffered many deaths. The townspeople made a vow to God. If no one else died from the plague, they would perform a play about Jesus' Passion and death every ten years. The last play was produced in the year 2000.