

## Getting Ready for Chapter 4

# Take Home



## Sacramentals: Signs of God's Love

Sacramentals are sacred signs given to us by the Church. They prepare us to receive the grace of the sacraments. Sacramentals include special prayers such as blessings and sacred objects such as holy water, crucifixes, rosary beads, and blessed palms. They also include sacred actions such as making the Sign of the Cross.

### ACTIVITY

**God's Eye** As a family, make a "God's eye." You will need wool and two branches. Form a cross with the branches. Tie the wool to the middle of the cross. Create what looks like a web as you wrap the wool around each branch. Tie the ends of the wool in a knot when the branches are covered.

### WEEKLY PLANNER

#### On Sunday

Before Mass begins, notice the various sacramentals in your parish church.

#### 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 Helena**  
(A.D. 250–330)

Saint Helena was the mother of Constantine, emperor of the Roman Empire. At the age of 80, she led a group of pilgrims to the Holy Land. There, she unearthed what she believed to be the true cross on which Jesus died.

**Patron Saint of:** empresses, archaeologists

**Feast Day:** August 18



**A Prayer for the Week**

Lord, Saint Helena reminds us that we are all on a pilgrimage to your Kingdom. Help us to see signs of you everywhere along our journey. Amen.

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### **Scripture Background**

#### **In the Early Church**

**The Book of Revelation** The Book of Revelation is also known as the Apocalypse, because of its symbolism, imagery, and mystic numbers, used to convey hidden messages to the early Christians. The book is believed to have been written by the apostle John to the early Christian community during a time of persecution. In the book, John reports his visions of the glorified Christ. Revelation has been subject to different interpretations by Christians, but all agree that it makes an unmistakable declaration about the final triumph of God.

Read about the Second Coming of Jesus in Revelation 19:11–21.

## **OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION** in Sacramentals

**The Fisherman's Ring** On April 19, 2005, the College of Cardinals elected Joseph Ratzinger as the 264<sup>th</sup> successor of Saint Peter. Cardinal Ratzinger took the name Pope Benedict XVI, in honor of Saint Benedict of Nursia and Pope Benedict XV. At the Inauguration Mass, Pope Benedict XVI received the Fisherman's Ring, which is made of gold with an image of Saint Peter casting a net. The Pope uses the ring to seal official Church documents. It is a very special sacramental, symbolizing that the Pope is the successor of Saint Peter and the head of the Catholic Church.