

FAITH AT HOME

A Parent Companion



THE CHURCH AND THE ALTAR

LESSON
8

Lesson Overview:

This lesson we learned about the reverence we have for the Eucharist in church. We have special articles for celebrating Mass and for honoring the presence of Jesus. Here is a list of some of the articles we learned about:

Ciborium—This is a shallow cup or bowl with a cover that holds the consecrated Host during Communion. The ciborium also holds the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.

Paten—This looks like a plate and is placed under the Body of Christ to keep pieces from falling on to the altar.

Chalice—This is the cup that holds the wine that is consecrated into the Blood of Christ.

Cruets—These are the glass bottles that hold the water and wine that will be consecrated into the Blood of Christ.

Corporal—This is a white cloth placed on the altar under, like a placemat, to catch any Precious Body and Blood, should they fall.

Purificator—This is the white piece of linen used to clean the chalice after all the Blood of Christ has been consumed.

Pall—This is a stiff, white square that goes over the paten down when the paten is placed on the chalice. It keeps the chalice covered when it contains the Precious Blood.

Chalice veil—This is the cloth (often resembling vestments) that is placed over the chalice.



Catedral de la Purísima Concepción, Tepic, Mexico -
Source: Wikimedia Commons

We also learned about the tabernacle, which is the gold box where consecrated hosts are placed after Mass. We should show reverence for the presence of Christ and genuflect when we pass in front of the tabernacle or enter church. We also pray to Jesus in the Eucharist in front of the tabernacle.

SAINTS AMONG US

Eucharist



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Review with your child:

1. What is another name for the Mass? **The Banquet of the Lord or Supper of the Lamb.**
2. What is the tabernacle? **The gold box in which the Blessed Sacrament is kept.**
3. What are some of the things necessary in celebrating the Supper of the Lamb? **Altar, vestments, ciborium, chalice, paten, corporal, purificator.**

FAITH IN ACTION

If your child is interested in learning more about the articles used at Mass, there are Mass sets for children. Many children enjoy playing the Mass, which helps them to grow in enthusiasm about participating at Mass.

AT HOME

1. Practice praying the Prayer before Communion.
2. Review the Mass items match sheet with your child.

PRAYERS

Prayer Before Communion

Lord Jesus, come to me.

Lord, Jesus, give me your love.

Lord Jesus, come to me and give me yourself.

Lord Jesus, friend of children, come to me.

Lord Jesus, you are my Lord and my God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



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