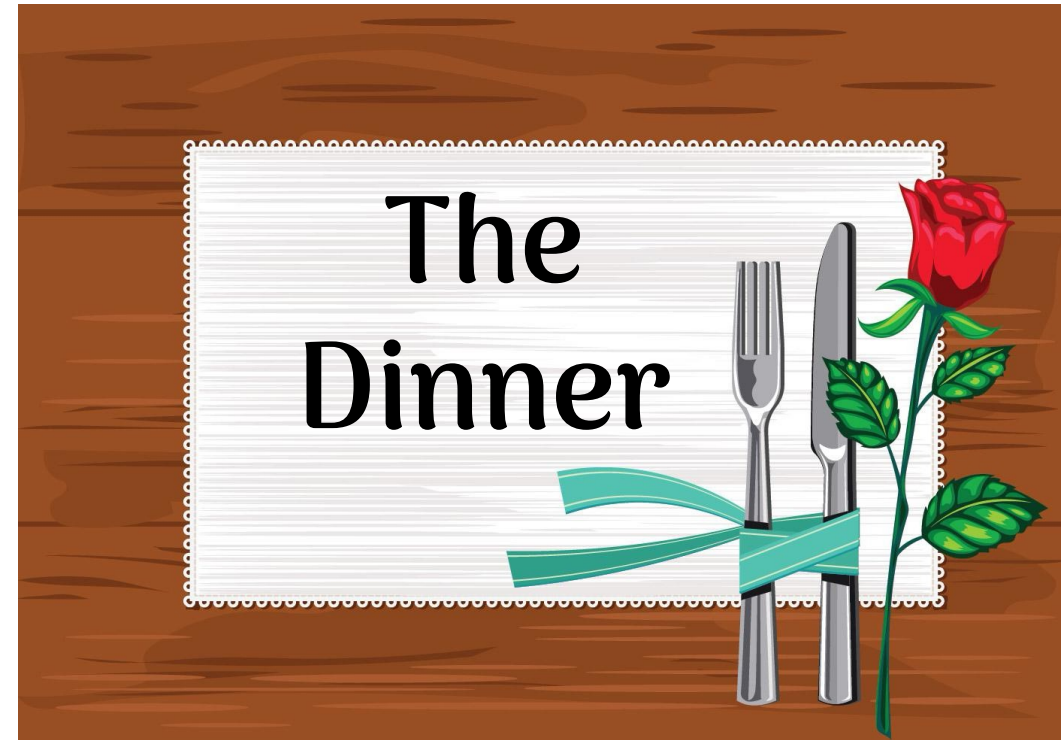


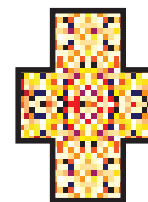
Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. *What are things that Sadie said or did that weren't so great?*
2. *Did Sadie do anything positive, and if so, what?*
3. *Does this dinner story remind you of anything your family does each week?*
4. *What are some things that happened at the dinner that happen at Mass each week?*
5. *Sadie thought it would be okay to skip dinner because she was tired and had homework. Her parents disagreed. Do you agree with Sadie or her parents? Explain your answer.*
6. *What are some words and images you would use to describe going to church?*
7. *One of our Church precepts (basic rules) is that we have to go to Mass every week and on Holy Days of Obligation. Why do you think this is a basic rule of our Catholic Church?*
8. *At the dinner, grandma talked about how these family dinners remind her of her childhood. What do we remember and celebrate each time we come to Mass?*
9. *Read Acts 2:41-47 in the Bible; this passage describes the early Church. What are some things that are similar between the early Church and what we do today?*
10. *We receive Communion toward the end of Mass. What are some things that happen at Mass after we receive Communion?*
11. *How did you feel about Sadie eating her dinner and then getting right up and heading for the door to go home?*
12. *Compare Sadie's actions at the end of dinner to leaving Mass immediately after receiving Communion. Why might it be important to stay at Church after receiving Communion?*
13. *Is it important to arrive on time for Mass? Why?*

Preparing for First Holy Communion



A Short Story for Reflection & Discussion



Pax Christi
Sacrament Preparation

The Dinner

It was a chilly Sunday afternoon. Eight-year old Sadie was curled up in her favorite comfy chair, concentrating on the game she was playing on her mom's phone as her family busily moved about the house. Her dad was trying to get Sadie's little brother Joey to put his shoes on as her mother gathered everyone's coats.

"Sadie, it's time to go to Grandma's," her mom called out. Sadie continued to look down at the phone and said, "But I'm playing a game!" Sadie's dad answered, "You've had enough game time. Hop up and put on your coat." Sadie yawned, put the phone aside and said, "I'm so tired though. Can't I stay home and rest?" "You can go to bed early tonight and start the week off well rested! Right now, we're headed to Grandma's," her mom replied.

Sadie suddenly remembered something. "Wait! I have homework, and you always tell me how important school is! I should stay home and get my homework done, right?" she pleaded.

Sadie's mom sighed. "Of course school is important, which is why I also always tell you to not leave your homework until Sunday afternoon. It looks like you'll have to do your homework before bed tonight."

Sadie continued to argue, "But we go to Grandma's every single week! It's great to see Grandma and everything, but mostly it's just SO boring. Can't I miss just this once? Grandma will understand - she loves me a lot!"

Just then, the oven timer buzzed. Sadie's dad and grandma headed into the kitchen to bring all of the delicious food into the dining room. Once everyone had filled their plates with food, they took one another's hands and prayed a meal blessing together. Sadie then proceeded to gobble down her food, jump up from the table, and walk toward the door.



Shocked, Sadie's mom asked, "What in the world are you doing??" Sadie replied, "We came for dinner and I'm finished. I have homework to do and you said I need to get to bed early!"





The grown-ups continued to talk as Sadie listened. She tried to pay attention, but her mind began to wander as the conversation seemed to go on and on and wasn't exactly interesting. She watched her brother tear his napkin into tiny pieces, she counted how many forks were on the table, swung her legs back and forth, and finally, after what seemed like forever, she reached over and tugged on her mom's sleeve. "I have to go to the bathroom and I'm SO bored," Sadie whined. "You just went to the bathroom. Try paying attention and join in on the conversation," her mom replied. "Then you won't be bored!"

Sadie's dad had had enough. "Yes, Grandma loves you more than you can even imagine, and of course she would understand if you couldn't make it if you were sick or if there was a blizzard that made it impossible to get to her house. But Grandma does so much for us and loves us so much and we love her! It's important that at the very least, we go to dinner once a week!" In a stern voice, Sadie's dad continued, "No more arguing - you are going and that's final!"

Sadie knew she was pushing her luck, but as she got up from her comfy chair and rolled her eyes, she couldn't resist one last complaint, "Okay, okay. But you do know that if Grandma had it her way, we'd go there every day, not just once a week. I love Grandma and everything, but I also have a life you know!"



With that, Sadie and her family quickly loaded into the car, made the short drive to Grandma's house, and after unloading, knocked on Grandma's door.

Grandma flung open the door excitedly. “Welcome! I’m so happy to see you,” she said as she ushered Sadie’s family into the house. “Have a seat at the table.”



Once everyone was comfortably arranged in their chairs, Grandma asked, “How was everyone’s week?”

“I got a promotion at work!” Sadie’s dad exclaimed. “I’m so excited to start my new job next week!” Sadie’s mom patted her husband’s arm. “I am so proud of you. I was very busy this week and I’m so grateful to be here to spend time with you all and enjoy a lovely meal. These weekly dinners always help recharge and strengthen me for the week ahead.”

Sadie shared, “I got to spend the night at my friend’s house on Friday and I scored a goal in my soccer game yesterday!”

“Nice job!” Sadie’s grandma said. “The highlight of my week was helping out at the food pantry. There were a lot of cars in the parking lot as people in need came for food.” Sadie’s dad spoke up, “Speaking of cars, I spent a lot of time driving this week and I must say that I wasn’t always very patient with the other drivers on the road. One time in particular, I lost my temper. I don’t feel great about that.” “Hmmm,” said Sadie’s mom. “That reminds me of a conversation I had at work. I said some things I shouldn’t have about one of my co-workers. I sometimes get caught up in gossiping. It’s something I need to pray about and ask God for the strength to avoid.”

All the talk about mistakes got Sadie thinking. “There was this girl in my class who cut in front of me in the lunch line. It wasn’t fair and I was so hungry,” she began to share. “So when we went outside for recess, I purposely left her out of our game. At first it felt good because I got her back for cutting in front of me, but when I saw how sad she was about being left out, I felt bad,” Sadie continued. “I said I was sorry and it turned out that she didn’t even mean to cut in front of me. I’m really glad we worked things out!”

Sadie’s grandma smiled at her and said, “I always love to hear what everyone’s doing and I so look forward to our time together each week! It reminds me of the dinners I had at my grandma’s house when I was a little girl. I cherish those wonderful memories and love making new ones with you all.”

