

# Blessed Imelda Lambertini

Preparing to welcome Jesus

**Ages about 7-11** | Video 6:49 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

**Central truth** Jesus gives himself in the Eucharist, and we can prepare to receive him with prayer and loving care.

**Learning goals** Recall Imelda's desire for Communion; explain the Eucharist's meaning; plan a prayerful preparation with family and parish guidance.

**Gather** Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

**Watch online** [Open this video on Servus Dei](#)

## Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask what it means to prepare for an important gift. Explain that preparation for First Communion includes learning, prayer, and guidance from adults and the parish.

## Watch and notice

Notice Imelda's prayer, helpful work with the sisters, patient desire for Communion, and the miracle told in Dominican tradition.

## Talk together | 6-8 minutes

### 1. What did Imelda long for?

She wanted to receive Jesus in Holy Communion. Her desire came from love, not a wish to impress others.

### 2. How did she live while waiting?

In the retelling she prayed, worked, and helped in the community. Waiting can include love and ordinary service.

### 3. What do Catholics receive in Communion?

Jesus himself, truly present in the Eucharist. We receive him with reverence and gratitude.

### 4. How can you prepare prayerfully?

Learn with your catechist, ask questions, pray, and follow family and parish guidance. Miracles or strong feelings are not required.

**Then respond and pray** Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

# Lead the response

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**Short family lesson** Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

## Choose a handout

**Draw & Tell** Draw prayer and preparation; avoid focusing on Imelda's death.

**Read & Write** Recall Eucharistic faith, ask an honest question, and plan preparation.

## Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: draw a church or dictate a prayer; explain simply that Communion is Jesus' loving gift.

Ages 9-11: distinguish a devotional miracle account from ordinary sacramental preparation today.

## A prayer of welcome | Optional 4 minutes

Fold a paper card. Draw a church on the front. Inside write or dictate one question about Communion and a short prayer thanking Jesus. Ask a catechist or adult to help explore the question.

**Look for understanding** Look for Eucharistic faith and a realistic preparation habit. Children do not need extraordinary experiences to be loved by Jesus.

**Closing prayer** Jesus, thank you for the gift of yourself. Help us learn, pray, and welcome you with grateful hearts. Blessed Imelda, pray for us. Amen.

**At home** Share your Communion question with a parent or catechist. Offer a quiet prayer of thanks together.

**Handout answer notes** Desire: Jesus in Communion. Questions are welcome. Preparation: prayer, learning, reverence, and parish/family guidance; no miracle or strong feeling required.

## Teach with care

Preview the miracle and sudden death after Communion. State plainly that receiving Communion is safe; this devotional story is not an expected experience for children. The miracle and death are recounted in Dominican devotional tradition; added dialogue and chores are retelling. Communion does not cause children to die, and holiness does not require such an experience. Historical Communion customs differed from current preparation. Use Imelda's correct name despite caption variations.

**Words to explain** Eucharist: Jesus truly present, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Communion: receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. Blessed: a person the Church permits to be publicly honored in a particular way.

## Sources for the leader

Story source: [Servus Dei video and English transcript](#)

Dominican tradition: [Nashville Dominicans: Blessed Imelda Lambertini](#)

# A grateful welcome

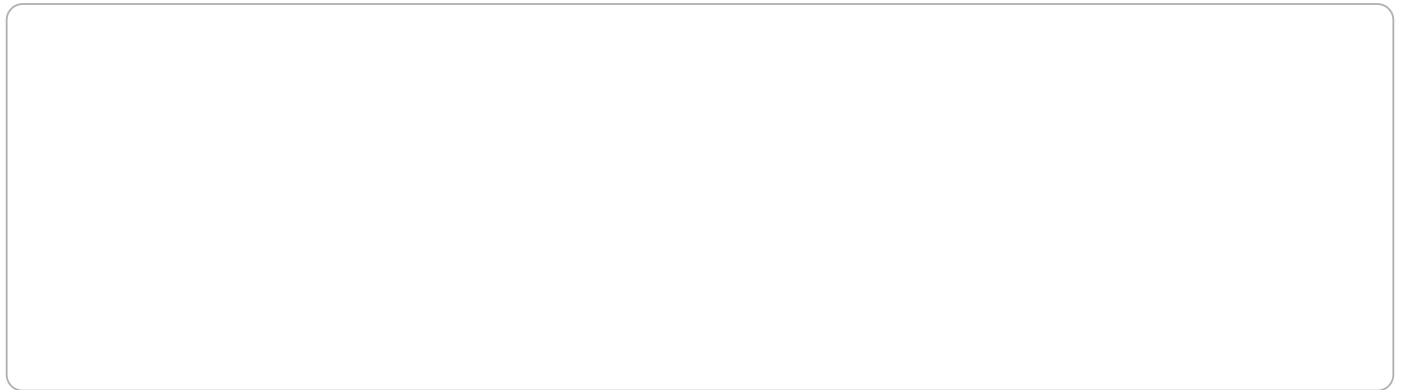
Blessed Imelda Lambertini

Imelda loved Jesus and wanted to receive him in Communion.

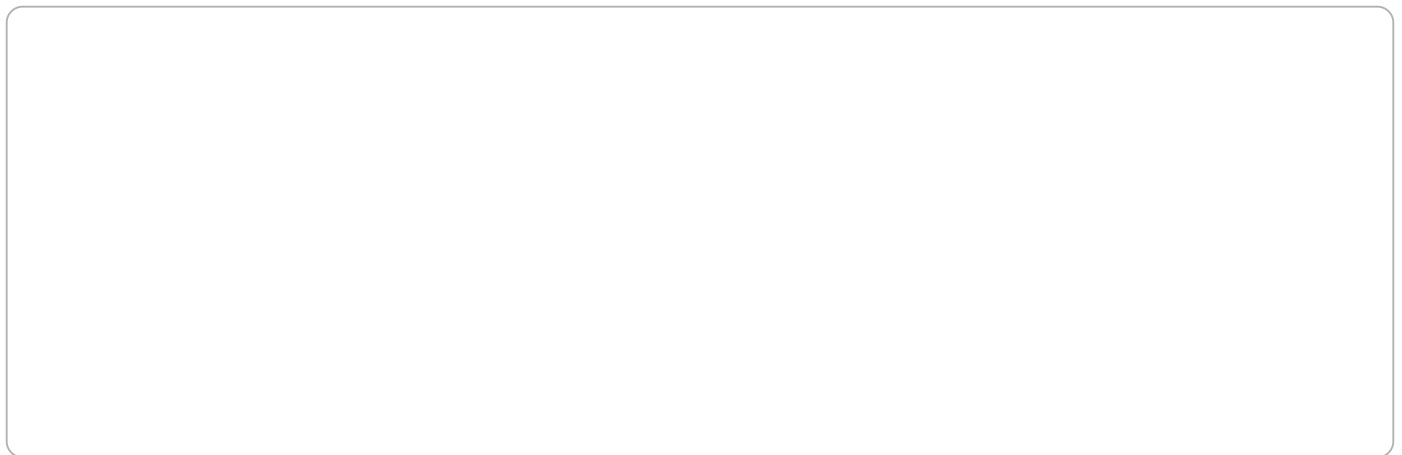
Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult helper** Read aloud. Invite drawing, pointing, or spoken answers. Writing is optional.

## 1 Draw Imelda praying peacefully with the sisters.



## 2 Draw a way you can learn or pray in preparation for Communion.



**Tell** What would you like to ask about Jesus' gift?

**Pray** Jesus, help me welcome you with love and thanks. Amen.

**At home** Share your picture and one thing you learned about God or following Jesus.

# Longing, learning, gratitude

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Remember Imelda's love and think about Eucharistic preparation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 Recall her desire

Whom did Imelda want to receive in Communion?

*She wanted to receive ...*

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## 2 Learn and ask

Write one question about the Eucharist for your catechist.

*I would like to ask ...*

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## 3 Prepare with love

Name one prayerful habit and an adult who can guide you.

*I can prepare by ...*

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**Pray** Jesus, help me welcome you with love and thanks. Amen.

**Go deeper** How can patient waiting become a time to grow in love?