

Adaptive First Eucharist Preparation Kit

For Individuals with Autism and Other Special Needs



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Like so many ventures that ultimately enrich the lives of many, this kit began humbly—in this case as 14-year-old Brendan Rizzo's 2008 Eagle Scout project.



With his younger sister, Danielle, as his “soul” inspiration, Brendan organized the development of a special-needs library at his parish for his Eagle Scout project.



His parents helped him by developing a series of learning tools, which are featured in this kit, to be used by individuals preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Eucharist.



Danielle has autism, a spectrum disorder that sometimes makes it difficult for individuals to meet USCCB Eucharist requirements for individuals with disabilities—to distinguish the Holy Eucharist from ordinary food and to receive the Eucharist reverently.



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Loyola Press has developed a First Eucharist Kit using tested, proven strategies to prepare individuals with autism or other learning challenges based on Brendan's work.



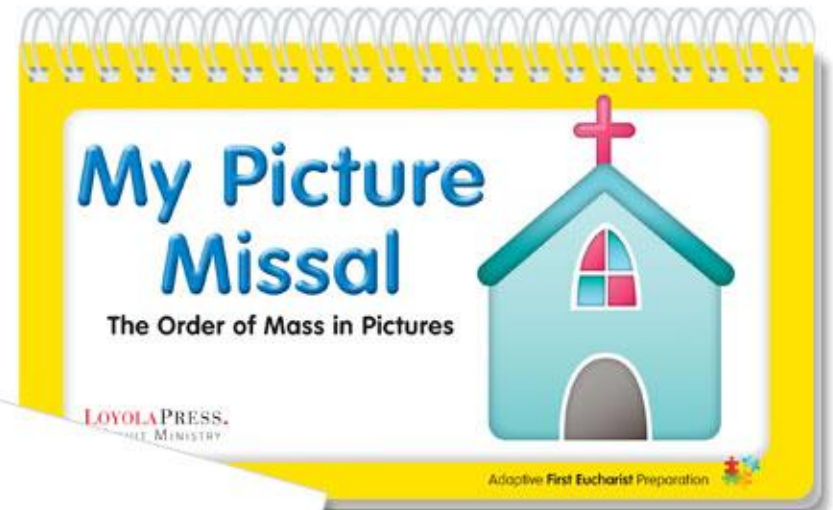
The kit contains eight pieces:

- *My Picture Missal* Flip Book and Mass Picture Cards
- *Bless Yourself* Sequence Puzzle
- *Who Is Jesus?* Instructional Card
- Communion Is Not The Same as Food Matching Puzzle
- How to Receive Communion Sequence Puzzle
- *I Receive Communion* Instructional Story
- Helper Guide
- Backpack



My Picture Missal Flip Book and Mass Picture Cards

Helps the individual
maintain focus and actively
participate in the Mass.



quiet



pray



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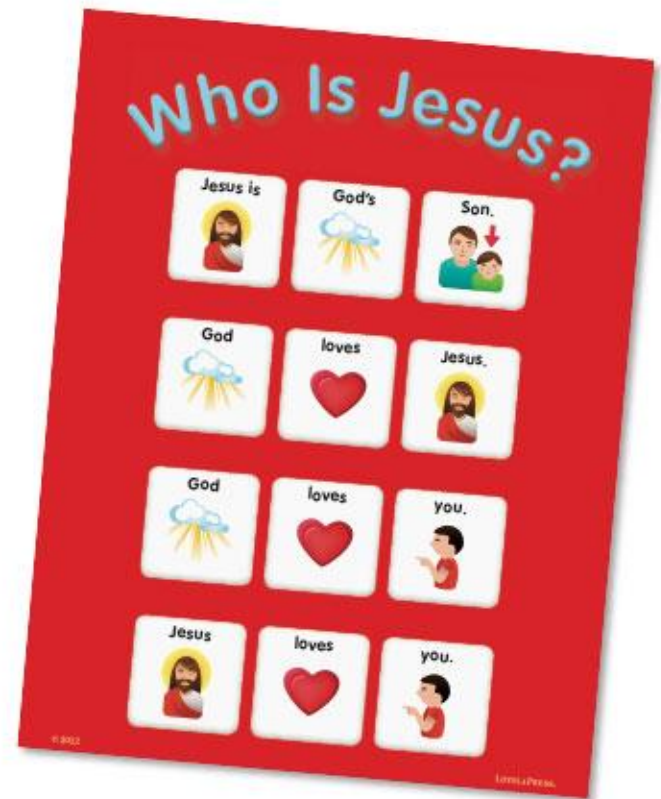
Bless Yourself Sequence Puzzle

Helps the individual learn how to make the Sign of the Cross.



Who Is Jesus? Instructional Card

Introduces Jesus as the Son of God and relates God's family to the individual's family.



Communion Is Not the Same as Food Matching Puzzle

Helps the individual distinguish between the Eucharist and ordinary food.



How to Receive Communion Sequence Puzzle

Shows all the steps of receiving Communion reverently, providing a guide for the individual to practice.



I Receive Communion Instructional Story

A book that reinforces the reverence and proper steps of receiving Communion.



Helper Guide

Meant to be read by the parent, teacher, or catechist for tips on how to use the kit.



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Backpack

The last item is a backpack so the individual can transport the items from home, faith formation sessions, and Mass.



Our hope is that this kit will enable many people to participate fully in their faith, people who otherwise might not be able to receive the Eucharist.



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