

We Gather for the Celebration of the Eucharist

16

WE GATHER

✚ **Leader:** Join hands to form a circle.
Let us listen to God's Word.

Reader: Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20)

Leader: Jesus, we gather in your name.
Together we thank God our Father for his many gifts.

All: God our Father, we thank you.

Leader: Jesus, we gather in your name.
Together we praise you for all you have done for us.

All: God the Son, we praise you.

Leader: Jesus, we gather in your name.
Together we ask the Holy Spirit to help us to grow closer to God and to others.

All: God the Holy Spirit, help us.

☀ **Think of groups to which you belong.
When do you gather? What do you do together?**






WE BELIEVE

We are united to Jesus Christ and to one another.

At the Last Supper, Jesus told his disciples that he would always be with them. He also told them to stay close to him and to one another. He said, "I am the vine, you are the branches" (John 15:5). He told them that they were joined to him and one another as branches are joined to a vine.

Jesus wanted his disciples to share God's love with the whole world. We are Jesus' disciples, too, and he is with us always.

When we celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist, Jesus is with us in a special way. He gives himself to us. We receive the bread and wine that have become the Body and Blood of Christ. Holy Communion unites us to Jesus and to one another. Through Holy Communion our venial sins are forgiven and we are helped to avoid serious sin.

 Write Jesus' name on the vine. Write your name on a branch. How can you stay close to Jesus?

The Church celebrates the Mass.

Sunday is a special day. It is also called the *Lord's Day* because Jesus Christ rose to new life on this day. Every Sunday Catholics gather in their parishes for the celebration of the Mass.

The Mass is the greatest way to worship God. This is why the Church tells us to take part in the Mass every Sunday of the year. We can also celebrate the Sunday Mass on Saturday evening.


During Mass we gather to:

- praise and thank God
- listen to God's Word
- remember Jesus' life, Death, and Resurrection
- celebrate Jesus' gift of himself in the Eucharist.

At the end of Mass we are sent out to live as Jesus taught us.

As Catholics...

One of the laws of the Church is that we participate in the Mass every Sunday and on other special days. These other special days are called *holy days of obligation*. An obligation is a requirement. In many places, Mass is celebrated each day of the week. We are invited to take part in Mass every day. How does taking part in the Mass help us to live as Jesus taught us?

 How can you live Sunday as the Lord's Day?

The parish gathers for the celebration of Mass.


The community of people who join together for the celebration of the Mass is called the **assembly**. We are part of the assembly. The assembly gives thanks and praise to God throughout the Mass. A priest leads the assembly in this celebration.

Sometimes a deacon takes part in the celebration of the Mass. The deacon reads the Gospel and prays some special prayers. He also helps the priest at the altar.

The priest offers our prayers to God. He does what Jesus did at the Last Supper.

Altar servers do many things to help the priest and deacon. Readers read the first two Bible readings. Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion help give out Holy Communion. After Mass, they may bring Holy Communion to those who are not able to be at Mass.



 What can you do to participate at Mass now? What can you do to participate at Mass as you get older?

Key Word

assembly the community of people who join together for the celebration of the Mass



When Mass begins, we praise God and ask for his forgiveness.


When we join together at Mass, we show God our love and thanks. The beginning of the Mass unites us as members of the Church. It prepares us to hear God's Word and to celebrate the Eucharist. Here are the ways we take part as Mass begins.



Read Along

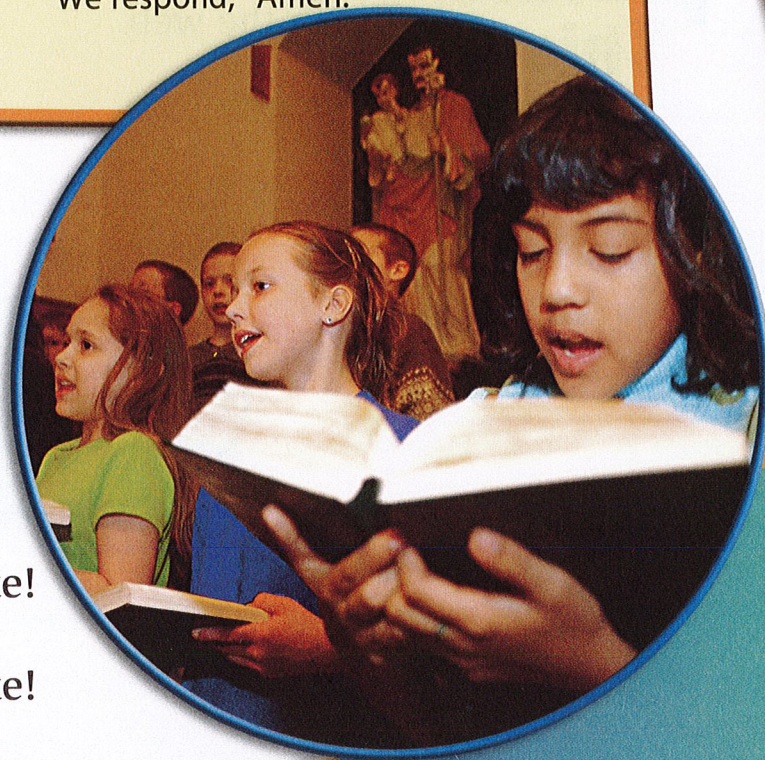
- We greet one another.
- We stand and sing to praise God as a community. The priest, deacon, and others helping at Mass walk to the altar.
- We pray the Sign of the Cross.
- The priest prays,
"The Lord be with you."
We respond,
"And with your spirit."
- We ask God and one another for forgiveness.
- We ask for God's mercy.
We may pray with the priest:
"Lord, have mercy."
"Christ, have mercy."
"Lord, have mercy."
- We praise God by praying:
"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of
good will."
- The priest says an opening prayer.
We respond, "Amen."

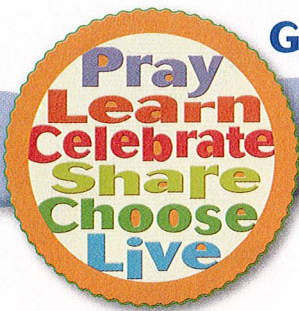
WE RESPOND

 What are some ways you take part in the beginning of the Mass? Highlight or underline the words we pray.

God Is Here!

God is here! Come, let us celebrate!
God is here! Let us rejoice!
God is here! Come, let us celebrate!
God is here! Let us rejoice!





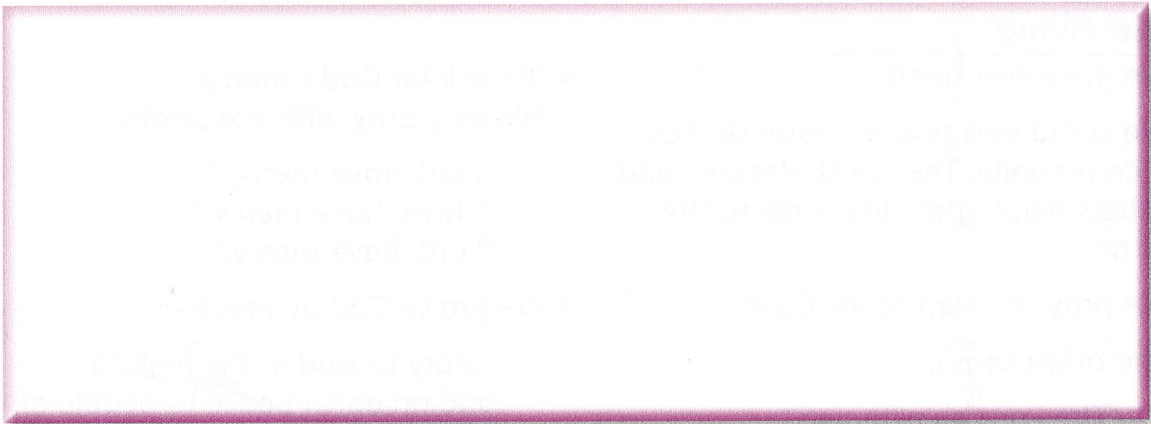
PROJECT

Show What *you* Know

yamselsb

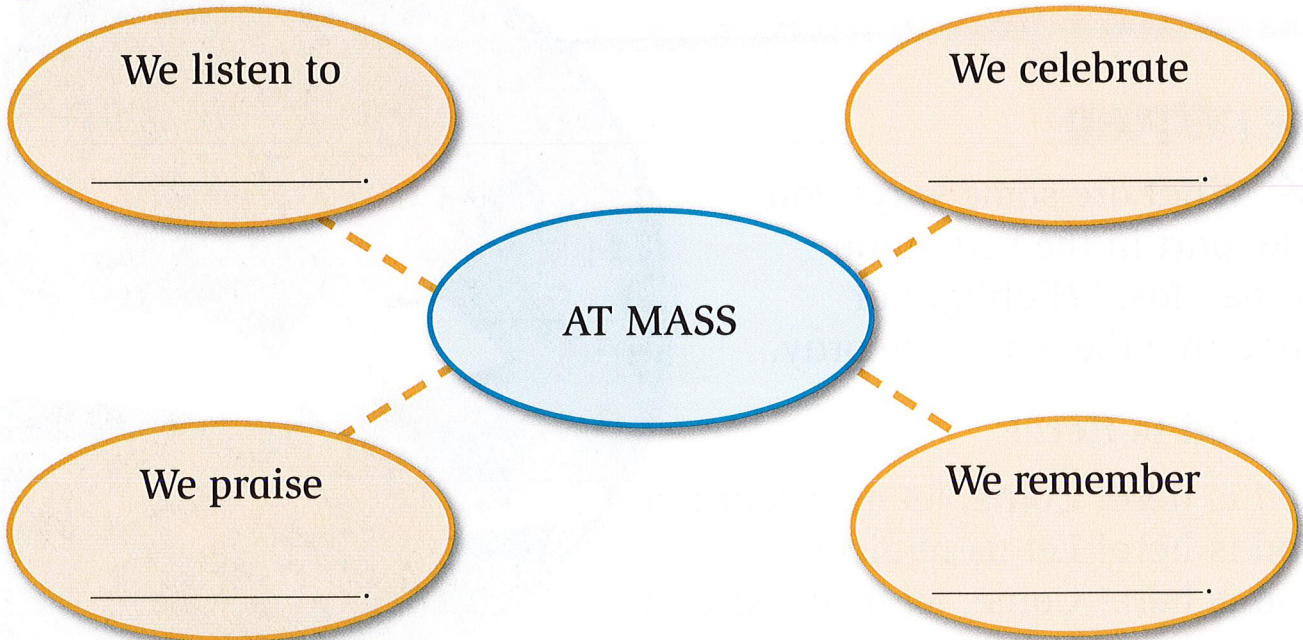
Unscramble the **Key Word**.

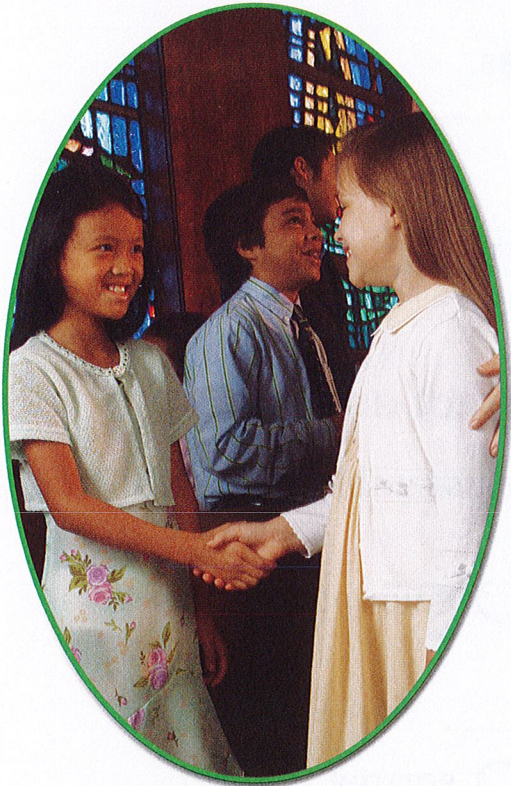
Draw what the word means.



Picture This

Finish the web.





Make *it* Happen

In many parishes, there are people who welcome us to the celebration of Mass. These people greet us as we enter the church. Their words help us to feel welcome and to know that we belong to the Church. We should greet one another, too. Greeting one another is a good way to prepare for the celebration of the Eucharist. What is one way you will greet someone at the celebration of Mass this Sunday?

Fast Facts

For many years, the Church celebrated Mass only in the Latin language. Today, some parishes offer Latin Masses.

DISCIPLE CHALLENGE

Go to Latin Hall at www.weliveourfaith.com.

Listen to the Sign of the Cross in Latin.

Take Home

This Sunday, pay close attention to what happens at Mass. Talk about what your family does to take part in Mass. Write one thing on each line below.

CHAPTER TEST

Check the things we do at the beginning of Mass.

1. ____ We receive Holy Communion.
2. ____ We ask God for forgiveness.
3. ____ We stand and sing.
4. ____ We prepare to hear God's Word.

Fill in the circle beside the correct answer.

5. It is important for _____ in the assembly to take part in the celebration of Mass.
 only children each person
6. Glory to God is a prayer of _____.
 praise sorrow
7. The _____ leads the assembly at Mass.
 priest deacon
8. The beginning of Mass _____ us as members of the Church.
 divides unites

9–10. Write two reasons Catholics gather for Mass every Sunday.
