

Getting Ready for Chapter 1

Take Home



Our Church Welcomes Us

The chapters in Unit 1 focus on membership in the Catholic Church. This first chapter explains being welcomed into the community of believers and being a small part of something larger.

ACTIVITY

Plant a Vine Together, plant a vine, such as ivy, in a flowerpot, or buy one already planted. Help your child name the parts of the plant (roots, stems, and leaves) and then share that these small parts make up the whole plant.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Show hospitality to others. As you go into church, greet the people around you and make them feel welcome.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of the Week



Saint Matthew
(first century)

Saint Matthew was an apostle of Jesus and a gospel writer. When Jesus asked Matthew, known as Levi, to follow him, Matthew left his job as a tax collector to do so.

Patron Saint of: accountants and bankers

Feast Day: September 21



A Prayer for the Week

O God, we ask that we may be open to others, welcoming them into our Church. Help us to learn from Saint Matthew how to follow you. Amen.

Getting Ready for Chapter 1

Take Home



Scripture Background

In and Before the Time of Jesus

Houses Many Israelite houses had four rooms. Some featured one room the width of the house with three long rooms stemming from it. Houses that were two stories high had outside stairs to the second floor. The flat roofs were often made of branches mixed with mud or straw. In hot weather, people slept on the roofs. They also dried fruit and grain on them. Since Levi was a wealthy man, his house may have been larger and, possibly, more ornate.

You can read about Levi in Luke 7:27–32.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Design

Altar Tables In the early Church the Eucharist was celebrated around a table, usually as a shared meal. During the great persecutions, the Eucharist was often celebrated using the tombs of the martyrs as altar tables.

During the Middle Ages, permanent altars became quite ornate and eventually looked more like monuments than tables for a sacred meal.

Inspired by the Second Vatican Council, twentieth-century reforms in the liturgy called for the celebrant to face the community and for the altar to take the form of a table around which the People of God could gather for the eucharistic feast.