

Getting Ready for Chapter 2

Take Home



We Gather to Celebrate Mass

In this chapter your child will learn that the church building is the place where the parish community gathers to celebrate Mass. Like your home, where family and friends come together on special occasions, your parish church is the place where your faith family gathers. Your child will learn that Jesus is present when members of your parish pray together. Some of the sacred objects found in church will also be presented.

ACTIVITY

“Here’s the Church...” Do you know the fingerplay, “Here’s the church, here’s the steeple, open the doors and see all the people”? If not, the illustrations may help you, or find someone to teach it to you. Then teach it to your child.



WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Arrive at church early. Notice how the area around the altar is decorated. See what is put on the altar as the priest celebrates Mass.

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 John Neumann
(1811–1860)

John Neumann, born in Bohemia, came to America to become a priest. Father Neumann was first sent to work with German families near Buffalo, NY. Later, while serving as bishop of Philadelphia, ninety-eight Catholic schools and eighty new churches were built.

Feast Day: January 5



A Prayer for the Week

Lord God, we thank you for calling Saint John Neumann to build up the Church in America. Help us remember that when we gather to pray in our parish church, Jesus is with us. Amen.



Scripture Background

In the Time of Jesus and in Church History

The Sign of the Cross Jesus commissioned his disciples with the words of the Sign of the Cross in Matthew 28:16–20. The gestures of the Sign of the Cross can be traced back to the second century A.D. Christians traced a small cross on their foreheads with their right thumb or a single finger. Two centuries later, the large gesture (brow to breast and shoulder to shoulder) was introduced, using two fingers representing the two natures of Christ. Before the end of the Middle Ages, the present form with open hand was common in the West.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Art

Stained-glass Windows In the Middle Ages, Christians who could not read learned Bible stories from stained-glass windows. Scenes showing events from the life of Christ and stories of saints were rendered in beautiful colored glass. A stained-glass window in the Chartres Cathedral in France tells the story of Noah and the Flood.

Your church may have stained-glass windows, too. Check to see what stories are told in the windows of your church. If you're not certain what the stained-glass windows depict ask a member of your parish staff.