

Chapter 17

The Greatest Celebration

Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matthew 18:20

To the Parents:

In chapter 17 your child learned to:

- Identify liturgy, or worship, as the Church's greatest work
- Name and describe the seven sacraments
- Tell in his or her own words how the Eucharist follows Jesus' command, "Do this in memory of me."

There is a last-minute phone call, the kids are arguing, the dog needs feeding, the car is out of gas, and you still need to get yourself ready for Mass. The craziness of a Sunday morning may find you wondering why you even bother trying. Yet, there is more to celebrating the liturgy than going to Mass on Sundays. Liturgy begins at home as we prepare ourselves to share in the community of faith.

The sacred liturgy does not exhaust the entire activity of the Church; it must be preceded by evangelization, faith, and conversion. How we conduct ourselves and interact with family members as we gather to prepare ourselves for Mass is significant to the celebration of the Eucharist. Being less than charitable while driving to church or acting contrary to the Gospel message moments before arriving at the celebration of Mass takes away from the unity of the liturgical experience.

With Your Child:

1. Help your family attend Mass every Sunday. Find out the times and post them on the refrigerator door. Help each other get there every week.
2. Read about Saint Gregory on the Review and Explore page.