

Chapter 17

Gathering

Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am with them.

Matthew 18:20

To the Parents:

In chapter 17 your child learned to:

- Name blessings from God
- Recognize parts of the Gathering at Mass
- Say responses from the Gathering

God's people are called to gather in faith, and to celebrate Sunday liturgy with full, active, and conscious participation. Once a week, the parish community comes together as a family, to express the thanks and praise to God, in the words, music, actions, and gestures that express their faith. While each parish has its own personality and style of worship, the main focus of the Mass is always to "give God thanks and praise." At Mass, many people represent the parish community as greeters, sacristans, readers, altar servers, or Eucharistic ministers. The gifts of each member of the assembly are most evident at Mass when a spirit of generosity, welcoming, and hospitality prevails.

With Your Child:

1. On the way to Sunday Mass, talk about how important it is to welcome others. How do you feel when you are welcomed?
2. Think about a family that you see at church that you do not know. Before or after Mass, introduce yourselves to that family.
3. Read about Saint Justin on the Review and Explore page.