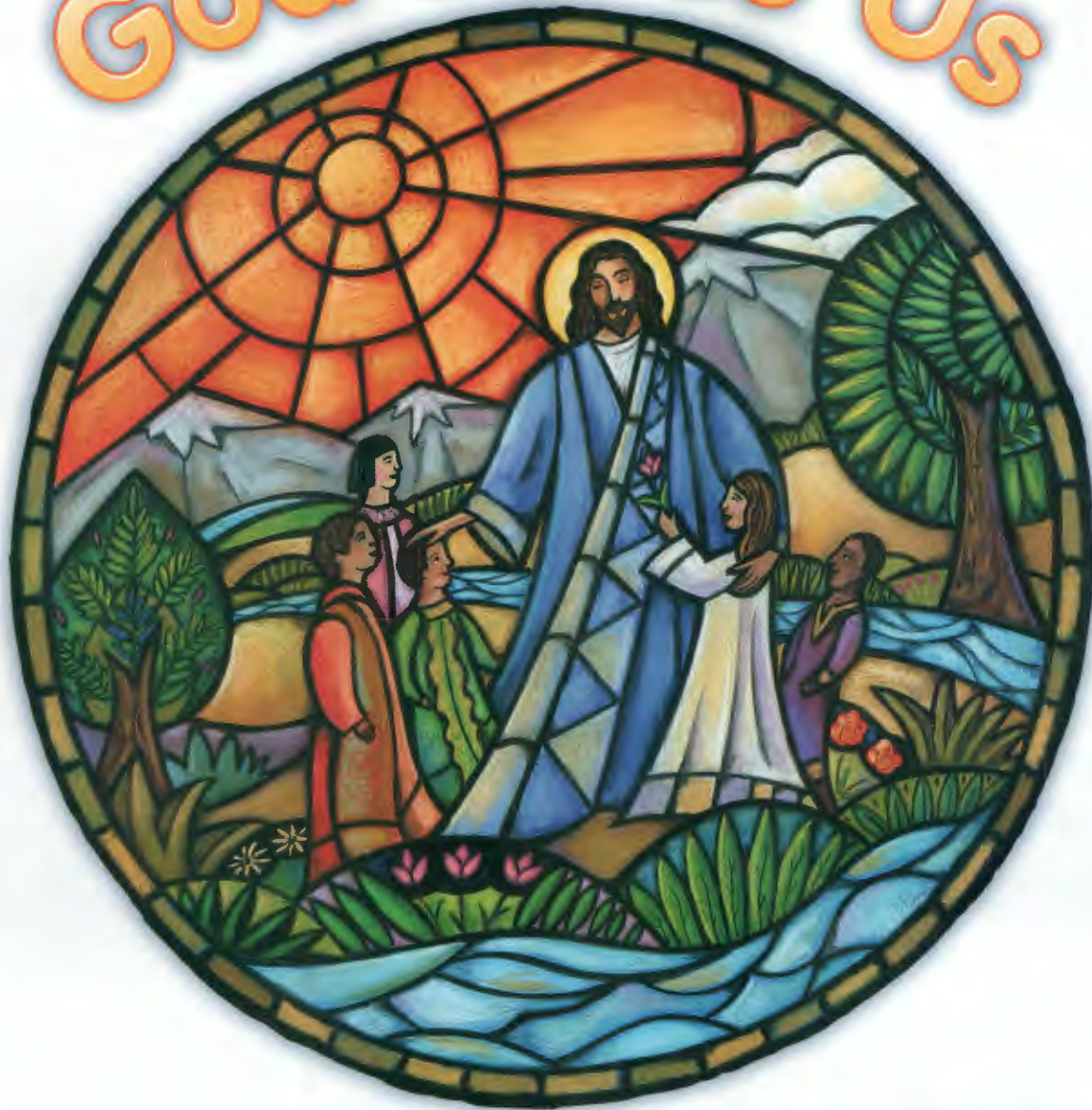


KINDERGARTEN

God Loves Us



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Church Is Good

At our Baptism, we became members of the Catholic Church.



The Church is a family of people who believe in Jesus.

God's family, the Church, follows Jesus' way of love.

God's family gathers together to worship God our Father.

God's family gathers together to worship God in a special building. It is called a church.





Scripture



We are joyful in God's house of prayer.

Based on Isaiah 56:7



The priest leads the people who gather to pray. Together the priest and people are called the Church.

Jesus is present in the church building in a special way. Jesus is also present with his people, the Church.

I belong to _____ Church.



Try This

Draw a picture of something you saw in God's house.

Thank God that you belong to the Church.

We are joyful in God's house of prayer.

Based on Isaiah 56:7

The Church in Families

The Lesson Your Child Learned

Catholics first receive spiritual life at Baptism. This life is strengthened with Confirmation and nourished through the Eucharist. Throughout our lives, we grow in our understanding of what it really means to be incorporated into Jesus' passion, death, and Resurrection. It is through their parents' faith that children first learn what it is to be Catholic, witnessing to Jesus as members of his Church in the world today. In this chapter, the children heard again that they were made members of the Church through Baptism. They learned about the role of the priest and the other members of the parish community.



Living the Lesson

No matter what time of the day or night, somewhere around the world, people are gathering in Catholic churches to celebrate the Eucharist. Every day, in places all over the world, people are joining together as Christians to feed the hungry, heal the sick, tend to the brokenhearted, and preach the Good News.

What is the Church? It is as simple as a family saying their mealtime prayers together. It's as complex as the gathering of cardinals from all over the globe, representing every ethnic group and culture, deliberating on the great moral issues of the day. The Church is a group of believers who believe a common set of beliefs. It's a movement as well as a mission. The Church is the Body of Christ.

For most of us, when we hear the word *church*, we think about our local parish church because it is the place we gather to hear the Word of God and be fed by the Bread of Life. But remember that you are the Church too. You are called to bring the light of Christ wherever you go—even to your own home. —Tom McGrath, author of *Raising Faith-Filled Kids* (Loyola Press)

Bringing the Lesson Home

- Read with your child the pages from this chapter that were sent home.
- Bring your child to Sunday Mass with you. Encourage your child to join in saying the Our Father and other Mass prayers.
- Use the Our Father as part of your family prayer.

