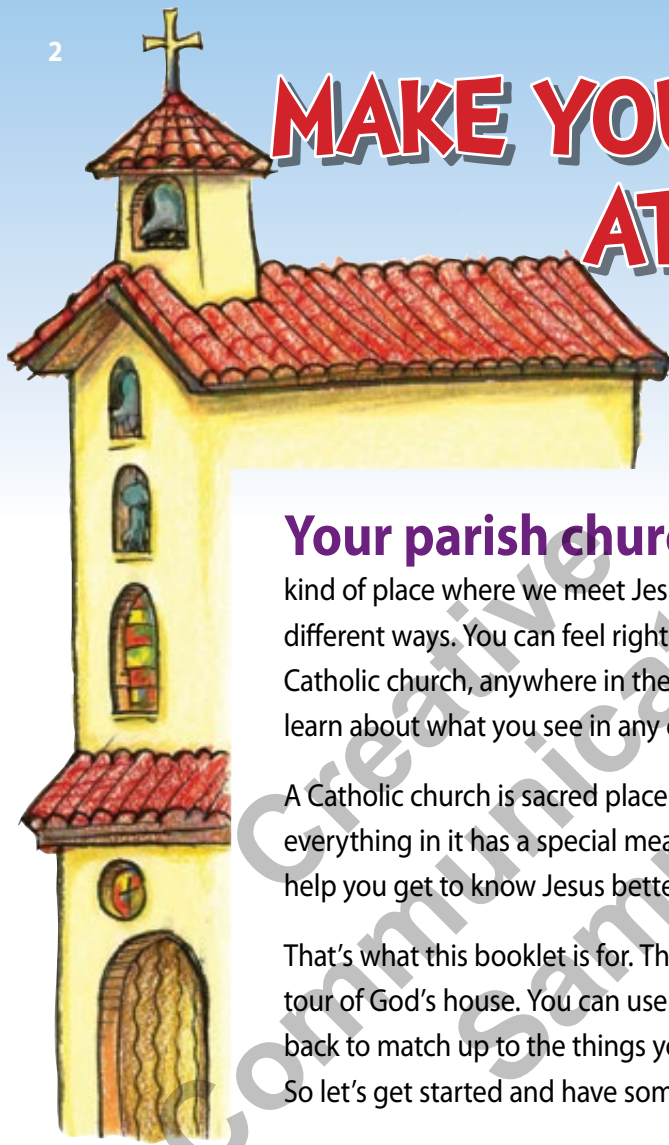


LIVING FAITH *Kids*

# What I See in **CHURCH**



# MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME



**Your parish church** is a special kind of place where we meet Jesus in many different ways. You can feel right at home in any Catholic church, anywhere in the world, when you learn about what you see in any church.

A Catholic church is a sacred place where everything in it has a special meaning that can help you get to know Jesus better.

That's what this booklet is for. Think of it as a little tour of God's house. You can use the stickers in back to match up to the things you learn about. So let's get started and have some fun!

## MY PARISH'S NAME & MASS TIMES

Parish Name \_\_\_\_\_

Day \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Day \_\_\_\_\_

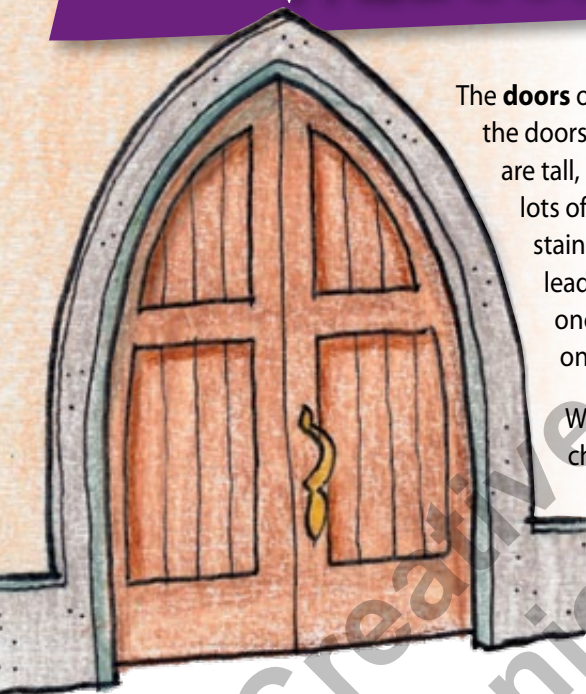
Time \_\_\_\_\_

Day \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Day \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_



The **doors** of your church might look like the doors at your house, but maybe they are tall, heavy and wide enough to let lots of people in. They might have stained glass in them. They might lead to even more doors inside once you step through the first ones.

Whatever they look like, a church's doors are important because once you go through them, you know you're in God's house. It's time to stop and think about God and how much you love him. It's time to join your Church family and praise

God, thanking him for his goodness and for being him.

Lots of people who help at Mass gather near the doors. They might be ushers, greeters, lectors (the people who read Scripture aloud to us) or others. What types of helpers stand near the doors of your church? Find out next time you're at Mass.

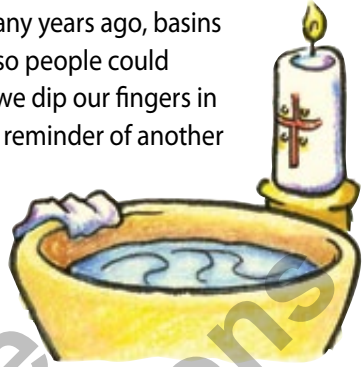


The Seville Cathedral in Spain has 15 entrances. That's a lot of doors!

**did you**  
**KNOW?**

# BAPTISMAL REMINDERS

Do you wash your hands before dinner? Many years ago, basins of water were placed near worship spaces so people could clean up before coming inside. Nowadays we dip our fingers in holy water when we come into church as a reminder of another time when we were washed clean: our baptism. We remember that in baptism, we became part of God's family. As we make the Sign of the Cross, we remember that it's through Jesus' death on the cross that our sins are washed away.



Next time you go to church, take a look at the **holy water font** near the church entrance. Is it small enough to fit only your fingers? Or big enough to stand in? In some churches the holy water font and the **baptismal font** are the same. In others, a small holy water font is at the entrance and a separate baptismal font is up near the altar or in the back of church. The water in the fonts is blessed by a priest, and that's why it's called holy water.

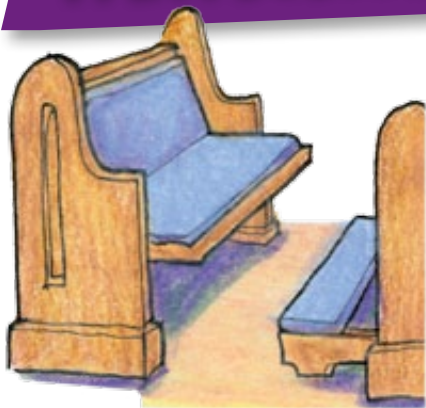
Who are your godparents? Why not ask them about the day you were baptized?



**did you  
KNOW?**

Some people like to have holy water at home so that they can bless themselves whenever they wish.

# PARTICIPATING AT MASS



Jesus invites us to a celebration at every Mass. So we don't just sit in the **pew**, but sing, stand, pray, listen and watch what's happening on the altar. You can find all the prayers and readings in a booklet called a **missal**. **Hymnals**, or music books, contain words to the songs. Your church might also have a sign with numbers on it to show where to find songs in the hymnal.

Many years ago, people stood through the whole Mass. Imagine how tiring that was! We still stand when the gospel is read to show our joy for Jesus' good news. But during the holiest part of the Mass, when bread and wine become Jesus' Body and Blood, we kneel to show our love for Jesus. We even have **kneelers** to keep our knees comfy. Now that's thoughtful!

What's your favorite song to sing at church? (If you can't think of any, look at the hymnal or music book to find one.)



The two main parts of a Catholic church are the **sanctuary**, which is where the altar table is, and the

**did you KNOW?**

**assembly**, which is where the pews are.

# What I See in CHURCH

**A Catholic church** is filled with objects, some of them familiar to you, some of them

unusual or even strange. When you learn that all these things have names and help us worship God, you will begin to see that your church—and any Catholic church anywhere in the world—is a home for your faith. Apply colorful stickers as you discover the names and uses of the things you see in church.

## Other Living Faith Sticker Books



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