

FOR CHILDREN: We want to know God and love God. We want to serve God.

We all want to know and love each other. It feels good to be together. You may ask yourselves: Why do we gather in church? An answer to this question would be: "To know God", "to be God's friend", "to receive Holy Communion". We come here to know God and be friends with Him. God wants you to be his Friend. In the church, we learn to love God and to love our neighbors. You know little about God, yet you pray to Him. God sees, God hears what we want to tell Him. He reads our heart. We learn how to pray during Holy Mass. Holy Mass is celebrated by a priest to worship God. Holy Mass is very beautiful, wonderful and important.

We learn what to do during the Holy Mass. During Holy Mass, we stand or sit upright, as you do now. We listen to what God says to us. We pray to God with our mouths, our hands, and our whole body: we get up, sit down, we fold our hands, we sing. We worship God. The first day of the week, Sunday, is the day on which the Lord Jesus rose from the dead. We call this day the Lord's Day. The Romans called this day the Day of the Sun. Christ the Risen is for us the Rising Sun of the Day of our eternity. Holy Sunday prepares us to meet the Lord Jesus, who announced that he would return at the end of time.

How to keep Sunday, the Lord's Day?

Think of your special day that happens once a year, your birthday. Mommy dresses up festively to respect the guests who may enter her house. Daddy buys a toy to celebrate your birthday. We celebrate the Lord's Day much like we celebrate your birthday, and we believe in every first day of the week. Catholics in festive clothing, go to Mass on Sunday, to worship God and meet people who celebrate Sunday like us.

I know you want to be adults like daddy and mommy. But in order to grow and develop, it is not enough just to eat, to get enough sleep and to play. You also need to learn about God; pray to God; to prepare in our heart a home for the living God.

I have a story to share about three young children named Brian, Beth and Kasia. It's Saturday night. Brian, Beth and Kasia's parents say: We should go to bed early tonight because tomorrow we are going to the morning mass and after the Mass we will take a boat to a desert island. The children shouted with joy: "Mom, Dad, where?" The parents respond: "You'll see tomorrow!" Brian somehow didn't feel like sleeping that night. He whined for too long and fell asleep quite late. The family wakes up the next morning for the earlier Mass. But Brian is still napping, he doesn't want to get up. He tells his Mom, "I'll run out later! Please don't wait for me." So, everyone left, and Brian still sleeps. Finally, he wakes up, looks at his watch and yells: "Oh dear! the Mass is now over!" He jumps out of bed. The whole family returns from the church. Brian does a good job, pretending that everything was fine, once everyone was back at home.

Ready for their trip to the desert island, the girls are laughing like birds in the garden in spring, yet Brian is somehow uncomfortable, he is senseless. He hears reproaches in his heart and ponders this: "Christ was waiting for you, you disregarded him." The girls noticed that Brian is not in the mood, although the sun is shining. It shines wonderfully; the water, trees, flowers, and birds look beautiful as if everything was singing a song of love to God. What do you think Brian should do?

Daddy comes to the rescue, inviting Brian to go with his father to see a hollow in a nearby tree. When asked by his father why he was not himself, Brian admitted that he felt bad because he had not attended Mass. He said: "I feel foolish and I feel bad that I slept instead of going to church." His father thought hard and decided to help Brian. His father explained: "We will try to fix your mistake somehow and you will go to the evening Mass. but now try to be especially kind, service-minded, and polite to your sisters, because the Lord Jesus lives in them. This way you will apologize to the Lord Jesus for your laziness". "All right, Daddy", said Brian and immediately felt different, as if a stone had fallen from his heart. When entering the church, one has to take off their hat in the vestibule and make the sign of the Cross with holy water, carefully and devoutly. We walk quietly and calmly to the altar. You don't run in church. The altar is a large table and covered with a white cloth. And when the priest raises the bread and the chalice high - all kneel and bow their heads, because the Lord Jesus is hidden under the sign of the Bread and Wine, which become the Body and Blood of Jesus and are the seeds of our eternal life.