

I'm Waiting for You!

BEFORE WE BEGIN

*God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary, saying,
"You will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus."*

LUKE 1:26, 31

I am Jesus. I'm your friend and I love you. And I'm waiting for you to come to Mass!

Waiting can be a hard thing to do, especially when something important is going to happen. After Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, my Father promised to send me, his only Son, to save people from their sins. The people of the Old Testament, like Abraham, Moses, and David, waited thousands of years for me to come. Then one day my Father sent an angel with a message to a young woman named Mary. He wanted her to be my mother. And Mary said yes! The waiting was over, and I was born in Bethlehem.

Your heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit are also waiting for you to come to Mass. We, the Holy Trinity, are a family of love. You are part of our family too! The Mass brings our family together. Catholics from all around your neighborhood are on their way to church. Like you, they are coming to celebrate my love.

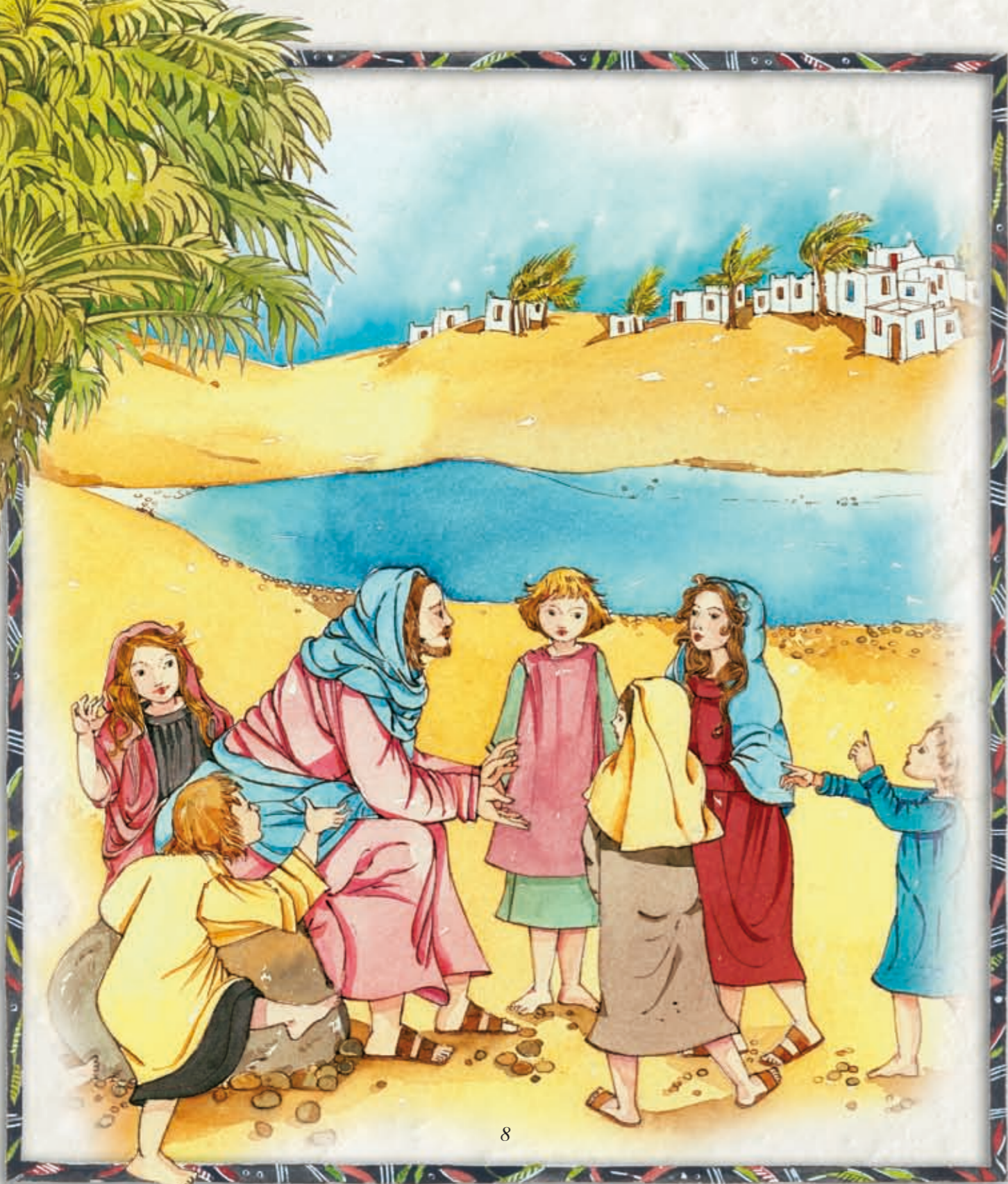
The early Christians celebrated Mass in their homes. Now Masses are offered every day in churches and chapels all over the world!

I'm really happy you are coming to Mass. Today you will receive me in the Eucharist.

"Let us go up to the house of the Lord"

PSALM 43:3





Welcome to Mass

THE WELCOME

"Let the little children come to me."

MARK 10:14

Welcome to Mass! This will be a special time for us to talk and listen to each other. I love being with children. I even told my disciples to let the children come to me so I could bless them.

As you enter the church, bless yourself with holy water. As you make the Sign of the Cross, think to yourself, "I belong to my heavenly Father, to Jesus, and to the Holy Spirit. I'm part of this family!"

Look for the red light next to the tabernacle. I told you I was waiting for you! The red light means that I'm present in the Blessed Sacrament inside the tabernacle. As you genuflect, say, "Jesus, I love you!"

Before Mass begins, tell me about your day so far. If you are feeling upset or grumpy, ask me to fill you with my love and peace. Look up at the crucifix. That's a sign of my great love for you. Turn around. Can you see any of your friends?

Did you know that you also have friends in heaven? Mary and all the saints are your friends too. Pray a Hail Mary and ask her to watch over all the children in the world.

Jesus, I'm so happy to be part of your family with Mary and all the saints.

Let the Celebration Begin!

THE OPENING RITE

“BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!”

MATTHEW 21:9

“Jesus, we love you. You are our King! Hosanna, King Jesus!”

Crowds of people along a dusty path shouted these greetings as I rode on a donkey to Jerusalem. Some followed me waving palm branches. What a lively procession!

Mass also starts with a procession. Watch as it passes by your pew. Look for the altar servers carrying a crucifix and candles and a reader holding high the Lectionary – the book containing the Scripture readings. Then look for the priest. In your heart, praise and thank me for being your King! Join the choir in singing the entrance hymn. I love to hear you sing!

Watch how the people in the procession bow or genuflect when they reach the altar. When the priest climbs the steps to the altar, he bows then kisses it, because the altar is a holy table. It is where ordinary bread and wine will be changed into my Body and Blood through the power of my Holy Spirit.

Now listen for the first words the priest says: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Join with everyone in making the Sign of the Cross. The celebration has begun!

Jesus, you are my King! I'm ready to join in the celebration of the Mass!

