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## **What is the Church?**

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### ***Parent Leaflet: Unit 7***

## **We are People who Live our Faith**



## **Main Themes**

The children, with their catechists, are looking at how we are called to live out our faith.

They are being asked to think about the following things:

- ♦ That they are now full members of the Church
- ♦ That they have completed their journey of initiation but continue a life-long journey of following Jesus
- ♦ At Mass we are reminded of the different ways in which we have answered the question 'What is the Church?'
- ♦ We need to find ways of living our faith in our everyday lives
- ♦ We remember other people who have been (or will be) involved in our life of faith

## **What You Can Do To Help Your Child**

Discuss with your child how he/she can now take a full part in the Mass and receive Holy Communion.

Revisit with them the journey of initiation they have just completed:

- ♦ get out their baptismal candle, used during the Presentation celebration
- ♦ say the 'Our father' together regularly, using the prayer card presented during the second celebration
- ♦ remember the celebration of reconciliation and find time to celebrate with the parish especially during Lent and Advent
- ♦ share memories of Confirmation and First Holy Communion - who was there? what cards and gifts were given? were photographs taken?
- ♦ remember with your child, any special contributions made during the celebrations - readings, processions, drama, music.

Make a scrapbook with mementoes, photographs from the journey to full membership of the Church.

Come regularly to Sunday Mass as a family to celebrate the precious gift of the Eucharist.

Discuss your child's special gifts and talents, giving thanks for them to God. Encourage them to think of ways they can use these gifts in the parish and in the local community.

Consider offering your own time, gifts and talents in some way in the parish, perhaps by helping with next year's process of preparation for the sacraments of initiation. Parents are excellent role models.

Please gather all your child's worksheets together and keep them in the special folder. Look over them with your child from time to time to remind yourselves of this process of preparation and what the different parts of the Mass are about.

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## **Concluding Rites**

***“The dismissal of the assembly is like the breaking of the bread. We have become ‘the bread of life’ and ‘the cup of blessing’ for the world. Now we are scattered, broken, poured out to be life for the world.***

***What happens at home, at work, at meals? What do we make of our time, our words, our deeds, our resources of all kinds? This is what matters.”***

(Cardinal Bernardin, *Guide to the Assembly*, page 23)