

**BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH
OAKLAND PARK, FLORIDA
FAITH FORMATION IN YOUR HOME**

**Segment 5 (In two Parts)
A Tour of a Catholic Church**

Remember, keep it simple. No stress.

Did you know that in the beginning of the Church, just after Jesus rose from the dead and went up to the Father in heaven (Ascended to Heaven), our ancestors of the Faith met in their homes. That is where they celebrated and remembered Jesus and the Last Supper he had with his apostles. For a while they probably went to the synagogue first to read the Holy Scriptures (Old Testament of the Bible) with other Jewish people. Then they went home to celebrate the supper. However, going to the synagogue ended fairly soon. After that they met in the home even for reading from the Apostles writings (Gospels). Other early Christians who never were Jewish never did go to the synagogue. Now, however, we have special buildings that we build to be special, sacred, places to Worship and Celebrate God's goodness, the Eucharist. (Refer back to the segments on the Mass.)

This can be a fun and active learning to do as a family.

Preparation for the family discussion and witnessing. This segment like segment 4 may take at least two "moments" or more to accomplish.

Parents' reading material: Catholic Update, "A Tour of a Catholic Church." As you read through this Catholic Update take note of a few things that I will highlight here.

First is the baptismal pool or font and the place where the paschal candle is in relationship to the font. Also note how it is the sign of new life for the Church. The reading points out the reconciliation chapel or room. Our church, Blessed Sacrament, has a reconciliation room in the chapel. It is also interesting to know the word *nave* of the church means "boat". You might discuss with the children Noah's Arch and how all God's creatures were kept safe from the flood inside the boat. Continue to take note of each of the other important parts of the church as listed in the reading. Very important are the Lectern, Altar, the Chair, and the Tabernacle.

1. While sitting around your own supper table ask the children, "Tell me the different parts or objects in our church building you can remember seeing when we are there." Make a list of any they can remember. Then, praise them for what they remember. Next, go through the list of all the parts of the church building mentioned in the reading. (You do not have to do all of them in one sitting. Take your time. The children might get tired.)

2. Stay after the last Mass on Sunday. Bring the children's' list and the Catholic Update. Have the children point out the different parts or objects you find. They are all there. If you wish you might be able to make an appointment with the priest, deacon, or any other member of the Faith Formation to go around the building with you. But, let the children point out what they can find before anyone else tells them where everything is. HAVE FUN doing this!

Milestone: Make a list or use the one you made at home. Check off every object or part of the church building you saw. Turn the check list in to the F