

## Getting Ready for Chapter 1

# Take Home



## We Belong to Jesus' Church

In this first chapter, your child will learn that your family belongs to the community of Jesus' followers called the Catholic Church. From the Bible story of the Good Shepherd, your child will discover that Jesus calls us each by name to follow him. Finally, your child will learn to pray the Sign of the Cross as a sign of being Catholic.

### ACTIVITY

**Draw a Family Tree** To help your child think about your extended family, draw a family tree and label the branches with the names of relatives you know, both living and deceased.

### WEEKLY PLANNER

#### On Sunday

Notice that the Mass begins with the Sign of the Cross. It is a sign we share as Catholics, no matter what language we speak.

#### On the Web

[www.blestarewe.com](http://www.blestarewe.com)



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

#### Saint of The Week



**Saint Rose of Lima**  
(1586–1617)

Rose grew up in a poor family in Peru. As a young woman, she cared for her parents. She set up a room in their home where poor children and the elderly could receive free health care. Rose of Lima became the first saint of the Americas.

**Feast Day:** August 30



**A Prayer  
for the  
Week**

Loving God, bless our family as we begin this day. Help us follow the example of Saint Rose of Lima by loving and caring for others. Amen.

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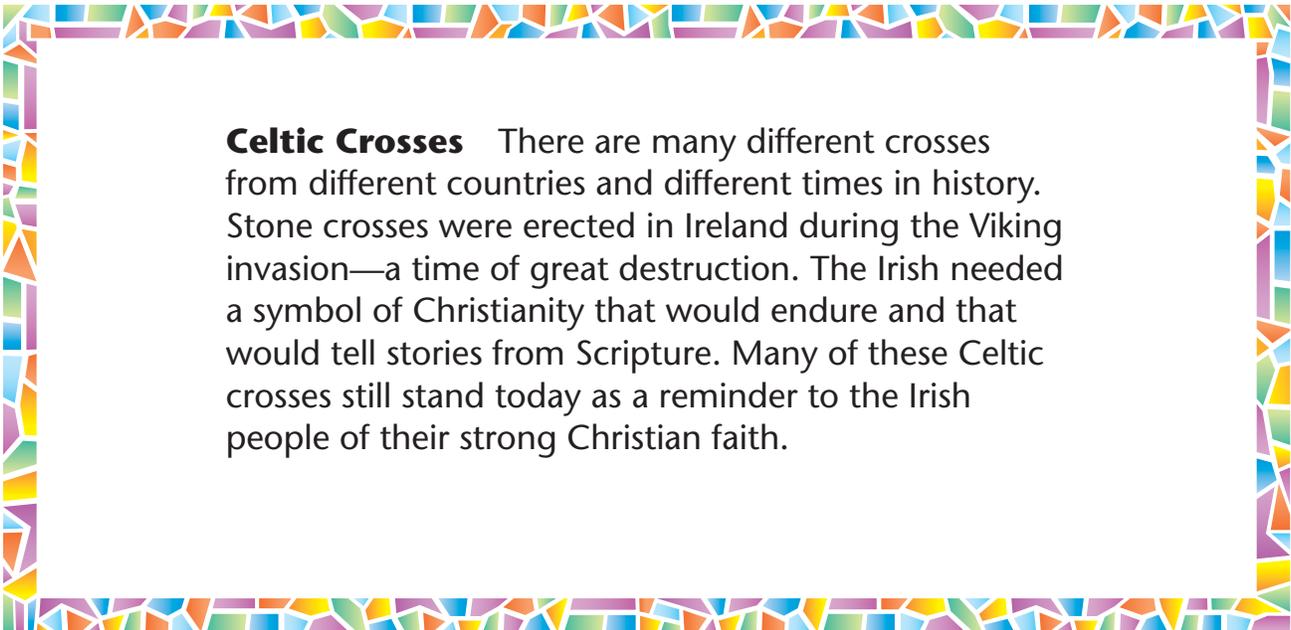
### Scripture Background

#### In the Time of Jesus

**Shepherds** In Palestine, shepherds cared for the most important domestic animal. The shepherd often walked miles guiding the flock to grass and water. He protected the sheep against attack from predators, often risking his own life. Each evening the shepherd led the flock back to the pen, counting to be sure that none were lost. He knew each sheep, and the sheep responded only to his voice. If even one were missing, the shepherd would go out and try to find it.

You can read Jesus' discourse about the good shepherd in John 10:1–21.

## OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Art



**Celtic Crosses** There are many different crosses from different countries and different times in history. Stone crosses were erected in Ireland during the Viking invasion—a time of great destruction. The Irish needed a symbol of Christianity that would endure and that would tell stories from Scripture. Many of these Celtic crosses still stand today as a reminder to the Irish people of their strong Christian faith.