

Getting Ready for Chapter 20

Take Home



We Pray with Holy Songs

By incorporating music into our prayer, we add a new dimension to the way we relate to God. This chapter encourages the children to think of church music as an integral part of our worship experience. They will discover that holy songs are prayers, and that when we sing with our hearts, as well as our voices, we pray twice.

ACTIVITY

Feel the Music Play a song that your child likes. Have fun listening to the music and singing the words. Dance to the music with your child, expressing how the song makes you feel.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

During Mass, listen carefully to the words of the hymns. After Mass, discuss how they relate to the Scripture readings.

On the Web

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 Cecilia
(? third century)

According to legend, Cecilia, a Christian, lived in Rome at a time of great persecution. It is said that she sang to God in her heart. Cecilia is often pictured playing a harp or an organ. She was martyred because she refused to offer sacrifice to pagan gods. Pope Urban I dedicated a church in her name.

Patron Saint of: musicians
Fest Day: November 22



A Prayer for the Week

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of music. It comforts us when we feel sad and helps us express our joy. Help us lift our hearts and minds to you in song. Amen.



Scripture Background

Before the Time of Jesus

Musical Instruments The most frequently mentioned biblical instrument is the shofar, or ram's horn, which is still used in synagogues today. The kinnor, or David's harp, was actually a lyre, used to accompany the praying of the psalms. Instruments mentioned in the New Testament include the harp, the flute, the lyre, the trumpet, and cymbals. The "resounding gong" referred to by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:1, were actually vases set up to amplify actors' voices in Greek theaters.

You can read about the importance of religious music to the first Christians in Ephesians 5:18–20.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Music

Spirituals Most African slaves in our country were not allowed to learn how to read or write. Many slaves were converted to Christianity. One way they kept their faith alive was by singing spirituals. These songs, based on Scripture, sustained the slaves in the same way psalms sustained the Israelites during their captivity. The spirituals also helped the slaves pass on their faith. Spirituals are now considered an art form, and one of the original forms of music on this continent. As African Americans became Catholics, they brought with them their rich heritage in these biblically based hymns.