

### ***We Gather in the Name of Jesus***

We come together because God calls us together in Christ, to be with one another in his name, and so with Christ himself. We have been baptized in Christ, and when we come to Mass we reconnect with others who have also been baptized, our brothers and sisters in Christ. By our active participation at Mass we become more and more like Christ, and are formed as his disciples to carry on the mission of Christ in the world today in our personal and particular life situations. “Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, I am in their midst.” {Matt. 18:20} As Catholics, our usual way of thinking focuses on the consecrated bread and wine as how or where Christ is really present to us at Mass. However, the Church teaches that Christ is also really present in the very gathering of the Community itself {Vatican II: Constitution on the Liturgy, para. 7}. It is not just the action of the priest at the altar that makes Christ present. midway through the Mass. The entire assembly makes Christ present and gives praise to God in their very act of gathering. The celebration of the Eucharist is the action of the whole Church.

Please let us know what else about our faith tradition you'd like to find out more about. Contact our Council for Catechesis at [tkautza@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:tkautza@saintmaryhc.org).