

My Space

Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

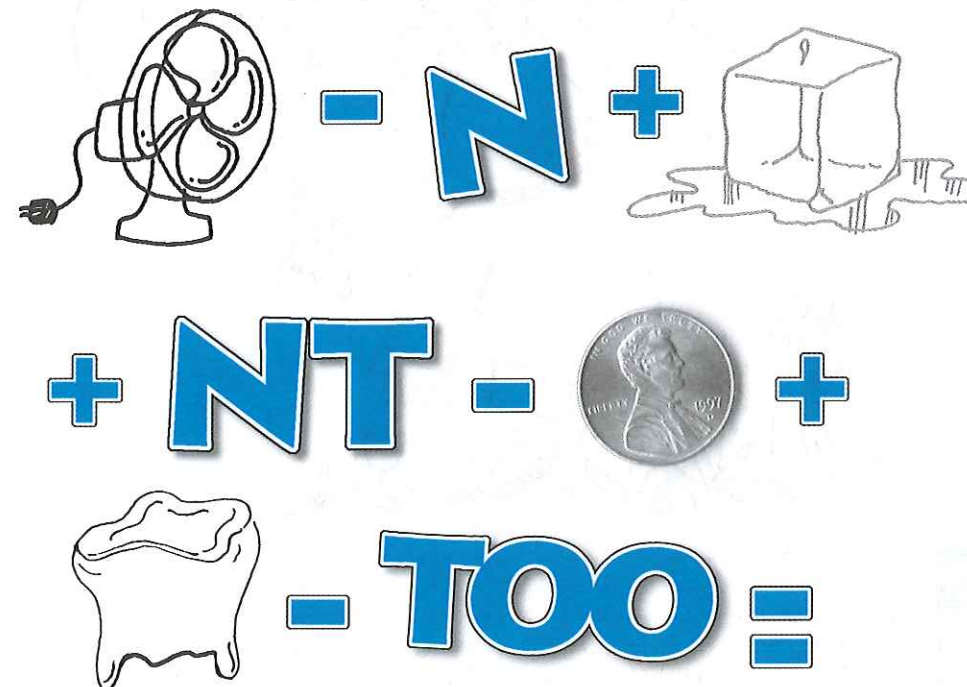
Q1, Inquiry • Journey of Faith

"How can I know God is real?"

**Why can't I see
Jesus and talk to him?"**

Have you ever wondered about these things?
Let's stop now and think about things you believe in.
When your doctor gives you medicine, do you believe it will make you better?
When a family member says "I love you," do you believe it?
Do you believe what you learn in history class, even though you weren't there to see it all happen?
When you go to bed, do you believe morning will come?
Think about these things, then solve the rebus below to find a simple word that explains your belief in things you cannot see or touch.

A REBUS PUZZLE



*Let's Talk
About Faith!*

You have **FAITH** in the ability of one who is trained to help.

You have **FAITH** in love that you can feel but not see.

You have **FAITH** in those who have knowledge to share with you.

You have **FAITH** in things that happen over and over again without fail.

Now list five people, things, or events that you believe in.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

God's Greatest Gift

What have you learned about faith? Every day of your life, you place your faith in someone or something. And guess what? All this trust and faith actually comes from God. God gives you faith as a gift. As a matter of fact, faith is the gift God most wants to give you. It is God's way of saying:

**"I love you and
want you to be well."**



"I love you and will always take care of you."

"I love you and have much to teach you."

"I love you and have created the world for you."



Faith And Jesus

We are starting a journey with Jesus. He will be your best friend, guide, and teacher on this journey. He said many things about faith. Let's find out what they are! Read the following quotes and think about the promise Jesus is making to you.

"All things can be done for the one who believes."

Mark 9:23



"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20



"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."

Matthew 21:22



"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me."

John 14:1

4 WAYS To Help Your Faith Grow Stronger

READING

Keep your Bible close by, so you can read about Jesus whenever you have a few minutes to spare. Choose other good books to read too: stories of Jesus, the saints, or good people who follow God's Word. A book of prayers or poetry can help you think about God and faith.

PRAYER

Set aside some time each day to spend with Jesus in prayer. You can pray in words, or thoughts and feelings. You can also pray by listening.

GOOD WORKS

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did [good] to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40). Every good work you do, all the little kindnesses, every smile you give is a gift that brings you closer to Jesus and makes your faith stronger.

FRIENDSHIPS

Jesus said, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34). Loving others will help you believe in friendships and will increase your faith.



Editor: Sheghali Graf. Author: Francine M. O'Connor. Art and design: Wendy Barnes.
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Q2, Inquiry • What do Catholics Believe?

Compliant with *The Roman Missal*, third edition.

We Believe

The Creed is the faith prayer of Christians. It lists the most important things that Catholics and other Christians believe about God, especially Jesus. We also pray a longer Creed at Mass.

Write down some things you already believe about God.

The Apostles' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and is seated
at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
Amen.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...

Even before you were born, God loved and cared for you. God created a world for you to enjoy and live in. God's work is everywhere, but mostly, God is the love you feel in your heart.

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord...

Jesus is God's gift of love to you. Before Jesus came, people didn't know what God was like. Jesus said, "If you know me, you will know my Father also" (John 14:7). The more you know about Jesus, the more you will know about God.



who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary...

The angel Gabriel told Mary she would have a son. Jesus was born a tiny baby, just like you. He grew up in a family, just like you. Although he is truly God, when he came to our world he was also truly human, just like you.

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried...

Why did Jesus have to die? It's all about love. Jesus came to bring God's love to us. He suffered and died for the same reason. God loved us enough to send Jesus to guide us, and he

loved us enough to die for us — a very special love, don't you think?

he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead...

Jesus did not stay in the tomb after he died. When he rose from the dead on Easter, he showed us that even death cannot separate us from God.

he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty...

God is everywhere: in the air we breath, in our hearts that love, in the trees and flowers and grass we see. When we say Jesus is at God's right hand, we mean that, like God the Father, God the Son is everywhere. We don't have to go to a special place to find him. We find him everywhere.

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Jesus knows all that you do and say.



Someday, Jesus will remember the good things you did in your life. He will say, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, [now enter into] the kingdom prepared for you..." (Matthew 25:34).

I believe in the Holy Spirit...

The Holy Spirit is God's own life alive in you, helping you to pray and love.

the holy catholic Church...

All over the world, people who believe in Jesus gather as God's Church.

the communion of saints...

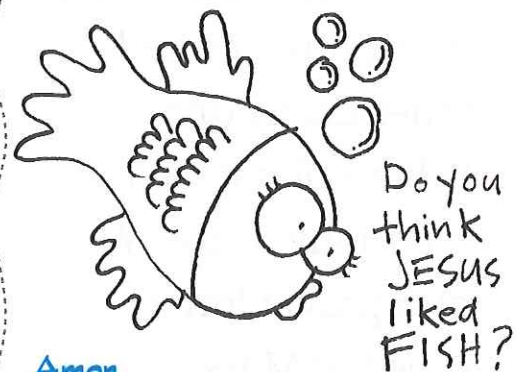
The communion of saints includes all the people, living and dead, who believe in Jesus.

the forgiveness of sins...

Our loving God is always ready to forgive when you say, "I'm sorry."

the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

Like Jesus, one day you will go to heaven and live there forever with God.



Amen.

Amen means, "Yes, God! I believe all these things in my heart."



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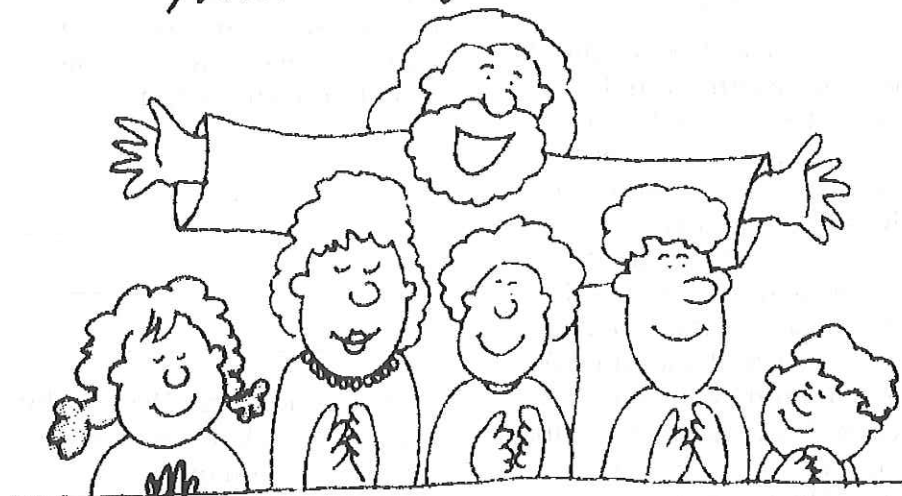
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Q3, Inquiry • What is the Meaning of the Mass?

Gathering

All the people gather in the church. The priest and ministers enter and greet us. Together, we make the Sign of the Cross, to show that we all belong to God's family. We remember any not-too-loving things we have done, and ask God to forgive us.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.



Together we sing or say a prayer called the *Gloria*, an ancient hymn of praise. "Glory to God in the highest," says the *Gloria*. We praise God for loving us, as Jesus always praised God for everything. The priest says, "Let us pray," and we silently thank God in our hearts. Write a short prayer of praise for something God has done for you.

Listening

Now it is time to listen to stories from the Bible, God's book of memories. This part of the Mass is called the *Liturgy of the Word*. The words we hear are God's words.

We hear three readings at Sunday Mass, and two during the week. In the first reading, we hear marvelous stories of God's love for the people long before Jesus came. We respond with a prayer from the Bible, called the *Responsorial Psalm*.



The second reading tells how God's people stayed together and prayed together after Jesus returned to God. Just by listening, we learn how to become closer to Jesus and one another.

The final reading is the gospel, which means "good news." It contains words of Jesus himself. We stand and sing or say "Alleluia," praise God. We make a small cross on our forehead, lips, and heart, meaning, "May your words be in my thoughts, on my lips, and in my heart."

We stand up to hear what Jesus has to say.

After the gospel, the priest or deacon explains the reading. These stories were written long ago, and may be hard to understand. The homily helps us make sense of how they help us today. List one or two of your favorite Bible stories:

Sharing Our Cares With God

When families get together, they share their worries and cares. After the readings, we share our problems and ask God's help. We pray for the needs that are spoken aloud, and for those others hold in their hearts. We ask God to help us all. Write down one thing you want to pray for today.



Special Gifts

Now we prepare for the *Liturgy of the Eucharist*. Eucharist is another name for Communion. Before sharing our meal, we

bring gifts to God: the bread and wine that will become the body and blood of Jesus, along with a share of the good things God gives us. The priest prays that God will accept and bless our gifts.

After a prayer of praise for Jesus, we sing the words of the angels on the night Jesus was born: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts."



The priest asks God to send the Spirit to transform the gifts of bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus. He repeats the words of Jesus: "This is my body...this is my blood."

We are so happy that Jesus has come to be with us in this meal. We believe this is really Jesus in the bread and wine. We share our faith by saying together: "Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again." Then we sing or say, "Amen," which means, "Yes, Lord, we believe."

Praying Together

The prayer, Our Father, reminds us that we are family. In some churches, the people hold hands during this prayer to show that they're one family in God.

When Jesus returned after his crucifixion, he said, "Peace be with you." Now we say these

same words to those around us. Then we ask God to make us worthy to receive Jesus in Communion.

Peace Be With You!



Sharing Our Meal

Together, we go to the altar of God and receive the body and blood of Jesus. When we eat this bread and drink this wine, we are united to Jesus and one another. The Spirit of Jesus helps us become more like him in all that we say, think, and do.

After Communion is a quiet time. We silently thank God for coming to us through Jesus in the Eucharist. We are glad to have gathered with our brothers and sisters to praise God, to listen to God's Word, and to receive God's Son in our hearts. Write a short thank-you prayer.

Mass is now over. We close by saying, "Thanks be to God." We are proud to call ourselves Catholic. We will go out and share all the love we have just received.



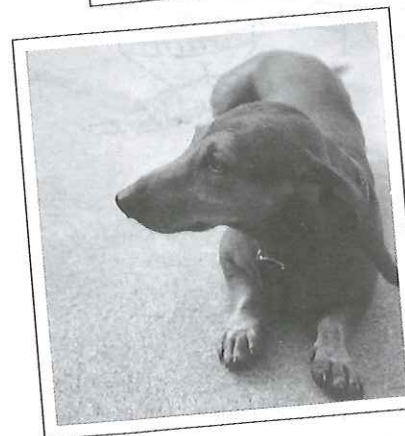
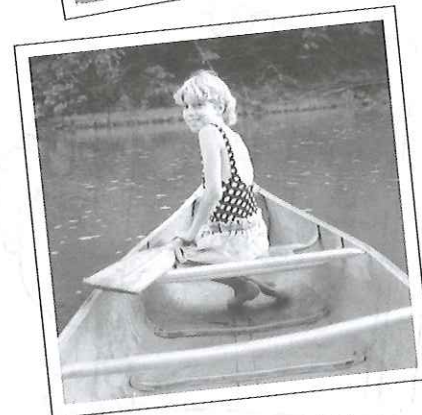
Editor: Shephali Graf.
Author: Francine M. O'Connor.
Art and design: Wendy Barnes.
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Q4, Inquiry • The Bible

Family Memories



Where do you keep your memories? Do you have a scrapbook? Do you save your most important papers, birthday cards, report cards, pressed flowers? List three things you saved, or wish you saved.

The Bible: God's Book Of Memories

The Bible is a memory book about God and God's people. It begins when God created the world and all living things. In the Bible, you will read about many adventures God shared with the people. You will read about how Jesus came into our world. You will also learn all the things God wants you to know about living your faith.

Where does your family keep its memories? Do you have a photograph album with pictures of your parents as children, your grandparents when they were young? Do you have photos of important things your family did together — summer vacations, graduations, birthday parties? List three of your favorite photographs.

1

2

3



Here is a list of stories you may enjoy. See if you can find them in your own Bible.

- ☐ **Genesis, Chapters 7 and 8**
The Great Flood
- ☐ **Daniel, Chapter 6**
Daniel in the Lion's Den
- ☐ **Luke, Chapter 2:1-20**
The Birth of Jesus
- ☐ **Matthew, Chapter 3**
John the Baptist and the Baptism of Jesus
- ☐ **John, Chapter 2:1-11**
The Wedding at Cana
- ☐ **Mark, Chapter 4:35-41**
Jesus Calms the Storm
- ☐ **Mark, Chapter 6:45-52**
Jesus Walks on Water
- ☐ **Matthew, Chapter 27**
The Crucifixion of Jesus



Who Wrote The Bible?

It took many centuries to write the Bible. Although the words were written by different people, the memories are God's very own. God chose the writers, the Holy Spirit placed memories in their hearts and minds, and they wrote the memories down. Whenever you read or hear the words written in the Bible, you should know that it is one of God's memories.

The Bible is divided into two large sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The Old Testament

The first section, the Old Testament, begins with the creation of the world. It tells all about God and the people before Jesus was born. It took nine-hundred years to write the Old Testament. It is filled with marvelous adventures of God and God's people down through the centuries.

In many of the Old Testament stories, God talked about Jesus as the Messiah. God promised the people that the Messiah would come to save them. But the people did not know who Jesus was or when he would come.

The people waited and wondered about God's promise. When they were old, they told their children and their grandchildren about the coming of the Messiah. For hundreds of years, the people wondered: When would the Messiah come? What would he do?

The New Testament

The second section of the Bible is called the New Testament. This section begins when Jesus is born. In the New Testament, we read and hear in Jesus' own words, what God and heaven are like. We read about Jesus' many miracles. We learn the important things about how to live in God's love. We read the sad story of Jesus' crucifixion and the happy story of his Resurrection. All these stories about Jesus are called the *gospels*.

Some stories were written about the early Church, after Jesus returned to heaven. Followers of Jesus, who helped build the Church, wrote these stories. We will be amazed at how much those first Christians loved God. They were even


willing to die for their faith in Jesus. Their letters to the new Christian churches are sometimes called *epistles*.

The Word Of God At Mass

During the part of Mass we call the *Liturgy of the Word*, we listen to readings from the Bible. A lector will read a story, usually from either the Old Testament or the epistles. Then the priest or deacon will read from one of the gospels.

But you don't have to wait until you go to Mass to share God's memories. Take out your Bible now, look up one of the stories listed on the beginning of this page, and read what God has to say to you.



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Q5, Inquiry • How do Catholics Interpret the Bible?

A Prayer Before Reading Scripture



Here is a prayer you can say whenever
you are reading a story from the Bible.

dear God,
Thank you for sharing
your memories with me
through the Bible. As I read
your stories and adventures,
inspire me with the faith of your
people, and **guide me** in right
understanding. Do not let my
mind wander, but **keep my**
thoughts on you. I ask this
through your Son, Jesus, who
with the Holy Spirit, can build
a bridge of knowing between us.
†Amen.†

How Can I Know What God Is Saying To Me?

The Bible was written a long time ago. Sometimes, the words may seem strange and the ideas hard to understand. That's why we need help when we read from the Bible. It is not always easy to know what God is saying to us.

There are three very important ways to understand the Bible stories we read:

- Pray** for God to speak to you as you read. 
- Listen** to those people God sends to teach you.
- Hear** the love behind the words. 

Now try this. After you say the above prayer, read the story of the girl restored to life in Matthew 9:18-26. It's a long story of two miracles. Then think about the following ideas. There are no right or wrong answers, only the thoughts that come to you while you're reading. If a few friends or family members do this with you, that's even better.

- What did the little girl's father expect from Jesus?
- Would you have been in the crowd following Jesus? Why, or why not?
- What did the sick woman in the crowd feel when she touched Jesus' cloak?
- Why did Jesus go to the little girl's home after the people said she was already dead?
- How did the little girl feel when she came back to life?
- How would you have felt?

You can do this with all your favorite Bible stories, to see how prayer can open your mind and heart to new ideas whenever you read God's Word.

Listening For God

Does your family ever share family stories? Do your parents sometimes tell you about their parents; maybe even tell you stories their parents told them? As you listen, you learn about relatives you never knew — great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents.

For hundreds of years before the Bible, stories about God were passed on from grandparents and parents to their children. They told the stories to the children, and the children learned about God and God's people.

When you go to Mass today, lectors and the priest or deacon will read from the Bible. Then the priest or deacon talks about the reading. If you have Children's Liturgy in your parish, this same thing happens when your teacher (liturgist) takes you aside to read the Bible and talk to you about what it means.

Hearing God's Love



Sometimes, the stories in God's book seem to have nothing to do with you. This can make it difficult to believe that God is actually speaking to you.



If you've never seen an ark, or been in a flood, you might miss God's message in the story of Noah. If you've never known a shepherd, or gotten lost yourself, you could have trouble understanding the story of the lost sheep.



Here's what can help you to understand these stories. First, tell yourself the most important thing: "God, who loves me above all things, wants to tell me something!" Say this over and over while you read the stories in God's Book.

Now, think again about Noah's story. Remember the ark, the flood, the animals, and the rainbow at the end. God took good care of Noah and his family and all the animals in the ark. God, who loves you, will always take good care of you. No storm or sadness or frightening thing is stronger than God's love for you.

Remember the lost sheep? The sheep walked away and forgot all about the shepherd, but the shepherd was always watching. He left all his other sheep to go out and find the one that was lost. Even if you forget to think about God, and forget to pray, God, who loves you, is always watching. Nothing is more important to God

than finding your love again.

Every story in the Bible is about God's love for you. When Jesus heals the sick, he is saying, "God cares about your sickness and pain." When the apostles pray and God answers those prayers, God is saying, "I will answer all your prayers." When Jesus suffers and dies on the cross, he is saying, "I love you enough to die for you." And when Jesus rises from the dead on Easter morning, God is saying,

**"You will not die,
but will live forever
with me
in heaven."**



Read the stories in God's book of memories, think about what God is doing, and hear God's love for you in every story.



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Q6, Inquiry • The Saints

Compliant with *The Roman Missal*, third edition.

Choose Your Heroes



Do you like to watch the Olympics? Do you choose your favorite athlete, follow every event, and hope your hero will win a medal?

Olympic athletes aren't born great at their sport. They spend years learning and practicing. They read about other athletes in their field. They practice making all the right moves. Only after they learned all they can learn, practiced all they can practice, are they ready for the Olympics.

To prepare for the Olympics, they follow the examples of great athletes before them. They watch videos of the games. They study all the moves. They find and correct their own mistakes. And then they practice some more.

If you want to be great at some sport, you do pretty much the same thing. First you learn how to play the game. Then you learn all you can about those who are great at it. Finally, you practice making all the right moves until you, too, are good at it.

The Saints — God's Holympic Team

What does the word "saint" mean to you?

Name someone you know who is a saint.

How does your chosen saint remind you of God?

God has a team of special athletes. They joined God's team by learning all about God, following Jesus' example, listening to his teachings, and by studying the lives of other holy people. We call them saints.

Some saints were given the title "saint" by the Church. When the Church says someone is a saint, it is called a "canonization." There are books written about most of the canonized saints. You can read about their lives and follow their examples.

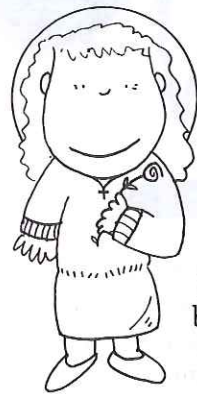
Other saints are only known among their friends. You probably have a saint right in your own neighborhood. You may have a saint in your own family. You may be a saint yourself. These "living saints" are people who love God, believe in Jesus, and live holy, loving, and generous lives every day.

Every saint, alive or dead, canonized or unrecognized, belongs to a special "club." The Church calls this club the "communion of saints." You can call it "God's holympic team" because all the members are great athletes in the field of holiness.



Some Saints Just For You!

Saint Therese of Lisieux: The Little Flower of Jesus



As a child, Therese always wanted to serve God. When her sisters went into the convent, a special school for girls who want to be nuns, Therese wanted to become a missionary and travel to faraway places to talk about God. Although her dream did not come true, she prayed daily for missionaries. God told her to become a saint by doing small acts of kindness for others daily. When she died, everyone knew she was a saint because of her loving ways.

Saint John Bosco Patron of Orphans

John Bosco's father died when he was two. At 16, he entered the seminary, a special school for boys who want to become priests. As a priest, he was saddened by the homeless children in his city. He took them into his own home, fed them, and taught them to love God. He paid for their food and clothing by preaching about God. He became the father of hundreds of orphans who had been forgotten by the world.



Saint Dominic Savio Patron of Choir Members



Even when he was only 12, Dominic always knew when people were in need. He helped the poor and the homeless. He formed the Company of the Immaculate Conception, a group of boys who lived at Saint Don Bosco's house and helped take care of the orphans. Dominic died when he was only 15, but he spent his few years on earth for others. Everyone who knew Dominic knew he was a saint.

And The Winners Are...

Of all the saints you know, in heaven and on earth, name the three you would honor with a Heavenly Holympics medal — gold, silver, or bronze. You can choose someone you have read about, someone you know, even someone in your own family. Beneath each name, write the reason you chose that particular saint.

Gold:

Silver:

Bronze:

You, too, can join this team.

- Learn as much as you can about God and holiness.
- Listen to the teachings of Jesus and follow his example.
- Read about the lives of canonized saints to discover what makes them great.
- Imitate the living saints you know or read about.
- Pray for God's help, and ask your favorite saint to pray with you.



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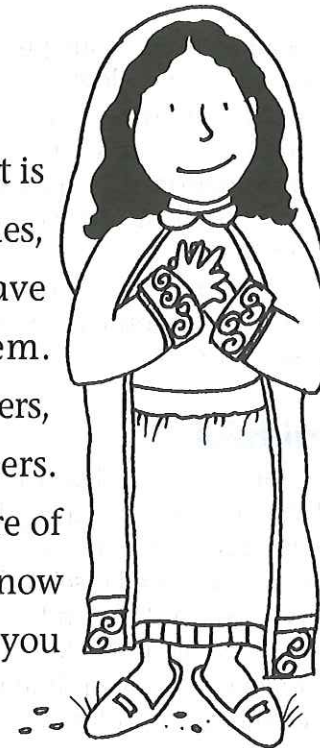
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Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

Q7, Inquiry • Mary

Mothers Are Special People

Being a mother is a special job. It is more than just giving birth. Sometimes, children lose their mothers and have different people to “mother” them. Fathers, grandmothers, aunts, big sisters, or even big brothers can be mothers. Mothers are the people who take care of you, who love you, who help you to know God, and who are always there when you need them.



The words below are sometimes used to describe a mother. Unscramble them and write the name of one person in your life that they describe.

LUFFATHI _____

EBARV _____

LHEPLUF _____

MUHLBE _____

ACRGNI _____

YARREPLUF _____

Mary: everything a mother should be

At Christmas, you hear the wonderful story of Mary, a young girl chosen by God to be Jesus' mother. Think of the words you unscrambled and see how Mary was all these things.

Prayerful

One day, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary. “Hail Mary,” Gabriel said, “You are truly blessed.”

Gabriel could see that Mary was startled. “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “God loves you. You will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be called the Son of God.”

Gabriel told Mary that her relative, Elizabeth, who was very old, would also have a baby boy. “Nothing is impossible for God,” said the angel.



Mary loved God very much. “Let it happen as you have said,” Mary said.

You can read about the angel's visit in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 1, verses 26-38.

Helpful

When Mary heard that Elizabeth was going to have a baby, she went to visit her. It was a long journey, but Mary knew Elizabeth would need her help. She stayed with Elizabeth for three months.

Read about Mary's visit to Elizabeth in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 1, verses 39-56.

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son...and laid him in the manger."

LUKE 2:7

Humble

Just before Mary's baby was born, she went with her husband to Bethlehem for the census. This was a long journey for Mary.

There was no place for them to stay in Bethlehem, so Mary gave birth to her baby in an animal's stable. Mary didn't mind. She was so happy to hold Jesus for the first time.

Read about it in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, verses 1-21.

Brave

After Jesus was born, an angel appeared to Joseph and told him the baby was in danger. King Herod, a very jealous man, wanted to kill Jesus.

The angel told Joseph to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt. So the three of them traveled to a strange land and stayed there until God told them it was safe to go home.

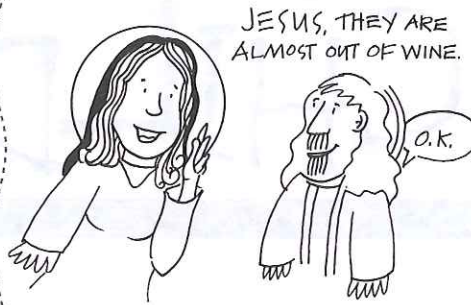
Read about their bravery in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 2.

Caring

When Jesus grew up, he and Mary did many things together.

Once, at a wedding in Cana, Mary saw that the wedding party

had run out of wine. She was sad that their celebration would be ruined. She told Jesus about the problem.



Jesus took six stone jars filled with water and blessed them. The water became wine. Everyone was amazed.

Jesus performed this first miracle because Mary cared so much.

Read about the miracle in the Gospel of John, chapter 2, verses 1-12.

Faithful

When Jesus died on the cross, all his disciples ran away in fear. Only Mary, two other women, and the "beloved disciple" remained until the end.

Mary loved Jesus. She could not leave him, even though it was so hard to watch him die.

Jesus loved his mother too. He asked the "beloved disciple" to take care of her.

Read about faithfulness in the Gospel of John, chapter 19, verses 25-27.

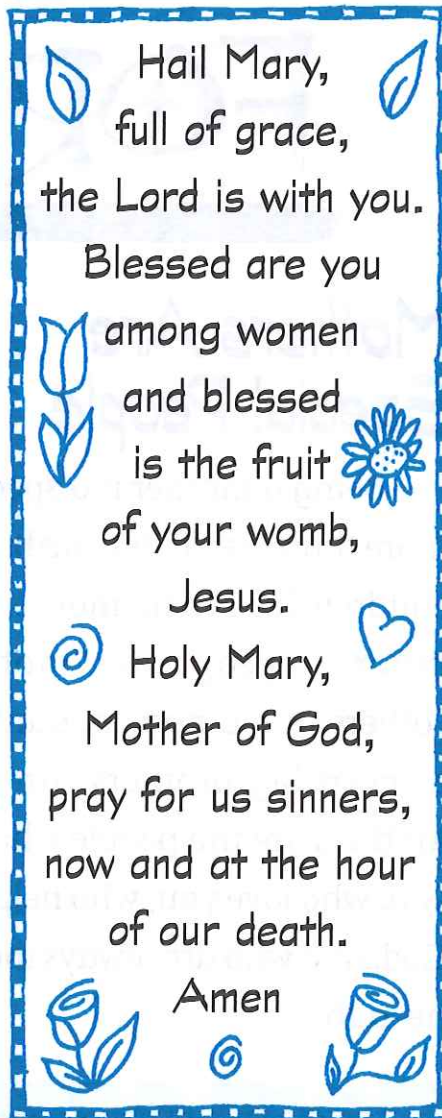
Mary In Heaven

Today, Mary is in heaven with Jesus. She watches over all God's children as faithfully as she watched over Jesus when the two of them lived in this world.

Do you ever ask someone to pray for you, perhaps a friend or family member whom you know is close to God? You can also ask Mary to pray with and for you.

There are many special prayers to Mary. A familiar one repeats what Gabriel and

Elizabeth said to her. It is called the Hail Mary. You can learn it now and say it every day.



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Author: Franchine M. O'Connor.
Art and design: Wendy Barnes.
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My Space

My Space

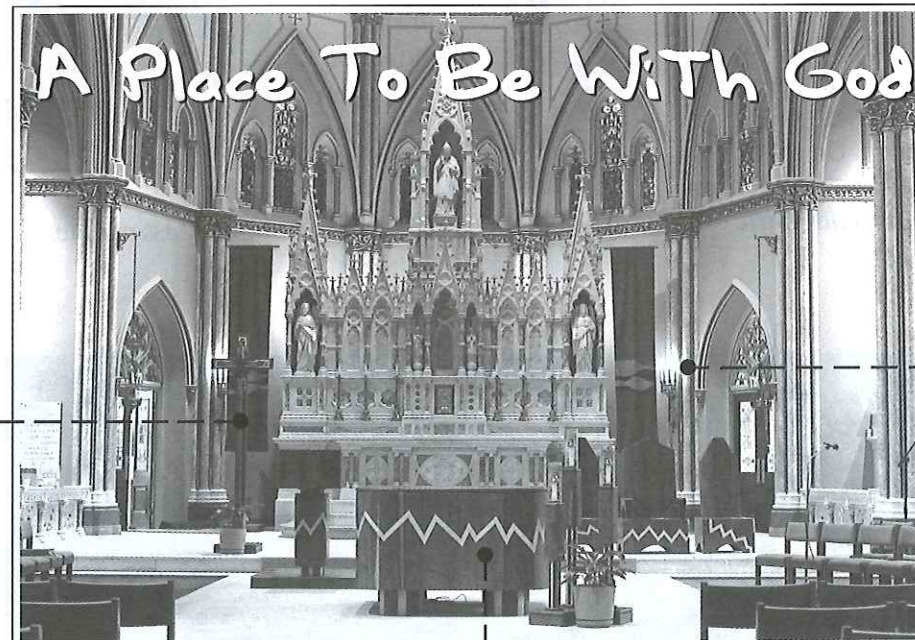
Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

Q8, Inquiry • Places in the Catholic Church

You can pray almost anywhere. You can pray in the park, or on a walk through the woods. You can pray by your bed, before going to sleep. You can pray in your car, when your family is going on a trip. You can pray with your family around the dinner table, before each meal. God, who is everywhere, hears you every time you pray, no matter where you are.

The crucifix is a reminder that Jesus loves us enough to suffer and die for us.

But Jesus is no longer on the cross. Somewhere near the altar you will see the **tabernacle**.



A Place To Be With God

Churches are special places to pray and worship God. The most important thing about church is how it reminds you of God. Everything you see in your church is a sign of how much God loves you. Here are some of God-reminders you will see.

When you walk in the door, you will see a small bowl of water. This is the **holy water font**. You touch the water and make the Sign of the Cross. This is a reminder of your

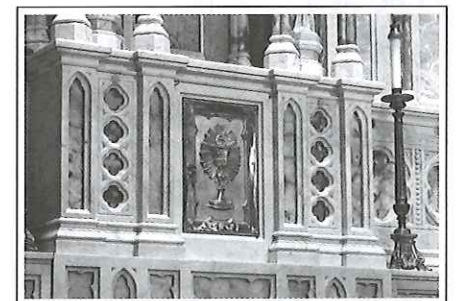


baptism in Jesus and your place in God's family.

The next thing you will notice is the **altar**. At the altar, the priest offers the bread and wine and says the words of Jesus: "This is my body...this is my blood." **Candles** on the altar remind us that Jesus is the light of our world. A book of Mass prayers is also used at the altar. This book is called the **Sacramentary**.



You will also see a **crucifix**, a cross with the image of Jesus on it.



This is the place where the bread is kept after it has been transformed into Jesus' body.

Near the tabernacle is a candle that burns at all times. This is the **sanctuary lamp**. It reminds us that Jesus is with us always.

Another important reminder of God's love is the **lectern**. At the lectern, stories from the Bible are read to us from the **lectionary**. Those who read the Bible stories are called **lectors**. As we listen to God's Word, we are reminded over and over again about God's love for us.

The **Easter candle**, a tall, decorated candle, is a reminder that Jesus rose from the dead at Easter time. During the Easter season, this candle burns at every Mass. Later, it is placed near the baptismal font



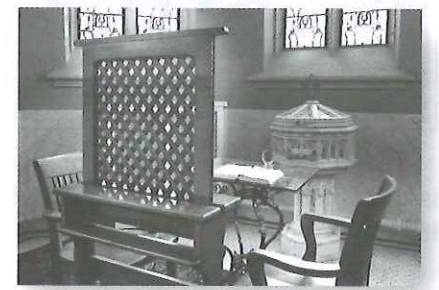
to remind us that we were baptized into Jesus' family and will also rise with him one day.

The **baptismal font** is a basin with water for baptizing new Christians. Some churches have pools of water, into which people are immersed during their baptisms.



If you look around the walls of your church, you will see the **Stations of the Cross**. These are reminders of Jesus' suffering and death.

Your church will also have a **reconciliation room** or **confessional**.



This is where we go to talk to the priest about our sins. Here we are reminded of God's forgiving love and receive God's blessing.

Notice the clothing your ministers wear during the Mass. They put these on in the **sacristy**, a small room near the altar. These articles of clothing are called **vestments**.

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Photos taken by Richard Finke at the Saint Alphonsus Rock Church, St. Louis, Missouri.

First, the priest and the deacon put on an **alb**, a long, white garment reminding us that we should approach God with purity of heart. The acolytes (altar servers) also wear an alb, and, in some churches, other altar ministers, like lectors, wear one too.



Then the priest and deacon add a **stole**. This is a long band to remind us of the "yoke of the Lord." The priest wears the stole straight down from the shoulders. The deacon wears a diagonal stole, across one shoulder.

Over the alb and stole, the priest wears a **chasuble**. The colors of the chasuble represent the seasons of the church. On special occasions, the deacon wears a **dalmatic** over his alb and stole.



You will probably see buildings near your church. There is often a **parish center** where parish activities are held.

The **rectory** is the house where the parish priest lives.



All the parishes in your area belong to a **diocese**. Your parish is cared for by the diocese bishop. His office is in a building called the **chancery**.

The official church of the bishop is the **cathedral**.



You can pray with the bishop whenever you go to Mass at your cathedral.

Words To Think About

Note your thoughts when you see the following items:

HOLY WATER FONT

ALTAR

CRUCIFIX

TABERNACLE

BAPTISMAL FONT

My Space

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Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

Q9, Inquiry • Who's Who in the Church



When you are baptized, you become a member of a special family. This family has many members. Each member has an important place in the family and important work to do for the family. Here are some members in the Church and the work they are called to do.



In the Bible, Saint Paul said we are all members of one body, and

Jesus is the head of the body. Saint Paul was describing the Church. Each member of the Church has something important to do, from the tiniest new baby to the pope in Rome. Jesus' work is to watch over the Church, and lead and guide all the members toward God.

The Pope

Jesus chose twelve apostles to help him in his work of bringing people to God. To Peter, one of

the apostles, Jesus said, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). Peter worked with the other apostles to build the Church of Jesus Christ.



The work Peter did in the early Church is now done by the pope in Rome. He watches over and guides the Church in the world. And, just as Peter worked with the apostles, so the pope works with his bishops.



Bishops are the successors of the apostles. The bishop is in charge of all the parishes in the city or area. This group of parishes is called a diocese. If your diocese is very large, your bishop may have "helper" bishops. These are called

“auxiliary bishops”. A large diocese is called an archdiocese. If you live in an archdiocese, your bishop is called an **archbishop**. The pope chooses some bishops to be **cardinals**. Cardinals are allowed to vote for a new pope.



There is a lot of work involved in taking care of God's Church. The bishops can't do it all alone, so they have priests to help. Priests are coworkers in caring for the members of the Church. Some priests take care of a parish. These are the pastors and their associate pastors. Some priests travel to faraway lands to spread the Word of God. Some priests teach in schools, and some priests work with the poor.

Deacons

A deacon is an ordained member of the clergy. Permanent deacons may be married. The deacon can baptize, serve at marriages and at funerals, read the gospel and preach at Mass, and perform many other helpful acts for your parish. Deacons also work with the poor, the sick, and children who need help.

Sisters and Brothers

There are some people who choose to spend their lives working for God. They belong to a religious order and live together in a convent or monastery. They promise never to marry. Members of a religious order of women are called “Sisters.” Men are called “Brothers.”

Laity

The largest and most important part of the body of Christ is called the “laity.” These are all the people who have been baptized and worship together at Mass. They are not priests or bishops or cardinals. They will never be the pope. But, if you look around your parish, you will see the important work they do for God. Write down the names of people in your parish who fit the descriptions below. Ask your teacher or sponsor to help you.

Pastoral Council Member

The pastoral council makes decisions about the parish in cooperation with the parish staff. Can you name one person on the pastoral council in your parish?

Lector

The lectors are persons chosen to read from the Bible at Mass. Can you name one of the lectors in your parish?

Altar Servers

These are people who help at the altar during Mass and other celebrations. Do you know anyone who is an altar server?

Eucharistic Ministers

These people are chosen and trained to help with the distribution of Communion at Mass. They also take

Communion to those who are too sick to come to Church. Do you know someone who is a eucharistic minister?

Music Ministers

These are the people who play the music and lead the singing at Mass and other celebrations in your Church. Can you name one music minister from your parish?

These are some of the jobs lay people do in the church. There are others, too. As a Catholic Christian, you can serve God in many ways through your family and your friends at school. You can help the poor or visit the sick. You can share and smile and be a good example to others. There is no end to what you can do as a member of Christ's body.



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Author: Francine M. O'Connor.
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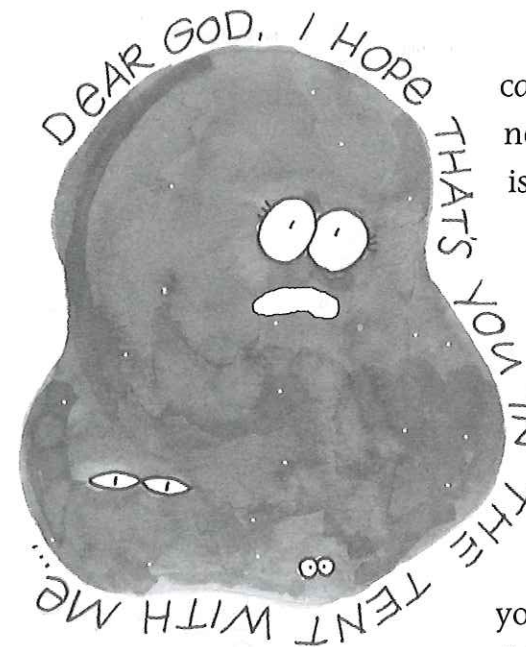
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Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

Q10, Inquiry • Catholics and Prayer

PRAYER A Conversation Between You And God



God is your best friend. You can talk to God anytime you need a friend. Talking with God is called "prayer."

When do you pray? Do you pray when you're alone?

Does your family pray together? Saint Paul said we should "pray always" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Think about it for a few minutes. Write down times you would like to talk to God, or some things you would say to God.

Learning by Praying

Sometimes you might like to talk to God, but you can't think of what to say. That's why we have certain prayers you can learn. These prayers help you to "connect" with God, to get

started with your prayer. Another way you can pray is by singing. In church, people pray together with song and with learned prayers. That way, they can all be praising God together.

THE OUR FATHER

The Lord's Own Prayer

One day, some people asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. He taught them the following prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). Catholics say this prayer every time they go to Mass. Sometimes they say it holding hands to show that they are all brothers and sisters in God.

This is
how you
are to
pray.



Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day
our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into
temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Here is a short poem you can learn to help you understand this prayer. Say it side by side with the Lord's Prayer to see what each line means.

Heavenly Father,
your holy name I say;
help me to do things
your way today.
All that I need
I will get from you.
Please forgive me
any harm I might do,
as I will forgive those
who do me wrong.
Keep me near you,
Father, the whole day long.

Other Prayers

Here are a few other prayers you might like to learn.

The Sign of the Cross

This prayer is an important sign of our belief in Jesus and the Holy Trinity. You make it by touching your head, heart, and shoulders as you pray:



In the name
of the Father,

and of the Son,



and of the Holy
Spirit. Amen

The Hail Mary

This prayer begins with the words of the angel and Elizabeth when they spoke to Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed are you
among women
and blessed is the fruit
of your womb, Jesus.

We finish our prayer by asking Mary to pray to Jesus for us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour
of our death. Amen



Mommy always says a little prayer
when she takes off her shoes.
She says, "Thank God."

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The Glory Be

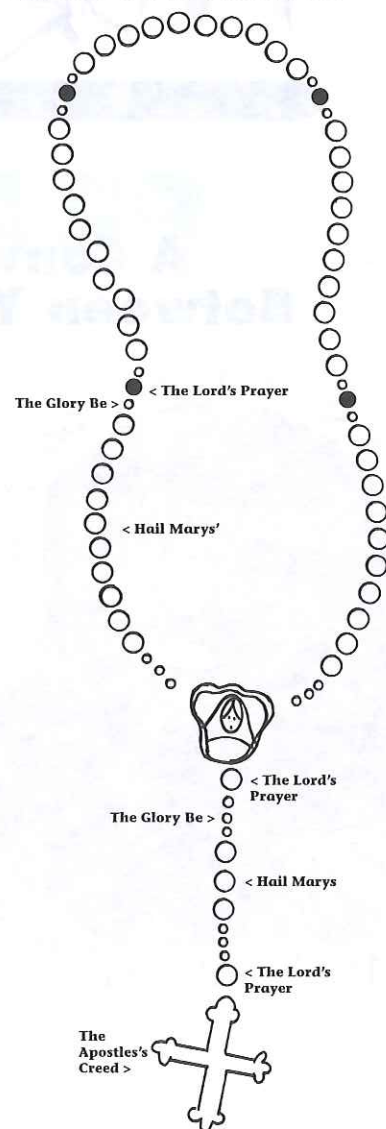
A prayer of praise:

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen

In an earlier lesson you learned the Apostles' Creed. This is an important prayer because it reminds us of everything we

believe about Jesus, the Father, the Holy Spirit, and God's Church.

You can learn to say the rosary, a series of prayers said on rosary beads. These prayers remind us of all that Jesus did for us when he was in the world, and all that he still does for us in heaven.



1. Make the Sign of the Cross.
2. On the crucifix, pray the Apostles' Creed
3. Pray the Lord's Prayer on the first large bead.
4. Pray the Hail Mary on each of the three small beads.
5. Pray the Glory Be.
6. Think about what happens in the First Mystery and pray the Our Father.
7. Pray the Our Father on the large bead and one Hail Mary on each of the next ten small beads. Now pray the Glory Be. Do this for each of the mysteries.

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My Space

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Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

Q11, Inquiry • Catholic Practices

Celebrating in the Catholic Tradition

How does your family celebrate? What special things do you do on holidays? These special ways of celebrating are called "traditions." When you grow up, you will remember your childhood traditions. You might pass them on to your children or begin your own family traditions.



Describe one of your family traditions. Explain why this tradition is important to your family.

A Year As A Catholic

The Catholic Church has traditions, too. The most important tradition is the Liturgy, or the Mass. Each year, beginning on the first day of Advent, the Church follows a pattern of liturgical celebrations that never changes. This calendar will help you understand what the Church celebrates in each season, and the season's special colors.

Advent

BLUE-VIOLET or PURPLE
for HOPE

The Church year begins with Advent, when we look forward to the coming of Jesus. In the readings, we hear how God's people waited for a Savior. We hear the angel's messages to Mary, and to Zechariah, John the Baptist's father. John will prepare the people for Jesus. And don't forget, Jesus promised to come again. So we, too, await his coming.

Christmas

WHITE for
PURITY and JOY

In the Catholic Church, Christmas is not just one day. The Christmas season begins on Christmas day and continues for three weeks. It is time for the wonderful story of Jesus' birth. You will hear how Mary presents

Jesus to God in the Temple. You will travel with the Wise Men to worship the baby Jesus. And you will hear of Jesus' baptism, before he begins his work.

Ordinary Time

GREEN for GROWTH
and LIFE in the FAITH

After the Christmas season and before Lent begins, is a time the Church calls Ordinary Time. This is an important time, because it helps us to get to know Jesus better. As we listen to the readings, we learn many things from the lessons Jesus came to teach us. The more we know about Jesus, the better we understand God's love for us.



Lent

RED-VIOLET or PURPLE
for PENANCE

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. It lasts for 40 days. We use this time to remember God's love for us, especially the love that comes through Jesus. We learn how Jesus prepares his apostles to build the Church after he goes to heaven. At the same time, we will prepare ourselves to better understand the work God wants us to do especially for Jesus and his Church.

THE LAST THREE DAYS

Holy Thursday

WHITE for JOY
and PURITY

Good Friday

RED for JESUS' SACRIFICE

Holy Saturday

WHITE for JOY
and ETERNAL LIFE

The three-day period from Holy Thursday evening until Easter Sunday evening is called the Easter Triduum.

On Holy Thursday, we remember the institution of the Eucharist at Jesus' Last Supper. On Good Friday, we suffer with Jesus as he is crucified and dies. On Holy Saturday, at sunset, the Church explodes in the joy and celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. At this special Holy Saturday celebration new members are baptized and received into the Church.

Easter

WHITE for JOY
and ETERNAL LIFE

The Easter season lasts for 50

days. We celebrate Jesus' Resurrection and his promise that you will also rise and live forever in heaven with God. During Easter, we remember how the Holy Spirit came to the apostles, and made them strong, wise, and eager to build Jesus' Church. This is the same Holy Spirit who comes to us in our baptism.

Ordinary Time

GREEN for LIFE in the FAITH

After the Easter season and before Advent begins again, we celebrate a long period of Ordinary Time. Again, we hear about Jesus' travels, the apostles he chose, the miracles he performed, and the lessons he taught. As we listen to the readings at Mass, we come to know Jesus better, to love God more, and to grow strong in the Spirit.

A Dictionary Of Catholic Traditions

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament: A blessing of the sacred host to celebrate Christ in the Eucharist.

Breviary: A book containing daily prayers for ordained, vowed, and lay — all the people in the Church.

Contemplation: A way to pray without words, to quietly sit and "be with God."

Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy: These are rules for serving God's people in the world. You will learn more about them later.

Fast and Abstinence: Fasting means going without food between meals. The Church fasts on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Abstinence is not eating meat. Abstinence is required on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Genuflection: Going down on one knee before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.

Novena: Nine days of prayer.

Retreat: A time to go away to pray and be with God.



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Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

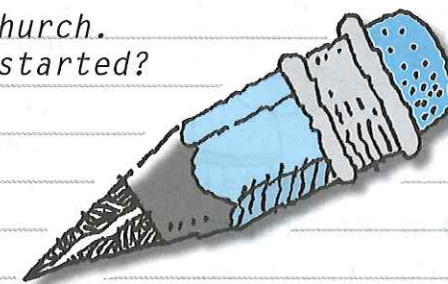
Q12, Inquiry • Catholics and Church

What is The Church?

(Circle one answer for each question.)

☐

1. You are going to build a Church.
What do you need to get started?
- A) Bricks
 - B) Lots of money
 - C) People

☐

2. What would you do first?
- A) Hire a contractor
 - B) Dig a foundation yourself
 - C) Gather your people
3. How can you be sure your Church will be strong?
- A) Reinforce it with steel beams
 - B) Buy "Church insurance"
 - C) Teach your people to love one another

☐

4. What will you do to protect your Church?
- A) Hire an armed guard
 - B) Build a wall around it
 - C) Place it in God's hands
5. How can you build a Church that will last forever?
- A) Use super bricks
 - B) Hire a maintenance staff
 - C) Promise to be with your Church always

Turn the page for the exciting answers!

Jesus and his Church

That was a trick quiz to get you to think like Jesus. If he answered the questions, he would have circled "C" (for Church) every time.

Sometimes when we hear the word "church," we think of a building filled with things that remind us of God. Or we think of the place where we go to pray. That building, that prayer place, is church with a lowercase "c." But the Church Jesus came to build was Church with a capital "C."



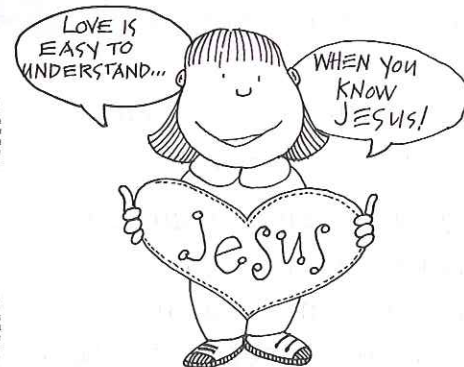
Tradition in the Church

To build God's Church, Jesus chose his apostles and taught them about God and God's love. After Jesus returned to God, the apostles went about teaching people what Jesus taught them. Wherever they taught, people gathered into a community to worship the God of Jesus Christ. They became Church.

From that small beginning, the Church grew and filled nearly the whole world. God's Word has been passed on from people to people. After a few hundred years, the Church put all Jesus' and the apostles' teachings into a book called the Bible. Through the words written in the Bible, we get to know Jesus and God. And Jesus himself helps us to understand these words. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus said, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).



Because the Spirit of Jesus lives in the hearts of all the members of the Church, we understand that the Church is both divine and human. The early Church had laws and leaders chosen by the first disciples. Although the leaders were human beings, the Spirit of Jesus guided them in their decisions and teachings. The Catholic Church today is the same. They have laws and leaders who try to help all members of the Church to follow Jesus and to understand his teachings.



The first way that Church leaders help their members is by helping them read and understand the Word of God written in the Bible. The Bible not only tells us what Jesus taught, but tells the story of how the early Church began.

But the New Testament of the Bible was written long after the Church began. Those first Christians had to rely on what they were taught by Jesus and his eye-witness disciples. The ways they worshiped the Lord, and the things done to pass along the faith, were very

important to the continued growth of the Church.

The second way that the Church helps its members, therefore, is by passing on these sacred traditions of the Church. We learned something of traditions in an earlier lesson. In the Church, Tradition is what the people did; how they lived that set them apart as Christians. Two of the most important things in our sacred Tradition, which have been passed down to us over the centuries, are the Apostles' Creed and the Mass.



Both in reading and understanding the Bible, and in handing down the sacred Tradition of our early Church members, the leaders of the Church are inspired by the Holy Spirit. This is the way that Jesus helps his Church to grow in holiness. And as long as the people and leaders pray in the Spirit of Jesus, the Church will continue to grow forever.



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