

# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 3

The Church

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**Our Sunday Visitor**

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**Nihil Obstat**

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# Revelation



## Our Catholic Tradition

- Creation is all things that exist, made by God from nothing. You are part of God's plan. (CCC, 315, 317)
- We can discover God's plan in his Word—Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. (CCC, 289)
- Our families show us God's love and help us know his plan for us. (CCC, 2203)
- Scripture and Tradition also tell us about God's plan for his Church, the People of God. (CCC, 781)

What are some of the ways that God shows himself to us?



# The Creator's Work



## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** God, we praise you for your beautiful creation!

“Let them all praise the LORD’s name;  
for he commanded and they were  
created.” **Psalm 148:5**

**All:** We thank you God for the gifts of this world. Help us to be responsible and respectful to all you have given us. Amen.



## God's Word

You formed me. You made me in my mother's womb. I praise you, because I am wonderfully made. Wonderful is everything you have made. You knew everything about me; even my bones you could see. **Based on Psalm 139:13–15**

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### What Do You Wonder?

- If God made all people, why are we so different?
- Is everything that God made good?



# The Creation of the World

## How was everything in creation made?

God is the Creator of all things. Everything he made has a purpose and a plan. Do you remember the story of creation from the Bible?



## God's Word

### The Creation of the World

On the first day, God made light. He separated the light from the darkness and called them day and night.

On the second day, God separated the sky from the water below.

On the third day, God separated the land from the water. He made plants and trees.

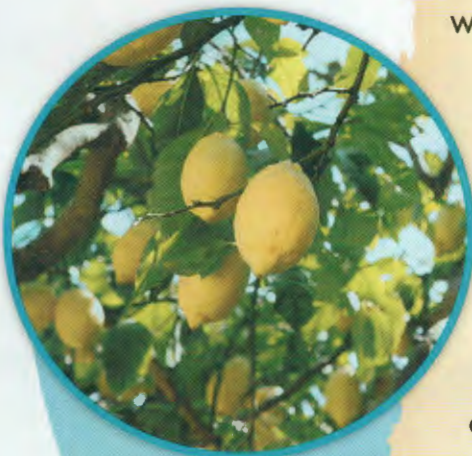
On the fourth day, God made the moon, the sun, and the stars and put them in the sky.

On the fifth day, God made fish and birds.

On the sixth day, God made land animals.

Then God made man and woman in his image and likeness. He blessed them and put them in charge of everything he had created. And God saw that his creation was good.

On the seventh day, God rested. **Based on Genesis 1:1–2:3**



## Learning about God

In the Bible, we learn that God alone created the universe and all forms of life. God used his power to create everything that exists. You can learn about God through his **creation**. Only God can create something where nothing existed before.

Because God is good, everything that he creates is good. In the creation story, God is shown to us as the powerful Creator who sees the goodness of all that he has made. God wants all parts of creation to work together.

### Catholic Faith Words

**creation** everything made by God

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### Share Your Faith

**Think** In the green circle below draw or write about your favorite thing in God's creation.

**Share** Talk about God's creation with your group.



# The Beauty of Creation

## What is the purpose of God's creation?

The **Holy Trinity**—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—worked as one to create the world. The Holy Trinity continues to care for and support creation. Everything God created is good and can tell you something about the love of the Trinity. You can come to know God through the beauty of creation. You can learn the truth of his goodness.

Everything in God's creation has a purpose. God wants all parts of his creation to live together in harmony and peace.

God's creation includes whales and hummingbirds, lightning and wind, sunshine and rain, and people of every color. These differences make God's world more beautiful and teach us about his greatness.

➔ What are some things you see every day that are part of God's creation?



Underline the things you can learn from God's creation.



# The Image of God

God created humans in his own image and likeness and asked them to care for all creation. God wants you to live in his friendship and to be happy with him. You have a responsibility to show respect and love for God's creation. You are made in the **image of God**.

There is also sin in the world, and because of this, God's creation sometimes gets out of balance. God relies on humans to help bring back the harmony and peacefulness that he put into his creation.

## Responsible to One Another

Your most important responsibility in caring for creation is to the human community. Humans are the most blessed of all God's creatures. God wants you to show respect and love for all people because he created us in his own image. In God's community of love, everyone is your brother or sister. In your unity, you can be a sign of God's goodness and love.

### Catholic Faith Words

**Holy Trinity** the one God in three Divine Persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit

**image of God** the likeness of God that is in all human beings because we are created by him

## Connect Your Faith

**Show Your Uniqueness** Work in groups of four. Next to each fingerprint, write one way that each of you are similar and one way that you are different from one another.



We are similar because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.



We are different because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.



# Our Catholic Life

## How can you show you care for all of God's creation?

God put everything we need here on Earth. The Earth gives us food. It also supplies us with materials for our clothing and our homes. God gave us all of creation to use and enjoy. When we show care for God's creation we are showing respect for other people and for the Earth.



Place a check mark next to the things you do already. Place an X next to one thing you can try to do this week.

### Enjoy and Care for Creation

#### Enjoy Creation

- Give the flowers from the Earth as gifts.
- Use fruits and vegetables for food.
- Play sports on the grass or watch beautiful sunsets.

#### Care for Creation

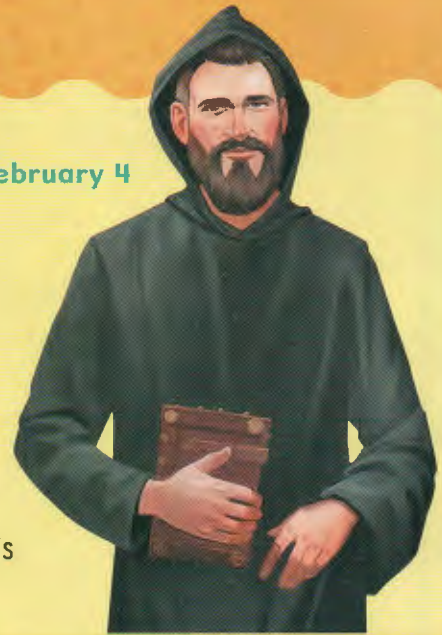
- Respect other people and care for animals.
- Respect the Earth by putting trash in its proper place and recyclable items in recycle bins.
- Make a commitment not to waste food or things you use every day.

# People of Faith

## Blessed Rabanus Maurus, 780–856

Blessed Rabanus Maurus was a German monk and teacher. He lived a very long time ago and was one of the smartest men of his time. He studied many different things and opened a special school to help other people learn, too. He wrote many books. One was about the whole universe. Another book helped people figure out the date for Easter. Blessed Rabanus wanted us to know God better by learning about the things God created. You can see some of his books in the Vatican library.

February 4



**Discuss:** How can you know God better by learning about the things God created?



Learn more about Blessed Rabanus at [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)

## Live Your Faith

**Make a Garden** One of the best places to use and enjoy God's creation is in a garden. Imagine that you are planting a garden of your own. Write down your plans.

Things I need to start: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What I'm going to plant: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

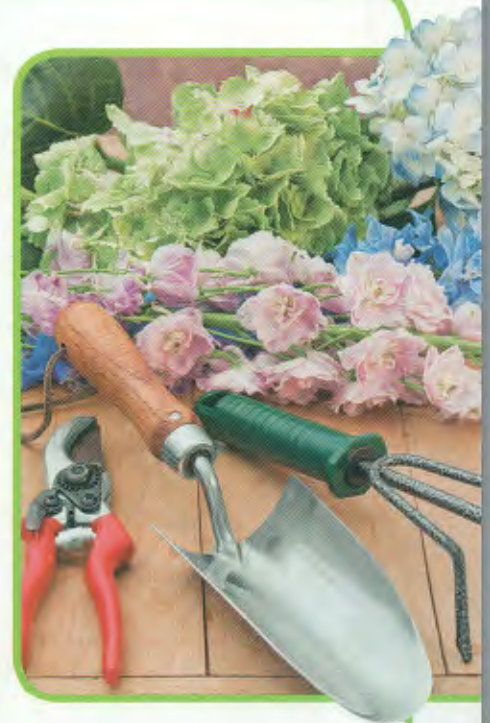
I'll care for this garden by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How is caring for creation a way to honor God?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



 Let Us Pray

## Prayer of Praise

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Leader:** Loving God, help us appreciate the marvelous gift of this world that you have created.

**All:** We thank you, God, for the gift of creation.

**Leader:** You made each of us wonderfully special.

**All:** We thank you, God, for the gift of creation.

**Leader:** Dear God, help us love your creation.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Bow your heads as the leader prays.

**All:** Amen.



Sing "And It Was Good"

And it was good, good, very, very good,  
and it was good, good, very, very good,  
and it was good, good, very, very good,  
it was very, very, very good.

Text and music: Jack Miffleton. © 1990.

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## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains how the Holy Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—worked as one to create the world.

### God's Word



Read **Psalm 139:13–15** to find out how each one of us is special to God.

### Catholics Believe

- God created everything. All creation shows God's goodness.
- God created humans in his image and likeness with a unique role in his creation.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #339, 358 at [uscbb.org](http://uscbb.org).

### People of Faith

This week your child met Blessed Rabanus Maurus, a German monk and prototype scientist. He understood that we know God better when we learn about the things God created.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand Creation** Third-graders enjoy being outside and are often very interested in science and nature. They understand cause and effect and are usually very curious about how things work. This is an excellent age for appreciating God's thoughtful and marvelous design and our responsibility in caring for creation.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

How much does an artist reveal about himself in his work?

Whether it is Michelangelo or your third grader, what a person creates is an extension of him or herself. Human beings are God's creation. "God's image is not a static picture stamped on our souls. God's image is a dynamic source of inner spiritual energy drawing our minds and hearts toward truth and love, and to God himself, the source of all truth and love" (*USCCA, p. 67*).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to name some signs of God's goodness that he or she sees around them.
- Talk about the different ways you can care for God's creation as a family.

## LET'S PRAY >>>



Dear God, Blessed Rabanus Maurus said we know you better when we learn about the things you created. We thank you for creating the plants and animals and each one of us Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

# Chapter 1 Review

## A Work with Words Fill in the circle beside the correct answer.

- To \_\_\_\_ means to make something from nothing.  
 pray       love       create
- God has given all people \_\_\_\_ to care for creation.  
 responsibility       money       permission
- The one God in three Divine Persons is called the \_\_\_\_.  
 Holy Church       Holy Spirit       Holy Trinity
- All creation is \_\_\_\_.  
 good       bad       old
- Only \_\_\_\_ are created in the image of God.  
 animals       birds       humans

## B Check Understanding Write a brief response to each question.

- What did God create? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who can make something from nothing?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How can you show that you care for creation?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What causes God's creation to be out of balance?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Who can help bring creation back into harmony?  
\_\_\_\_\_

