

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 3

The Church

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Our Sunday Visitor

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Nihil Obstat

Rev. Fr. Jeremiah L. Payne, S.Th.L.
Censor Librorum, Diocese of Orlando

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The Church Gathered

Let Us Pray

Leader: Lord, we want to live in your presence.

“Blessed are those who dwell in your house!
They never cease to praise you.” **Psalm 84:5**

All: Make us your house, O God. We are your people gathered in Jesus’ name. Open our hearts to the Holy Spirit who makes us one. Amen.

God’s Word

“I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word.” I pray that everyone who believes in me may be one like I am one with you Father, so that the world will believe you sent me. **Based on John 17:20–23**

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What Do You Wonder?

- How can we be one with people all over the world?
- How can you spread the Good News of Jesus?

Serving the Community

Where do you learn about God?



Underline the ways that Brother André helped his community.

We live in communities. Life together gives us opportunities to serve one another. Here is a story about a Saint who helped his community.

Saint André Bessette

Saint André belonged to the Order of the Holy Cross. His parents died when he was young, so he did not have much schooling. The job he could do best was answering the door at a Catholic college in Canada.

Many people visited the college looking for help. Brother André helped them get what they needed. Some of the people were sick. He prayed with them and invited them to pray to Saint Joseph. Some of the people he prayed with were cured. Brother André said that God had cured them.

So many people visited Brother André to ask for his prayers that the college had to build a separate building for all of the visitors! After helping at the college, he would go out into Montreal to find more people to help. Brother André spread God's love through his life, work, and prayer.

➔ How do you serve the communities to which you belong?





The early Christians gathered in house churches, catacombs, and other hidden spots.

God Teaches You

The **Bible** is the Word of God written in human words. The Bible story below tells us how the first followers of Jesus prayed, lived, and worked.

God's Word

Helping One Another

After the Holy Spirit came, Jesus' followers met often to learn from the Apostles, to break bread together, and to pray. Some members of the group sold what they had and gave the money to help the others. Many early Christians shared their belongings with those who were in need. These followers of Jesus were very happy, and new members joined every day. **Based on Acts 2:42-47**

Catholic Faith Words

Bible the Word of God written in human words. The Bible is the holy book of the Church.

Share Your Faith

Think Write about a time when you've had trouble sharing with a friend or family member.

Share With a partner, talk about how it can sometimes be difficult to share.

God's People

Why is being part of the Church community so important?



Underline the way that being part of a community can help you.

The early Christians learned about God from Jesus and from his Apostles. God wants all people to love one another and work together like the early Christians did.

When people come together for a shared purpose, the group they form is called a community. God created you to be part of a community. A community can help you learn things about God that you might never know if you were learning on your own.

You feel God's love and share his life in the Church. The **Church** is the community of all baptized people who believe in God and follow Jesus. The word *Church* is often used for the Catholic Church because we trace our origins back to the Apostles. Jesus showed all people his Father's love, and he sent the Holy Spirit to guide the Church.

The Church community helps us learn more about God and grow in our faith.



Gathered in Jesus' Name

The word *church* comes from two different words. One word means “a community called together.” The other word means “belonging to the Lord.” These meanings tell you that the Church is different from other communities. The Church is the People of God. Through Baptism, God calls you to be part of this special community gathered in Jesus' name.

As a member of the Catholic Church, you have some important work to do. Church members gather together to honor and worship God and to help others. We listen to the teachings of the Church, which came from the Apostles and have been passed down to us by the bishops through **Sacred Tradition**. The Church helps us understand the Bible and the message of Jesus. She teaches us about God and his love.

Catholic Faith Words

Church the community of all baptized people who believe in God and follow Jesus. The word is often used for the Catholic Church because we trace our origins back to the Apostles.

Sacred Tradition God's Word handed down verbally through the Apostles and bishops

Connect Your Faith

God's Work Draw one way some people in your parish honor God and help others.

Our Catholic Life

Who is called to serve the Church?

Members of the Church are called together to do God's work on Earth. Each person has a special role in the Church community. You are not too young to help your Church community. Many parishes have projects that people your age can work on. Some projects go on all year. Other projects may be finished in a shorter time.

You can also serve God and the Church by living out the Good News of Jesus. You can do this in many ways.



Write some examples of how you can live the Good News.

Live the Good News

Share stories about Jesus with others.

Listen to and obey parents, teachers, and coaches.

Show respect for the special work of priests and religious brothers and sisters.

Play fair with your sisters, brothers, and friends.

Show how important God is in your life by praying, going to Mass, and helping others.



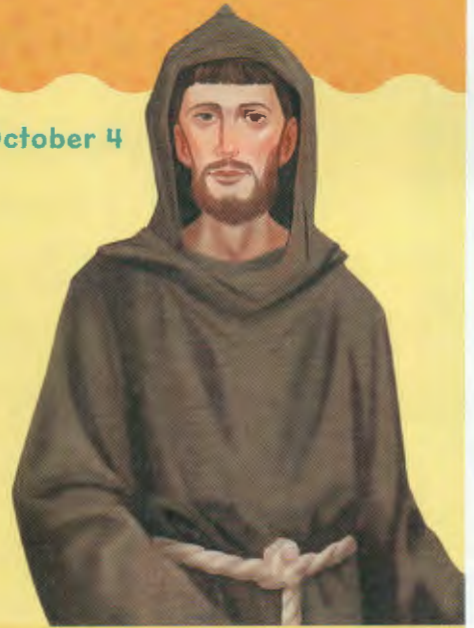
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People of Faith

Saint Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226

October 4

Saint Francis was the son of a man who sold beautiful cloth. His father wanted Francis to work with him, but Francis wanted to tell people about Jesus. One day while he was praying, Jesus asked him to rebuild the Church. Francis knew that God was calling him to do this special work. Soon other people came to help Francis. He preached the Good News of Jesus and helped make the Church more holy. He helped people to see the beauty of the world by living a simple life and showing kindness to all of God's



Discuss: How can you be kind to all of God's creatures?



Learn more about Saint Francis at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Write a Story List four ways that people do God's work every day. Choose one way from the list and write about a person your age who does this.

1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

 Let Us Pray

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: Jesus, you call us in so many ways. We thank you now for being part of the Catholic Church.

Reader 1: The Church is the People of God

Reader 2: gathered in the name of Jesus.

All: Thank you for calling us to be a part of your Church.

Reader 3: The Church helps us to understand the Bible

Reader 4: and to share the message and love of Jesus.

All: Thank you for calling us to be a part of your Church.

Reader 5: The Church helps us to honor God the Father

Reader 6: and to grow closer to Jesus.

All: Thank you for calling us to be a part of your Church.

Leader: Let us pray.

Bow your heads as the leader continues to pray.



Sing "We Come Today"



YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains how the Church community works together to act in Jesus' name.

God's Word



Read **John 17:20–23** and talk about the ways each of you can be one with God.

Catholics Believe

- The Bible is the Word of God written in human words.
- The Church is the community of all baptized people who believe in God and follow Jesus.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #781, 782 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint Francis of Assisi, who helped bring about a renewal of Church through his simple way of life.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand the Church Community Third grade is an age when the social group often becomes important to children. They want to know that they belong and have friends. This is the perfect age to talk with your child about the Church as our community of faith. It's especially important that they have time to spend with peers at church and are able to form friendships in their parish community.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

When someone looks at you do they see Christ in you?

Have you ever asked yourself this? It may seem like an odd question. Yet, as baptized people we believe that God has invited us into his Divine life. "Only Jesus can transform us into himself. Our inner receptivity [our openness] is critical. To receive love, we need to be open to it." Offering ourselves at Mass together with the gifts of bread and wine is the best way to continuously give Christ the opportunity to transform us. "Then in Christ we become bread for the world's bodily and spiritual hungers" (*USCCA*, p. 227).

LET'S TALK >>>

- As a family, talk about ways that you could live a more simple life.
- Talk about the different times you gather as a Church community.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Francis, pray for us that we may work together to build the Church. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 2 Review

A Work with Words Complete the following statements.

1. One way to serve God and the Church is by living out the _____ of Jesus Christ.
2. A _____ is a group of people who come together for a shared purpose.
3. The _____ is the community of all baptized people who believe in God and follow Jesus.
4. The _____ is the Word of God written in human words.
5. A name for the Church community is _____.

Word Bank

Church

Good News

community

People of God

Bible

B Check Understanding Match each description in Column A with the correct term in Column B.

Column A

6. Was sent to guide the Church
7. Means “belonging to the Lord”
8. Showing respect for others is one way to do this
9. God’s Word handed down verbally through the Apostles and bishops
10. God wants people to show each other this

Column B

- Sacred Tradition
- the Holy Spirit
- love
- Church
- serve God

