

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 3

The Church

aliveinchrist.osv.com



Our Sunday Visitor

The Body of Christ

Let Us Pray

Leader: Loving God, bring hope and comfort to all people.

“Defend the lowly and fatherless;
render justice to the afflicted and needy.”

Psalm 82:3

All: You are the source of all hope. So many people in the world need basic things, or they are lonely or sad. Give me the eyes to see and the heart to act as your Son did. Amen.

God's Word

The Holy Spirit gives us different kinds of gifts and different ways of serving. But, there is only one Lord. There are different ways to use your gifts, but it is God who gives them to each of us. **Based on 1 Corinthians 12:4-7**

What Do You Wonder?

- How did God decide what gifts to give you?
- What happens when you only use your gifts to make things better for yourself?

Catholic Faith Words

parish the local community of Catholics that meets at a particular place

Body of Christ a name for the Church of which Christ is the head. All the baptized are members of the Body.



Draw a box around another name for the Church.

We Each Have a Role

How do we continue Jesus' work today?

When people work together, the job is easier for everyone. God's Word tells us that we all have different gifts and talents we use together for the good of the Church.

The Church

The people of the Church work together. When Jesus lived on Earth, he did his Father's work. The Holy Spirit was with Jesus. At his Ascension, Jesus returned to his Father in Heaven. Then Jesus sent the Spirit to be with his Church. The Holy Spirit makes it possible for the Church to continue Jesus' work today.

As a baptized member of the Church family, you are part of a **parish**. Together as a community and as an individual, you are Jesus to other people. You use your hands and feet, your mouth and ears, and your mind and heart to do Jesus' work.

One name for the Church is the **Body of Christ**. This name tells you that all Church members are one body. Even though each member of the Church is unique, we are all one, just like the parts of a body are different parts of one body. We each have a special part to play in God's plan. This name also says that you belong to Jesus. Jesus is the head, and we follow him.



Doing Jesus' Work

The Church continues to do Jesus' work on Earth. Jesus' mission was to help people know and give glory to God the Father. An important part of his work was caring for people who needed help.

As a Church, we continue Jesus' work by helping people know and worship God and also by caring for people who need help.

Saint Francis of Assisi taught that people can come to know God through our love for them. He said, "Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words." We can help fulfill Jesus' mission with our actions and our deeds.

We help others know God when we are good examples, make right choices, and put God first. When we work together to help others in need, we show love for them and for God. Someday someone might ask you to explain why you live the way you do. When you talk about your love for God, you help others know him.



Members of parishes work together to help others in need and show love for God and others.

Share Your Faith

Think What would you say if someone asked why you love God? Write a poem using the words you used to describe your love for God.

Share With a partner, share your reasons for living the way you do.

Sharing in Jesus' Work of Helping Others

How can we respond to Jesus' call to help others?

Jesus wants us to show love and care for everyone. In the story below, Jesus speaks of himself as a king, who praises those who have treated strangers and neighbors like they were Jesus himself. Jesus told his followers this story to teach them how they should treat others.



Underline what Jesus will say to some people at the end of time.

God's Word

Those Who Helped

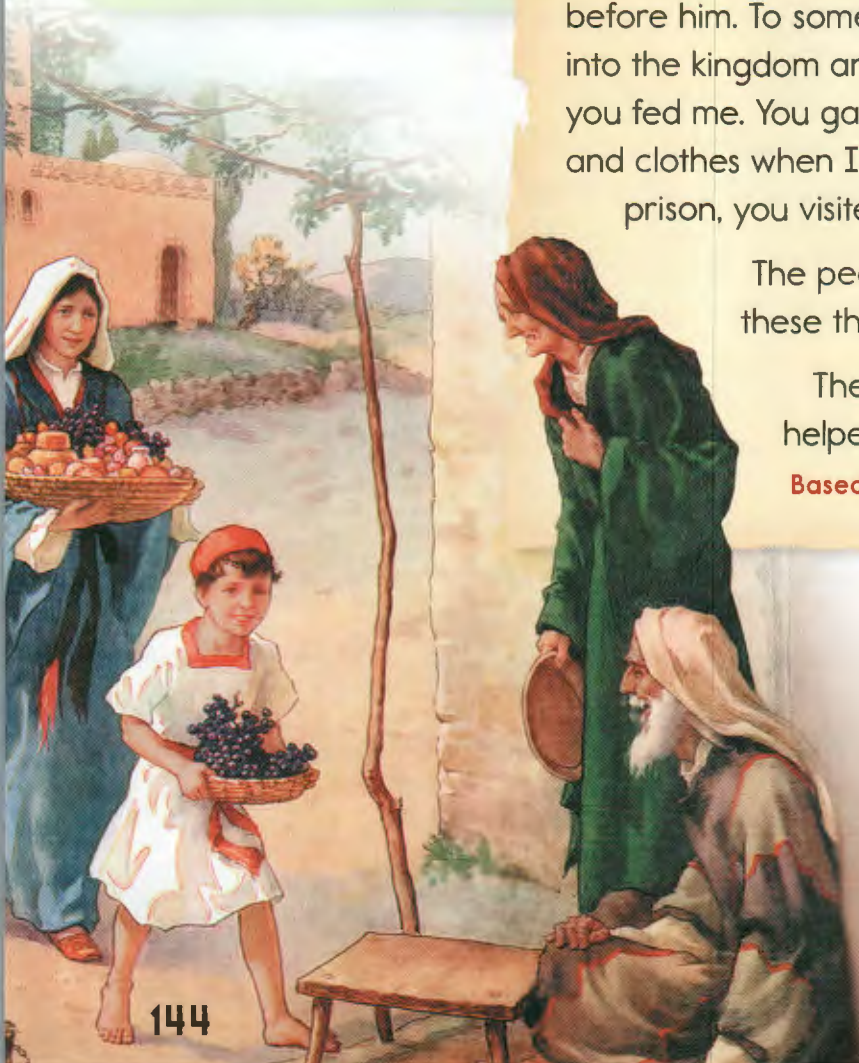
At the end of time, the king will call all people before him. To some people, the king will say, "Enter into the kingdom and be joyful! When I was hungry, you fed me. You gave me water when I was thirsty and clothes when I needed them. When I was in prison, you visited me."

The people will say, "When did we do these things for you?"

The king will say, "Whenever you helped anyone in need, you helped me."

Based on Matthew 25:31-40

➔ Jesus wants us to treat others in the same way that we would treat him.



Share Your Gifts

God gave each person special gifts, or talents. A talent is something you enjoy doing and can do well. You are called to use your talents to serve others. When you do this, you are being a good steward of the gifts that God has given you. **Stewardship** helps us have thankful hearts and a commitment to sharing our gifts with others.

When people put their talents together and work as the Body of Christ, they can do more than any one person can do alone.

At the end of Mass, you go forth to do Jesus' work in the world. The priest or deacon says, "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." You glorify the Lord by making good choices, by helping people know God, and by loving and serving all of God's people.

➔ **How many different talents can you count among the people around you?**



Catholic Faith Words

stewardship the way we appreciate and use God's gifts, including our time, talent, and treasure and the resources of creation

Connect Your Faith

Ways to Help Draw one way you help people worship God at your parish.

Our Catholic Life

How does your parish share in Jesus' work?

As a way to continue Jesus' work, parishes teach people about God the Father's great love and help those in need. This work can be done in the parish, in the community, or even in another country.



Place a check mark next to the ways you can or will get involved.

Get Involved

Your parish is already working to bring hope and understanding to your community and the world. Some ways that parishes get involved are listed below.

Get Involved

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collect money for the missions. | <input type="checkbox"/> Start a collection of baby items for a women's shelter. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve food in a homeless shelter. | <input type="checkbox"/> Invite a friend to come to Mass or help someone get religious education class. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Become an altar server. | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean a park. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Offer to help at computer classes for senior citizens. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sing in the choir or play an instrument at Mass. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Become a greeter with your family. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Check your parish bulletin or website for announcements about your parish's involvement in the community. |

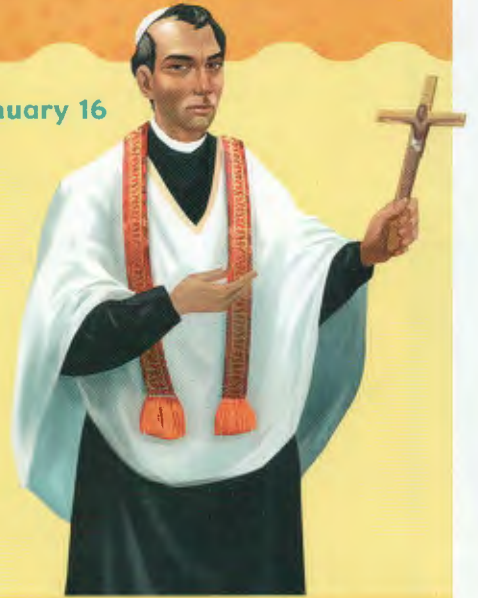


People of Faith

Saint Joseph Vaz, 1651–1711

January 16

Saint Joseph Vaz was born in India. Most people in India are Hindu. Joseph's family was Catholic. He wanted to share the Gospel with everyone. He used his gifts to help other people know God. He went to faraway places to teach about Jesus and build churches. Joseph decided to become a missionary and went to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), even though the government there didn't allow priests in the country. Joseph helped bring others there to talk about Jesus and serve God's People.



Discuss: What are some things you can do to help others know God?



Learn more about
Saint Joseph Vaz
at alliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Share Your Talents Make a banner to encourage people to use their talents to help one another as members of the Body of Christ.



 Let Us Pray

Prayer of Petition

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: God our Father, we stand before you
as the Body of Christ.

Reader 1: Help our eyes see work that needs to be done,

All: So that we can share in your work.

Reader 2: Help our ears hear your wisdom written in Scripture,

All: So that we can praise God and listen to his will.

Reader 1: Help our hands and feet be strong,

All: So that we can help one another.

Reader 2: Help our hearts be full of love,

All: So that we can share your love.

Leader: Let us pray.

Bow your heads as the leader prays.

All: Amen.



Sing "Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo/We Are the Body of Christ"

Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo.

We are the Body of Christ.

Hemos oído el llamado;

we've answered "Yes" to the call of the Lord.

Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo.

We are the Body of Christ.

Traemos su santo mensaje.

We come to bring the Good News to the world.

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FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains that all baptized Catholics are members of the Body of Christ and examines how people use their gifts and talents to serve God and others.

God's Word



Read **1 Corinthians 12:4–7** and talk about how your family is part of the Body of Christ.

Catholics Believe

- The Church is the Body of Christ, to which all her members belong.
- Stewardship is the way we appreciate and use God's gifts—including our time, talent, and treasure and the gift of creation—to serve God and others.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #521, 1267 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint Joseph Vaz, a priest from India who traveled to other countries to help others know about God.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Participation in Jesus' Work Third-graders are sometimes initially surprised when they realize they can participate in God's work and that, in fact, everyone in the Church, young and old, has particular work to do. This is a good time in your child's life to present this concept, as he or she is now also becoming more aware of ways to be helpful at home and at school.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

How do you foster your child's gifts and talents? Do you connect them to God's gifts and will for him/her?

As Catholic parents, we balance competition and the common good. It requires helping our children to become their personal best and helping them understand that this talent or gift has been given for the good of the community. "...it is fitting that parents always encourage their children to make life decisions with serious consideration about the best ways to live out their faith" (*USCCA*, p. 379).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child how he or she can help Jesus by helping someone else.
- Talk about a time when you've shared your talents to help others. What did you do and how did it help someone else?

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Joseph Vaz, pray for us that we may help others know God. Amen.



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

Chapter 9 Review

A Work with Words Complete each sentence with the correct word or words from the Word Bank.

1. The Church is sometimes called the _____.
2. You can _____ the Lord by making good choices and helping people to know God.
3. Since Jesus returned to his Father, the _____ continues his work on Earth.
4. When Jesus returned to Heaven, he sent the _____ to be with his followers.
5. _____ means appreciating and using God's gift of creation, including our time, talent, and treasure.

Word Bank

Church

stewardship

Body of Christ

Holy Spirit

glorify

B Check Understanding Complete each sentence.

Column A

6. The Church continues Jesus' work with the help of
7. The Church is one, but it has
8. At his Ascension, Jesus returned to his
9. Your parish is a community that continues
10. We become members of the Body of Christ at

Column B

- many members.
- the Holy Spirit.
- Baptism.
- Father in Heaven.
- Jesus' work.

