

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 3

The Church

aliveinchrist.osv.com



Our Sunday Visitor

One and Holy

Let Us Pray

Leader: Lord, God, you welcome all into your home.
Help us to do your work.

“Unless the LORD build the house, they labor in
vain who build.” **Psalm 127:1**

All: Jesus, when we become one with you in Baptism,
we become one with others in your Church. Let
the Church be a sign of unity and welcome. Amen.

God's Word

Jesus came and preached peace to everyone. So now, you are no longer strangers or wanderers. You are fellow citizens with the Saints and members of God's family. The Church is built upon the foundation of the Apostles and the prophets. Jesus is the center stone that holds everyone together. **Based on Ephesians 2:19–21**

What Do You Wonder?

- Could you really have the same courage as the Apostles?
- How can the Holy Spirit make us one?



United as One

How is the Catholic Church one?

Church communities are sometimes different, but all are one in Jesus. In other cultures, you would see some differences in the Mass celebration than what you would see in your own parish.

The same Mystery of Faith is being celebrated in all these places. The main parts of the Mass are the same everywhere because the Catholic Church is united as one.

In countries in Africa, children might dance in the aisle in procession to the rhythm of drums before receiving communion.

In many other countries, the language and music of the liturgy are different.



NORTH AMERICA

EUROPE

AFRICA

SOUTH AMERICA

Our Sunday Visitor

Identifying Characteristics

There are four **Marks of the Church**: **one**, **holy**, **catholic**, and **apostolic**. These Marks are linked together and show the essential features of the Church and her mission. The Church is one because the Holy Spirit unites members of the Church all over the world through one faith and one Baptism.

In India, a deacon might honor the Book of Gospels by passing a tray of fragrant flowers over it.



© Our Sunday Visitor

Catholic Faith Words

Marks of the Church the four characteristics that identify Christ's Church

one the Church is one because the power of the Holy Spirit unites all the members through one faith and one Baptism

holy the Church is holy because she is set apart for God and his purposes

catholic the Church is meant for all people in all times and all places

apostolic the teaching authority of the Church comes directly from Jesus and his chosen Apostles because the bishops of the Church are direct successors of the Apostles

Share Your Faith

Think How do you think Mass is celebrated in different parts of the world? Using a map or a globe, choose a country; then research how people celebrate Mass in that country.

Share Discuss with your group how Mass in that country might be different from Mass in the United States.

ASIA

AUSTRALIA



Fifty days after Jesus' Resurrection the Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Catholic Faith Words

Pentecost the feast that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit fifty days after Easter



Underline what happened to the Apostles when they were filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Made Holy

What makes the Catholic Church holy?

People from many different countries were united when the Holy Spirit came to followers of Jesus on **Pentecost**. Pentecost marks the day the work of the Church began. From that day on, God's People understood more clearly that they were one body of believers who had been made holy.

God's Word

The Coming of the Spirit

Fifty days after Jesus was raised from the dead, his followers were together in a house in Jerusalem. Suddenly, the house was filled with a noise like wind. Tongues of fire came to rest on each person in the room. All were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began speaking languages that they did not know.

Jerusalem was filled with Jews from all over the world that day. They heard the Apostles preaching. They were amazed that they could understand people from Galilee in their own languages. **Based on Acts 2:1-12**

Communion of Saints

The Holy Spirit continues to unify the Church today. The Spirit guides the leaders of the Church. The Spirit guides you to follow Jesus more closely and makes the Church holy.

Catholics all over the world are united by their faith in Christ. The Church is even united with the **Saints**, heroes of the Church who loved God, led holy lives, and are now in Heaven. The Church honors the Saints, especially Mary, the Mother of Jesus, for their holiness. Christians can learn from the examples of the Saints.

The Church is also called the **Communion of Saints**. This means that the members of the Church, both living and dead, form one Body in Christ. Even the Saints join you in worshipping the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

Catholic Faith Words

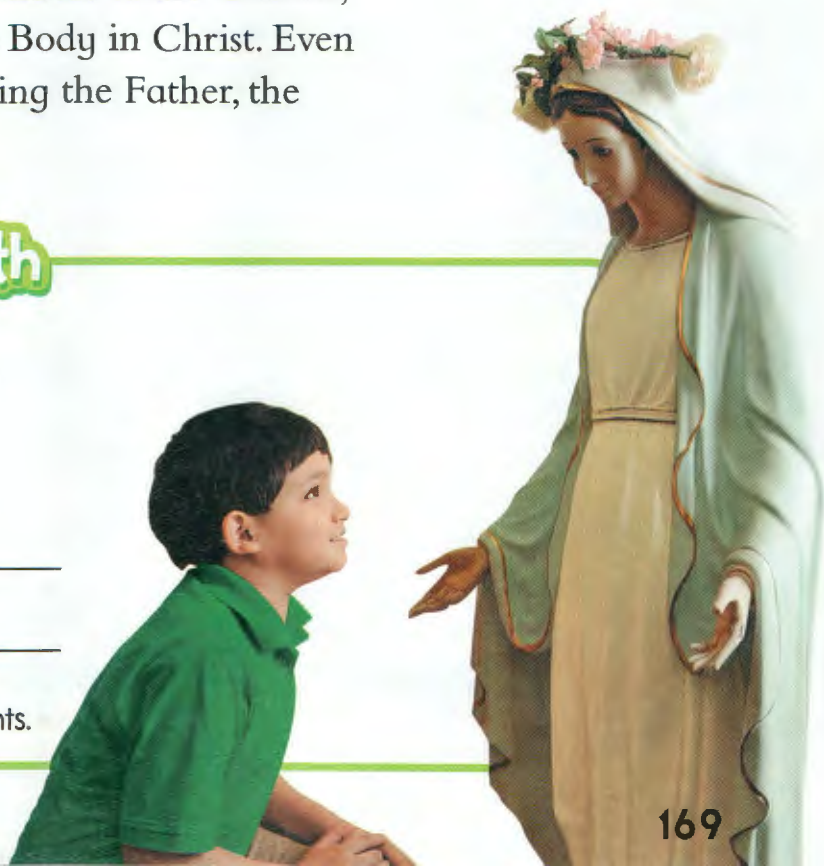
Saint a hero of the Church who loved God very much, led a holy life, and is now with God in Heaven

Communion of Saints everyone who believes in and follows Jesus—people on Earth and people who have died and are in Purgatory or in Heaven

Connect Your Faith

Name a Saint Write down the name of someone you know who belongs to the Communion of Saints.

belongs to the Communion of Saints.



Our Catholic Life

How do Saints help us live better?



Look up the feast day for each Saint and write it under their names.

The holy people of the past can teach you many things. From them, you can learn how to love God, lead a holy life, and make good choices. Saints are good examples and role models.

Saints

Saints are models or examples.

Someone who teaches you how to live is called a role model. Saints can show you how to love God and serve others.

We can turn to the Saints in prayer.

Because the Saints share God's life and love in Heaven, we can ask the Saints to pray for us and to help us know God's will.

Saints are patrons for jobs, people, and parishes.

Sometimes Saints are called patron Saints. This means that these Saints may have had particular jobs or talents that we share. People who have certain jobs or talents can look up to the Saints who had those same jobs and talents.

People named for Saints look to their name Saints for help.

If your parish church is named for a Saint, you can honor that Saint and ask him or her to pray for you to be a faithful follower of Jesus.

We remember the Saints' lives on their feast days.

At liturgies and celebrations, we learn more about the Saints and their holy actions.



© Our Sunday Visitor

- Saints Anne and Joachim

Feast Day: _____

- Saint Bede

Feast Day: _____

- Saint Katharine Drexel

Feast Day: _____

- Saint Martin de Porres

Feast Day: _____

People of Faith

Saints Perpetua and Felicity, died c. AD 202–203

Saints Perpetua and Felicity lived in Northern Africa. They died together for their faith. Perpetua was a rich woman who became a Christian. Felicity was a slave. She was a Christian, too. Both women had young children. Perpetua wrote about being in prison. She and Felicity helped each other be brave until they died. The Communion of Saints goes back to the start of the Church. In one of the prayers of the Mass, we remember many early Saints, like Perpetua and Felicity.



March 7

Discuss: Who are some of your favorite Saints?



Learn more about Saints Perpetua and Felicity at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Illustrate a Holy Card Draw a picture of a Saint on the front of this holy card and write the Saint's name below your drawing. Then write a prayer on the back.



 Let Us Pray

Praying Together to the Holy Spirit

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.
Children read their names and present their flowers.

Leader: So many people belong to the Communion of Saints.
Let us prayerfully name some. After every two names
we will pray:


All: Be with us in praising God the Father, God the Son, and
God the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Let us pray.

Bow your heads as the leader continues to pray.

All: Amen.

Offer one another a Sign of Peace.

 Sing "Come to Us, Holy Spirit"
Come to us Holy Spirit
So we can know God's love
Come to us Holy Spirit
So we can know God's love

© 2010, Chet A. Chambers. Published
by Our Sunday Visitor.



FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains how the Holy Spirit continues to unify the Church and make her holy. One and holy are two Marks of the Church.

God's Word



Read **Ephesians 2:19–21** and discuss how we are all members of God's family.

Catholics Believe

- The Marks of the Church are the four characteristics that identify Christ's Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.
- The Communion of Saints includes all members of the Church, both living and dead, and form one Body in Christ.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #813, 814 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child met Saints Perpetua and Felicity, early martyrs who are remembered in Eucharistic Prayer I.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand the Oneness of the Church To a third-grader, it might not seem like the Church is one at all. Children this age have often had friends and family that are part of other faith communities (or other parishes, if they are Catholic). It's important for them to know that Catholics are united through the Communion of Saints, by their faith in Jesus as God's Son, and by other core beliefs and practices.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Have you ever wondered if you are speaking the same language as everyone else in the room?

People often hear what they want and not what is said. It might lead someone to wonder how the Church can speak clearly about God's revelation. "...the Holy Spirit, dwelling in the Church, draws the whole body of the faithful to believe what truly belongs to the faith. 'By this appreciation of the faith, aroused and sustained by the Spirit of truth, the People of God, guided by the sacred teaching authority (*magisterium*), and obeying it, receives not the mere word of men, but truly the word of God... (*LG, no. 12*)" (*USCCA, p. 25*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to name some differences between Mass at your parish and Mass in other parts of the world.
- Talk about all of the people in your family who are part of the Communion of Saints.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saints Perpetua and Felicity, we remember and honor you and ask you to pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



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

Chapter 11 Review

A Work with Words Match each description in Column A with the correct term in Column B.

Column A

1. unifies the Church today
2. heroes of the Church who are with God in Heaven
3. another name for the Church
4. city where the Apostles received the Holy Spirit
5. celebrated fifty days after Easter

Column B

- Jerusalem
- Saints
- Pentecost
- Holy Spirit
- Communion of Saints

B Check Understanding Fill in the circle beside the correct answer.

6. Pentecost celebrates the coming of the ____.
 New World Holy Spirit
7. The Church honors the Saints, especially ____.
 Mary the Pope
8. The main parts of the Mass are ____ around the world.
 the same different
9. ____ unites Catholics all over the world.
 The music at Mass Faith in Jesus
10. You can learn how to ____ from studying the Saints.
 lead a holy life pray

