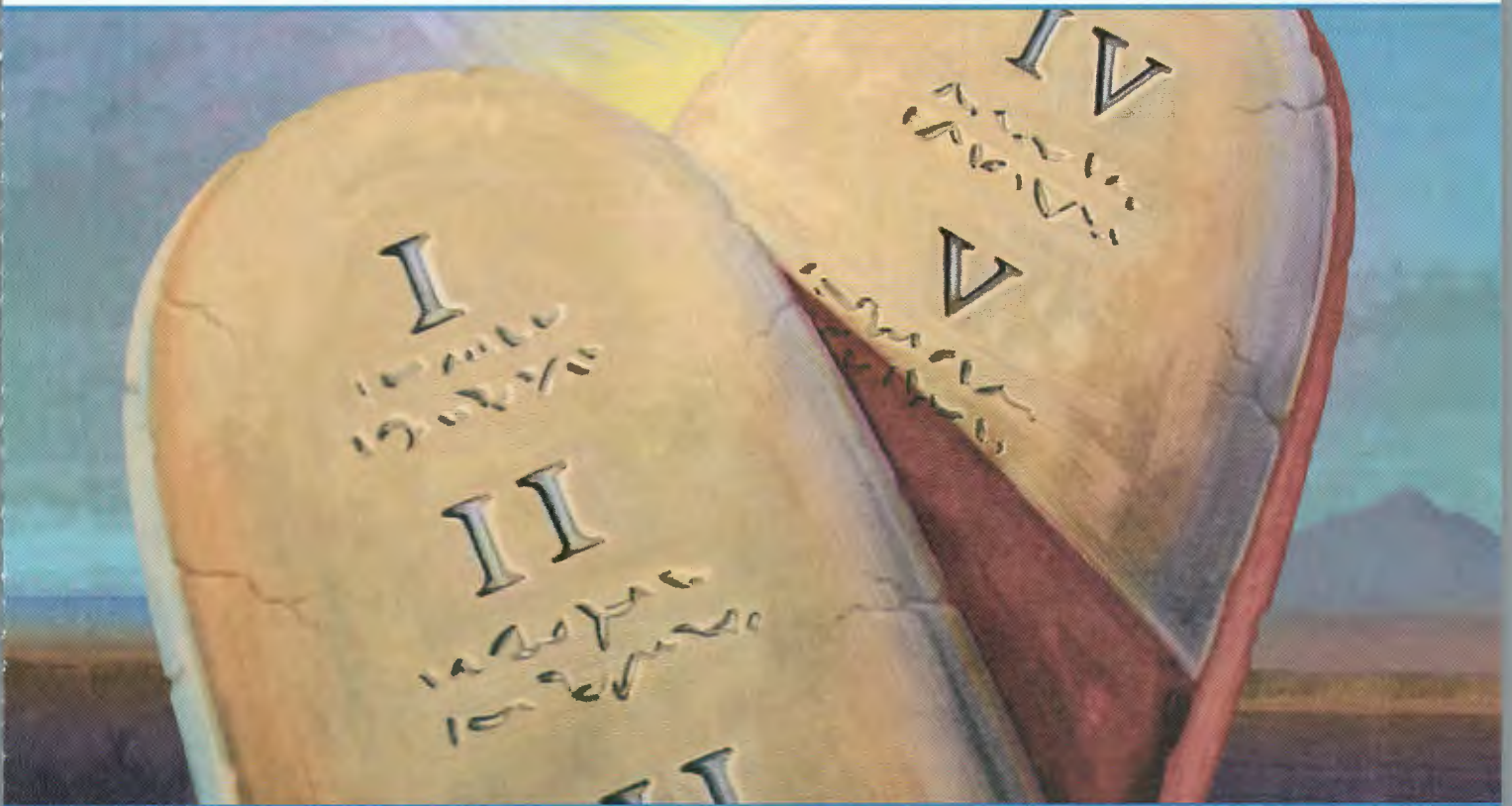


# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 4

The Moral Life

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**OurSundayVisitor**



# Jesus Christ

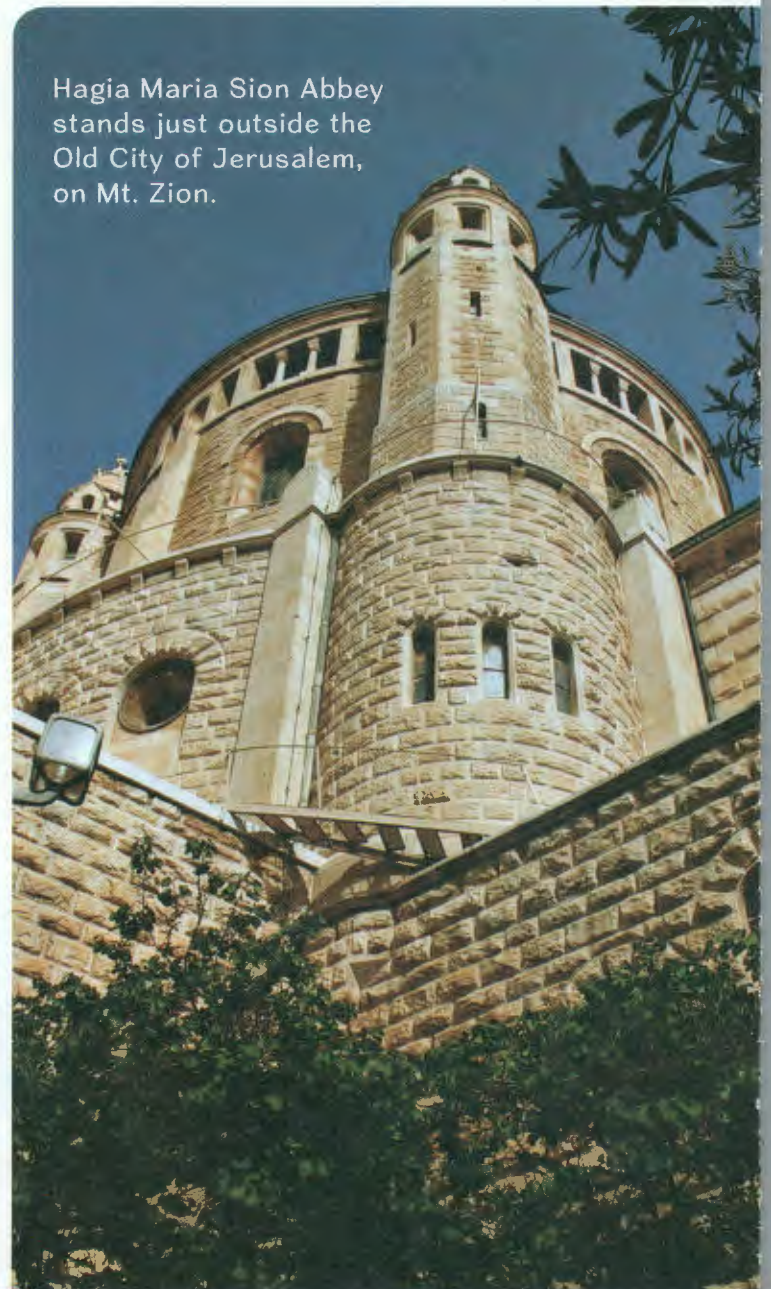


## Our Catholic Tradition

- Jesus wants people to be happy and to carry his message of the goodness of God's Kingdom into the world. He shared that message in his teachings, most especially the Beatitudes. (CCC, 851, 1724)
- Jesus calls us to trust in the Father and to be a blessing to others by living the Great Commandment of love. (CCC, 2055)
- Jesus teaches us to praise God with worship, by honoring his name, and by keeping Sunday holy. (CCC, 2083)

How does Jesus' teaching in the Beatitudes help us to live the Ten Commandments?

Hagia Maria Sion Abbey stands just outside the Old City of Jerusalem, on Mt. Zion.





# The Beatitudes

## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** Thank you, O Lord, for you have blessed us in so many ways.

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people chosen as his inheritance.”

**Psalm 33:12**

**All:** You have chosen us, O Lord, and made us to be happy with you forever. We are truly blessed by your gifts. Amen.

## Scripture

While [Jesus] was speaking, a woman from the crowd called out and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that carried you and the breasts at which you nursed.” He replied, “Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.” **Luke 11:27–28**

### What Do You Wonder?

- What does it mean to be blessed?
- What directions did Jesus give his followers on how to live?



## Jesus Brings God's Blessing

What did Jesus teach his disciples about blessings?

In the Gospel according to Matthew, we find a summary of what Jesus taught about how to live by God's Word. We learn who is blessed and how to be a blessing for others, and about the kindness and concern known as **mercy**.

### Catholic Faith Words

**mercy** kindness and concern for those who are suffering. God has mercy on us even though we are sinners.

**Beatitudes** teachings of Jesus that show the way to true happiness and tell the way to live in God's Kingdom now and always

**eternal life** life forever with God for all who die in his friendship



### Scripture

One day Jesus stood in the midst of his Apostles and a great crowd of followers. He taught them with these words:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst  
for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.

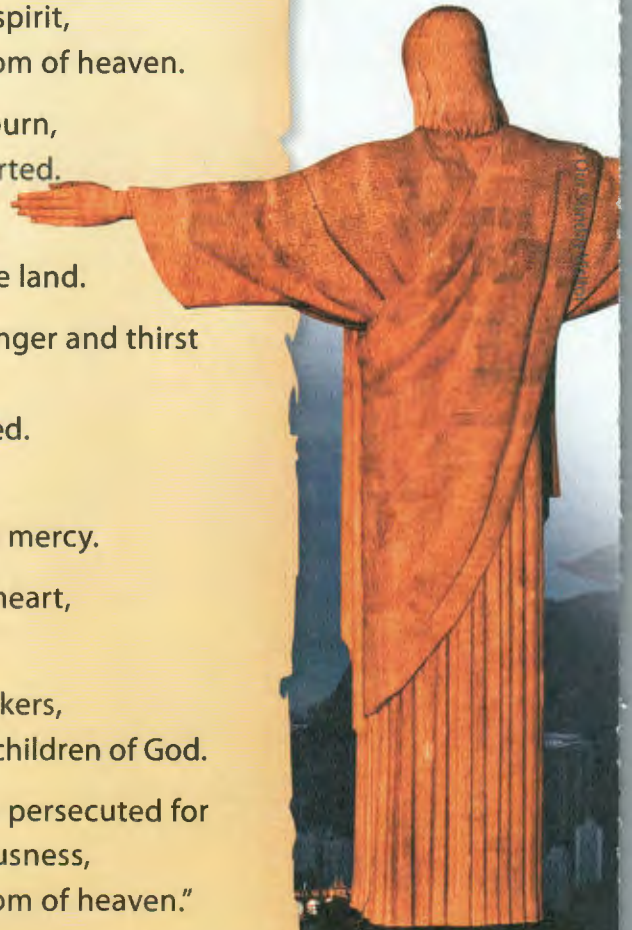
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart,  
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for  
the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

**Matthew 5:3-10**



This statue of Christ the Redeemer overlooks Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A chapel beneath the statue was consecrated in 2006.



# The Beatitudes

The Church calls this teaching of Jesus the **Beatitudes**. The word *beatitude* means “blessing” or “happiness.” God put the desire for happiness inside each of us. Sometimes we think certain people or things will make us happy. But true happiness comes when we follow the Beatitudes.

The Beatitudes are about how we act, feel, and think. They are about the lasting happiness God wants for you. God wants us to work with him as he builds his Kingdom. He wants us all to have **eternal life**.



Match the Beatitude on the left with its meaning on the right.

The Beatitudes	
Blessed are the poor in spirit ...	• Forgive others and ask forgiveness.
Blessed are the meek ...	• In difficult times, trust in God and stand up for what is right.
Blessed are the merciful ...	• Share people’s sorrows and joys.
Blessed are the peacemakers ...	• Help all people treat others justly, and help change unjust conditions.
Blessed are they who mourn ...	• Depend on God, not on material things.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness ...	• Be faithful to God and to his ways.
Blessed are the clean of heart ...	• Be gentle and humble.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness ...	• Work to bring people together. Look for ways to solve problems peacefully.

## Share Your Faith

**Reflect** Imagine you had been there when Jesus gave us the Beatitudes. Think of one question you would ask him about them.

**Share** Discuss with a partner how Jesus would answer.



## Be a Blessing

**What does it mean to be a blessing to others?**

Because God first blessed us, everyone has a chance to be a blessing to others. This story tells how one humble man was a blessing to many people.

### *Pope Saint John XXIII*

Angelo Roncalli grew up in an Italian farming family. He became a priest in 1904 and he helped a bishop run a diocese. He also taught in a seminary and gave inspirational homilies.



A stamp printed in Italy in 1981 commemorates the 100th anniversary of Pope Saint John XXIII's birth.

When Italy became involved in World War I, Angelo was drafted. He became a sergeant and chaplain in the medical corps. He prayed with wounded soldiers, gave them Holy Communion, and heard their confessions. When needed, he performed the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

After the war, he went back to work at the seminary. Soon, Father Angelo was put in charge of an office in the Vatican that helps those who work in the missions.

While in Bulgaria, he visited and worked with Catholic and other Christian groups. When an earthquake struck, he worked to provide relief to the victims. No matter where Father Angelo was, he served those around him by loving them in God's name.







Sisters from the Missionaries of Charity amid the rubble of their church after the 2010 earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

## Sharing Blessings

In the 1930s, Father Angelo worked for the Church in Greece. Then, World War II broke out. He helped prisoners of war communicate with their families. He also helped Jewish families escape by giving them papers that ensured their safe travel.

Angelo was respected in these countries because of his sincere ways and deep holiness. He tried to settle problems by using the teachings about love from the Bible.

In 1958, Father Angelo was elected Pope. He took the name John XXIII. In this position, he was a good servant to his people. He visited people in hospitals and in prisons. He welcomed and met with people from other countries and of other religions. He urged everyone to live in **peace** and settle their problems with kindness and justice. In 1961, Pope Saint John XXIII called a special meeting of all the bishops of the Church. They discussed how the Church could help bring the message of Jesus to the world.

- ➔ How did Pope Saint John XXIII show that God blesses all people?
- ➔ What lesson can you learn from Pope Saint John XXIII?

## Catholic Faith Words

**peace** a state of calm when things are in their proper order and people settle problems with kindness and justice

## Connect Your Faith

**Be a Blessing** Write words beginning with the letters of the word PEACE to describe how you can be a blessing to others.

**P** \_\_\_\_\_

**E** \_\_\_\_\_

**A** \_\_\_\_\_

**C** \_\_\_\_\_

**E** \_\_\_\_\_



# Our Catholic Life

## How can you share blessings through prayer?

Intercession, or petition, is a kind of prayer in which you ask God for something for another person or for the community. It is a generous, thoughtful kind of prayer, and it is one of the types of prayers that Jesus prayed.

Just before the preparation of the gifts at Mass, the whole assembly offers prayers of intercession to God in the Prayer of the Faithful. These prayers are often said for members of the Church, religious and government leaders, and people in the news. Here are some examples of when you might want to say a prayer of intercession.

**Share Blessings**

When a friend is very unhappy

When a friend has to make a hard decision

When you have heard on the news that people have lost their homes in a flood

When an adult has lost a job

When a member of your parish has had someone in his or her family die

When a family member is sick

Fill in more examples of when you would pray a prayer of intercession.

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# People of Faith

September 20

## Saint Yi Sung-hun, 1756–1801

Saint Yi Sung-hun lived in Korea. His family was part of the ruling class. When he was traveling with his father to China, he was baptized. He was one of the first people in Korea to become Catholic. The government did not want people to be Christian. When Yi Sung-hun refused to worship a false god, he was arrested. Many other Korean Christians were arrested too. One hundred and three people were killed for being Christian. When Yi Sung-hun died, he told people not to be sad because he would see them again in Heaven. He placed God first, and was a man of the Beatitudes.



**Discuss:** How does God bless you? How can you share those blessings with others?



Learn more about Saint Yi Sung-hun at [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)

## Live Your Faith

**Name** one Beatitude that you live by regularly and another that is more difficult for you.

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Write a short prayer asking God to help you live these Beatitudes.

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 Let Us Pray

## Prayer of Blessing

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Leader:** Brothers and sisters, praise God, who is rich in mercy.

**All:** Blessed be God forever.

**Reader 1:** Read Philippians 4:4–7.

**All:** Blessed be God forever.

**Reader 2:** Loving God, you created all the people of the world, and you know each of us by name.

**All:** Blessed be God forever.

**Reader 3:** We thank you for our lives. Bless us with your love and friendship.

**All:** Blessed be God forever.

**Reader 4:** May we grow in wisdom, knowledge, and grace.

**All:** Blessed be God forever.

**Leader:** May we be blessed in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Based on Matthew 5, 7; John 14**

**All:** Amen.



Sing "Lead Me, Lord"






## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains that Jesus gave us the Beatitudes to show the way to true happiness and to tell how us to live in God's Kingdom now and always.

### Scripture

 Read **Luke 11:27–28** to find out who Jesus says is blessed and why.

### Catholics Believe

- The Beatitudes are eight teachings that describe the Reign of God that Jesus announced when he lived on Earth.
- The Beatitudes show you how to live and act as a follower of Jesus.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1716–1724 at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Yi Sung-hun, a Korean martyr who placed God first and is remembered for sacrificing his life for his belief in Jesus.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand the Beatitudes** Your child is probably beginning to understand that morality, in the Catholic life, is not just about what is not allowed. It is about being something, and specifically *following someone*, Jesus Christ. Jesus offers us a pattern in the Beatitudes, which involve both outward actions and inner dispositions of the heart. Children your child's age are growing in their ability to perceive what is inside their hearts, so this is a good time to use the Beatitudes to talk about who God would call us to be.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>


Have you ever felt a blessing in the midst of suffering?

Even in times of suffering, we can count the blessings of those who care for us, listen to us, and share God's love with us. As Catholics, we know that "the Church carries forward Christ's healing ministry in a variety of approaches. Catholic families in countless ways care for family members who are ill. There are numerous inspiring stories of an aging spouse who personally ministers to an ailing spouse in cases of Alzheimer's and other illnesses. Caregivers find that faith and prayer mean a great deal to them in these situations" (*USCCA*, p. 252).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to tell you about the Beatitudes.
- Share how God has blessed your family and how your family members are a blessing to one another.

## LET'S PRAY >>>

 Saint Yi Sung-hun, pray for us that we may put God first in our lives, and always be a blessing for others. 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 7 Review

**A Work with Words** Complete the following paragraph with the correct words from the Word Bank.

1–5. Jesus gave us the \_\_\_\_\_ to show us the way to \_\_\_\_\_ happiness. Through the \_\_\_\_\_ Beatitudes, Jesus tell us about being blessed by God and living for God's \_\_\_\_\_ now and always. He said that people who are \_\_\_\_\_ are blessed because they will inherit the land.

## Word Bank

true

eight

Kingdom

Beatitudes

meek

**B Check Understanding** Fill in the circle next to the answer that best completes each statement.

6. People who are poor in spirit are those who depend on \_\_\_\_\_.  
 material things       God       themselves
7. God wants all people to share \_\_\_\_\_ with him.  
 eternal life       Beatitudes       material things
8. Working to bring people together is a way to be \_\_\_\_\_.  
 meek       poor in spirit       a peacemaker
9. Kindness and concern for those who are suffering is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 mercy       blessedness       meekness
10. Prayers of \_\_\_\_\_ ask God for something for another person or for a community.  
 righteousness       intercession       friendship

