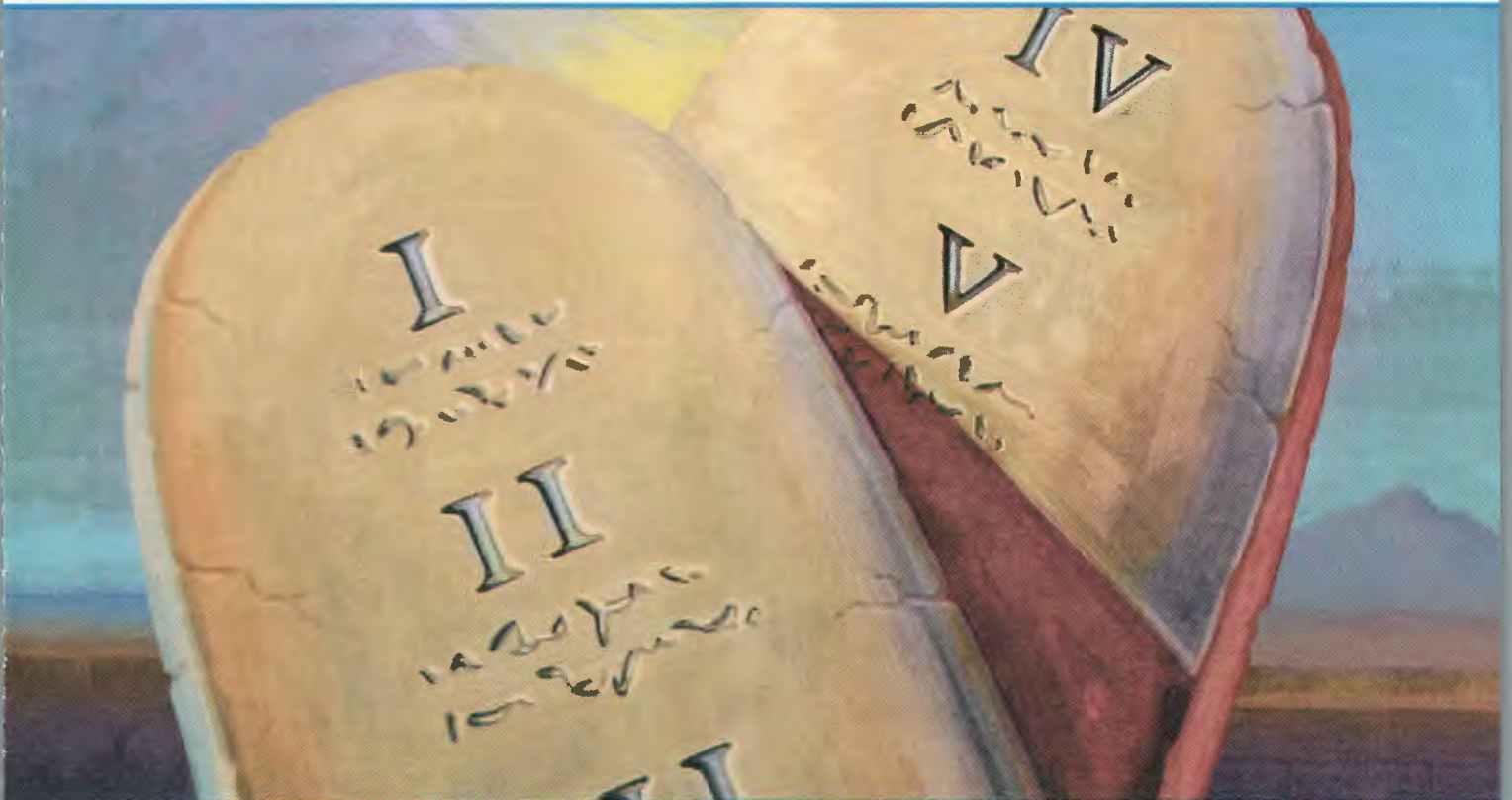


ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 4

The Moral Life

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OurSundayVisitor

The Church Teaches

Let Us Pray

Leader: Jesus, Teacher and Lord, send us good teachers and leaders to guide us to you.

“Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God.

May your kind spirit guide me.” **Psalm 143:10**

All: Help us to follow our leaders, Lord, so that we,
too, might show others the way to you.

Scripture

[Jesus] gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God. **Ephesians 4:11–13**

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What Do You Wonder?

- Who are the Church leaders and teachers you know or know about?
- Who guides you in your faith?

Jesus Chooses a Leader

Whom did Jesus choose as the leader of the Apostles?

We have many teachers who help us learn important lessons. Our parents are our first teachers, and the Church is our most important teacher. The Church's authority, or power to teach, was given by Jesus and is guided by the Holy Spirit. Here is a Gospel passage about the beginnings of the Church's authority to teach.

Scripture

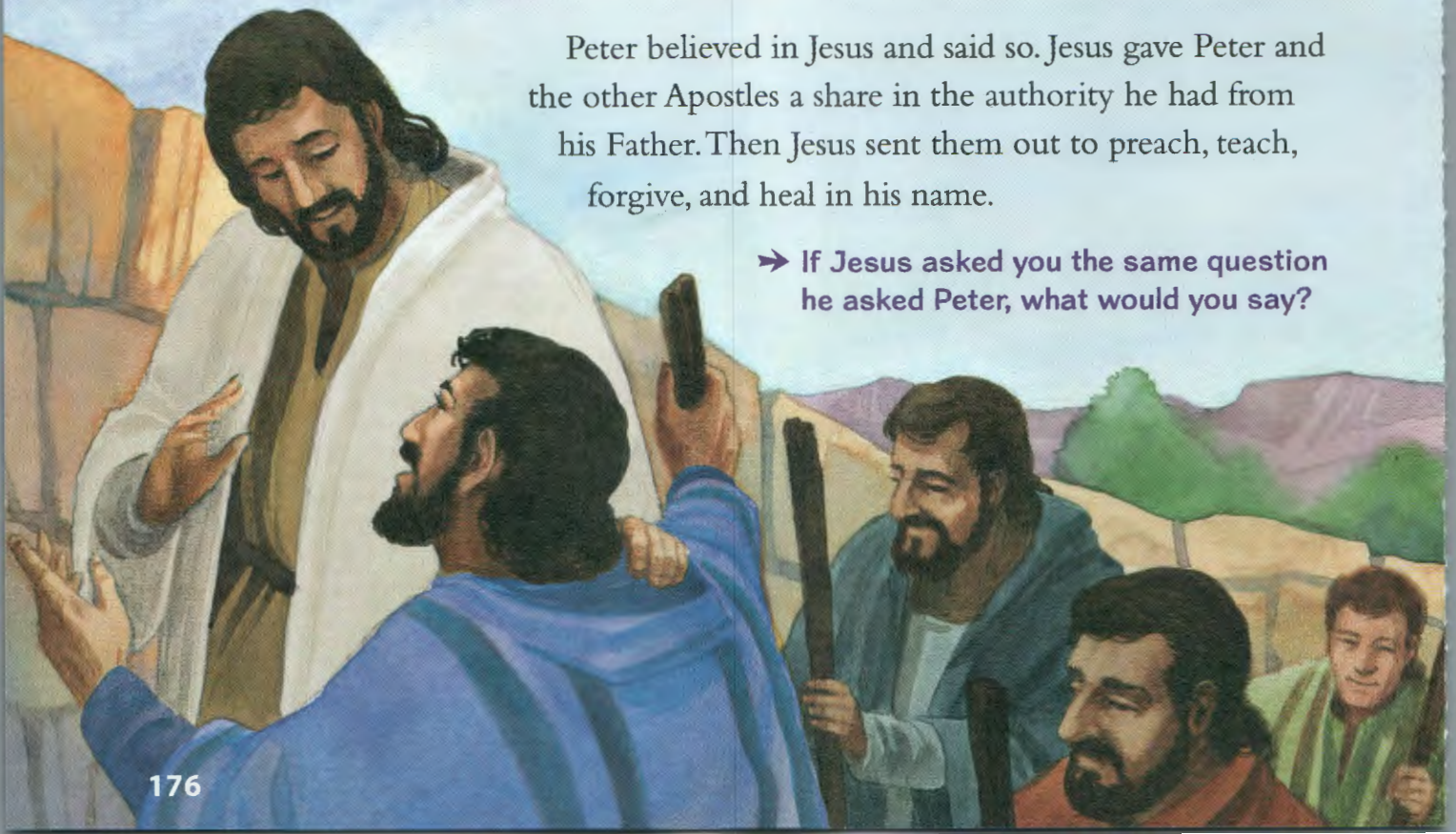
You Are the Messiah!

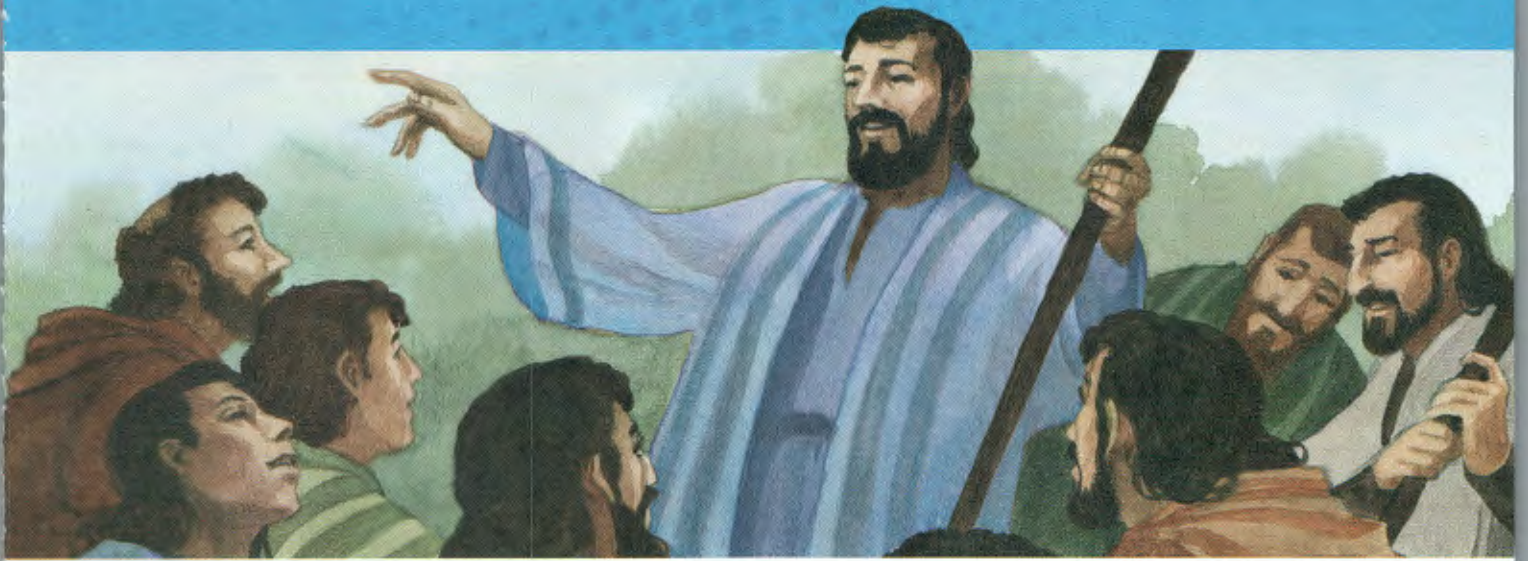
Now Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said to him in reply, "You are the Messiah." Then [Jesus] warned them not to tell anyone about him. **Mark 8:27-30**

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Peter believed in Jesus and said so. Jesus gave Peter and the other Apostles a share in the authority he had from his Father. Then Jesus sent them out to preach, teach, forgive, and heal in his name.

➔ If Jesus asked you the same question he asked Peter, what would you say?





Peter and Jesus

Peter made some mistakes along the way. Much later, at the time of Jesus' crucifixion, Peter and the other disciples were very much afraid. In fact, the night before Jesus died, Peter denied three times that he had ever known Jesus. Afterward, he was ashamed of himself and cried bitterly.

But Jesus never lost faith in Peter. After Jesus' Death and Resurrection, Jesus was talking to Peter and the other disciples on the shore of a lake. Jesus asked three times whether Peter loved him. Of course, Peter said that he did. Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep." (See John 21:15–17.)

In spite of Peter's earlier denials, Jesus made Peter the chief shepherd of all his flock. When he became the leader, Peter made good decisions for the members of the Church.

➔ **Why do you think Jesus asked Peter the same question three times?**

Share Your Faith

Reflect Think of some times when you have been forgiven for mistakes you have made.

Share Write a short prayer of thanks for someone who has forgiven you.



1. **Underline what Peter did the night before Jesus' death.**
2. **Circle what the risen Jesus asked Peter.**

Catholic Faith Words

Magisterium the teaching office of the Church, which is all of the bishops in union with the Pope

Precepts of the Church some of the minimum requirements given by Church leaders for deepening your relationship with God and the Church

The Church and You

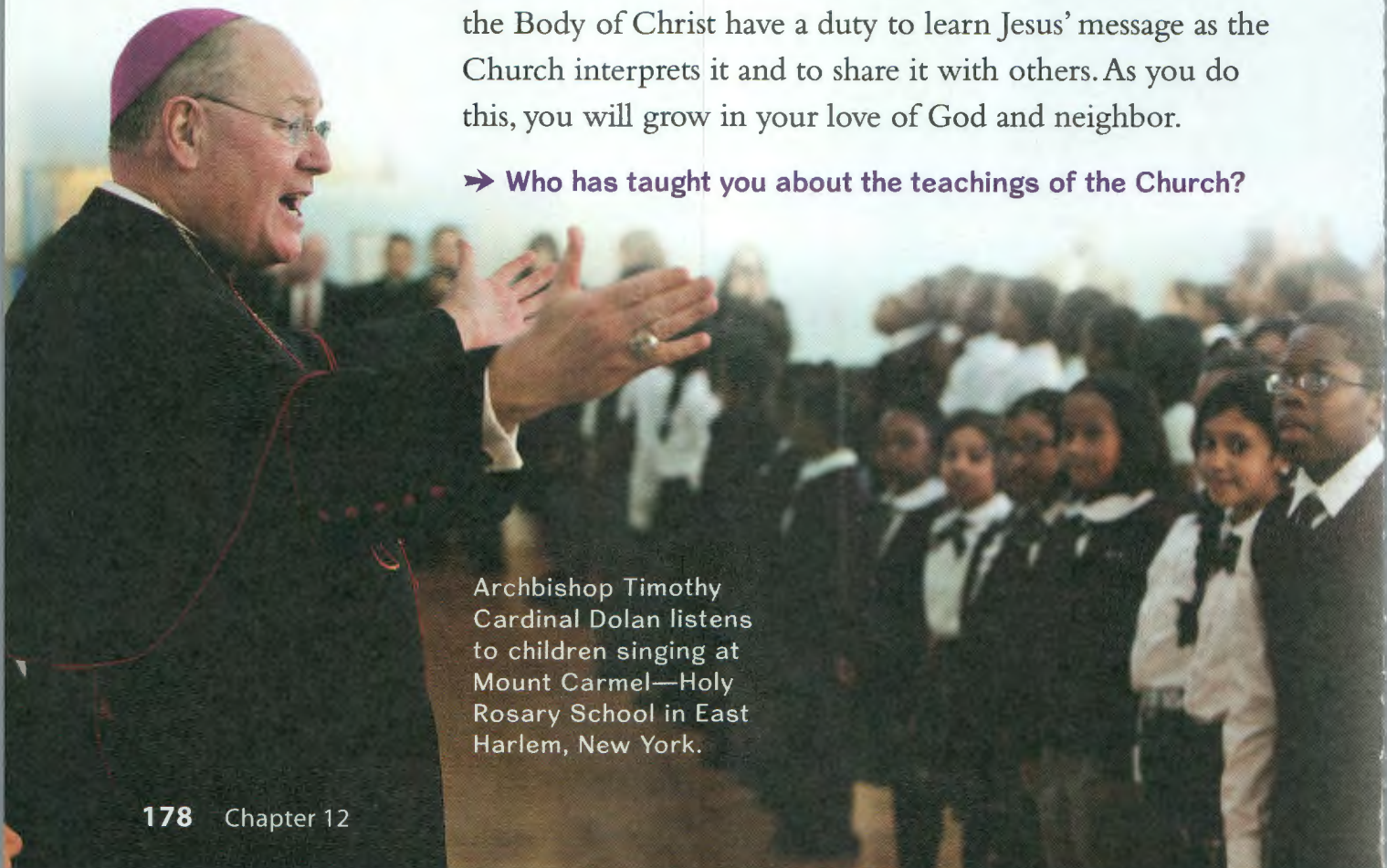
What is your role as a member of the Church?

After Jesus ascended into Heaven, Peter and the Apostles were afraid. Then at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came and gave them courage to preach the Good News.

The Apostles, with Peter as their head, were the first leaders of the Church. Jesus founded the Church on the Apostles. He gave them the authority to teach and lead his followers. Today, the chief teachers in the Church are the Pope and the bishops, the successors of the Apostles. Their teaching office is called the **Magisterium**. They have the teaching authority to interpret the Word of God found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. This is called magisterial authority, and goes back to the authority Christ first gave to the Apostles. The Holy Spirit works through the Church's teachers to keep the whole Church faithful to the teachings of Jesus.

The Church's mission to share the true message of Jesus is not left to the Pope and bishops alone. All members of the Body of Christ have a duty to learn Jesus' message as the Church interprets it and to share it with others. As you do this, you will grow in your love of God and neighbor.

➔ **Who has taught you about the teachings of the Church?**



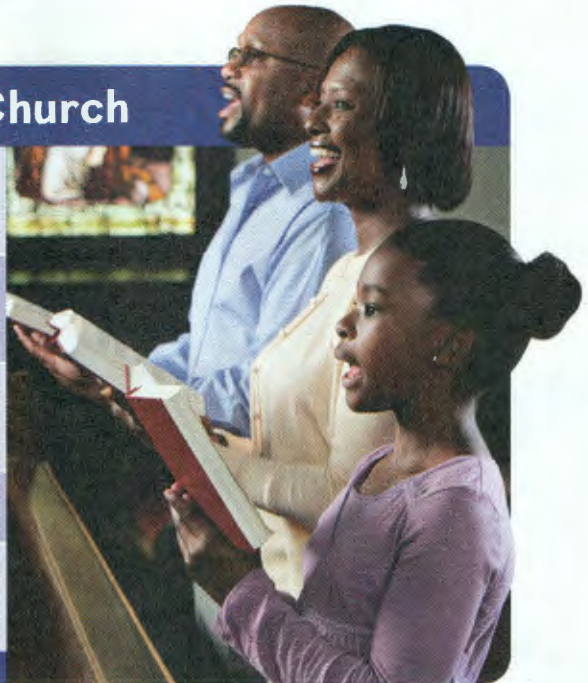
Archbishop Timothy Cardinal Dolan listens to children singing at Mount Carmel—Holy Rosary School in East Harlem, New York.

Rules for Living

Some of the responsibilities of members of the Catholic Church are summed up in the **Precepts of the Church**. The Church's leaders developed these rules and requirements to show you the minimum you should do to live morally and faithfully. As a Catholic, you have a duty to live according to the teachings and Precepts of the Church.

Precepts of the Church

1. Take part in the Mass on Sundays and holy days. Keep these days holy and avoid unnecessary work.
2. Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year if you have committed a serious sin.
3. Receive Holy Communion at least once a year during Easter time.
4. Observe days of fasting and abstinence.
5. Give your time, gifts, and money to support the Church.



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Connect Your Faith

Word Search

Find at least six words in this word search that relate to the teaching authority of the Church.

Use two of these words in a sentence about your role in the Church.

F	A	I	T	H	O	P	E	A	P
B	P	R	E	C	E	P	T	S	E
H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T
A	P	O	S	T	L	E	S	C	E
D	E	B	I	S	H	O	P	S	R

Our Catholic Life

How can you help support the Church?

When each person gives time, gifts, or money, the Church can provide for the needs of her members and can grow in helping meet the needs of others as well.

Ways to Support Your Parish

Giving your time could include participating in any activity in which you volunteer your efforts to help with a parish event. You could help decorate the church for a special liturgy, or donate time to the nursery during Sunday Mass.

Write one way you can give your time to the Church.

Sharing your gifts or talents with the Church community is also important. You could use your computer skills to get others involved, or sing in the children's choir or greet people before Sunday Mass.

Write one way you can share your talents with the Church.

Offering some of your money supports the work of the parish, such as ministering to those who are in need. Money is needed to purchase food and other supplies for shelters. It is also needed to run the parish. For example, the parish has to pay for electricity.

Even if your allowance is small, you should give what you can to your parish.

Write one way you can give of your treasure to support the Church's work.



People of Faith

Saint Mary Magdalen Postel, 1756–1846

July 16

Saint Mary Magdalen Postel was educated in a Benedictine convent. At eighteen she opened a school for girls in France. It was just before the French Revolution. During the revolution, her school was closed. At that time, Mary Magdalen helped protect fugitive priests. She knew the importance of teaching people about the faith. She wanted everyone to know what the Church teaches. So after the revolution ended, she continued to work in the field of religious education.



Discuss: How does your parish help you to grow in faith?



Learn more about Saint Mary Magdalen Postel at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Think What chances do you have to use your time, talent, or money to help the Church?

Write or draw one thing you will do next week to share these things with the Church.



Let Us Pray

Prayer of Intercession

In an intercession, we ask God to act in some way in the lives of others. This prayer follows the order of the Prayer of the Faithful, which we pray at Mass.

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: We gather, knowing that God hears us when we pray.

Reader 1: For our Church, that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide her as she teaches the truth revealed by Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: For those in need, that they will experience our care as we live the Beatitudes, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: For each person in our community, that the Great Commandment guides us, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For what else shall we pray?

Name specific prayers.

All: Amen.



Sing "The Church"



FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter explains the role of Peter and the Apostles continued by the Magisterium and how it interprets Jesus' message through the direction of the Holy Spirit, and describes the Precepts of the Church.

Scripture



Read **Ephesians 4:11–13** to learn about the diversity of gifts used to build up the Church.

Catholics Believe

- Jesus gave the leaders of the Church the authority to interpret Scripture and Tradition for the faithful.
- The Holy Spirit directs the Church in teaching and guiding the People of God.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #85–87 at uscgb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Mary Magdalen Postel, who is known for her dedication to religious education.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Church Teaching For most fourth-graders, the experience of the teaching Church is limited to their own parish or school; for example, the things they learn in faith formation and hear in the Mass. However, your child is likely growing in his or her ability to perceive the larger worldwide Church and to understand the role of the bishops and Pope. Your child's respect for these leaders will be influenced by the respect shown by adults around them.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Do you recall when you first realized that you didn't have all the answers?

As we grow wiser, we realize we are limited in our understanding. The Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, brings us the fullness of truth. As Catholics, we know the "entire community of Christians received the Apostles' proclamation of the Gospel, and so the church in her entirety is called 'apostolic.' Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the church as a whole remains and will always remain faithful to the teaching of the Apostles" (*USCCA, p. 132*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain some ways the Church teaches us.
- Share a story about someone who helped you understand a Church teaching.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Mary Magdalen, pray for us that we may open our hearts and minds to learn more as we grow in faith and in our love for 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 12 Review

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

1. Minimum requirements given by the Church to help you grow closer to God and the Church are called _____ of the Church.
2. Jesus gave the Church the _____ to teach and lead the Body of Christ.
3. You have the duty to _____ the rules and laws of the Church.
4. The _____ is the teaching office of the Church, all the bishops in union with the Pope.
5. The _____ guides the Church and the Magisterium.

Word Bank

Holy Spirit

Precepts

authority

live according to

Magisterium

B Check Understanding Circle True if a statement is true, and circle False if a statement is false. Correct any false statements.

6. Only wealthy people can help support the Church. (True/False)

7. On Christmas, the Holy Spirit came and gave the disciples courage to go out and preach the Good News. (True/False)

8. The Pope and bishops are the chief teachers in the Church. (True/False)

9. When John became the leader of the Church, he made good decisions for the members. (True/False)

10. Jesus sent the Apostles out to preach, teach, forgive, and heal in his name. (True/False)

