

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 5

The Seven Sacraments

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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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✠ Most Rev. John Noonan
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Signs of God's Presence

Let Us Pray

Leader: Here, there, and everywhere, we see your face, O God.

“The heavens declare the glory of God;
the firmament proclaims the works of his
hands.” **Psalm 19:2**

All: Loving God, thank you for not being the God of far away but for being close by. Thank you for the many signs of your loving presence. Open our eyes and hearts to see them all. Amen.

Scripture

“For we are the temple of the living God;
as God said:

I will live with them and move among them,
and I will be their God
and they shall be my people. ...

and I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and
daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty.”

2 Corinthians 6:16, 18

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What Do You Wonder?

- Since God lives and moves with us, what are some signs of his presence?
- What is the greatest sign of God's presence?

The artwork at right shows Moses' reaction to the burning bush. Explain to a partner how you would have felt if you were in Moses' position.



Powerful Signs

What are some signs of God's presence?

Some signs help you remember someone or something you have seen at an earlier time. But certain signs can remind you of things you cannot see. The most powerful signs remind you of God's presence. God is a mystery. He is pure spirit and cannot be seen or heard directly. So God uses signs to help you understand what he wants you to know. This is how God spoke to Moses.



Scripture

The Burning Bush

Moses had a lot on his mind. His people, the Hebrews, were enslaved by the Egyptians and were being treated unjustly. Moses himself was hiding because he had killed an Egyptian who was mistreating one of the Hebrews. As Moses arrived at Horeb, the mountain of God, he heard a voice.

Suddenly, Moses noticed that a nearby bush was in flames—but it wasn't burning up. As Moses moved closer, the voice called to him, "Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." God was speaking to Moses from the burning bush!

Moses and God talked. God had heard the cries of the Hebrew people, and he intended to free them. Moses asked God what he should tell people when they asked who had told him all this. God replied, "This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you." Moses knew that by revealing his name, God was promising to be with his people. **Based on Exodus 3:1–15**

➔ What did God want Moses to understand?

Signs Point the Way

The burning bush was a sign. A sign is something you can see, hear, smell, touch, or taste. A sign points beyond itself to something more. Thunder is a sign of possible rain. A stop sign is only letters on red-painted metal, but everyone knows that there could be danger if you do not obey the sign. Sign language gives people who cannot hear well a way to communicate.

God uses signs to communicate with people. The wonders of creation and the events of human life contain signs of God's awesome power and nearness. They tell of his eternal goodness, strong justice, and gentle mercy. When Moses first saw the burning bush, he was puzzled and surprised. But this sign of the presence of God was not the end of Moses' encounter. The experience opened the way for Moses to know God better.

At first Moses did not realize that God was with his People in their hardship and distress. But when Moses saw the sign of the burning bush, he began to understand that God was present and wanted to help the Israelites. You may not see, hear, smell, taste, or touch God, but signs can show you that God is with you.



Underline what some signs of God's presence tell us about him.

Share Your Faith

Reflect Think about a place, other than church, where you experience signs of God's presence. Describe this place in two sentences.

Share Trade descriptions with a partner, and discuss what your descriptions have in common.



Catholic Faith Words

covenant a sacred promise or agreement between God and humans

Seven Sacraments effective signs of God's life, instituted by Christ and given to the Church. In the celebration of each Sacrament, there are visible signs and Divine actions that give grace and allow us to share in God's work.

Covenant Signs

What are signs of God's promise to his People?

Throughout history God has communicated his presence and shown his love for people through signs. He commanded the Hebrew people, later known as the Israelites, to eat a special meal the night before Moses led them out of slavery. It was called the Passover meal, and it became a sign of the **covenant**, a sacred promise or agreement between God and the people he saved.

The Hebrews understood that the meal was a sign of the agreement God had made with them. Because of the meal's importance as a sign, the Hebrews made it a part of their faith and tradition. Today, Passover is still a Jewish holy day that celebrates God's leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.

The New Covenant

Jesus' Death and Resurrection became the basis for a new covenant. You hear about this covenant when you attend Mass. The bread and wine come from wheat and grapes, signs of God's goodness in creation. At the Last Supper, Jesus gave new, life-giving meaning to the bread and wine by changing them into his Body and Blood. He said they were to be shared in a meal with those who believe that Jesus fulfilled God's saving promise.

➔ **What is the relationship between the Mass and the Jewish Passover meal?**



Effective Signs

Sacrament	Outward Sign—	God's Action
Baptism	water and words (I baptize you ...)	new life in Christ
Confirmation	Sacred Chrism and laying on of hands by bishop	strengthening by the Holy Spirit
Eucharist	bread and wine that become Jesus' Body and Blood, the priest's words of consecration, receiving Holy Communion	nourishment by the Body and Blood of Christ
Reconciliation	words of absolution and extension of hand by priest	conversion and forgiveness
Anointing of the Sick	the priest's anointing the sick with the oil	healing and strengthening
Matrimony	mutual consent and total giving of the man and woman to each other in married love	loving union and commitment
Holy Orders	the bishop's laying on of hands and the Prayer of Consecration prayed over the man	ordained ministry for God's people



The **Seven Sacraments** are signs of the new covenant made through the life and sacrifice of Jesus. They point to God and to his love. Christ himself acts in the Sacraments. In the celebration of each Sacrament, there are visible signs and Divine actions that give grace and allow us to share in God's work. Sacraments are celebrations of God's presence in and with his People.

Jesus himself is truly the Sacrament—the one great universal sign of God's love—because he is the Son of God who became human. In this chart, you can see how Jesus chose powerful signs to show how God is present in important moments of life.

Connect Your Faith

Make a Contract Brainstorm ideas for a group contract. Include in your agreement what you will do for others over the coming year. Choose a group sign as a way to remind one another to keep the agreement.

Our Catholic Life

How do you see the signs God sends to you?

God speaks to us in his Word and through the Church. In personal prayer, we open our minds and hearts to his way. Through practice, you can become more attentive to signs of God's will and presence.



Answer the questions with what you discovered this week.

Become More Aware

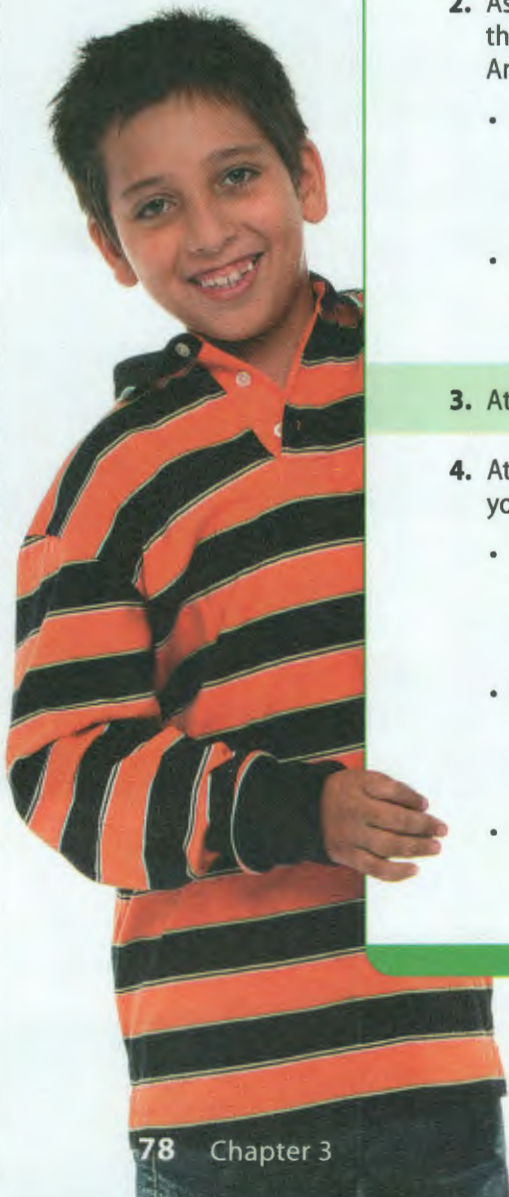
1. Over the next week, pay close attention to what is happening around you. Take a second to step back and look at things a little differently.
2. Ask yourself, "What is God trying to tell me today?" Look for clues about this in the things that have happened today or over the past few days. Answer these questions:
 - What have you seen and heard?

 - What have people been saying to you?

3. At Mass, listen well to the readings, the music, and the homily.
4. At the end of the day or week, sit quietly. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind. Answer these questions:
 - What did God say to you?

 - How can you respond?

 - How did you respond?

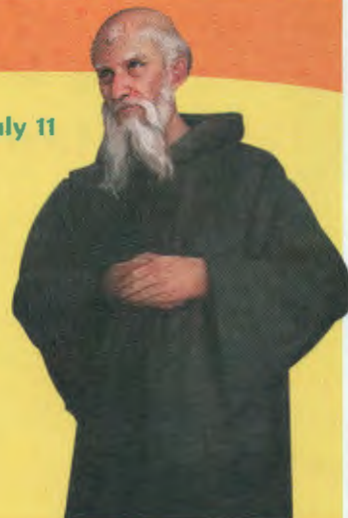


People of Faith

July 11

Saint Benedict, 480–550

As a young man, Benedict wanted to live alone in silence and prayer. But people moved near him so he could teach them about how to become holy. Benedict knew that if people were to live in a group, they had to have an agreement on how to live. So he made a plan to help people live together in a way that would please God. His plan, called the Rule of Saint Benedict, balances prayer, study, work, and rest. Even today, people use his Rule to live a happy and holy life.



Discuss: What kind of rules do you have at school or at home that help everyone get along?



Learn more about Saint Benedict at alivelnchrist.oev.com

Live Your Faith

Name or draw one thing you can do to listen more actively for God speaking to you in your everyday life.





Let Us Pray

Litany of Praise

In this litany, we give praise and thanks for the many ways God is continually and constantly present with us.

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: Our God is closer to us than we are to ourselves. We can see signs of God in all of the things he has created. What a gift God continually gives us!

Reader 1: God is with us in the majesty and simplicity of creation.

All: Wondrous God, thank you for your everywhere-presence!

Reader 2: God is with us in people who care for us and people we haven't yet met.

All: Wondrous God, thank you for your everywhere-presence!

Reader 3: God is with us in the life-giving grace of the Sacraments.

All: Wondrous God, thank you for your everywhere-presence!

Leader: How else is God with us in our everyday lives?

All: Wondrous God, thank you for your everywhere-presence!

Leader: Let us pray.

Bow your heads as the leader continues to pray.

All: Amen. **Based on Psalms 65, 66**



Sing "Glory and Praise to Our God"
Glory and praise to our God,
who alone gives light to our days.
Many are the blessings he bears
to those who trust in his ways.

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YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter describes how God uses signs to communicate with us, and explains the Seven Sacraments as effective signs of God's life, given by Christ to the Church.

Scripture



Read **2 Corinthians 6:16** to find out about God's presence among us.

Catholics Believe

- One way God communicates his love is through signs.
- Through the visible signs and Divine actions in each Sacrament, we receive grace and are helped to share in God's work.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #774, 1084, 1147, 1152 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Benedict, the founder of Western Christian monasticism. Benedict's Rule of Life emphasized both work and prayer.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand the Sacraments Fifth-graders are approaching the age when children become more able to understand signs, symbols, and other abstract content. Some children this age are still very concrete in their thinking, yet others are more capable of imagining hypothetical situations and understanding analogies. The Sacraments are both concrete and abstract, sensory and mystical. Because of this, it's important that fifth-graders have a clear sense that there is "something more" to the Sacraments than what we experience with our senses, even if that understanding will still need to unfold over time.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

If you were separated from someone you love, how important would it be to communicate with them?

Most of us have missed someone enough to count down the days until we would see them again. We may have written letters or emails as a way to communicate while they were away. Until we are with God in Heaven, God communicates with us through the Sacraments. As Catholics, we know that "as we come to understand the Sacraments, it is important to recognize that the Sacraments have a visible and invisible reality, a reality open to all the human senses but grasped in its God-given depths with the eyes of faith... The invisible reality we cannot 'see' is God's grace" (*USCCA p. 168*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain how God communicates through signs.
- Have each family member share how he or she recognizes God's presence.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Benedict, pray for us that we may always find time for work and prayer, as well as rest and play. Amen.



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

Chapter 3 Review

A Work with Words Complete the following statements.

1. Signs point to something you cannot know through your _____.
2. God appeared to Moses in the _____.
3. The one great universal sign of God's love is _____.
4. The Passover meal is a sign of the _____ between God and the Israelites.
5. _____ become the Body and Blood of Christ.

B Check Understanding In complete sentences, explain the following:

6. Creation

7. Seven Sacraments

8. Signs of Confirmation

9. God's presence in the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

10. A way to improve or strengthen your prayer life

