

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 5

The Seven Sacraments

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Our Sunday Visitor

The Teaching Church

Let Us Pray

Leader: Loving God, grant us knowledge of your teaching.

“Make known to me your ways, LORD;
teach me your paths.

Guide me by your fidelity and teach me,
for you are God my savior...” **Psalm 25:4–5**

All: Help us learn to follow the way of Jesus, the one we call *rabbi* and *teacher*, the one we name *Lord*. Amen.

Scripture

Then Jesus approached [the Apostles] and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” **Matthew 28:18–20**

What Do You Wonder?

- How does the Church teach as Jesus taught?
- Who are the successors of the Apostles and the key teachers in the Church?

The Church on Earth

Who teaches you about being a follower of Jesus?

We are all curious about many things. Do you remember how many times you have asked the question, “Why?” Your teachers encourage you to ask questions so you can learn. And often our teachers ask us questions to help us really understand the meaning of what they teach.

Scripture

Peter's Confession about Jesus

Jesus asked the Apostles this question: “Who do you say that I am?”

Peter replied, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus knew that only God could have shown Peter this truth.

He said to Peter, “I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church.” Jesus also promised Peter the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. **Based on Matthew 16:15–19**

- ➔ What do you think Jesus wanted the Apostles to learn from this?
- ➔ If Jesus asked you this question today, how would you answer him?



The Apostles' Mission

When Jesus sent the Apostles out to spread the Good News of his Father's Kingdom, he also established the mission and authority of their successors. In this way, the teaching authority of the Apostles is passed on through the ages.

The successors of the Apostles are the bishops, in union with the **Pope**. They carry on the Apostles' mission to witness to the truth of Jesus. With the assistance of priests, the bishops proclaim the Good News and teach in Jesus' name. Because the Church is built on the foundation of the Apostles, she is apostolic.

Faithful to the Truth

Teaching and learning are wonderful abilities when you use them in harmony with God's plan and in the light of God's truth. Members of your family and of your parish community help you come to know about God and trust in his love and guidance.

As your teacher, the Church faithfully passes on what God has revealed through his Son, Jesus. The Church teaches by example and by handing on her beliefs and traditions to her members.

Catholic Faith Words

Pope the successor of Peter, the bishop of Rome, and the head of the entire Catholic Church



Share Your Faith

Reflect Think about those who have taught you about the Catholic faith and what you have learned from them. Write two examples here.

1. Person: _____

What you learned: _____

2. Person: _____

What you learned: _____

Share With a partner, discuss some of the things you have learned about your faith from teachers.



Pope Francis visits Saint Maria Maggiore Basilica in Rome with cardinals after his first appearance as the new Pope.

Catholic Faith Words

Magisterium the teaching office of the Church, which is all of the bishops in union with the Pope. The Magisterium has the teaching authority to interpret the Word of God found in Scripture and Tradition.

infallibility a gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church by which the Pope and the bishops in union with him may declare definitively that a matter of faith or morals is free from error and must be accepted by the faithful

The Teaching Office

Who are the teachers in the Catholic Church?

Together, the Pope and the bishops make up the **Magisterium**, or “body of teachers.”

- The Pope is the successor of Peter, the bishop of Rome and head of the entire Church.
- Each bishop is also the leader of a particular diocese. Bishops have received the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders and work together with the Pope to guide, teach, and make the Church holy.

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Magisterium protects and explains the Word of God and safeguards it for future generations as part of the Church’s Sacred Tradition. Because the Holy Spirit guides the Church in the right direction in crucial matters, the Magisterium officially declares that her most important teachings are free from error. This is called the doctrine of **infallibility**.



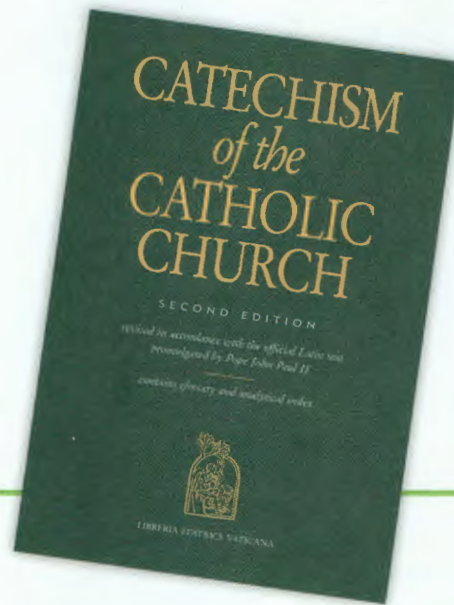
Highlight what the Magisterium does for the Church.

Guidance of the Holy Spirit

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Church's leaders settle certain important questions of faith and morals in order to help deepen understanding of the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles. This understanding also helps the People of God make right choices in living good moral lives.

Infallibility is connected to another important fact about the Church. The Holy Spirit guides the People of God to the truth. When the People of God—the Pope, the bishops, and all the faithful—come to a common understanding about an important or central truth, they can be

sure that they are correct. This is called the “sense of the faithful.” The Holy Spirit works through the community of the faithful, giving the community itself a faith-filled understanding of the truth.



Connect Your Faith

Fill Your Toolbox With a partner, add to this group of “tools” you will need to build your lifelong journey of faith. How can the Church help you use these tools more effectively?

Faith Trust
Prayer Bible

Our Catholic Life

How does the Church speak about her teaching?

The Catholic Church uses several terms and titles when it speaks about her teaching. These ways of talking about the Church allow all her members to be precise and to avoid misunderstanding. They will also be helpful to you in learning about the Church.



Words for Understanding

- Remember that a **doctrine** or **dogma** is an important teaching revealed by Christ and taught by the Church's Magisterium. As a Catholic, you are required to believe these revealed truths.
- Name one Church doctrine you know.

- Recognize that an important ministry of the **Pope** and **bishops** is to teach with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is their duty to interpret the Catholic faith and explain it to all people.
- What is the name of the current Pope?

- Appreciate that a **catechist** or **teacher** is someone who teaches the faith and helps people learn how to live according to the faith.
- Most catechists are lay people. How did your catechist discover his or her calling to teach?

- Understand that **priests** and **deacons** assist the bishops in carrying out the teaching ministry. They do so by preaching, celebrating the Sacraments, and guiding the people.
- What have you learned about the Church from your parish's priest or deacons?

People of Faith

October 22

Pope Saint John Paul II, 1920–2005

One of the jobs of the Pope is to help explain the Catholic faith to all people. Pope Saint John Paul II traveled to 129 different countries around the world telling everyone about God's love and mercy. He went to some countries that a Pope had never visited before, like Mexico and Haiti. Pope John Paul also knew another one of his jobs as Pope was to teach the People of God how to make right choices in living good moral lives. To do that, he wrote many special letters, called encyclicals, telling us about Jesus, Mary, and God.



Discuss: How can you tell people about God's love?



Learn more about Pope Saint John Paul II at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Name one thing about the Catholic faith that you would like to teach to someone else. How will you do this?

Name something about your faith that you do not understand.

Over the next week, talk with someone in your parish about it.



 Let Us Pray

Celebration of the Word

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

All: Now and forever.

Reader: Jesus is our teacher. He knows our needs and answers our longing for wisdom and truth. Listen to Jesus' teaching from the Sermon on the Mount.

Read Matthew 5:17–20.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: Grateful for the teachings of Jesus, we turn to God in prayer.

Read or recite the prayers you seek. After each prayer, pray together, "Lord, hear our prayer."

To conclude our prayers, lift your hands and pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Pray the Lord's Prayer aloud.

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All: Thanks be to God.



Sing "Lead Me, Lord"

Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord,
by the light of truth
to seek and to find the narrow way.

Be my way; be my truth;

be my life, my Lord,

and lead me, Lord, today.

Text: Based on Matthew 5, 7, John 14;

John D Becker. Text and music

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FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter describes the Magisterium as the teaching office of the Church, explains apostolic succession, and defines dogma as teachings revealed by Christ and taught by the Church.

Scripture



Read **Matthew 28:18–20** to find out what Jesus asked the disciples to do.

Catholics Believe

- The Apostles proclaimed Christ's Good News and spread the Reign of God as Jesus commanded.
- Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Pope and the bishops continue the Apostles' mission to teach.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #84–86, 88, 424, 551–553, 857–863 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Pope Saint John Paul II. As Pope, he traveled to 129 different countries.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand the Teaching Church Fifth-graders understand that they don't yet know everything. They are still looking to an authority to tell them about the aspects of life with which they have limited experience. They will look especially to parents and other significant adults in their lives, and the esteem with which children hold the teaching of the Church will depend on what they hear from these adults.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Think of the best teacher you ever had. How did they help you to learn?

A good teacher helps us to learn and, maybe even more importantly, helps us to understand how much more there is to learn. Through Baptism we are called to a lifelong journey of faith formation. The Church is our teacher and helps us to know and love Jesus more intimately. As Catholics, we know that "living out one's Baptism is a lifelong responsibility. Growing in holiness and discipleship involves a willingness to continue to learn throughout one's whole life about the faith and how to live it" (*USCCA*, p. 196).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain how the Pope is the successor of Peter.
- Share with each other one person who has taught you about your faith.

LET'S PRAY >>>



God our Father, thank you for Pope Saint John Paul II. Help us always show God's love to the world as he did. 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 Write the answers to the questions in the boxes below. Unscramble the letters that appear in the circle boxes to find the answer to the last question.

1. Which Apostle did Jesus call the “rock,” and to whom did Jesus give the keys to the Kingdom of God?
2. What is the quality of being error-free in matters of faith and morals?
3. What is the Church’s teaching office called?
4. Who guides the People of God to the truth and preserves them from error in crucial matters?
5. Whom did Christ send out to teach and baptize all nations?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5. _____

B Check Understanding Match each description in Column 1 with the correct term in Column 2.

Column 1

6. learning to be like Jesus
7. assist the Pope and bishops
8. successors of the Apostles
9. important teaching revealed by Christ, taught by the Magisterium
10. teacher of the faith, often a lay person

Column 2

- doctrine
- catechist
- your lifelong task
- priests and deacons
- Pope and bishops

