

# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 5

The Seven Sacraments

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**Our Sunday Visitor**

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# New Life in Christ

## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** Loving God, fountain of life, you quench all thirsts in the living waters of Baptism.

[Jesus said,] ‘the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’”

**John 4:14**

**All:** Flood us with mercy, O Lord, and wash away our faults in the torrent of your love. Amen.

## Scripture

Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. **Romans 6:3–5**

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## What Do You Wonder?

- How is dying part of Baptism?
- Why is water a sign of both death and life, dying and rising?



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## Sacraments of Initiation

### What new life is given in Baptism?

At Baptism, you first received grace and began a new way of life. The Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist complete your initiation as a member of the Catholic Church, but they do not mark the end of your journey of faith. They are the beginning of this journey. The Sacraments of Initiation include Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Through these Sacraments, you are initiated into a relationship with Christ and celebrate membership in the Catholic Church. Through these Sacraments, we share in Christ's role as priest, prophet, and king.

As priests, we praise God, offer our lives to God, and pray with and for others. As prophets, we know the Church's teachings on morality and justice, stand up for what is right, and follow God's Word. As kings, we behave responsibly, act as leaders, and act with justice, mercy, and love.

Most Christians are baptized as infants, which is the customary practice of the Catholic Church. At Baptism, a person is reborn in Christ and freed from both Original Sin and personal sin. Through the Church, the grace of the Sacraments is given to sustain this new life. The Sacrament of Confirmation deepens the grace of Baptism. In both Baptism and **Confirmation**, we are anointed with **Sacred Chrism**.

## The New Life of Grace

Paul compares the new life of Baptism with the Resurrection of Jesus. When a person is baptized, he or she is said to have “died” to sin. Paul points out that the baptized person then “rises” to new life in Christ in the community of the Church.

### Scripture

#### Freedom from Sin; Life in God

As to his death, [Jesus] died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as [being] dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus. **Romans 6:10–11**

### Catholic Faith Words

**Confirmation** the Sacrament that seals us with a special outpouring of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, deepens the grace of Baptism, and strengthens us to give witness to Christ in the world

**Sacred Chrism** perfumed oil used for anointing in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders

## Grace and Conversion

Through the Sacraments of the Church, God shares his divine life with you. The grace given in the Sacraments is not earned. It is a gift from God. You respond to God’s gift of grace by turning away from sin and living according to the law of love that Jesus taught. The movement away from sin and into the mystery of God’s love is called conversion. It begins with God’s call and is sustained through life by your cooperation with God’s grace.

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### Share Your Faith

**Reflect** How does the Catholic Church help you become closer to Christ?

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**Share** your answer with a partner.



## One Step at a Time

How are the Sacraments of Initiation celebrated for adults?

### Catholic Faith Words

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** the process by which adults and some children become members of the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Initiation

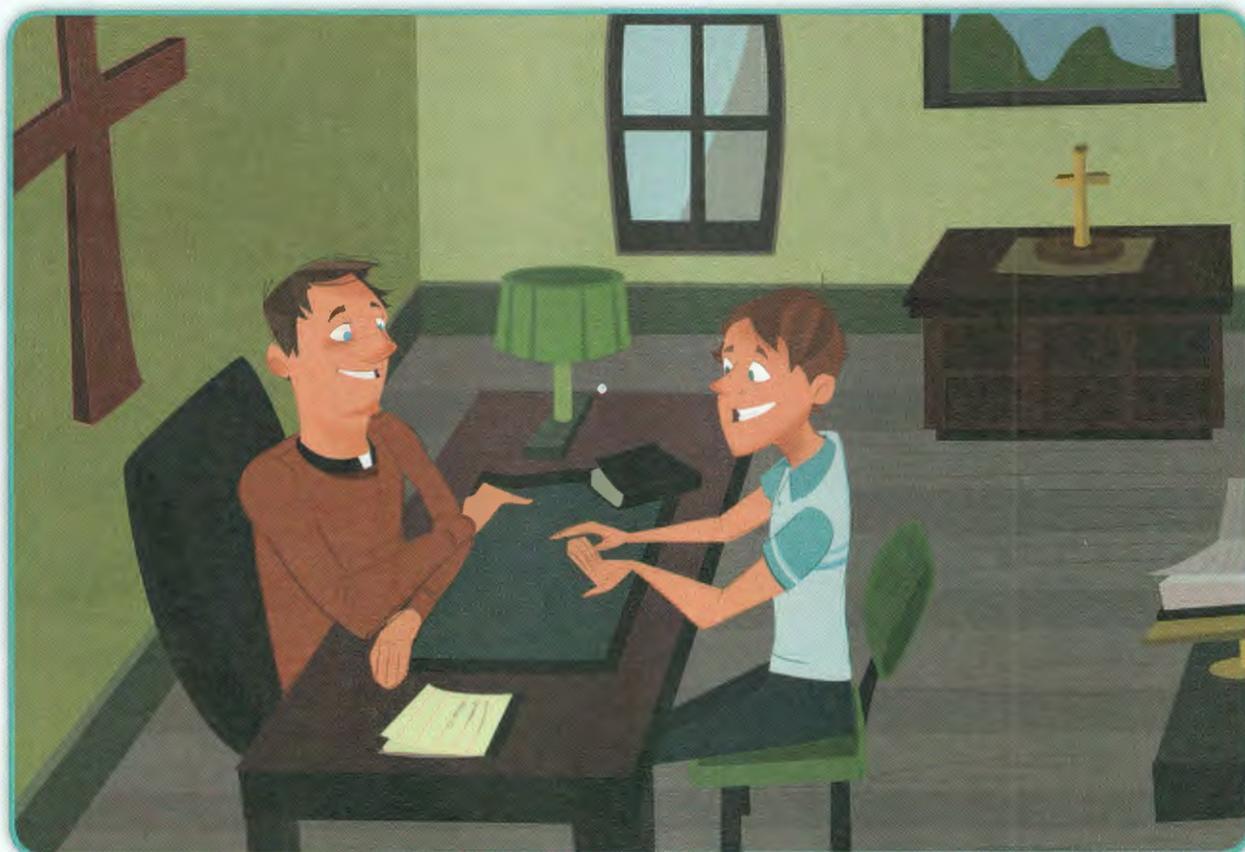
**catechumen** a “learner,” or person preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation

**sponsor** a representative of the parish community who supports a catechumen celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation

Just as it takes time to become part of a family, so it takes time to prepare to be baptized and to be initiated into the Church. The Church welcomes new adult members through a step-by-step process called the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**, or the Order of Christian Initiation.

### United to Christ and to the Church

Although Jeremy was twenty-three years old, he still felt nervous when he rang the doorbell of Saint Benedict’s. As soon as Father Paul sat down with him, Jeremy said, “I’d like to become a Catholic. What tests do I have to take?” The priest smiled and said, “Let’s take this one step at a time. The process of becoming a member of the Church, which we call initiation, takes time.” He invited Jeremy to a gathering where he would meet people who were on a similar faith journey.



## Becoming an Elect

After a few months, Jeremy decided he wanted to prepare for Baptism, and he became a **catechumen**. During this time, the lives of those committed to the faith were an example to him. Jeremy also had support from his **sponsor**, Ed. Ed came to sharing sessions at the church with Jeremy. He prayed with Jeremy and told him what being Catholic was like. Jeremy came to know and love the Christian way of life and the Catholic Church.

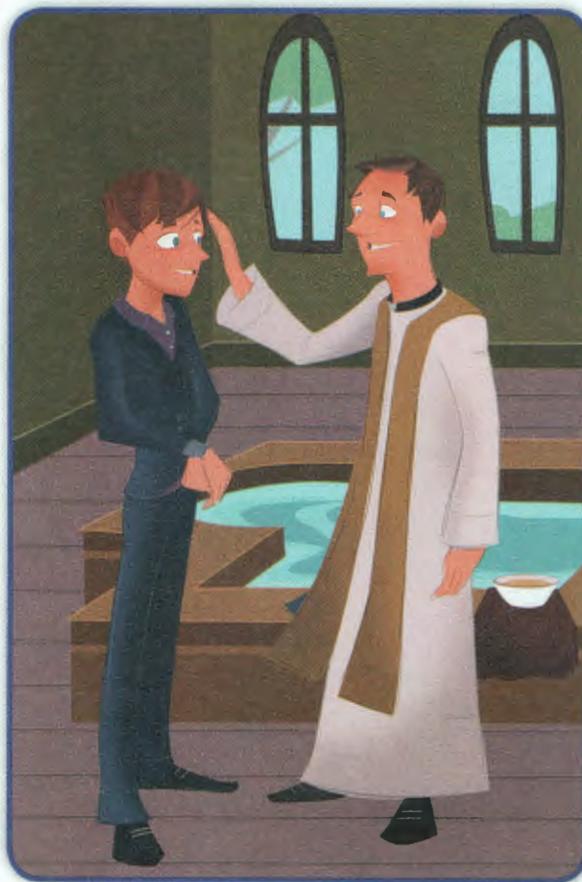
Many months later, on the First Sunday of Lent, Jeremy became one of the elect. This meant that he would celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

## A Night to Remember

Finally, Holy Saturday arrived. At the baptismal pool, Father Paul asked Jeremy to declare his faith in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. As Father Paul immersed Jeremy in the water three times, he said, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Jeremy was given new life in Christ.

After a prayer to the Holy Spirit, Father Paul placed his hands on Jeremy's head and confirmed him with Sacred Chrism, saying, "Jeremy, be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit."

At last, the moment came to receive the Eucharist. Jeremy stood before Father Paul to receive Holy Communion. "The Body of Christ, the Blood of Christ" echoed in his mind and heart as he returned to his



place after receiving Communion for the first time. Now, Jeremy felt truly united to Christ and to the Church.

- ➔ **Have you ever wanted to join a group? Why?**
- ➔ **How did you go about joining?**



**Underline how Jeremy's sponsor supported him.**

## Connect Your Faith

**Continue the Journey** Write a thank-you note to your godparents or to someone in your parish community who has helped you on your journey of faith. Be sure to say how the person or persons have helped you.

# Our Catholic Life

## What can help you deepen your faith?

The Sacraments of Initiation bring you to new life as a Catholic and prepare you to continue your journey of faith. Here are some practices that can help you along.



Add your own ideas in the spaces provided.

### The Tools

#### Focus on Your Faith

- Base your decisions on the Commandments and Jesus' teachings.
- Count on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray to God, who is always ready to listen.

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#### Participate at Mass

- Actively participate at Mass; it strengthens your bond with Jesus and with your parish.
- Take part in the Eucharist. Through it, God gives you his grace to sustain you on your journey.

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#### Rely on Your Faith Community

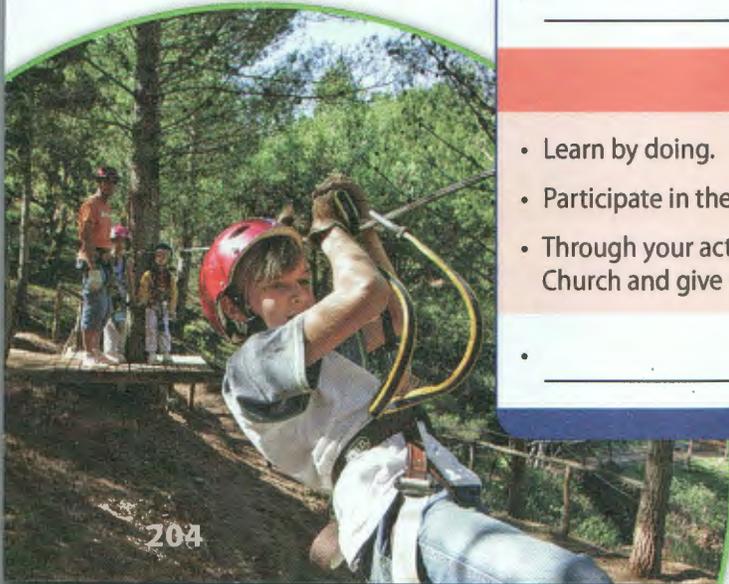
- Allow Church members to help you on your way. These people may include your family, your pastor, or your religion teacher.
- Talk to people whom you know and trust about questions or problems.

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#### Set an Example

- Learn by doing.
- Participate in the life of the Church, and make a habit of service to others.
- Through your actions, strengthen your love and commitment to the Church and give witness to the truth of your faith.

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 Let Us Pray

## Baptismal Promises

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Leader:** Let us pray. Loving God, we sing your praise, for you have given us new life through the grace of Baptism. Enfold us within your Church, through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Read John 3:1–21.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Leader:** Let us renew the promises of our Baptism.

Do you reject Satan, all his works, and all his empty promises?

**All:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

**All:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

**All:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and life everlasting?

**All:** I do.

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Bow your heads as the leader prays.

**All:** Amen.



Sing "Yes, Lord, I Believe/Sí Señor Yo Creo"

# FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter identifies the Sacraments of Initiation and the steps of the RCIA process, and explains that through the Seven Sacraments God shares his divine life.

### Scripture



Read **Romans 6:3–5** to find out what Saint Paul wrote about Baptism.

### Catholics Believe

- Through the Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist—we enter into a relationship with Christ and celebrate membership in the Catholic Church.
- Confirmation seals us with the Gift of the Holy Spirit and deepens the grace of Baptism.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1212, 1213, 1229–1233, 1316, 1391 at [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org).

### People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, who is known for instructing catechumens preparing for Baptism.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

### How They Understand the Sacraments of Initiation

Most fifth-graders do not remember their Baptism because it happened when they were babies. Because of this, they might miss the idea of conversion as applied to Christian Initiation. It is helpful for them to know the promises their parents made when they were baptized and how they can choose to “live out” their Baptism as children of God.



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

How would you fill in this blank? \_\_\_\_\_ changed everything.

We can all think of a life-changing event or two in our lives. Spiritual conversion is truly life-changing. It is a turning away from sin and moving toward deeper union with God. As Catholics, we know that “sin harms our relationship with God and damages our communion with the Church. Conversion of heart is the beginning of our journey back to God ... Conversion must involve a change of heart as well as a change of actions” (*USCCA, p. 237*).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to name the three Sacraments of Initiation.
- Share a story about the Sacrament of Baptism in your family.

## LET'S PRAY >>>



Dear God, bless all those who are getting ready to become Catholic and all who want to be baptized. 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 14 Review

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

1. A catechumen is a person who acts as a sponsor for someone who wishes to become a Catholic. **True/False**

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2. Focusing on faith, participating at Mass, relying on the faith community, and setting an example are all ways to welcome a new family member. **True/False**

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3. Confirmation is the Sacrament that deepens the grace of Baptism, and strengthens us to give witness to Christ in the world. **True/False**

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4. The grace of the Sacraments must be earned. **True/False**

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5. Sacred Chrism is used in anointing in the Sacraments of Initiation. **True/False**

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Using the words in the Word Bank, describe the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

6–10. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Word Bank

conversion

Easter Vigil

catechumen

Sacraments of Initiation

sponsor

