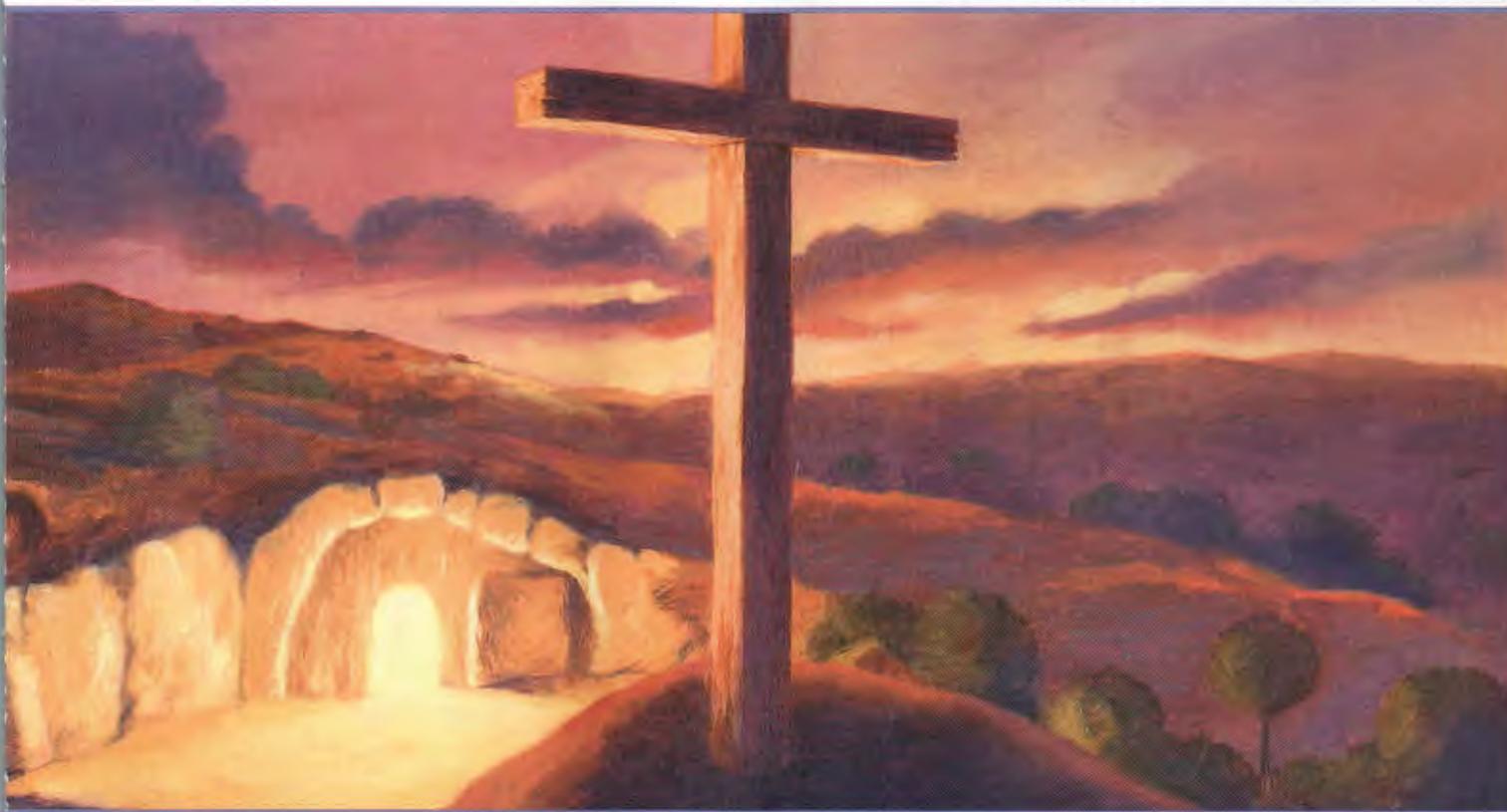


ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 7

Jesus Christ and the New Testament

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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

Imprimatur

✠ Most Rev. John Noonan
Bishop of Orlando
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"Anyway" prayer based on "The Paradoxical Commandments" by Kent M. Keith.

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Jesus, Word of God

♥ Let Us Pray

Leader: O God, from the beginning your Word has brought light and life to our world.

“O LORD, our Lord,
how awesome is your name through all the earth!” **Psalm 8:2**

All: O God, let your Word be alive in us.

† Scripture

“God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:9–11

Have you ever thought...

- What does it mean to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord?
- How do you really come to have a relationship with Jesus?



Getting Started

In this chapter, you will learn what Catholics understand about the “eternal Word” and how the coming of Jesus changed our relationship with God the Father. You will also see how Mary is a model of trust and discipleship for all of us.

In the chart below, describe events or signs in each stage of Jesus’ life that reveal to us his divinity and humanity. *

His Birth

His Childhood



His Adult Life

His Death and Resurrection

Catholic Faith Words

• Incarnation

• Emmanuel

• Annunciation

• miracle

IDENTIFY

The Name of Jesus Over time, the names of people we know take on deeper meaning as we come to know them better. Think about the name Jesus. On the lines below, describe how your understanding of who Jesus is and what his name conveys has grown as you have gotten older.





Mary and Joseph look with faith on the child Jesus at his Nativity, Elizabeth Wang

The Eternal Word

What is the “eternal Word”?

As humans, we are called by God to be authentic, which means to be true to who we really are. But our personalities have many different dimensions. We are complex. Sometimes, we are not easy to understand. Other times, we might need to spend some time getting to know ourselves. Because God is our Creator, he knows us best of all. He knows what he made us to be. He even knows us better than we know ourselves! God helps us get in touch with who we really are, and helps us become who we were made to be.

God the Father sent Jesus as our model of being authentic. He was always true to who he was, even when there was a cost. He was fully human and fully Divine at the same time.

Catholic Faith Words

Incarnation the truth that the Second Divine Person of the Holy Trinity, the Son of God, assumed human nature in order to save all people; Jesus Christ is both true God and true man

The Son of God

The Gospel according to John begins differently from the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Instead of starting with the birth of Jesus or with his ministry on Earth, the author of John goes back to the beginning of time to tell us about Jesus before the world began. That is a side of Jesus we might not think of at first.

Jesus is the Word. He was with God the Father before creation. Then the Son of God became human, like us. What had been invisible, existing above and before all else, became visible. God’s loving presence was now in the flesh. Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, is the eternal (everlasting) Word.

Scripture

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.

John 1:1–2

Go to the Source

Read *John 1:1–14*. Why do you think Jesus is called “the Word”? What does belief mean to you?

The Wonder of the Incarnation

The **Incarnation** is what we call the truth that the Son of God took on a human nature and became man. This word means “in the flesh,” and shows our understanding that Jesus has two different natures—human and Divine—in one Divine Person. Jesus is like us in all things except sin.

Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. Only Jesus has this unique relationship with God the Father. The Son of God not only has the same Divine nature as his heavenly Father,

but also shares in our human nature. Jesus is both truly God and truly man.

What’s in a Name?

The name *Jesus* literally means “God saves” (see Matthew 1:21). Jesus entered the world to bring salvation to all people. Jesus is not just a wise prophet or miracle worker; he is the only Son of God. That is why we call him “Lord.” In the Gospel according to John, we find Jesus using “I am” statements to teach us about who he is and how he relates to his Father and to us.

The “I Am” Statements

“I am the bread of life” We are fed by Jesus in the Eucharist.	•	• John 8:12
“I am the light of the world” With Jesus, we never have to walk in darkness or confusion.	•	• John 15:5
“I am the gate for the sheep” We must go through Jesus to be with God.	•	• John 6:35
“I am the good shepherd” Jesus watches out for us and risks himself for us.	•	• John 10:11
“I am the vine, you are the branches” We must remain attached to Jesus to live.	•	• John 10:7

Match the
Scripture
verse with
its citation.



CONNECT

Review the “I am” statements above. Which of the images of Jesus do you connect to the most? What other images of Jesus can you think of from Scripture you’ve heard or read?

God Is with Us

How did Jesus change our relationship with God?

Long before the birth of Jesus, God used the prophets to speak to his People. Then, in an ancient promise God made to the prophet Isaiah, the Lord said the following: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him ‘Emmanuel,’ which means, ‘God is with us’” (**Matthew 1:23**).

God fulfilled that promise of closeness to his People through the Incarnation of his Son, Jesus Christ. He is called **Emmanuel**, Prince of Peace, Light of the World, and Son of God.

The Incarnation is amazing news for us. It means that God is not at all distant or removed from our daily lives. In the wonder of the Incarnation, God the Father speaks directly to us in his Son, Jesus. Christ lives among us and invites us to follow him, to make our lives like his own in love.

God the Son became human to lead us back into friendship with the Father and harmony with one another. He comes to bring back all things to himself in love. But how does this great truth of the Incarnation happen?

➤ **When are some times you know that God is with us?**

CATHOLICS TODAY

We profess faith in Jesus’ divinity and in the Holy Trinity by reciting together the Nicene Creed when we gather for Mass. There are three major sections in the Creed. Each one pertains to a specific Person of the Holy Trinity. The Creed has been translated into almost 1,300 languages all around the world. For more on the Creed, see page 365 of the Our Catholic Tradition section of your book.

The Annunciation, Salesianerkirche Church



The Holy Spirit Prepares

Jesus is God and shares in the Divine nature. But Jesus came from somewhere—he didn't just show up, already made. He entered the world like any other human being: He was born. However, Jesus' conception is very different from ours. First, Mary was visited by the Angel Gabriel, the messenger from Heaven, who announced to her that she would be the Mother of God and give birth to the Savior.

We call the Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary the **Annunciation**. All of human history hinged on Mary's reply. Because she said "yes" to God's plan, she became the most important woman in history. In conceiving Jesus, Mary helped in God's plan to turn his people back to the life he had always intended for us.

Second, Mary became the Mother of God because God the Holy Spirit made it possible. From before Mary was born, the Holy Spirit was acting in her, so that through her, the Son of God could become man. By the power of the Holy Spirit, not by human means, Mary became pregnant. Jesus Christ was born to Mary and the world, through the power of God.

- **Name someone who has a great devotion to Mary the Mother of God.**
- **How does this devotion seem to be helpful to this person?**

Catholic Faith Words

Emmanuel the name given to the Messiah by the prophet Isaiah, meaning "God is with us"

Annunciation the Angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary that she would be the Mother of God and give birth to the Savior

Mary—Mother of God and Our Mother

By cooperating with God's plan, Mary was already helping her Son, Jesus, in his work as Savior. Before he started his ministry of preaching and healing among the people, Mary became her Son's first and foremost disciple. By saying "yes" to God, Mary anticipated and took part in all the things her Son would do for us.

Mary, Mother of God, is our spiritual mother, also. She received the Lord in her heart before he was conceived in her womb. When he was on the Cross, Jesus gave Mary to his beloved disciple John and to all of us. Just like any mother, she shows us the way to live by her example. Her life shows us the way to Jesus.

Go to the Source

The Angel Gabriel did not just appear to Mary. Read *Matthew 1:18–23*. What was God asking Joseph to do? How did Joseph respond to God's call?

IDENTIFY AND DESIGN

What are some ways we, as Catholics, have been asked to be the disciples of Jesus? Design a motto that explains one way you can follow Mary's example and say "yes" to God.

Signs of Divine Power and Love

How were Jesus' actions signs of God's love?

In his public ministry, Jesus worked miracles. A **miracle** is an event for which there is no scientific explanation because it happened by the power of God. When Jesus worked miracles, it was obvious something extraordinary was happening through him. People experienced God's power in amazing ways that changed their lives and led many of them to believe in Jesus and have faith in him as the Son of God.

Jesus healed people of their diseases. He cast out demons. He restored the dead to life. All four Gospels record this miraculous power in Jesus. For example:



Jesus gave sight to a man who had been blind from birth. Because he did so, the man came to believe that Jesus is Lord. He “saw” Jesus for who he truly is and bowed down before him in worship. (See John 9:1–41.)

Jesus restored the ability to walk to a paralyzed man. As he did so, he performed an even greater healing. He forgave the man's sins. To prove that he has this power to forgive sins, the Lord commanded the man to walk—which the man did. The crowd gave glory to God. (See Luke 5:17–26.)

Jesus raised a widow's dead son to life again. The Lord stopped the funeral procession on its way out of the city gates and commanded the young man to rise. The man sat up and began to speak. At first the crowd was fearful; then, they praised God's power, saying “God has visited his people.” (Luke 7:11–16)

These miracles, and others like them, show us the divinity of Jesus and the depth of his love. At the same time, they show us the human nature of the Son of God. How? Many of these accounts of Jesus' miracles also tell us about his emotions, like compassion or pity (see Matthew 20:34, Mark 6:34), anger (see John 11:33), and tears (see John 11:35).

- Which do you think was easier: to believe in Jesus after seeing his miracles or after hearing about them from others who saw them?
- Do you agree that seeing is believing? Why or why not?

Catholic Faith Words

miracle an event for which there is no scientific explanation because it happened by the power of God. Jesus worked miracles to help us see the presence of the Kingdom of God.

1. Look up the Scripture passages and summarize what Jesus did in each one.
2. Then discuss how the images we find of Jesus in these passages symbolize each of his natures.



The Two Natures of Jesus Christ: Divine & Human

Jesus worked miracles
(see Luke 5:1–11)

Jesus fed his disciples
(see John 21:7–13)

BRAINSTORM

Think of a problem that you are facing now. Brainstorm some solutions that Jesus Christ could offer you.

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IN SUMMARY Catholics Believe

Because Jesus is the Son of God, truly Divine and truly human, he saves us and brings us back into relationship with God the Father.

- The Son of God has existed for all time, and through the Incarnation, became fully man while remaining fully God.
- Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the Son of God was born to Mary, who is a model of trust and discipleship for all of us. Her acceptance of God's will brought Jesus into the world.
- Jesus showed that he was Divine in many ways, particularly through the working of miracles, which also gives us a glimpse into his human nature and emotions.

Our Catholic Life

Along with Emmanuel, there are many titles for Jesus in Scripture. Some of these titles include Christ (which means “the anointed one” in Greek), Jesus (his common Jewish name, which means “God saves”), Lord (used to acknowledge Jesus’ divinity), Messiah (the Hebrew word for “the anointed one”), and Rabbi (which means “teacher”). His early followers used these different names to show their understanding of who he was and what his presence meant to their lives. Throughout her history, the Church has used these titles for Jesus, too. Sometimes we address Jesus by different titles in the same prayers. No matter which name we use to call on Jesus, he responds with the same love and grace.

➤ **What title for Jesus do you most often use in prayer, at home or in Church?**



People of Faith

Saints Maria, Rosa, and Mary Zhao, d. 1900

In the mid-1800s China was invaded by some of the powerful nations of Europe. At the same time, Jesuit missionaries and others introduced Christianity to China. These missionaries and converts to Christianity were targeted during the Boxer Rebellion. Maria and her daughters, Rosa and Mary, were among them. When the rebels tried to force them to deny their faith, they were defiant. Before they were executed, the family prayed for strength to give up their lives for the faith. The Church celebrates their feast day on **July 9**.

For more, go to aliveinchrist.osv.com



DESCRIBE

Write your name on the line below.

Then write three statements that are unique to you and show ways you are living a Christian life.

I am ...

I am ...

I am ...



Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus

Leader: We gather here this day in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Jesus, Son of the living God . . . have mercy on us.

Jesus, splendor of the Father . . . have mercy on us.

Jesus, brightness of eternal light . . . have mercy on us.

Jesus, King of glory . . . have mercy on us.

Jesus, Son of justice . . . have mercy on us.

Jesus, mighty God . . . have mercy on us.

Jesus, most powerful . . . have mercy on us.

Jesus, most patient . . . have mercy on us.

Jesus, most obedient . . . have mercy on us.

Jesus, author of life . . . have mercy on us.

Jesus, good shepherd . . . have mercy on us.

Jesus, eternal wisdom . . . have mercy on us.

Jesus, our way and our life . . . have mercy on us.

Jesus, Teacher of the Apostles . . . have mercy on us.

Jesus, strength of martyrs . . . have mercy on us.


Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, . . . mercifully listen to our prayers

and grant us the gift of your Divine mercy that we may ever love you with our whole heart

and never cease from praising you and glorifying your holy name.

All: Amen.

 *Sing or play "Jesus, I Trust in You"*

Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com for an interactive review.

A Work with Words Circle the letter of the choice that best completes the sentence.

1. The ____ is the truth of the Son of God taking on a human nature to save all people.
 - a. Incarnation
 - b. Word
 - c. Holy Trinity
 - d. Annunciation

2. The word *Incarnation* literally means _____.
 - a. Son of Man
 - b. creation
 - c. in the beginning
 - d. in the flesh

3. At the ____, the Angel Gabriel declared to Mary that she would be the Mother of God.
 - a. Incarnation
 - b. Annunciation
 - c. Resurrection
 - d. creation

4. An event for which there is no scientific explanation because it happened by the power of God is called _____.
 - a. an Incarnation
 - b. an act of faith
 - c. a miracle
 - d. an Annunciation

5. "Emmanuel" means _____.
 - a. God is with us
 - b. God who comes
 - c. Lord of all
 - d. the Risen One

6. In the first chapter of the Gospel according to John, Jesus is called the _____.
 - a. Incarnation
 - b. Act of Faith
 - c. Hope of Mankind
 - d. Word

B Check Understanding Complete each sentence with the correct term from the Word Bank.

spiritual Mother	Holy Spirit
God	Mary
man	Hope
Jesus	Creed

7. Jesus is both true God and true _____.
8. The name _____ literally means "God saves."
9. Mary became pregnant by the power of the _____.
10. Mary is our _____ because when Jesus was on the Cross he gave her to us.

C Make Connections Write a one-paragraph response to the question: Identify an area in your life where you need to say "yes" to God as Mary did. If you said "yes," how might your life be different?
