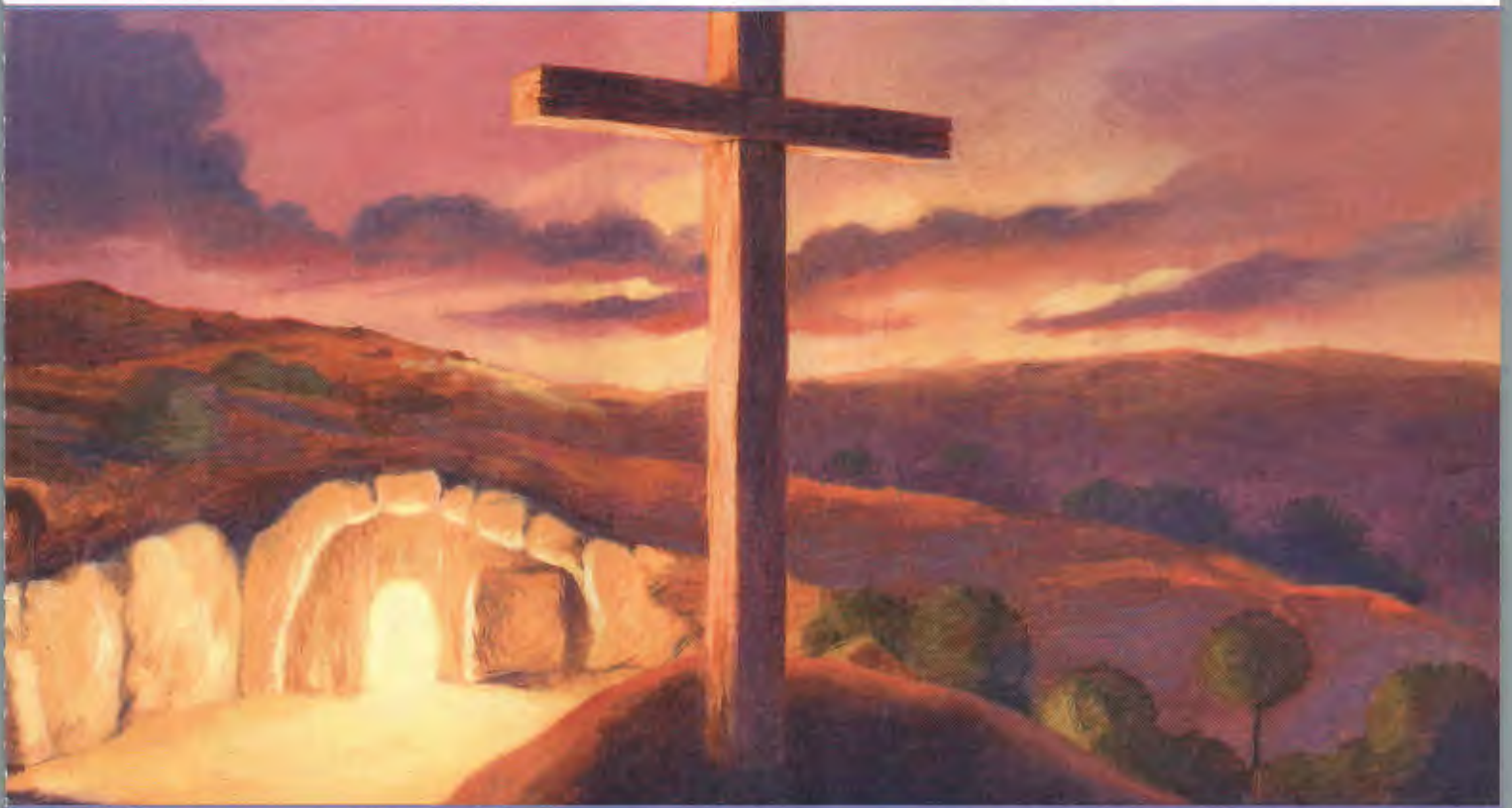


# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 7

Jesus Christ and the New Testament

[aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)



**Our Sunday Visitor**

# JESUS CHRIST



*When we accept God's gift of salvation in Jesus, why must our lives be formed by his teaching?*

## CHURCH HISTORY TIMELINE

- 431 Council of Ephesus
- 452 Pope Leo I (the Great) meets Attila the Hun
- 1565 St. Augustine, Florida, becomes first Catholic presence in America
- 1978 Pope Saint John Paul II is elected Pope

Go to page 348 for more



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### Our Catholic Tradition

- Jesus Christ is the Son of God who took on human flesh to redeem us from sin and show us the way to the Father. Because he is true God and true man, Jesus gives us the perfect example of how to live the life the Father planned for us. (CCC, 520)
- The Beatitudes challenge us to live by the values of God's Kingdom and understand that true happiness comes from the hope of eternal life with God. (CCC, 1726, 1728)
- Because God the Father loved human beings, he sent his Son, who freely chose to become human and to offer himself in order to redeem us from the effects of Original Sin and our own sins. (CCC, 620, 621)

### Our Catholic Life

- We are called to a life of discipleship: this involves accepting Jesus' invitation to believe in and follow him by studying his ways and putting them into practice. (CCC, 2466)
- Listening to and applying the wisdom of Jesus will help us make choices for the good and turn to him in prayer for guidance when making decisions. (CCC, 459, 1787)
- Through his Paschal Mystery, Jesus conquered death and makes it possible for those who have faith to experience new life through the Seven Sacraments. (CCC, 1076)



# The Way

## ♥ Let Us Pray

**Leader:** Jesus, our brother, you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. You know our struggles and our joys. Be with us and guide us to know the Father's love.

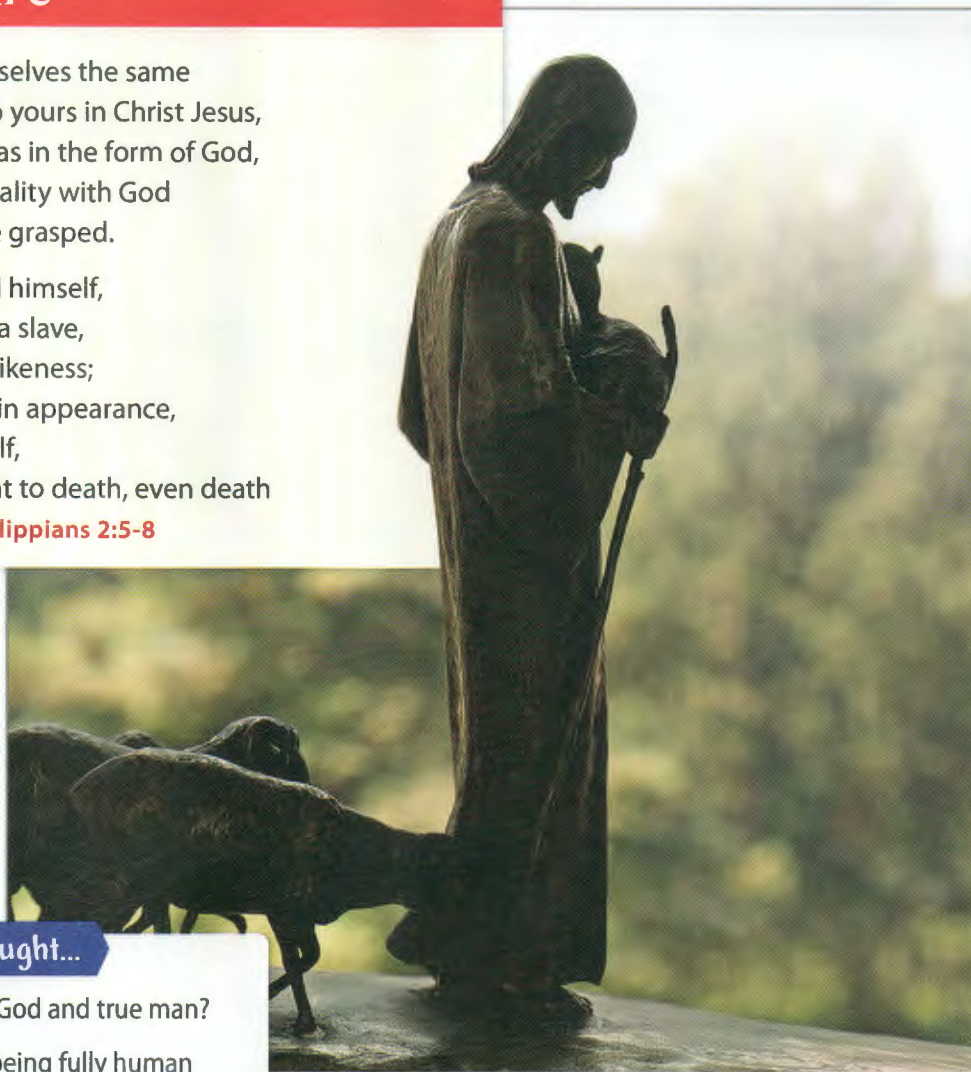
“Praise the LORD, for he is good;  
for his mercy endures forever.” **Psalm 136:1**

**All:** God, help us become our best selves.

## ✚ Scripture

“Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.” **Philippians 2:5-8**



### Have you ever thought...

- How is Jesus true God and true man?
- What does Jesus being fully human mean for how we live?

## Getting Started

In this chapter you will learn that Jesus Christ is true God, true man, the Second Divine Person of the Holy Trinity who took on human flesh. He shows us the way God the Father wants us to live to become more like him.

In the chart below, use words and/or illustrations to show how Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. How and where does Jesus lead us? What does he teach us? How does he take care of us and give us life?



### The Way

Blank area for writing or drawing related to 'The Way'.

### The Truth

Blank area for writing or drawing related to 'The Truth'.

### The Life

Blank area for writing or drawing related to 'The Life'.



## Catholic Faith Words

• Visitation

• Mediator

• discipleship

### WRITE

**Fully Alive** Saint Iraneus said, "The glory of God is a human being fully alive." Write a reflection on what you think Saint Iraneus means.

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Think of someone in your life or in the broader community or larger world who you think is "fully alive" and showing God's glory. Describe that person and his or her impact on others.

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## True God, True Man

### How is Jesus like all of us?

At one time or another, everyone wants to excel—to maximize his or her abilities to the fullest. People often say that it’s human nature to want to be the best at something. Is that what it means to be “fully human”? But if you fail, is it okay to just remind yourself, “After all, I’m only human”?

Jesus is “true man and true God,” fully human but also fully Divine. He is God. And he is also a human being, a man who walked on Earth, like all of us. He lived the fully human life we are made to live: coming from God and going toward God. So what does that mean for us as his followers?

Sometimes it’s hard for us to grasp that Jesus actually lived a human life. Can you picture Jesus as a small child learning to put on his sandals? On sunny days, he might have wanted to go outside and play instead of finishing his chores. Maybe he got tired from too much studying.



Yet, these kinds of things probably happened. How do we know? They are the kinds of things that happen to all human beings—and in all families. We all face new challenges, feel tired, and become confused. After all, we’re human!

> **What are some examples from Jesus’ life that show he was fully human?**

## The Son of God Became One of Us

Jesus is true man, like us in all things except sin. He is also true God. Jesus has two natures:

- He has a Divine nature. Jesus is the Son of God, the Second Divine Person of the Holy Trinity.
- He has a human nature. He was born of a human mother, and he had to be fed, kept warm, and loved like all other human babies.

The Son of God chose to become a man in order to bring us back to his Father and show us how to live as God intended. Jesus not only brings us closer to the Father, but he also makes it possible for us to become more like him and the Father. God’s Son became human to share his divinity with us. Because of that, we can become united with God the Father. When the Son of God became the Son of Man, we also became God’s sons and daughters.

God helps us as his children with the grace to live the full lives he calls us to live. When we fail, we need to accept our disappointments with humility. When our thoughts and actions lead us away from God and living his law, we need to turn to God for forgiveness and strength to do better.



## The Joyful Mysteries

When praying the Rosary, Catholics remember events from Jesus' and Mary's lives, called the Mysteries of the Rosary. One group of these events is called the Joyful Mysteries. They focus on the great gift of the Incarnation and the joy of the Son of God sharing our human nature.

- The Annunciation—The Angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she has been chosen to be the Mother of Jesus.
- The **Visitation**—Mary, who is pregnant, visits her cousin Elizabeth, who is also pregnant. Elizabeth's son grows up to be John the Baptist.
- The Nativity—Jesus is born.
- The Presentation of the Child Jesus at the Temple—Joseph and Mary present the child Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem. A man named Simeon had been promised that he would not die before he saw the



Messiah. Simeon recognizes Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promise.

- The Finding of the Child Jesus at the Temple.

### Catholic Faith Words

**Visitation** the event of Mary, who was pregnant with Jesus, visiting her cousin Elizabeth, who was pregnant with Saint John the Baptist

## DESCRIBE

In your own words, describe the kind of things you think Jesus expects people your age to do in order to live a full life. Describe what things you think Jesus doesn't expect people your age to do.

### What Jesus Expects

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### What Jesus Doesn't Expect

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## Jesus Is the Way to God

### How does Jesus show us the way?

Before they were called “Christians,” the disciples who followed Jesus were called followers of “The Way.” Jesus showed them the way to God. He also showed them a new way to live, a way based on truth and love.

### Scripture

“I am the way and the truth and the life.”

**John 14:6**

### Go to the Source

Jesus used words to describe the Father. Read *Luke 11:9–13* and find out why Jesus spoke about giving a hungry child a scorpion or a snake, instead of an egg or some fish.

The Apostles and disciples of Jesus learned about God in two ways. Jesus talked about God, letting them know that God is Father, and Jesus showed them God the Father

through his life, the life of the Son. Jesus used words to describe what the Father was like, and Jesus used actions to demonstrate what he was like.

Jesus was able to give us a better picture of God—a picture of a loving, gentle, and affectionate Father—a God who takes care of us and gives us what we need, including expectations and rules to keep us safe and help us grow. He is eternal Father and source of all life. Jesus told us, “For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds . . .” (*Luke 11:10*) Jesus’ words and actions still show us the way today.

### ➤ How does “The Way” help you trust in God?

### Catholic Faith Words

**Mediator** the title given to Jesus because, as true God and true man, he alone is able to reconcile all people to God the Father, bringing us closer to God the Father by his words and saving actions



## Titles for Jesus

We call Jesus by many titles that describe who he is and what he does. You're probably familiar with Savior, Lord, Christ, and Lamb of God. How about Mediator and Substantial Image?

A mediator brings together those who might normally be separated or apart, reconciling differences between them. Because of his uniqueness as true God and true man, Jesus alone is the mediator between God the Father and humans. As our intermediary or bridge to God the Father, and by his sacrifice that makes reconciliation possible, Jesus is



### Scripture

"For there is one God.

There is also one mediator between  
God and the human race,  
Christ Jesus, himself human,  
who gave himself as ransom for all."

1 Timothy 2:5-6

called the **Mediator**. He brings us closer to the Father by his words and his actions.

When Jesus became man, he remained God. So when we look at Jesus, a human being, we get to see God in living color. He is sometimes called the Substantial Image of the Father. An image is a visible likeness. Substantial implies belonging to its nature. When we say Jesus is the Substantial Image of the Father, we mean that he is a visible image of the true nature of God. In the Son of God, you can see what God the Father is like. Here are some ways Jesus used actions to demonstrate God's love for us:

- healing many people who were sick or injured (see Matthew 8:14-17)
  - spending time and eating with people who were unpopular (see Luke 5:30-32)
  - feeding people who were hungry (see Mark 6:30-44)
- **What does knowing Jesus better help you to understand about the Trinity?**

## SOLVE AND IDENTIFY

In the puzzle find three words to describe Jesus. Write the words on the lines, then share with a classmate why you think they are an accurate description of Jesus. Discuss people you know who can be described in a similar way.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

S	S	E	K	G	W	A	Y
J	H	N	Q	U	P	X	N
M	E	D	I	A	T	O	R
J	P	N	Q	B	R	V	Y
W	H	A	M	D	U	R	A
D	E	N	T	F	T	B	Z
B	R	G	N	R	H	L	P
P	D	E	L	I	G	H	T



# The Way to Live

## What did Jesus want to show us?

Jesus gave his followers many examples of how they could become more like him. When you follow his example, you are acting like he did. The more you do so, the more you can discover the person God intends you to be and live the best life possible.

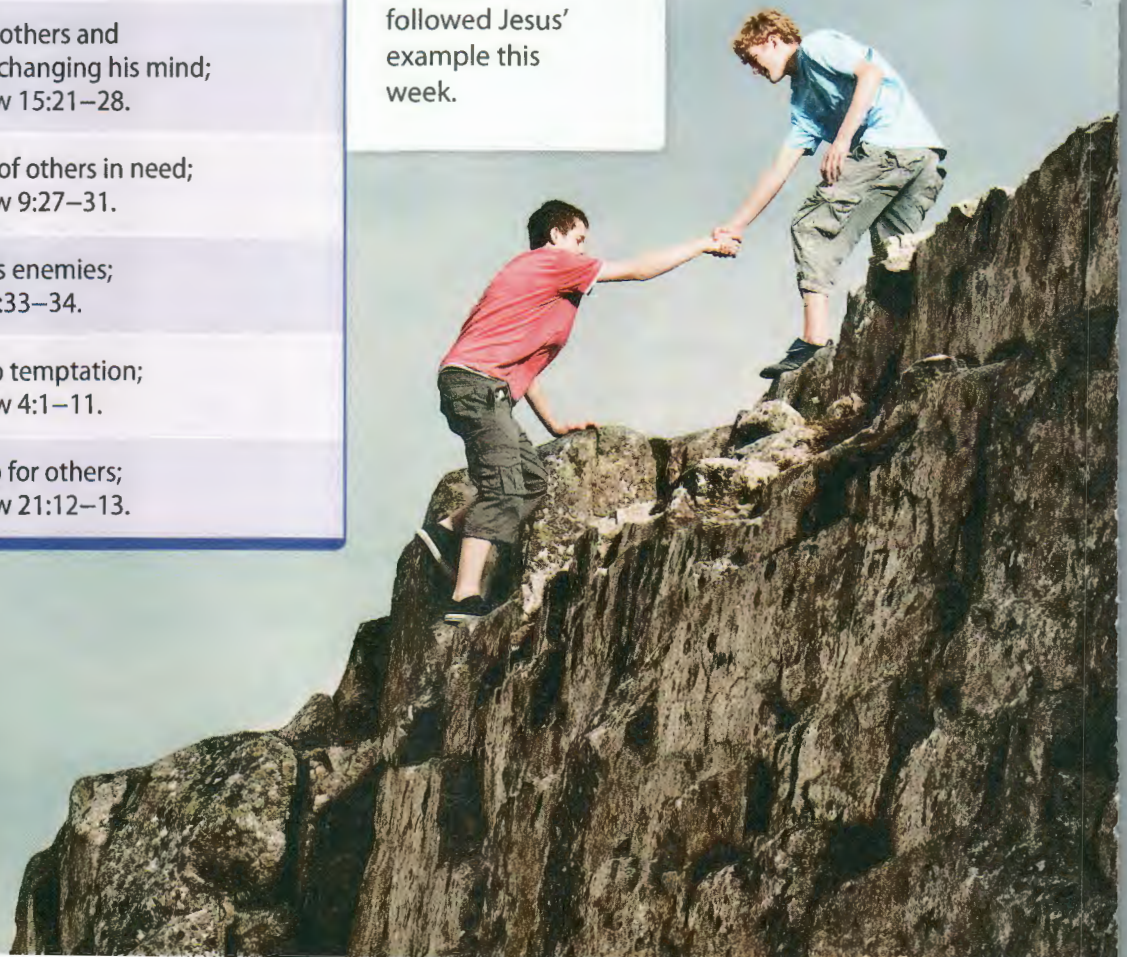
### Jesus' Example

- taking time to pray; see Mark 6:45–46.
- having a good relationship with his parents; see Luke 2:51–52.
- relying on his good friends; see Luke 8:1–3.
- expressing deep feelings; see John 11:32–37.
- talking about things with those who disagree; see Mark 12:13–17.
- listening to others and sometimes changing his mind; see Matthew 15:21–28.
- taking care of others in need; see Matthew 9:27–31.
- forgiving his enemies; see Luke 23:33–34.
- saying no to temptation; see Matthew 4:1–11.
- standing up for others; see Matthew 21:12–13.

Jesus didn't come to show us the way to play perfect chess or piano, swim, paint, or get straight As. Striving to use the gifts and talents God has given us is a good thing. But, Jesus is most concerned with what importance we give God in our lives, how we treat our families and friends, how we pray, how we care for people we don't know, and how we forgive our enemies. Sometimes these things are a lot harder than doing laps in the pool or practicing scales on the keyboard.

Of all the good that God wants for you, he most wants you to live in his love, to know his happiness, and to become like him. You do all of these things when you follow in Jesus' footsteps and become his disciple.

Place a check mark beside three ways you have intentionally followed Jesus' example this week.





**Discipleship** is really what living fully, or being fully alive, is all about. It isn't easy. But we don't follow the path of discipleship alone. God gives us the Church and his grace we need to be the people he has called us to be. The Sacraments strengthen us, and our community of faith journeys with us, guiding and supporting us.

### Catholic Faith Words

**discipleship** accepting Jesus' invitation to believe in and follow him by studying his ways and putting them into practice

## DISCUSS AND DECIDE

In a famous address to all the young people of the world, Pope Saint John Paul II called on all young people to take on the "noble and authentic adventure" of discipleship.

**Why would discipleship be something "noble" and an "adventure"?**

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**What is one thing we can do together to live this noble adventure?**

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## IN SUMMARY Catholics Believe

Jesus Christ is the only Son of God, who took on human flesh to redeem us from sin and show us the way to the Father.

- Jesus has two natures. He is fully man and fully God. Jesus is the Second Divine Person of the Holy Trinity.
- Because he is true God and true man, Jesus Christ is "the way" to the Father. Through his

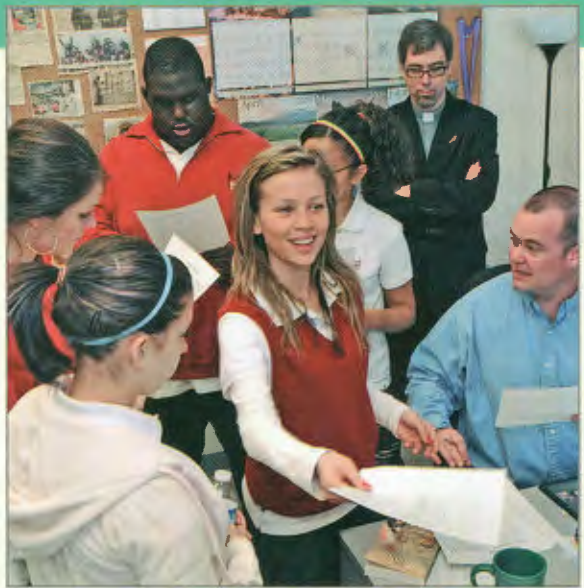
words and actions Jesus brings us back to the Father and gives us the perfect example of how to be the people God intended us to be from the beginning.

- Jesus became man to reconcile us to his Father and show us how to live. We need to follow his example and become followers of the Way, disciples who strive to live fully as God's children.



## Our Catholic Life

Jesus tells us that discipleship involves praying to God the Father, studying his teachings, participating in the Eucharist, and living the virtues. **Discipleship** also means bringing the Good News of Christ to others. It requires us to understand and live by what we've learned from Jesus and his Church. It is part of the Church's mission to continue Jesus' work, teaching others about him and helping God in his work of spreading his Kingdom. Being a disciple means living a life of compassion, love, justice, and service, for the glory of God. It includes seeing people as our brothers and sisters, no matter their race, nationality, religious beliefs, social group, or income level. We are all made in God's image, and we can all be disciples.



➤ What is one way the people in your school or parish are examples of discipleship?

## People of Faith

### Saint Maximilian Kolbe, 1894–1941

When Raymund Kolbe became a priest, he changed his name to Maximilian Maria in honor of Mary. During World War II, he provided shelter for those fleeing the Nazis, including 2,000 Jews. In 1941, Father Kolbe was arrested by the Nazis and taken to the death camp of Auschwitz. While he was there, the Nazis decided to starve some prisoners to death as a punishment. He offered to take the place of a man who had a wife and children. The man whose life he saved was present at the ceremony of his canonization in 1982. The Church celebrates his feast day on **August 14**.

For more, go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)



## EXAMINE

Examine your commitment to "the noble adventure of discipleship." How well are you reaching your true potential for discipleship? What is one area that is challenging you right now?

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Make some notes as to how you might take some positive steps following "the Way."

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## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Leader:** God, you are our all-knowing and all-loving Creator. We use the words of King David's psalm to praise and thank you for your goodness.

**Side 1:** LORD, you have probed me, you know me:  
you know when I sit and stand;  
you understand my thoughts from afar.

**Side 2:** God and Father, you really understand each of us and how we're made. You know how we long to reach our full potential, to be "the best" at something, to make our mark. You see that we are driven and motivated, sometimes in the wrong ways for the wrong reasons.

**Side 1:** You sift through my travels and my rest; with all my ways you are familiar. Even before a word is on my tongue,  
LORD, you know it all.

**Side 2:** Loving Father, you understand the pain we feel when we fall short and can't meet our goals. You see how disappointed and how broken we often are. Gently, you touch us to comfort, console, and show us how wonderful we are in your eyes.

**Side 1:** You formed my inmost being;  
you knit me in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, because I am wonderfully made;  
wonderful are your works!

My very self you know.  
My bones are not hidden from you.  
When I was being made in secret,  
fashioned in the depths of the earth.


**Side 2:** Our Father, you graciously sent your Son Jesus to live and die for us. He shows us what great plans you have for us. You want us to live in your love and share that love with others. You know what will make us happy. You made us!

**Side 1:** Probe me, God, know my heart;  
try me, know my thoughts.  
See if there is a wicked path in me;  
lead me along an ancient path.

**Psalm 139:1-15**

**Side 2:** God, our all-loving Father, you know our strengths and weaknesses as no one else does or can. Deliver us from evil of every sort. Give us the strength to develop the gifts you've given to us. Help us to follow your Son, Jesus.

**Leader:** Let's conclude our prayer in song.

 *Sing or play "Behind and Before Me"*



Go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com) for an interactive review.

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

- \_\_\_ is a special prayer form in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
  - The Rosary
  - The Creed
  - Our Father
  - all of the above
- Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth is known as the \_\_\_\_.
  - Annunciation
  - Nativity
  - Visitation
  - Presentation
- The Nativity refers to \_\_\_\_.
  - the birth of Jesus
  - Elizabeth's visit to Mary
  - the Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary
  - Jesus at the Temple
- Jesus is called the Substantial Image of the Father because \_\_\_\_.
  - he brings us closer to God
  - he communicates with us
  - he is human and Divine
  - in him we can see what God the Father is like.
- Disciples of Jesus were first called the followers of the \_\_\_\_.
  - Trinity
  - Nativity
  - Way
  - Creed

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

Mediator	the Holy Spirit
words and actions	natures
the Gospels	inspiration
discipleship	human

- The disciples learned about God through the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.
- Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_, the intermediary or bridge between God and humans.
- Jesus has two \_\_\_\_\_, human and Divine.
- Being fully \_\_\_\_\_ means becoming the person God meant you to be.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the process of accepting Jesus' invitation to believe in and follow him by studying his ways and putting them into practice.

**C Make Connections** Write a one-paragraph response to the question: **Jesus is both true God and true man. Which aspect of Jesus is harder for you to identify with? Explain why.**

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