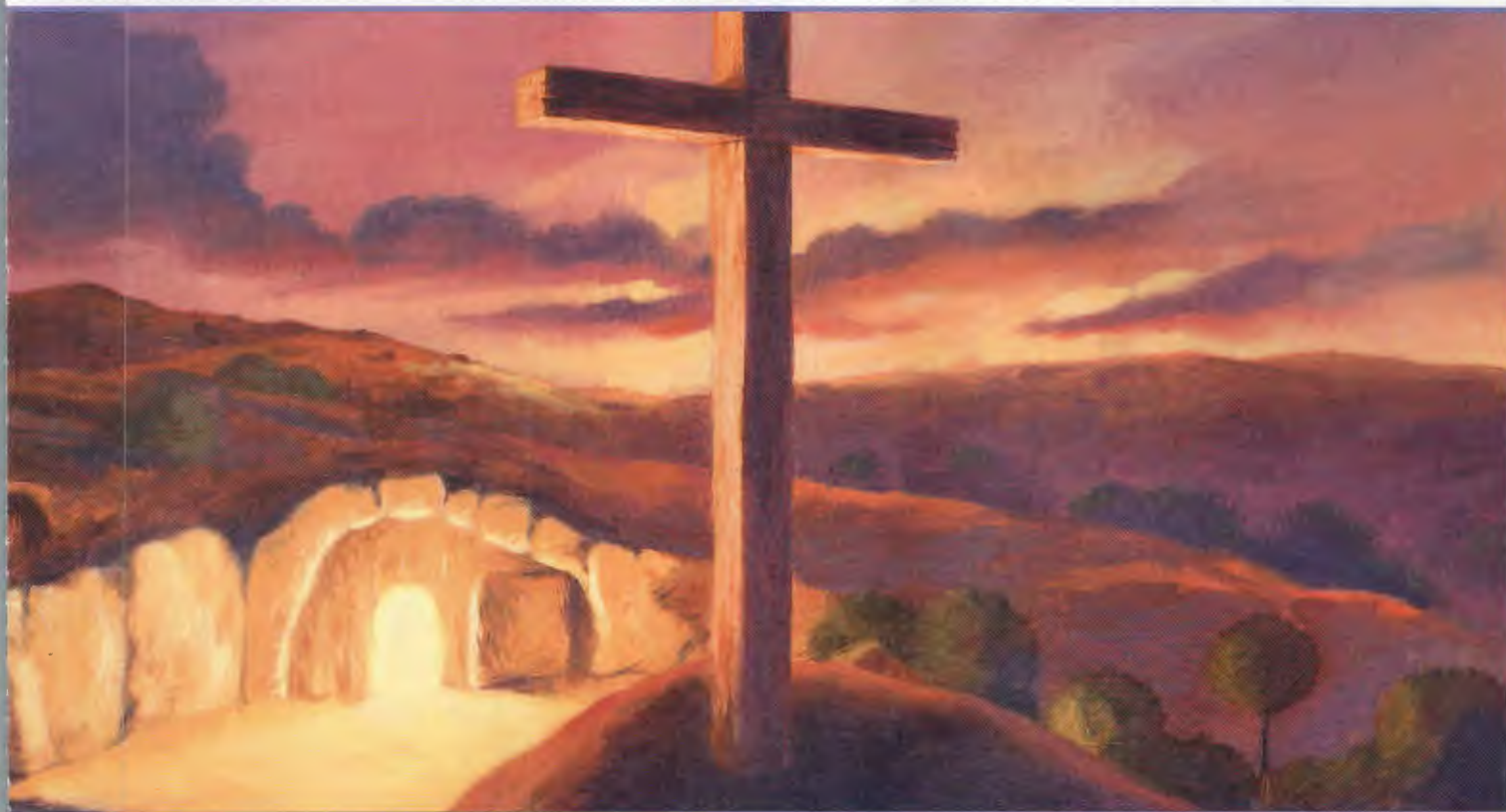


ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 7

Jesus Christ and the New Testament

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Our Sunday Visitor

SACRAMENTS

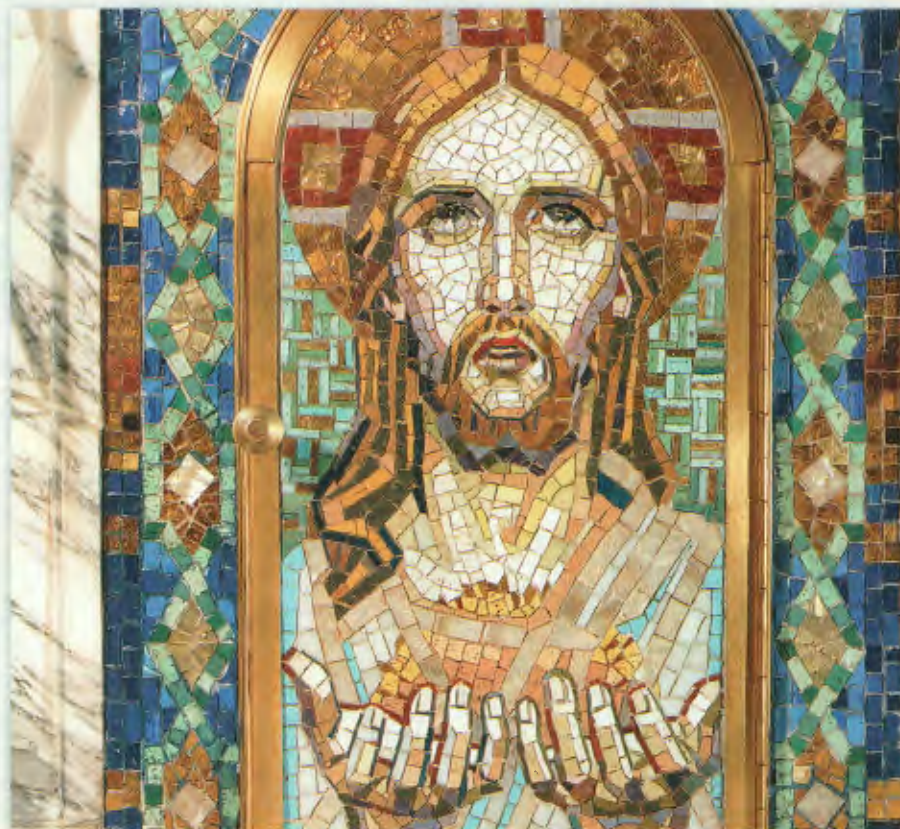


How do the Sacraments help us to encounter God's presence so to receive the grace to live as Christ's disciples?

CHURCH HISTORY TIMELINE

- 33 Holy Spirit empowers Apostles to baptize and preach at Pentecost
- 313 Edict of Milan establishes religious freedom for Christians
- 1215 Fourth Ecumenical Lateran Council ends
- 1992 Publication of the new *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Go to page 348 for more



Our Catholic Tradition

- Christ is a Sacrament because he makes God known to us and makes it possible for us to share in God's life. The Church is a Sacrament because in her we come to know God and share in his life through the Sacraments, which Christ instituted and in which he is always present. (CCC, 775–776)
- As Christ first welcomed and fed his followers, we are welcomed and belong to the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation. (CCC, 1212)
- Jesus shows us that God is compassionate, always willing to forgive and care for those who turn to him and believe. God heals us spiritually, emotionally, and sometimes physically in the Sacraments of Healing. (CCC, 1421)

Our Catholic Life

- Christ instituted the Sacraments so that we would always know and experience his welcoming, forgiving, healing, and nourishing power. (CCC, 1114, 1210)
- In the Eucharist, the Sacrament that we celebrate regularly, we are fed with the Body and Blood of Christ and are brought closer to Christ and one another. (CCC, 1382, 1416)
- In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, those who are truly sorry for their sins receive God's forgiveness and are reconciled with him and the Church. (CCC, 1424)

God's Masterworks

Let Us Pray

Leader: Father of life, you sent your Son, Jesus, to us so that we could come to know you completely. Jesus' actions have the power to save us and bring us to you.

“You changed my mourning into dancing;
you took off my sackcloth
and clothed me with gladness. ...

O LORD, my God,
forever will I give you thanks.” **Psalm 30:12–13**

All: Open our hearts to your grace.

Scripture

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with

power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love ... may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

Ephesians 3:14–21

Have you ever thought...


- Why is it important for faith customs to be passed down through generations?
- Which Church traditions are especially meaningful to you?

Getting Started

In this chapter, you will gain an understanding of how the Holy Trinity is the source of the Sacraments, how Christ instituted each of the Sacraments, and how he is present today in their celebration.

Catholic Faith Words

- Seven Sacraments
- Sacraments of Initiation
- Sacraments of Healing
- Sacraments at the Service of Communion
- Real Presence

1. For each Sacrament identify the category (Sacraments of Initiation, Sacraments of Healing, or Sacraments at the Service of Communion) to which it belongs. 
2. Then explain how each relates to its category title.

The Seven Sacraments		
Sacrament	Category	How It Relates
Baptism	_____	_____
Confirmation	_____	_____
Eucharist	_____	_____
Penance and Reconciliation	_____	_____
Anointing of the Sick	_____	_____
Holy Orders	_____	_____
Matrimony	_____	_____

DESCRIBE

Meaningful Traditions How do you mark time, remember important events, celebrate special milestones? Of your traditions, which is your favorite? In the spaces provided, describe in words or symbols one or more of your favorite personal and/or family traditions and favorite Church traditions.



Using two of the traditions you've identified (one personal and/or family tradition, and one Church tradition), explain what these traditions mean to you.



It All Starts with Jesus

How is Jesus the source of the Seven Sacraments?

The best traditions are always about the people who keep the traditions alive with us. If you ever made a card or present for your parents when you were a child, someone else probably provided the materials, cleaned up, and helped you wrap. This is similar to Christ's presence in his Church and our experience of grace, which is God's free, loving gift of his own life and help. We receive this gift of grace directly from God.

The Seven Sacraments

The Church celebrates seven “masterworks of God” (CCC, 1116): the **Seven Sacraments**. The Seven Sacraments are effective signs of God's grace instituted by Christ and given to his 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.

Every sacramental celebration is a meeting between God's children and their Father, a dialogue in the form of actions and words. We, the People of God, perform the rituals (read, process, sing, anoint) provide the materials (plant wheat and grapes, sew garments, order hosts and candles) and participate in the celebration (choir practice, seminary training, lector workshops).

We do these things to give God our praise and thanks, as well as offer ourselves to him. Yet God took the initiative in sending his Son. We are totally dependent upon God's Divine action in the celebration of each of the Sacraments.

So how do we begin to understand the Seven Sacraments? We start with Jesus Christ. Jesus himself is a Sacrament because he is a visible sign of the mystery of the Holy Trinity. He makes God known to us perfectly because he is God. Jesus said, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (**John 14:9**). Jesus is the Mediator between God and humanity, because he is fully God and fully man.

Go to the Source

Read *John 14:1–10*. What does Jesus say about God's works?

So his actions have the power to save—whether it is by healing a lame man or carrying his Cross. His whole life, from his Incarnation to the sending of his Spirit, is sacramental: it shows us God, shares God’s life with us, and is the source of our salvation and new life.

Through Jesus, we have access to God the Father and God the Holy Spirit; from him, we receive Divine help in becoming God’s children.

The Church Is the Sign and Source of God’s Life

Every Sacrament always starts with remembering the works of God the Father, and being thankful, and celebrating Christ’s presence. God the Holy Spirit helps us remember all that Christ said and did, and everything he taught about God the Father. In fact, the Holy Spirit, working with the Church, makes Jesus’ saving work present in the Sacraments. Through the power

of the Holy Spirit working in us and in the Church, we not only remember what brings us new life, but that new life is made available to us. The Holy Spirit unites us to the Son of God, drawing us into relationship with the Father as his adopted children.

In this way, the Church herself is “the sacrament of Christ’s action at work in her through the mission of the Holy Spirit” (CCC, 1118). The Church is a sign of God’s love and action in the world.

Underline what the Holy Spirit does for us in the Sacraments.



Catholic Faith Words

Seven Sacraments effective signs of God’s grace instituted by Christ and given to his 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.

SOLVE

Unscramble the words to discover how what we do in two of the Seven Sacraments connects us to God through Jesus Christ.

Humans plant and grow the **HETWA**

_____ and grapes

for use in the Sacrament of **TRISUECAH**

_____. We also sew the

RMNGTEAS _____

for the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy

DRORES _____.



The Foundation of the Seven Sacraments

How did Jesus institute the Sacraments?

At Pentecost, the Apostles became certain that they had to share the Good News of Jesus. They knew they now had the strength from the Holy Spirit to carry out Jesus' command to:

- teach and baptize,
- remember him in the breaking of the bread, and
- continue his work of forgiving and healing.

All the Sacraments are rooted in the life of Jesus and show us something about him and eternal life. They draw us into Christ's Paschal Mystery, connecting us to his suffering and rising to new life. Through the work of the Holy Spirit we are made more like Jesus.

We share in the divine life so that we can have the hope of life forever with God. Jesus wanted future believers to know him as his first followers did. This is why he told the Apostles to baptize, break bread, forgive, heal, and bless in his name. Jesus did not leave manuals with his Apostles, or dictate the words and symbols to be used in each Sacrament. In the Bible, we find the attitudes and actions of Jesus that are still those of the Church today, expressed in the Seven Sacraments.

The **Sacraments of Initiation**—Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist—make individuals full members of the Catholic Church. The **Sacraments of Healing**, received when a member is in need of God's healing, forgiveness, or strength, are Penance and Reconciliation, and the Anointing of the Sick. The **Sacraments at the Service of Communion**, celebrated in commitment to the Church and her members, are Matrimony and Holy Orders.

Following Jesus' Command

On Pentecost the Apostles baptized nearly three thousand new believers. From Jerusalem they went out to share the message of Jesus. Everywhere they went, the Holy Spirit worked through them to establish the Church. They gathered to celebrate the Eucharist in the evening after their day of work. They would gather for a meal followed by *eucharistia*, "giving thanks" with bread and wine in memory of Jesus. They still followed the Law of Moses and worshipped in the synagogues on the Sabbath. They were like other Jews, but they believed in the Risen Lord.

Peter Baptizing the Centurion Cornelius, by Francesco Trevisani



As people spread the Good News, they settled in other areas like Antioch, where “the disciples were first called Christians” (**Acts 11:26**). The Gentiles—people of non-Jewish cultures—who became believers there wanted to be baptized as well. Eventually Christianity became a separate religion.

Constantine issued the Edict of Milan in A.D. 313, ordering tolerance toward Christians in the Roman Empire after many years of persecution. Sunday became a day of rest, and Christians celebrated the Eucharist on Sunday mornings. More importantly, Christians began to shape the Lord’s Day. Their

traditions changed to respond to their desire to be a serious part of their Church community.

Catholic Faith Words

Sacraments of Initiation the three Sacraments that celebrate membership into the Catholic Church: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist

Sacraments of Healing Penance and Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick. In these Sacraments, God’s forgiveness and healing are given to those suffering physical and spiritual sickness.

Sacraments at the Service of Communion Holy Orders and Matrimony. They celebrate people’s commitment to serve God and the community and help build up the People of God.

IDENTIFY

Read the following Scripture passages:

- John 2:1–11
- Luke 22:4–20
- Acts 1:2–4
- Matthew 8:1–4
- John 21:15–17
- Matthew 28:15–20
- Matthew 16:19

Identify the Scripture passage that goes with the corresponding action or attitude of Jesus and Sacrament to complete the chart below.

Jesus and the Sacraments		
Jesus’ Action or Attitude	Sacrament that Reflects Jesus	Scripture Passage
Jesus told Apostles to make disciples of all nations.	Baptism	_____
The Holy Spirit filled Jesus’ Apostles with his Gifts so they could continue Jesus’ work.	Confirmation	_____
Jesus ate the Passover meal as a Last Supper with his disciples.	Eucharist	_____
Jesus gave Peter the keys to the Kingdom.	Reconciliation	_____
Jesus healed a leper.	Anointing of the Sick	_____
Jesus turned water to wine at a wedding feast.	Matrimony	_____
Jesus asked Peter to tend his sheep.	Holy Orders	_____

Christ Acts in the Church

How is Christ present today when we worship?

God created us to be human, so he knew that we really needed things to touch and smell and taste and count and hear. The Seven Sacraments involve symbols and rituals that we can see, touch, hear, taste, and smell. They help us grasp an invisible God.

We taste the Body of Christ, smell the fragrance of incense, feel the touch of the Sacred Chrism, hear the words spoken and sung, and see the light of a candle's flame and the faces of the assembly gathered to pray. Through our senses, we know the presence of Christ. To receive a Sacrament is to meet Christ.

Because Christ is present, he is acting in the celebration of the Seven Sacraments. When the Church baptizes, Christ baptizes. When the Church witnesses a marriage, Christ is there. When the Church forgives sins, the power of God's forgiveness is right there. When the Church anoints the sick, it is the healing touch of Jesus upon those in need.

Christ's Presence in the Liturgy

Day after day the main place where we meet Christ is in the **assembly**, the baptized members of the community. Next Sunday, look around at the assembled congregation to see the face of Christ. The **priest** gathers our prayers and leads our sacrifice of praise. Next Sunday, when the priest says, "Let us pray," think of your needs.

When the Gospel is read, it is Christ who speaks to his People. Next Sunday, let the Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation show your belief that Christ is present in his **Word**. Christ is uniquely present in the Eucharist itself, his Body and Blood received in Holy Communion and adored as the Blessed Sacrament. The phrase **Real Presence** is used to describe the Catholic teaching that Jesus is really and truly with us in the Eucharist—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.

Catholic Faith Words

Real Presence a phrase used to describe the Catholic teaching that Jesus is really and truly with us in the Eucharist—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity



Looking Back

Jesus was Jewish, and followed the Jewish traditions of prayer and worship. He celebrated great feasts like Passover. The Apostles were also Jewish, and so were many of the first people who believed in Jesus. It's not surprising that the rituals that they would use to remember the presence of the Risen Lord would sound and look like the traditions of their Jewish culture. There are still connections between the Jewish liturgy and our Christian liturgy.

At the Jewish synagogue service, the Torah is read and reflected upon. As the early Christians gathered, it was only natural to read Scripture. Maybe they even read a letter they just received from Peter or Paul! The structure of proclaiming and responding to the Word of God is now part of the Mass called the Liturgy of the Word.

As part of their Jewish background, the Apostles and early Christians would have been accustomed to celebrating the weekly feast of the Sabbath from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. Christians shifted to celebrating the weekly feast on Sundays—the day of the Resurrection, and thus the Lord's Day—by breaking bread, discussing Scriptures, and honoring the Lord.



WRITE

To be a Eucharistic person, show gratitude to God and others. Add thanks to your daily prayer. Also express your thankfulness this week in a card, email, or spoken word to persons who have helped you.

IN SUMMARY Catholics Believe

We know that Christ continues to be with us and take care of us in the Seven Sacraments.

- Christ is a Sacrament because he makes God known to us and makes it possible for us to share in God's life. The Church is a Sacrament because in her we come to know God and share in his life through the Seven Sacraments.
- Christ instituted the Sacraments so that we would always know and experience his welcoming, forgiving, healing, and nourishing power.
- Christ is present in the Sacraments, through the assembly gathered, the priest presiding, the Scripture proclaiming, and most especially in the Eucharist, his Body and Blood.

Our Catholic Life

Grace is participation in the life of the Holy Trinity, and helps us to do what God calls us to do. **Actual grace** is the gift God gives us to make the right decisions and think and act according to God's will for you in a particular situation. **Sanctifying grace** allows you to share in God's own life. It is a permanent gift that builds your friendship with God and assures you of eternal life. The grace we receive in the Sacraments is called **sacramental grace**, and each Sacrament provides us with its own particular grace. Sometimes it's hard to recognize grace in our lives, but it is there. Give thanks for the moments of grace God sends you.

➤ **What kind of grace do you most need in your life right now? How will you ask for it?**

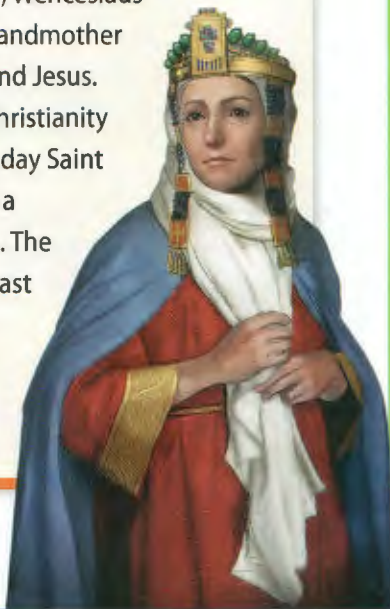


People of Faith

Saint Ludmilla, c. 860–921

Saint Ludmilla was a duchess in Bohemia, part of the Czech Republic today. She and her husband built the first Catholic Church in Prague. Ludmilla helped her grandson Wenceslaus rule Bohemia when he was still a child. Wenceslaus's mother didn't want him to learn about Jesus, so she had Ludmilla killed. However, Wenceslaus never forgot what his grandmother taught him about God and Jesus. As an adult, he spread Christianity throughout Bohemia. Today Saint Ludmilla is venerated as a patron Saint of Bohemia. The Church celebrates her feast day on **September 18**.

For more, go to aliveinchrist.osv.com



CONSIDER

In the space below, write some ways you can be more mindful of God's presence in your daily life.

at school:

at home:

in your community:



Prayer to Saint Joseph

Leader: Saint Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, you were always present for Jesus and his Mother, Mary. You were always nearby, loving, encouraging, and protecting him from all harm.

Reader 1: When we see images of Saint Joseph, we see in each a loving, protective father. Saint Joseph is also the Patron and Protector of the Universal Church. We can pray for his help and intercession.

Reader 2: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18–24.

Read Matthew 1:18–24.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. O glorious Saint Joseph, you were chosen by God to be the foster father of Jesus, the most pure spouse of Mary ever Virgin, and the head of the Holy Family. You have been chosen by the Pope as the heavenly patron and protector of the Church founded by Christ. It is with great confidence that we ask for your powerful assistance for the whole Church on Earth. Protect in a special manner, with true fatherly love, the Pope and all bishops and priests in communion with him. Protect all who labor for souls amid the trials and tribulations of this life, and grant that all peoples of the world may follow Christ and the Church he founded.

Reader 3: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:13–15.

Read Matthew 2:13–15.

The Gospel of the Lord.


All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. Dear Saint Joseph, accept the offering of myself which I now make to you. I dedicate myself to your service, that you may ever be my father, my protector, and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me great purity of heart and a fervent love for the spiritual life. May all my actions, after your example, be directed to the greater glory of God, in union with the divine Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate heart of Mary, and your own paternal heart. Finally, pray for me that I may share in the peace and joy of your holy death.

Reader 4: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 2:19–23.

Read Matthew 2:19–23.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. Saint Joseph, patron of the universal Church, watch over the Church as carefully as you watched over Jesus. Help protect and guide her, just as you did with Jesus. Saint Joseph, pray for us. Amen.

 *Sing or play "Let It Be Done"*

A Work with Words Complete each sentence with the correct term from the Word Bank.

Mediator	Sacraments
counselor	Ascension
salvation	miracles
grace	Pentecost
Baptism	the Gospel

- Through _____ we freely receive God's help in coming to know and love him.
- _____ are effective signs of God's grace, instituted by Christ and given to his Church.
- Jesus is the perfect _____ between God and humanity, because he is fully God and fully man.
- The Church, a means to _____, is a visible community in the world.
- On _____, the Holy Spirit descended unto the Apostles and filled them with his Gifts.

B Check Understanding Circle the letter of the choice that best completes the sentence.

- Jesus' whole life is ____ because it is the source of our salvation and new life.
 - sacramental
 - tradition
 - holy
 - mysterious
- The Church is like a ____ because she is a sign of God's love and action in the world.
 - Spirit
 - Rosary
 - Memorial
 - Sacrament
- The term ____ is used to describe the Catholic teaching that Jesus is really and truly with us in the Eucharist—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.
 - Holy Sign
 - Real Symbol
 - Real Presence
 - Holy Word
- The Seven Sacraments use ____ that we can see, touch, hear, taste, and smell.
 - symbols
 - rituals
 - prayers
 - a, b, and c
- Christian liturgy is rooted in the ____ traditions of prayer and worship.
 - disciples'
 - Jewish
 - Gentile
 - Church

C Make Connections On a separate sheet of paper, write a one-paragraph response to the question: Name the seven "masterworks of God." What role have these celebrations had in your family?