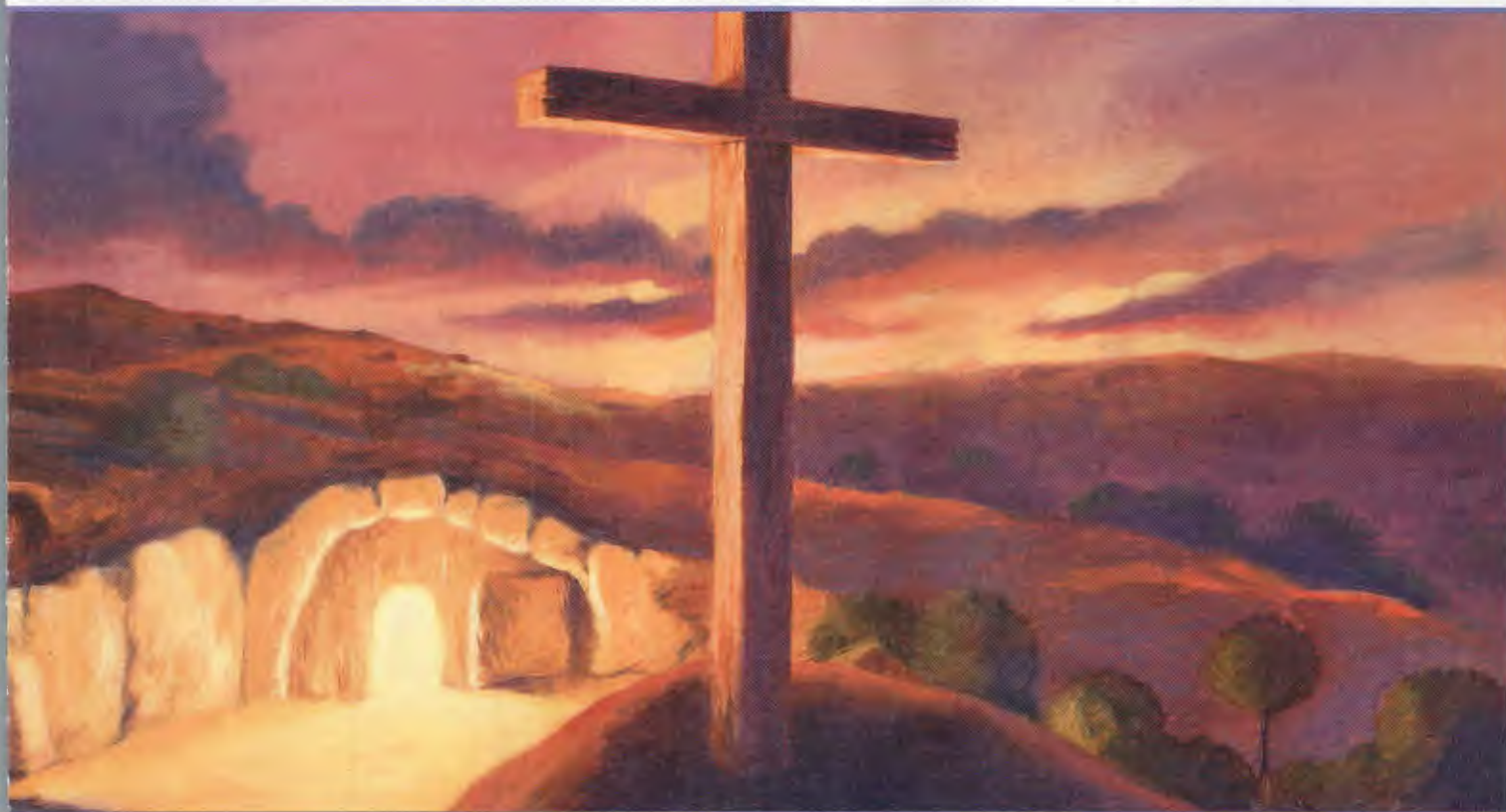


ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 7

Jesus Christ and the New Testament

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Our Sunday Visitor

Sacraments of Initiation

Let Us Pray

Leader: We pray in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. By water and the Spirit, O Lord, we have received the gifts of faith and new life.

“I bow low toward your holy temple;
I praise your name for your mercy and faithfulness.
For you have exalted over all
your name and your promise.” **Psalms 138:2**

All: God, help us find our place in your Church.

Scripture

“What then shall we say? Shall we persist in sin that grace may abound? Of course not! How can we who died to sin yet live in it? 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. ... If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.” **Romans 6:1–4, 8**

Have you ever thought...

- How is it that because of Baptism we have new life in Christ?
- What helps you feel at home with your family, with your friends, with God?

Getting Started

In this chapter, you will gain a deeper understanding of the purpose and effects of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and study the parts of the Mass and the effects of the Eucharist.

Catholic Faith Words

- Confirmation
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Eucharist
- transubstantiation

In the web below, list what you know about each of the Sacraments. Include information about the outward signs and ritual actions of each Sacrament and the meaning or effects of the Sacrament.



ILLUSTRATE

We Belong to Christ Illustrate within the frames below some different times when you experienced a strong sense of belonging to the Church or being Catholic.



Baptism

What does Baptism do?

We all want to find a place where we feel at “home.” Spiritually, your faith finds home in the Church. It is that place where your soul can find what it has been longing for.

The Church welcomes new members through the Sacraments of Initiation. These Sacraments are about beginnings and belonging. Through them, you are initiated into a relationship with Christ and the Church. Baptism begins your new life in Christ, Confirmation strengthens it, and Eucharist feeds Christ’s life within you so that you can follow him. These Sacraments can be received all at once, over a few years, or over a period of time. But no matter when they are celebrated, Baptism is always first.

What Happens

In the Sacrament of Baptism, the person baptized is immersed in water three times—or has water poured over his or her head three times—while the priest or deacon says, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen” (Rite of Baptism, no. 60).

Baptism is God’s gift to us. Its grace does not require any action on our part. So, Baptism is open to anyone: infant, young child, teen, or adult. In fact, since the earliest times, infants have been baptized in the faith of the Church. In the Baptism of an infant or young child, the parents and godparents agree to bring up the child in the faith.



Go to the Source

Read *Galatians 3:26–28* to find out what Saint Paul says about Baptism. How did Baptism begin the process of bringing you “home”?

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

In the early years of the Church, there were many adults who chose to become members of the Church. Often they, and their families, would celebrate all three Sacraments of Initiation at one time. Today non-baptized men, women, older children, and those who are baptized from non-Catholic faiths are initiated in a process lasting several months to two years called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). They prepare to receive all three Sacraments at the same celebration, usually during the Easter Vigil.

RCIA has several stages, including a time of inquiry in which the person can get to know the Church and see if they want to learn more, then a time for formation and information involving weekly classes. Non-baptized candidates are called catechumens (learners). The catechumens are then called “the elect” to show that they are preparing for the Easter when they will celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation. After that comes mystagogy, a period of fifty days during

The Effects of Baptism

- A participation in the Paschal Mystery—dying to sin and rising to new life—and new identity as belonging to Christ: “For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Galatians 3:27)
- Forgiveness of Original Sin and any personal (actual) sins that may have been committed
- A new relationship with Christ as his sister or brother and a new connection to God the Father as his adopted child
- The gift of the Holy Spirit that incorporates the person into the Body of Christ, the Church
- A share in the mission of Jesus as priest, prophet, and king in God’s Kingdom
- A special seal or character that blesses the person to worship. This character is permanent and, because of it, the Sacrament cannot be repeated.

which the newly baptized, called neophytes, reflect on the mysteries of the Sacraments, what the celebrations meant to them, and how they can live out their faith.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks to describe the symbols involved in the Sacrament of Baptism.

- _____ is a sign of cleansing and birth, like the waters God first created.
- Sacred _____, the anointing oil, is a reminder that God has chosen and called each person to be his own.
- The _____ and its light are a sign that Christ is the Light of the World and that all who are baptized are called to be the light of Christ to others.
- The white clothing is a sign of being _____ and being clothed in Christ to imitate him and put on his ways.



Confirmation

What happens during Confirmation?

In Baptism, persons are “christened,” meaning they receive Christ, the Anointed One. In **Confirmation**, there is a similar anointing, in which we are strengthened in the grace we received at Baptism, and grow

The Effects of Confirmation

- A deepening and perfection of the life of God in us, which we first received in Baptism
- An outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which increases the Gifts already working in us
- A strengthening of our relationship with God and our unity with Christ
- A perfection of our connection with the Church, a special strengthening by the Holy Spirit to take part in the mission of the Church, to show others by our words and actions that we are Catholics, and to tell others about the Good News of Jesus

in our relationship with the Anointed One and his Spirit. Blessed and scented oil, called Sacred Chrism, is used in both Sacraments.

At Confirmation, the bishop (or priest) extends his hands over the candidates and prays that the Holy Spirit will come upon them as a Helper and a Guide. Then he anoints each candidate on the forehead, which is done by the laying on of the hands, saying, “[Candidate’s name], be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit” (The Rite of Confirmation, no. 27). Like Baptism, Confirmation leaves a spiritual character on the soul. This means that the Sacrament can be received only once.

➤ **What role does the Spirit play in your journey of faith?**

An Ongoing Journey

Every week, we meet situations that demand more sacrifice, less anger, greater patience, or outreach. The Sacraments give us help along the way.

The Sacraments are not “things” we deserve or earn. During the celebration of Confirmation, we are sealed in a special way with the **Gifts of the Holy Spirit**. These gifts help us follow the Spirit’s guidance and live the Christian life.

Catholic Faith Words

Confirmation the Sacrament of Initiation through which the spiritual life received in Baptism is strengthened and the person is sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Gifts of the Holy Spirit seven powerful gifts God gives us to follow guidance of the Holy Spirit and live the Christian life. We are sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation.

CATHOLICS TODAY

In the United States, different people celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at different ages. It varies by diocese. Some people are confirmed between the ages of seven and ten; others receive Confirmation when they are twelve or thirteen; others when they are fifteen, sixteen, or seventeen; and still others anytime in between!

The Church teaches us that the person being confirmed should be old enough to reason (which is often considered the age of seven), have been baptized and be free of serious sin, and be prepared to take on greater discipleship.

IDENTIFY

In the space provided, write what you think each Gift of the Holy Spirit describes or means. Then check your ideas against the descriptions on page 375 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of your book.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom _____

Understanding _____

Right Judgment (Counsel) _____

Courage (Fortitude) _____

Knowledge _____

Reverence (Piety) _____

Wonder and Awe (Fear of the Lord) _____

Select one Gift of the Holy Spirit that you would like to grow in, and briefly explain how it can help you.

Eucharist

What does it mean to eat at the Lord's Table?

Baptism and Confirmation are once-in-a-lifetime Sacraments, but we are offered the benefits of the **Eucharist**, the Sacrament in which the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, over and over again throughout our lives.

We need food for the journey, nourishment for the soul through listening to the Scripture and through receiving Holy Communion. This is so important that we are welcomed to take part in daily Mass along with our obligation to attend Sunday Mass.

The priest calls for the Holy Spirit to be sent upon the gifts



You've probably heard the saying "You are what you eat." That's why it's important to care about a healthful diet. The food you eat today is becoming you in a true physical way. In Holy Communion, we receive the Body and Blood of Christ and become what we eat—the Body of Christ, the Church.

The Parts of the Mass

We begin with the **Introductory Rites**, prayers and songs of thanksgiving to God the Father for all of his gifts, most especially his Son. This part of the Mass gathers us together and prepares us to listen to God's Word.

The first main part of the Mass is the **Liturgy of the Word**. This includes readings from the Scripture, usually from both the Old Testament and New Testament, and always from the Gospels. We also profess the Nicene or Apostles' Creed and offer prayers in the Prayer of the Faithful.

The second main part of the Mass is the **Liturgy of the Eucharist**—the recalling of what Jesus said and did at the Last Supper: "This is my Body, which will be given up for you . . . This is the chalice of my Blood . . ." and the words of the priest and blessing of the Holy Spirit so that the wheat bread and grape wine are consecrated and become the Body and Blood of Christ. To receive

Catholic Faith Words

Eucharist the Sacrament of Initiation during which the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ and all who receive him in Holy Communion are brought closer to him and one another

transubstantiation the process by which, through the power of the Holy Spirit and the words and actions of the priest, the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ

the invitation to the Table of the Lord and reception of Holy Communion, you must be free from serious sin, so it might be necessary to receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation before Mass.

In the **Concluding Rites**, we are sent out in peace to announce the Gospel by our words and actions.

The most important aspect of the Mass is Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist. During the consecration, in the Liturgy of the Eucharist, through the words and actions of the priest and by the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. This change is called **transubstantiation**. Jesus is truly present under the appearances of bread and wine. This is not just a memorial of what Jesus offered to us. Jesus' sacrifice is made present and we are given the gift of his life.

Jesus taught us that all are welcome at his table—especially those who are neglected,

Go to the Source

Divide the following Scripture texts among your classmates. See how Jesus accepted everyone at his table in Luke 15:1–2; Luke 19:1–10; Luke 22:21–23; and Matthew 9:9–13.

The Effects of the Eucharist

- Increases our union with the Lord
- Forgives venial sins and help to avoid serious sin
- Strengthens our connection with others and supports the unity of all the members of the Church
- Inspires us to self-sacrifice and commits us to caring for the needs of others

the outcasts, and those in need of healing. The table that Jesus creates is a model for our Church. The connection between Eucharist and justice is real. After we are fed at the Supper of the Lamb, we must go out and feed others with our generosity, talent, service, and resources.

CONSIDER

What are some ways that you “feed” people by sharing your time and gifts and satisfying their hunger for love and attention? What are some ways that you could feed people by helping to take care of their physical needs for food, shelter, or clothing?

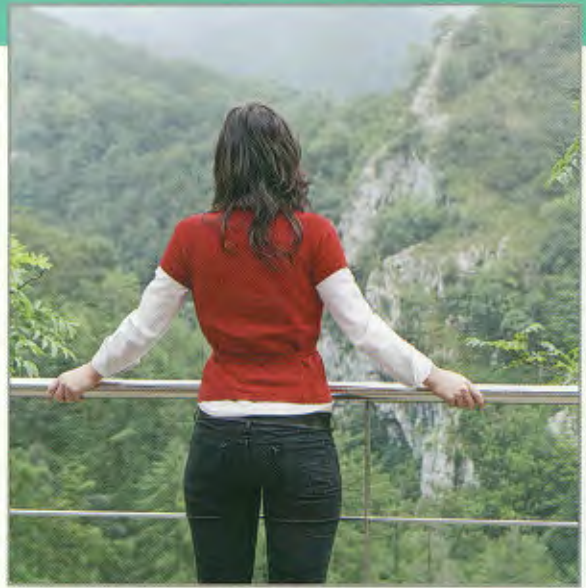
IN SUMMARY Catholics Believe

As Christ first welcomed and fed his followers, we are welcomed and belong to the Church through the three Sacraments of Initiation.

- In Baptism, the first Sacrament, we celebrate new life in Christ through the forgiveness of sins and incorporation into the Church.
- In Confirmation, the spiritual life received in Baptism is strengthened and we are sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit so that we can live out our journey of faith.
- 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.

Our Catholic Life

Catholics are sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation. We receive the gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord, and we are meant to put them to good use in our lives. Some of the Gifts are easy to understand and apply to everyday life, but others are harder. You may wonder how fear of the Lord could help you! But **fear of the Lord** also means *awe*, and remaining in awe of God and all that he has done and his plan for you is important. To be in awe of him means to know that God is greater and more wonderful than any created thing in the world, and to be open to his surprising and powerful goodness. His plan for you is the right one.



➤ When have you felt in awe of God? How would you explain the feeling to someone else?

People of Faith

Saint Catherine of Genoa, 1447–1510

At the age of thirteen, Catherine said she wanted to become a nun. However, she was considered too young at the time and was told to wait. As she knelt in devotion in a convent in Genoa, she was overcome by a blinding ray of Divine light. She fell into a trance and then lost consciousness. When she regained her senses, she was filled with the Holy Spirit. She began writing about her feelings and experiences. She described life as a process of continual purification that would allow the soul to receive Christ, pure in heart and mind. The Church celebrates her feast day on **September 15**.

For more, go to aliveinchrist.osv.com



EXPLAIN

If “you are what you eat,” then by receiving Jesus in the Eucharist you can develop some of his characteristics, such as the ones below. In the space below, explain how you have or will take on two of these characteristics.

Compassionate • Just • Loving • Accepting • Strong in Faith • Prayerful



Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Leader: On the day of your Baptism, your family and the Church claimed you for Christ. By water and the Holy Spirit you received the gifts of faith and new life. On that day your family and the members of the parish remembered their baptismal promises and professed their faith. Let us now do the same.

Do you renounce Satan?

All: I do.

Leader: And all his works?

All: I do.

Leader: And all his empty show?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: I do.

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

All: I do.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

 *Sing or play "I Will Choose Christ"*



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

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

- In ____, a person experiences a rising to new life and new identity as belonging to Christ, through the forgiveness of sins and incorporation into the Church.
 - Baptism
 - Eucharist
 - Confirmation
 - Church
- We receive the Body and Blood of Christ during the Sacrament of _____.
 - Baptism
 - Eucharist
 - Confirmation
 - Initiation
- ____ is the process by which, through the power of the Holy Spirit and the words and actions of the priest, the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ.
 - Confirmation
 - Salvation
 - Transubstantiation
 - Transfiguration
- One of the effects of the Sacrament of ____ is that we are sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, which increases the Gifts already working in us.
 - Baptism
 - Eucharist
 - Confirmation
 - Pentecost

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

Initiation	Baptism
venial sins	spiritual character
Invitation	Last Supper
Sacred Chrism	Candle
mystagogy	

- The Church welcomes new members through the celebration of the Sacraments of _____.
- In Baptism, the _____ is a reminder that God has chosen and called each one to be his own.
- The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults ends with _____, a period of fifty days during which the newly baptized reflect on the mysteries of the Sacraments.
- As in Baptism, a person who celebrates the Sacrament of Confirmation receives a _____ on one's soul.
- During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we remember what Jesus said and did at the _____.
- The Eucharist forgives _____ and helps us avoid serious sin.

C Make Connections On a separate sheet of paper, write a one-paragraph response to the question: Which part of the Celebration of the Eucharist is most meaningful for you? Explain your answer.