

# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 8

The Church

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**Our Sunday Visitor**

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**Nihil Obstat**

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Censor Librorum, Diocese of Orlando

**Imprimatur**

✠ Most Rev. John Noonan  
Bishop of Orlando  
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# REVELATION

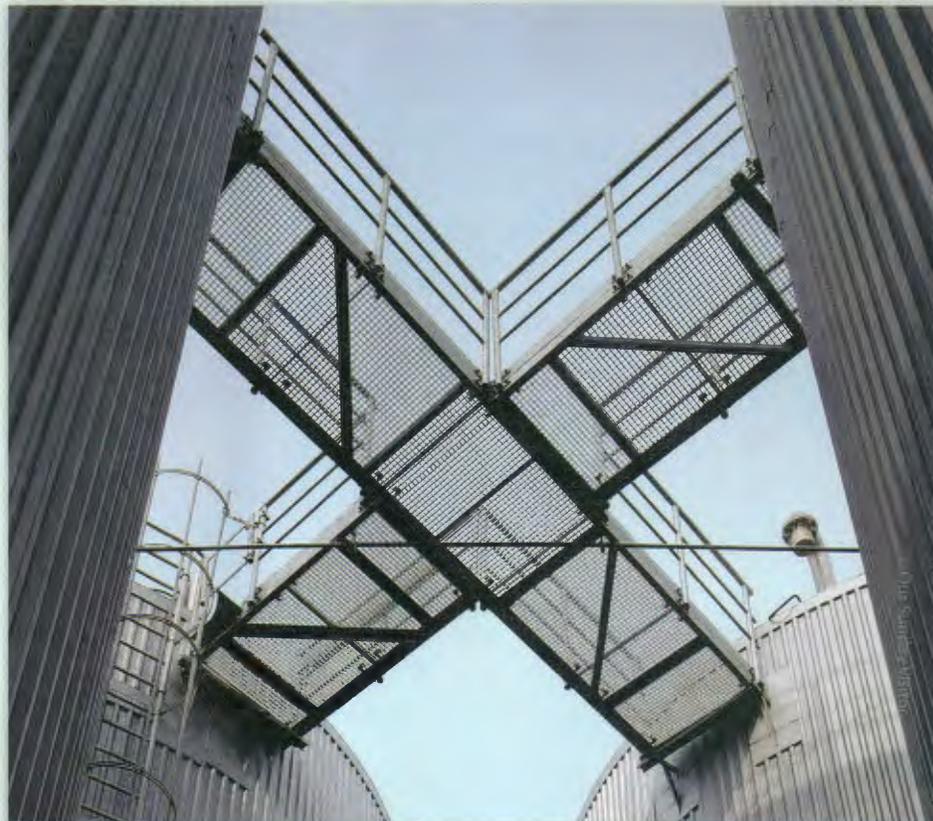


*How do we learn to be holy through the example of God, Jesus, and the Church?*

## CHURCH HISTORY TIMELINE

- 326** The first Basilica of Saint Peter is consecrated
- 756** Birth of the Papal States
- 1506** Construction begins on New Basilica of Saint Peter
- 1929** Lateran treaty establishes Vatican City

Go to page 348 for more



## Our Catholic Tradition

- God made humans in his image and likeness so we could be in relationship with him. God calls each of us to be in relationship with him and to honor the covenant and live by natural and revealed law. (CCC, 45, 54)
- God reveals himself to us in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, and we are called to respond in love by what we say and do. Faith is both a gift from God and a free, human choice. (CCC, 80, 176, 177)
- The Church is a sign of the holiness of God. Being holy is one of the Marks of the Church, and she helps us grow in holiness, especially through prayer and worship. (CCC, 867)

## Our Catholic Life

- With a soul, reason, and free will, humans can set their priority and direction in life toward friendship with God. Jesus is the model for living out this relationship. (CCC, 356, 357)
- God's Revelation is contained in his written Word of Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition entrusted to the Apostles and safeguarded by them and their successors, the bishops, and handed down verbally to future generations. (CCC, 84)
- Each of us is called to be holy in the ordinary circumstances of our lives. God created humans to share in his glory, to be holy, and to be joined fully with him. (CCC 319, 2013, 2014)



## Prayer for Pentecost

*Pray the Sign of the Cross together.*

**Leader:** “Bless the LORD, my soul!  
LORD, my God, you are great indeed!  
You are clothed with majesty and splendor,  
robed in light as with a cloak.”

**All:** Send forth your Spirit, they are created  
and you renew the face of the earth.

**Leader:** “How varied are your works, LORD!  
In wisdom you have made them all  
the earth is full of your creatures;  
...Bless the LORD, my soul! Halleluia!”

**All:** Send forth your Spirit, they are created  
and you renew the face of the earth.

**Leader:** “All of these look to you  
to give them food in due time.

When you give it to them, they gather;  
when you open your hand, they are well  
filled.”

**All:** Send forth your Spirit, they are created  
and you renew the face of the earth.

**Leader:** “You take away their breath, they  
perish  
and return to their dust.

Send forth your spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the earth.”

**All:** Send forth your Spirit, they are created  
and you renew the face of the earth.

**Psalm 104:1-2, 24, 30, 35, 27-28, 29-30**

**Leader:** Go in peace.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

 *Sing or play “Alive in One Spirit”*

# In God's Image

## ♥ Let Us Pray

**Leader:** Holy God, we praise and bless you for your presence with us. Thank you for helping us to remember that we are holy and chosen.

“I praise you, because I am wonderfully made;  
wonderful are your works!” **Psalm 139:14**

**All:** God, help me to see clearly what matters in my life.

## 📖 Scripture

“God created mankind in his image;  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth. ...God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good.” **Genesis 1:27–28, 31**

### Have you ever thought...

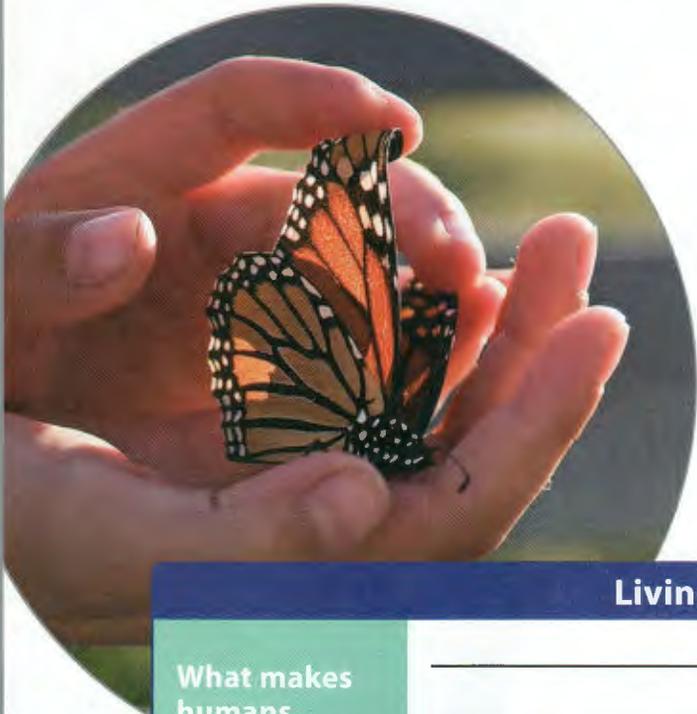
- What does it mean to be created in God's image?
- How can we know the right way to live?

# Getting Started

In this chapter, you will learn about God's desire for people to live in his image and to be in relationship with him. He wants to have a personal relationship with each of us, and his law helps us live in his love and his image.

## Catholic Faith Words

- soul
- free will
- covenant
- Ten Commandments
- Decalogue



Answer the questions below to tell what you already know about the uniqueness of humans and their special role in God's creation.



### Living in His Image

<b>What makes humans different from the rest of creation?</b>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<b>How do these things relate to being made in God's image?</b>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<b>What are some ways God helps us to live as he intends?</b>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

## IDENTIFY

**Commitments** On the lines below, write about commitments you have made to different people and things. Which commitments are most important to you? Why?

**Friends**

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**Family**

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**God**

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**Myself**

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**Clubs or Sports**

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**Church**

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**School**

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## Joined with God

### Why did God create us?

We all have expectations put on us and our time. Our family and friends need us, and schoolwork takes time. With all of these demands, you might wonder what's really important. The challenge is to find out what really matters, and to build your life around that.

### Our Purpose

As humans, we all share the same purpose. By our very nature, we are made to have a relationship with God: to be his friend, to know and love him, and to help others do the same. This is our purpose in life. How we respond to the expectations placed on us, and create expectations for ourselves, should be based on which ones lead us toward friendship with God.

Because God wanted to have a relationship with humans, he made us different from the rest of his creation. You were made in God's image and likeness, with a body and a **soul**—the spiritual principle, or part, of a human person that is individual, created by God, and will exist forever.

With only a body, human beings would be like all the other animals. Because God has breathed his own Divine Spirit into every human person, you are both a physical and spiritual being. You have an intellect that makes it possible for you to think, reason, and judge, and a **free will**—the God-given ability to choose between good and evil.

God created us with free will so we can have the freedom to choose good, to choose to love him above all things, and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. This unique combination makes you an image of God.

You are related to God. The journey of life involves the ways that you live out that relationship with God.

> **How would you describe your journey of faith so far?**

### Jesus' Example

Jesus showed us that our happiness comes from trusting in God the Father and being one with him. This is what God created us for, and when our lives are lived with this purpose, everything else leans toward it.

Jesus taught us what friendship with God is all about. The choices he made, the ways he prayed, and the priorities he had in life showed us how to love God and others. He recognized the dignity of all people, even when society did not. He welcomed people others ignored, forgave people who were truly sorry, and cared for people in need. He showed compassion. He was also responsible to Mary and Joseph, and he followed the rituals and feasts of his Jewish faith.

Having a relationship with God the Father was not something separate from the rest of Jesus' life. It was part of who he was when with his family, friends, and followers. It was part of the choices he made and the things he did, whether eating a meal with his disciples or performing a miracle to feed 5,000 people.

### Catholic Faith Words

**soul** the spiritual principle of a human person that is individual, created by God, and will exist forever

**free will** the God-given freedom and ability to make choices. God created us with free will so we can have the freedom to choose good.



Jesus once told his disciples not to worry about what they were going to wear or eat.

**Scripture**

“Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they?”

**Matthew 6:26**

He was not telling them that material concerns were not important, but he didn't want them to be constantly worried about them. He wanted them to depend upon God and to be focused first on God's Kingdom.

- **What is really important to you? What is really worth worrying about?**
- **How would things change for you if you followed Jesus' advice about worrying?**

Jesus was able to model a complete relationship with God because he is fully human and fully Divine. As Saint Paul said, Jesus was the “image of the invisible God” (**Colossians 1:15**). Through Baptism, we are as

brothers and sisters of Christ. We are in some ways an image of the invisible God. Though not perfect like Christ, each of us shares in the image of Christ.

**NAME**

Because you have been united with Christ in Baptism, you have put on Christ to become more like him. Name some things that you recognize in yourself that are “like” Christ.

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Name some ways you recognize that you need to grow more “like” him.

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## Called to Covenant

### What is a covenant with God?

Even though we are free to make choices, we do not always choose what is right. Sometimes we show God's goodness, and at other times we fail. Whether people are good or bad, God never stops offering his love. But people might still wonder, "If God is so good and loving, why is there sin and evil in the world?"

God created our first parents, Adam and Eve, in his image and likeness. They shared fully in his holiness and goodness. They also shared in God's gift of freedom but chose to disobey him. Because of their choices and actions, they lost the holiness and goodness first received from God.

Yet, God remained perfect in his love for Adam and Eve. Instead of abandoning them, he promised that all humans would once again share fully in his life.

He made a **covenant** with them and their descendants, first Noah, then Abraham. A covenant is like a contract between two persons, but it is more serious and heartfelt than a legal contract. It is a sacred promise or agreement between God and humans

### Catholic Faith Words

**covenant** a sacred promise or agreement between humans or between God and humans

involving mutual commitments. In the Old Testament accounts, God showed over and over again that he would remain faithful to the covenant he made to be their God and for them to be his People.

➤ **What covenant or sacred promise do you share with God?**

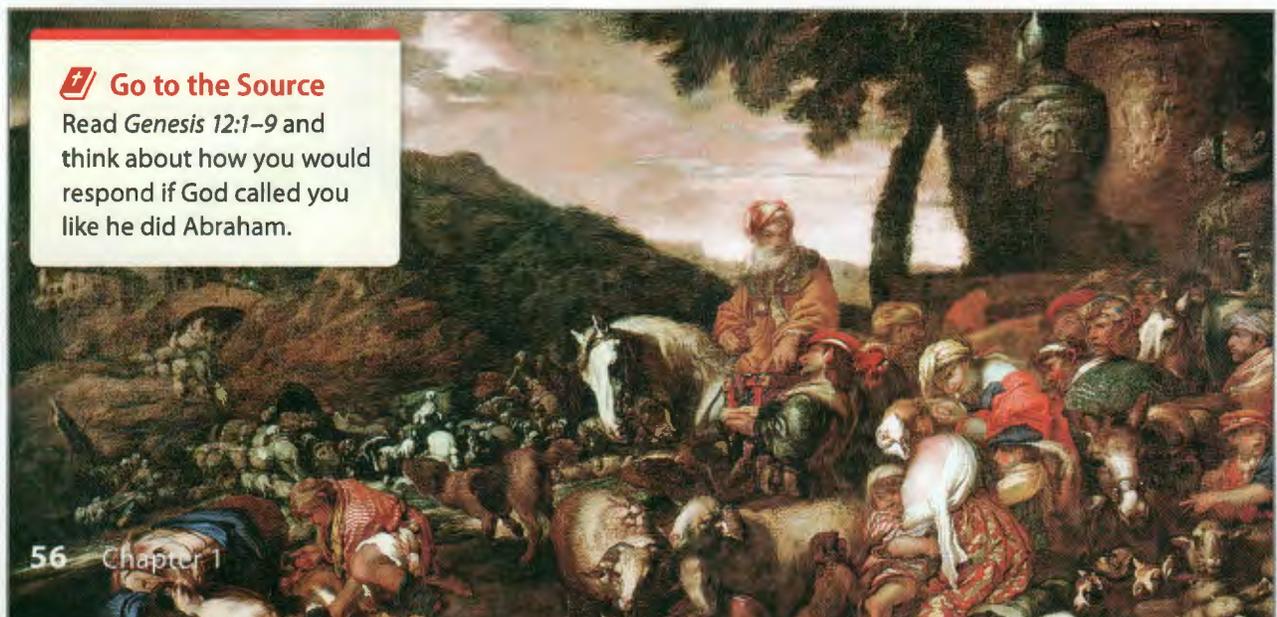
### Called by Name

God seemed to surprise people in the Old Testament with the way he called them to serve him.

- Abraham was called to journey to the land of Canaan, where God would make of his descendants a great nation. (See Genesis 12.)
- Jacob was chosen to be given the family birthright even though his brother Esau was older. (See Genesis 27.)
- God called Samuel to be a prophet, even though he was only a servant to the prophet Eli. (See 1 Samuel 3.)

#### Go to the Source

Read *Genesis 12:1–9* and think about how you would respond if God called you like he did Abraham.



God calls all people to live in covenant friendship with him. It is always possible to say “yes” to God, because God provides help in showing how to live in this relationship. Many figures in the Old Testament provided

examples of what it means to live in a covenant relationship with God. They reacted to God’s call in different ways, but each is an example of trusting in him and his will.

### Living Out the Covenant

<b>Noah</b>	In the section of the Book of Genesis that we call pre-history, we hear the story of Noah. With his family, he trusted that God would keep them safe through the flood. God made a covenant with Noah never to wash away all living creatures on Earth again.
<b>The Chosen People</b>	They were the descendants of Abraham and Sarah, and God promised to make of them a great nation. Even when they turned from God, they were forgiven and called back to the covenant.
<b>Moses</b>	God saved Moses from his abandonment as an infant and raised him to lead the people of Israel in rebellion against their Egyptian captors. Moses then led the people out of Egypt and through the Red Sea when God parted the water. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments as a sign of his covenant love.
<b>Ruth</b>	Ruth was a Moabite who became part of the Chosen People through marriage. She became an example of self-sacrifice and good moral character through her gift of faith in God.
<b>Solomon</b>	As King of Israel, Solomon was noted for a wisdom that reflected God’s care for his People.
<b>Susanna</b>	She trusted that God’s wisdom in the prophet Daniel would prove that the accusations against her were false. She became a model of truthfulness for her family and all of God’s People.
<b>Jeremiah</b>	Though at first he did not believe he was capable or worthy of being a prophet, he finally put his trust in God and answered the call. He constantly reminded the people that God would remove their hardened hearts and replace them with new hearts.

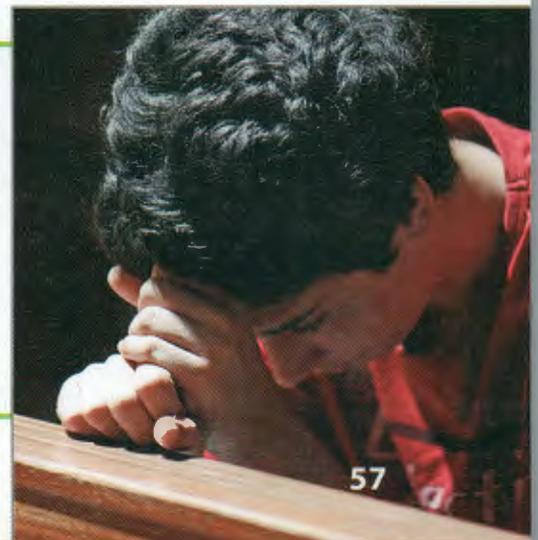
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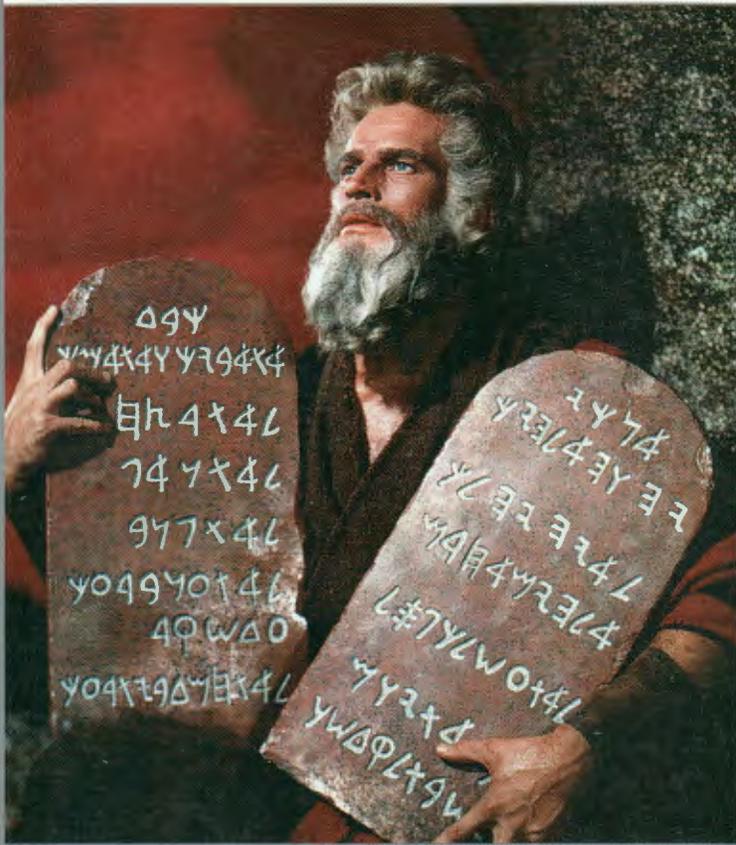
### LIST

List three responsibilities you have as part of your personal relationship with God.

My personal relationship with God calls me to:

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





Moses carries the tablets of the Decalogue in the film *The Ten Commandments*

## Guided by the Law

### How does the law help us live in God's image?

The law serves as God's way of helping us live out the covenant and grow closer to him because it helps us recognize evil.

The law is first of all based on nature, because it is through human nature that people participate and share in God's goodness. Natural moral law refers to the precepts about goodness that are written by God in our hearts and accessible through our God-given reason. This natural moral law shows that each person created in God's image has a fundamental human dignity. Natural moral law, or simply natural law, is the foundation for the rights and responsibilities all humans share.

## Laws of Love

The revealed laws of God, like the **Ten Commandments**, guide us in making choices. Revealed law:

- shows us how to live in relationship with God and others
- sets before us the virtues (like faith, hope, and charity) that help us live as God's children in his image
- helps us to recognize what is evil and what creates separation or division from God and others, and
- gives us insight about how to make God's love a real part of our lives

If human nature had remained perfect, humans would not have needed the laws of the Ten Commandments because these rules would have come from the heart and spirit of each person. The Ten Commandments, also called the **Decalogue**, from a Greek phrase that means "ten words," are based on natural moral law, but have also been revealed by God as a way of instructing us in how to live the life God intends for us.

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai so that the people would have a guide for learning how to live in God's image and follow the covenant—through their love for God (Commandments 1–3) and their love for each other (Commandments 4–10).

The Ten Commandments are found in the Old Testament, but the two versions given have some variations. (See Exodus 20:2–17 and Deuteronomy 5:6–21.) Saint Augustine used the Ten Commandments to teach baptismal candidates and Church members.

Natural law:

- helps humans distinguish between good and evil,
- shows the way to put that which is good into practice,
- is universal because it applies to every human being,
- varies in the way it is applied because humans are asked to use the gift of reason to make choices,
- is unchangeable and permanent throughout all of history, and
- provides the basis for all other moral laws and rules.

The Ten Commandments apply to all human beings in matters that are serious and also in ways that are less serious but important. For example, everyone knows that killing is

### Catholic Faith Words

**Ten Commandments** the ten fundamental moral laws given by God to Moses, and recorded in the Old Testament, to help his People live by the covenant

**Decalogue** another name for the Ten Commandments; from the Greek phrase meaning “ten words”

a most serious sin (going against the Fifth Commandment). But the Commandment also applies to hurting someone with abusive language.

### IDENTIFY

**The Commandments** Write the correct number of the Commandment next to its text. Then draw a star next to a Commandment you will work on following this week.

- \_\_\_ You shall not steal.
- \_\_\_ You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.
- \_\_\_ I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
- \_\_\_ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- \_\_\_ You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- \_\_\_ You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
- \_\_\_ Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
- \_\_\_ You shall not commit adultery.
- \_\_\_ Honor your father and your mother.
- \_\_\_ You shall not kill.

## IN SUMMARY Catholics Believe

God made humans in his image and likeness so we could be in relationship with him.

- With a soul, reason, and free will, humans can set their priority and direction in life toward friendship with God. Jesus is the model for living out this relationship.
- God established a covenant with his People, promising to be faithful to them and to

be their God. God calls each of us to be in relationship with him and to honor the covenant.

- The natural moral law and revealed law—especially the Ten Commandments—guide people in what is good and evil, what is faithful living, and what it means to truly be an image of God.

## Our Catholic Life

Rules are in place and enforced in every part of our lives, from rules about classroom behavior to traffic signs. Some are easy to follow, but others are more difficult or require explanation. Some are common sense, but others have been made in response to events or problems in society. The **Ten Commandments** go beyond everyday “rules.” You have probably heard them since you were a young child, and over time you’ve understood them better. They are God’s laws for living in relationship with him and with each other, and they are at the heart of God’s covenant. God gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites, but they apply to our lives even now, at every age.

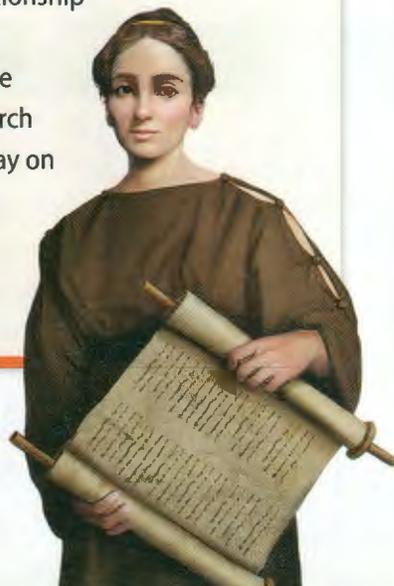


> Which Commandments are easiest for you to follow? Which are most difficult?

## People of Faith

### Saint Marcella, 325–410

Marcella married young, but she was widowed within her first year of marriage. Afterward, she invited a group of noble ladies to meet at her home, where they lived a life of self-discipline and self-denial to grow more deeply in their relationship with God through Christ. Because of the way she lived in faith and sacrifice, Saint Jerome called Marcella “the glory of the ladies of Rome.” Marcella’s relationship with God pointed her toward a life rich in the Spirit of God. The Church celebrates her feast day on **January 31**.



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

## IDENTIFY

Imagine your life with no expectations or demands from others. You have to set all the expectations for yourself regarding your home life, school, friendships, and relationship with God. What expectations would you give yourself that would help you be an image of God to others?

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## Prayer of Petition

**Leader:** God, as we hear in the book of Genesis, on that sixth day, you made all of the living creatures of our planet. Last of all, you created man, male and female. From the first man and woman, we have been gloriously made in your own image.

**Reader 1:** A reading from Genesis 1:24–25. “Then God said: Let the earth bring forth every kind of living creature: tame animals, crawling things, and every kind of wild animal. And so it happened ... God saw that it was good.”

**Leader:** Let’s pray for the Earth’s animals.

**Reader 2:** A reading from Genesis 1:26: “Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over ... all the creatures that crawl on the earth.”

**Leader:** Let’s ask God to guide the way we treat animals and the environment.

**Reader 3:** A reading from Genesis 1:27–28. “God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.”

**Leader:** Let’s ask God to help us respect the gift of sexuality and all people because they are made in his image.

**Reader 4:** A reading from Genesis 1:29–31: “God also said: See, I give you every seed-bearing plant on all the earth ... to be your food; and to all the wild animals, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the earth, I give all the green plants for food. And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good.”

**Leader:** Let’s thank God for the variety of plants, bushes, and trees that grow all over the Earth; they feed us.

**All:** God, your plan of Creation was a perfect plan. We often fail to take good care of this Earth. We don’t protect the dignity and life of other human beings. Help us remember to do so. Amen.

 *Sing or play “Almighty Creator”*

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

1. The \_\_\_ is the spiritual principle that is created by God and will exist forever.
  - a. intellect
  - b. spirit
  - c. soul
  - d. body
  
2. \_\_\_ is the God-given freedom and ability to make choices without being forced to choose or act in a certain way.
  - a. Intellect
  - b. Free will
  - c. Free choice
  - d. Covenant
  
3. A \_\_\_ is a sacred promise or agreement between God and humans involving mutual commitments.
  - a. covenant
  - b. contract
  - c. vow
  - d. Commandment
  
4. Another name for the Ten Commandments is the \_\_\_\_.
  - a. natural law
  - b. revealed law
  - c. Decalogue
  - d. Decalaw
  
5. Your \_\_\_ makes it possible for you to think, reason, and judge.
  - a. intellect
  - b. conscience
  - c. heart
  - d. soul

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

Natural moral law	law
Jeremiah	Moses
Solomon	Revealed law
spirit	Decalogue

6. God chose \_\_\_\_\_ to lead his People out of Egypt and gave him the Ten Commandments.
  
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ helps people recognize the evil that leads them away from God.
  
8. \_\_\_\_\_ is universal because it applies to every human being.
  
9. \_\_\_\_\_, like the Ten Commandments, guides us in making choices.
  
10. The prophet \_\_\_\_\_ constantly reminded the people that God would take away their hardened hearts and replace them with a new heart.

**C Make Connections** Write a brief response about a relationship in which you have seen or experienced a human reflection of God's covenant love. How did the relationship illustrate that love? What effect did that love have on you or the others involved?

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