

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 8

The Church

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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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The Church Is Holy

Let Us Pray

Leader: Father, most Holy One, give us the faith and the holiness we need to follow your Son, Jesus, and to discover your will for our lives.

“Know that the LORD is God,
 he made us, we belong to him ...
 His mercy endures forever,
 his faithfulness lasts through every generation.”

Psalm 100:3–5

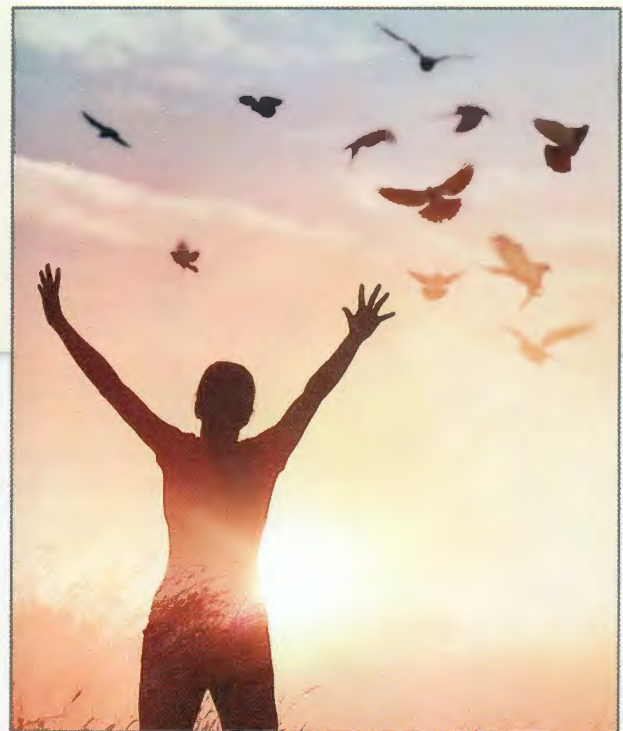
All: Holy God, you sent your Son Jesus to show us the way to you. We bless and praise you!

Scripture

“He said to [his] disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life and what you will eat, or about your body and what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. Notice the ravens: they do not sow or reap; they have neither storehouse nor barn, yet God feeds them. How much more important are you than birds! ... seek his kingdom, and these other things will be given you besides. Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an

inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”

Luke 12:22–23, 31–34



Have you ever thought...

- How can anyone completely trust in God?
- What does it really mean to be holy?

Getting Started

In this chapter, you will explore God's holiness and what it means to be holy in our everyday lives. God's holiness and the holiness of the Church help us grow in holiness.



In the chart below, write the first four things you think of when you hear the word *holiness*. Explain your answers to a classmate.



Holiness

- 1 _____

- 2 _____

- 3 _____

- 4 _____

Catholic Faith Words

• holiness

• angels

• holy

• Marks of the Church

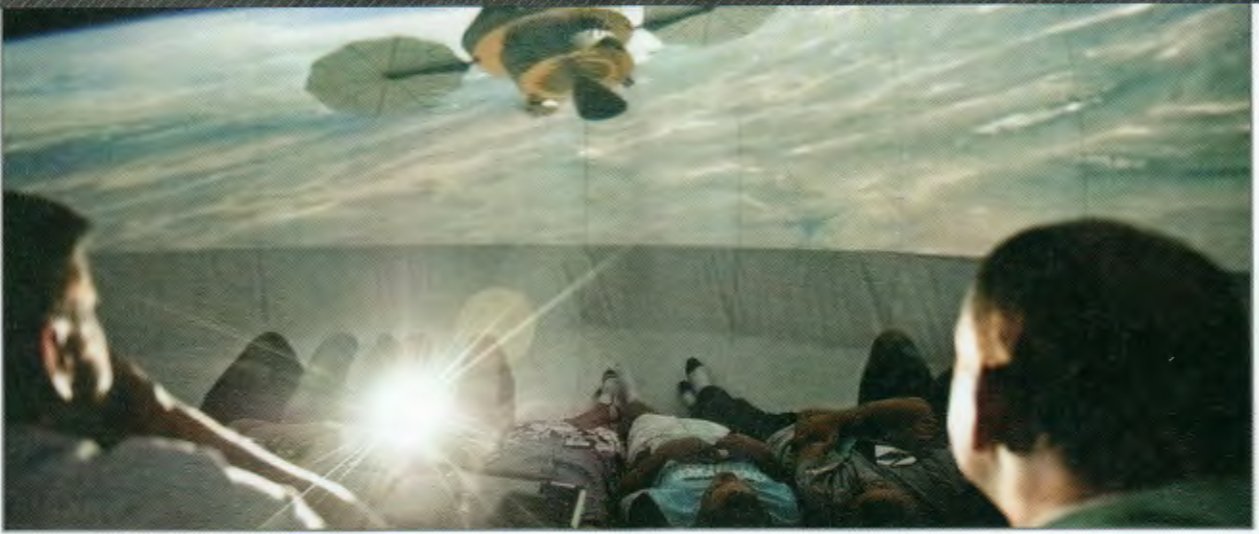
SOLVE

To Be Holy In the Gospel according to Luke, Jesus offers us insight into what it means to be holy. Solve the word search below to find some of the advice this Gospel gives.

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

What is your definition for holiness?

Share with a classmate one way you have witnessed or experienced holiness.



Visitors explore space travel history at a planetarium in Poland.

The Holiness of God

How can we really be holy?

Sometimes people think that holiness is about living in a monastery or spending the whole day in prayer. Some people are called to do that. But **holiness** is also about the ordinary events of life. Holiness is becoming more God-like, living in his presence and with his love no matter where you are. Holiness involves opening your heart to God's presence and growing deeper into relationship with God every day. God calls every person to be holy in some unique way.

Sharing God's Glory

On each of the six days of creation, God looked upon what he had made and said that it was "good." Everything reflected his own goodness and holiness. So all of creation is related because everything was created by God and shows his goodness.

God created the variety of creatures each with a different purpose and order. He made them to be interdependent. But God made human beings special. He created us in his image, with an intellect and free will, and he set us over all creation to care for it. God

wanted people to live in ways that would reflect his own goodness and holiness.

Scripture

"When I see your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and stars that you set in place—
What is man that you are mindful of him,
and a son of man that you care for him?
Yet you have made him little less than a god,
crowned him with glory and honor.
You have given him rule over the works
of your hands,
put all things at his feet." **Psalm 8:4–7**

When the holiness of God is seen and communicated in creation and in humans, this is the glory of God. We have many chances to share in God's glory so that the whole human race will come to realize this gift of sharing in God's own holiness. When we live for the good of others, we show God's glory. And God promises that the fullness of glory will be ours when we finally arrive in his heavenly Kingdom.

➤ **How have you experienced God's friendship in a way that surprised you?**

Messengers

From time to time God has sent messengers to make known and help people understand his plan for all of creation. These messengers are **angels**, spiritual beings that praise God and serve him. They can think and choose like humans, but they do not have bodies. The word *angel* comes from Greek and Hebrew words that mean “messenger from God.” Although there are many angels in the stories of Sacred Scripture, three of them are named:

Gabriel (“the strength of God”)

- helps the prophet Daniel understand the mysteries and prophecies God wants him to communicate (see Daniel 7 and 10)
- announces to Zechariah that he will have a son named John, who becomes John the Baptist and the cousin of Jesus
- announces the birth of Jesus to Mary at the Annunciation

Raphael (“the healing of God”)

- appears by name only in the Book of Tobit (12) to heal Tobit of blindness and to help his son’s wife struggle against evil

Michael (“who is like God”)

- also appears with the prophet Daniel as the one who will help God’s followers in their struggles, especially at the end of time (see Daniel 10 and 12)

- is mentioned in the Letter to Jude as one who fights with the devil
- leads the battle in Heaven recorded in the Book of Revelation (see Revelation 12)



Tobias and the Archangel Raphael attributed to Vecellio Tiziano

WRITE

List some things you do as a part of your routine every day. Then write what the difference might be to this event if you saw that moment as an opportunity to grow in holiness. For example, choosing what to eat for breakfast can remind you of God’s command to care for our bodies.



Catholic Faith Words

holiness a state of becoming more God-like, living in his presence and with his love

angels spiritual beings that praise God and serve him as messengers to help people understand God’s plan or to keep them safe from harm

The Holiness of the Church

Who will help you grow in holiness?

Our world is covered with lakes and streams that are filled with life because water flows into one area and flows out somewhere else. Sometimes we find a stagnant body of water. Because there is no movement or outlet for the water, living organisms cannot survive.

It is much the same with the holiness of God that is given to every person and to the Church. If we try to keep God's holiness for ourselves, we become lifeless. But when we share the goodness of God with others, we grow more and more in God's life. We are each called to holiness because the Church is called to be **holy**, as Christ himself is holy.

Catholic Faith Words

holy a mark of the Church. The Church is holy because she is set apart for God and his purposes and God is holy. Christ gave himself up to make the Church holy and gave the Church the gift of the Holy Spirit to give her life.

Marks of the Church the essential characteristics that distinguish Christ's Church and her mission: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic

The Holiness of Jesus

As the perfect and complete Revelation of God, Jesus shows God's holiness

- by taking on our burdens
- by being the way to the Father
- by speaking with the voice of God
- by the way he lived the Beatitudes
- by reaching out to the lost, the needy, and sinners
- by being the perfect model of love

Being holy is one of the **Marks of the Church**—the four essential characteristics that distinguish Christ's Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. The Church can be identified by these characteristics.

Because the Church is the Body of Christ, the holiness of the Church comes from

Jesus Rescues the Sinful Woman by Hendrick Krock



Christ. The Church is holy because the Holy Spirit gives us life and lives within us, guiding us as individuals and a community.

The Church helps each of us to follow Jesus' example and to become holy, sometimes in small ways, sometimes in great ways.

Prayer and Worship

In the prayer and worship of the Church, Catholics meet God in a personal way and are strengthened to grow in holiness. This is why the Church invites us to pray at all times and in all places.

Prayer and Worship

<input type="radio"/>	Sacraments of Healing (Penance and Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick) strengthen us in body and spirit when we have failed or when we are weakened by sickness.
<input type="radio"/>	Special devotions, like the Stations of the Cross, help us recall the presence of God in our lives and the help God offers at all times.
<input type="radio"/>	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament helps us remember and honor in a special way Jesus' unique presence in the Eucharist.
<input type="radio"/>	Sacraments at the Service of Communion (Matrimony and Holy Orders) mark our commitment to follow God's call.
<input type="radio"/>	The Liturgy of the Hours (prayed by ordained men, consecrated religious, and many laypeople) marks every part of the day as holy.
<input type="radio"/>	Feasts of the liturgical year remind us of events and people that are important models for holiness.
<input type="radio"/>	Personal prayer gives us an opportunity to speak with God in a way that relates to the circumstances of our own life.
<input type="radio"/>	Eucharist, or the Mass, is the central act of worship because we hear God's Word, remember the Death and Resurrection of Christ, and are intimately joined to Christ in Holy Communion.

1. Highlight the type of prayer or worship you most often take part in.
2. Draw a star next to a type that interests you or that you have questions about.



IDENTIFY

In Colossians 3:12, Saint Paul asks us to clothe ourselves in Christ. Read that passage from Scripture. Think of a concrete example of how Jesus lived as Paul suggests. Compare your answers with a classmate.

Holiness in Action

What does it mean to be holy?

Saint Paul tells us that a person without love is like a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. A person may do nice things and speak very persuasively, but if words and actions do not flow from love, that person is nothing. (See 1 Corinthians 13:1–2.) Being holy means being in love with God and expressing that love of God through love for all creation and all people.

Prayer is an important part of being holy, but it is not the only part. Holiness that comes from love shows in your actions. Saint John taught this when he said that the way we can tell someone is in union with Christ is by the way that person lives like Christ. (See 1 John 2:5–6.)

Go to the Source

Read *1 John* 4:16–21. How would you describe the relationship between love of God and love of our brothers and sisters?

We Grow in Holiness

When people are baptized, they receive the light of Christ, and the Church prays that the light of faith will always be bright. They also receive a baptismal garment, and the Church prays that the dignity of the baptized person will always be strong.

The prayers of Baptism recognize that the gift of holiness develops and grows through a person's lifetime. Those prayers also recognize that sometimes people will face difficulties or evil as they learn how to grow in holiness and love.

- The members of the Church help each other grow in holiness.
- They support and encourage each other.
- They pray together and learn together.
- They listen to the Word of God and reflect on how to put God's Word into practice.
- They remember God's mercy when they fail and find God's grace to help them become more holy.



CREATE

Use the letters in the acrostic to make a list of some of the ways the Church helps and supports you and some ways you help and support other members of the Church.

E _____

N _____

C _____

O _____

U _____

R _____

A _____

G _____

E _____

IN SUMMARY Catholics Believe

The Church is a sign of the holiness of God.

- 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.
- The Church is holy because Christ is holy and because the Holy Spirit lives within her. The Church helps us grow in holiness, especially through prayer and worship.
- A life of holiness is built on love; the love that God first gives us and his love that we share with our brothers and sisters.

Our Catholic Life

Just as God blesses us, we are a blessing to God and others. As Catholics, our lives, our actions, our thoughts, and our words give praise to God because we show God's goodness wherever we are. We bless God in prayer. Because God blesses us, we can return that blessing. When we pray a **prayer of blessing**, we are really asking God, who is the source of all blessings, to bless. We can bless people, places, and things. Parents bless their children, teachers bless their students, priests and deacons bless parishioners, and we bless ourselves with the Sign of the Cross. You can read more about prayers of blessing on page 380 of the Our Catholic Tradition section of your book.


- **When have you felt God's blessing on you?**
- When have you asked for it for someone else?**

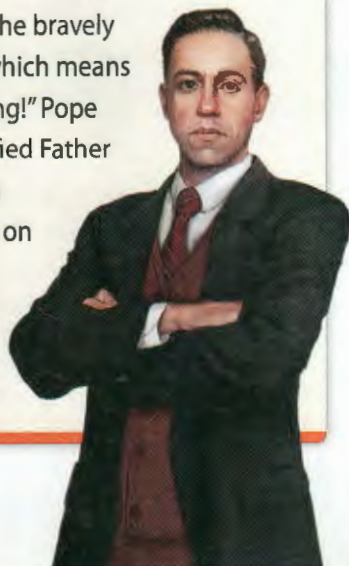


People of Faith

Blessed Miguel Pro, 1891–1927

Miguel Agustin Pro Juarez became a Jesuit at the age of 20. During a time of anti-Catholicism in his native Mexico, Miguel spent his life in a secret ministry, living like a daring spy. He was falsely accused of trying to assassinate a former Mexican president and sentenced to death without a trial. At his execution, Father Pro refused a blindfold. As he died, he bravely said, "Viva Cristo Rey," which means "Long live Christ the King!" Pope Saint John Paul II beatified Father Pro in 1988. The Church celebrates his feast day on **November 23**.

 For more, go to aliveinchrist.osv.com



IDENTIFY

Name some people who you think model holiness. Describe someone younger than you, someone your age, and someone older than you.

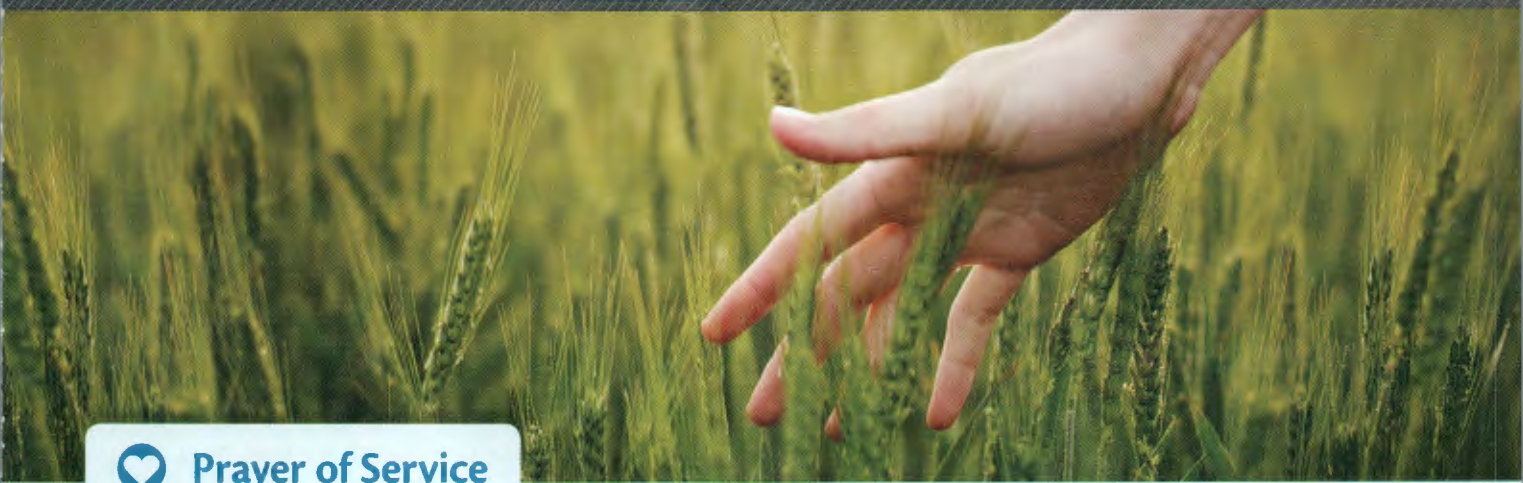
Younger:

Your age:

Older:

What do these people have in common?

What can you do to be more like them?



Prayer of Service

All: In the name of Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Leader: Heavenly Father, over the centuries, women and men of faith have served you in many ways.

We pray for guidance and assure you of our longing to serve you in our day and in our time.

Let us pray.

Side 1: We know and believe that Jesus, your Son, followed your plan and trusted in your will for his life.

We are here—we come to do your will.

All: We come to do your will.

Side 2: We know and believe that we are your children, and that you want us to be happy and to trust in your plan for us all.

We are here—we come to do your will.

All: We come to do your will.

Side 1: We know and believe that our world is hurting, is wounded and in need of servants who follow and respond to your voice; servants willing to help and to heal a weary and broken world.

We are here—we come to do your will.

All: We come to do your will.

Side 2: Heavenly Father, send us your Spirit. Give us the faith and the holiness needed to be your people, your servants, committed to you and to your will.

All: We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

 *Sing or play "Psalm 40: Here I Am, Lord"*

 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. ___ is becoming more God-like, living in his presence and with his love
 - a. Beatification
 - b. Justification
 - c. Holiness
 - d. Glorification
2. Human beings are created by God to be unique because we are made in his image with a(n) ___, and he set us over all creation to care for it.
 - a. intellect
 - b. free will
 - c. challenge
 - d. both a and b
3. The word ___ comes from Greek and Hebrew words that mean "messenger from God."
 - a. Messiah
 - b. angel
 - c. savior
 - d. Christ
4. Being holy is one of the ___ of the Church (the four essential or distinguishing characteristics of the Church).
 - a. Doctrines
 - b. Marks
 - c. Traditions
 - d. Characters

B Check Understanding Indicate whether the following statements are true or false. Then rewrite false statements to make them true.

5. All of creation is related because everything, including human beings, has been created by God. **True/False**

6. The Angel Gabriel leads the battle in Heaven that is recorded in the Book of Revelation. **True/False**

7. The four essential or distinguishing characteristics of the Church are one, holy, catholic, and sacramental. **True/False**

8. The Liturgy of the Hours gives special honor to Jesus' presence in the Eucharist. **True/False**

9. Holiness that comes from love is seen primarily in prayer and actions. **True/False**

10. Members of the Church grow in holiness as they listen to the Word of God and reflect on how to put God's Word into practice. **True/False**

C Make Connections On a separate sheet of paper, respond to the questions. Which type of prayer or worship is most meaningful to you? How do you encounter God through this experience?