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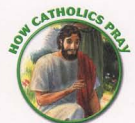
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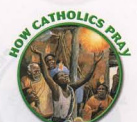
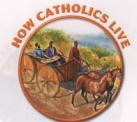
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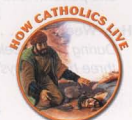
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The Church Is Holy

We meet the Lord Jesus Christ in his work that we read about in the Gospels. We learn to be the likeness of God our Father. We do this through the love we receive from his divine Son.

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.*

Luke 4:18



It was in a synagogue, much like the ancient one shown here in the city of Capernaum, that Jesus read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah.



Jesus, Heal Us

Words and Music by David Haas

REFRAIN



VERSE



2. All who fear the Lord:
Follow the way.
All who love the Lord:
Hope in God's goodness.
Refrain
3. All who fear the Lord:
Keep your hearts prepared.
All who love the Lord:
Be humbled in God's presence.
Refrain
4. All who trust the Lord:
God will uphold you.
Let us cling to our God;
Let us fall in the arms of the Lord!
Refrain

Take Home



Jesus Shows Us How to Forgive and Heal

For most people, the family is the first experience of God's love and grace. At the same time, our first experiences of sinfulness usually occur within the family. When we live in close relationship, there are many occasions when we hurt each other. We become familiar with others' weaknesses and, at times, exploit them to our advantage.

ACTIVITY

Out of Favor Ask everyone in the family to make a list of ways that they know they have done something wrong. Is it a look on Mom's face? Is it the sound of Father's voice? Is it when a brother or sister starts crying?



WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

Notice that at the beginning of Mass we are asked to recall our sins and to ask forgiveness of God.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of the Week



Saint Francis of Assisi
(1181-1226)

Francis was a spoiled child born to a wealthy family in Assisi, Italy. One day Jesus called to him in a vision. He gave up his wealthy life and lived as a poor person. He started a new religious group called the Franciscans.

Patron Saint of: animals, environment

Feast Day: October 4



A Prayer for the Week

Our Father, help us walk in Saint Francis' footsteps and follow Jesus Christ as he did. Give us the grace to act with kindness toward all we meet. May our giving come from loving you. Amen.

Getting ready for Chapter 5

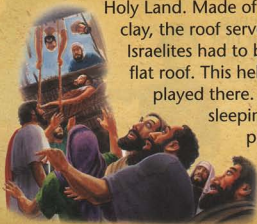
Take Home



✚ Scripture Background

In the Time of Jesus

Roof The roof was a distinctive feature of a first century home in the Holy Land. Made of woven branches covered with packed clay, the roof served as additional living space. By law, Israelites had to build a low wall along the edges of the flat roof. This helped to keep the children safe when they played there. Families also used the roof as an extra sleeping area, especially on hot nights. Women placed laundry on the roof to dry.



In Luke 5:17–26, read about a group of men who lowered their paralyzed friend through an opening in a roof so that Jesus could heal him.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION

Saint Michael's Cathedral

The archangel Michael is considered to be the patron of Kiev in the Ukraine. St. Michael's Monastery of the Golden Dome was originally built there in the twelfth century. Stalin's army demolished it in 1936. Rebuilt from scratch, this cathedral was completed in 2001. Artists painted and adorned the interior of the church with new frescoes and mosaics, done according to the style and techniques of the twelfth century. Its six golden domes reveal the splendor of its architecture.

in Architecture



5 Jesus Shows Us How to Forgive and Heal



He shared our sadness and understood our pain.

Based on Isaiah 53:4

Share

God sent Jesus, his Son, to show us how to forgive and heal one another. Think carefully. Remember people who have helped you. How did they forgive you when you had done wrong? How did they help heal you when you were hurting?

Activity

Look at the pictures. Help Monique find healing and forgiveness by drawing a line to the person who can best help her. Then choose one person from the pictures. Share with a partner how that person helps Monique.



If we sin,
how can we
be healed?

Hear & Believe

Scripture Jesus Cures a Sick Man

Crowds followed Jesus wherever he went. Many came to hear the good news and be healed. Some were sick in body and others were troubled in spirit. They believed that Jesus had the power to heal them. One day, a group of men carried a paralyzed friend to the place where Jesus was teaching. They were sure Jesus would heal their friend.

When they arrived at the house where Jesus was speaking, there were so many people that they could not get inside!

One of them had a great idea! The men climbed on the roof. They were able to make a hole in the roof. Very carefully, they lowered their friend inside.

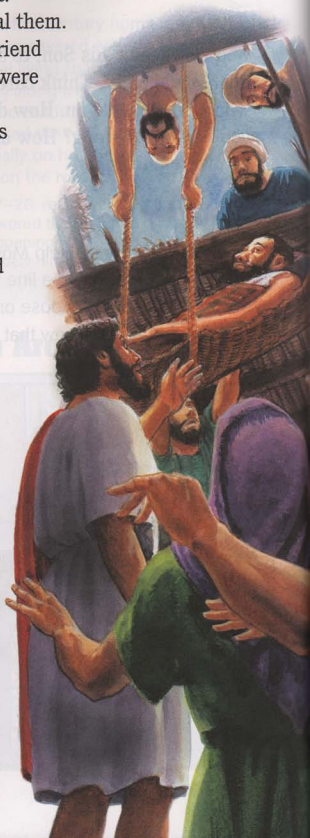
Seeing this, Jesus knew that they trusted him to heal their friend. He said to them, "As for you, your sins are forgiven."

But someone asked, "How can he say that? Who but God alone can forgive sins?"

To show that God had given him the power to forgive sins, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home."

The man who had been paralyzed stood up! He picked up his stretcher and walked out of the house. The man praised God all the way home. Everyone was surprised and said, "We have seen amazing things today!"

Based on Luke 5:17–26



God Sends Jesus to Heal

God sends Jesus to heal us because we were born with **original sin**. This is the **sin** of the first man and woman. When Jesus saw the paralyzed man and the great faith of his friends, he knew what God would want him to do. Jesus looked at the friends' troubled spirits and freed them of sin. Jesus saw the man's sickness and made him well. Jesus' power to forgive and to heal comes from God.

Our Church Teaches

Jesus followed his Father's will. He forgave people their sins and healed them. He acted with **compassion** and **mercy**. Jesus showed compassion to the paralyzed man because he understood the man's need and helped him. He showed mercy to the man's friends because he was kind, generous, and forgiving. Jesus tells us to do the same because it is God's will. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would stay with us always, to help us do God's will.

We Believe

God sent Jesus to heal and forgive us. We follow God's will when we live and act as Jesus did. The Holy Spirit is with us and guides us to do God's will.

Faith Words

compassion

Compassion means "to have feeling for someone's problem and wanting to help." Jesus teaches us to have compassion for our neighbors.

mercy

Mercy is the great kindness and generosity of God's forgiveness and love.

original sin

Original sin is the sin of the first man and woman. We received this first sin from them.

How do
we heal
and forgive?

Respond

Saint Francis of Assisi



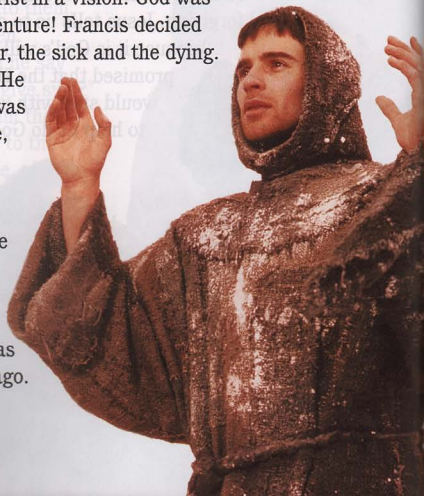
Francis was born in 1182 in Assisi, Italy. As a young boy, he wanted to be a rich cloth merchant just like his father. Francis quickly learned how to buy and sell cloth. He liked the hard work and all the money that he made. Francis enjoyed spending money, too. With all that work and money, Francis thought that he was happy.

But as Francis grew older, he became bored with his life. He wanted adventure. So, he became a soldier in the Assisi army. Once, Francis fought in a battle and was taken prisoner by the enemy.

After he was set free, Francis returned to his father's business. But he found out that making money and selling clothes did not please him any longer. He spent a lot of time praying that the Holy Spirit would show him a better way to live.

One day Francis saw Jesus Christ in a vision! God was calling him to a new kind of adventure! Francis decided to do all he could to help the poor, the sick and the dying. At long last, Francis was happy. He knew that by helping others he was spreading Jesus' message of love, peace, and happiness.

Soon, many others would join Francis to work among the sick, poor, and homeless. These people became a group called the Franciscans. Today, Franciscan friars and sisters spread Jesus' message of love and peace, just as Saint Francis of Assisi did long ago.



Activities

Jesus acted with compassion and mercy when he cured the paralyzed beggar. Jesus taught that there are many ways we can be healing and forgiving. Saint Francis learned from Jesus.

1. Unscramble the letters to see what Saint Francis learned.

ssiopcoanm + yemrc = eapce & nessipahp

2. Sara wants to heal and forgive as Jesus teaches, but she is not sure what to say. Circle words of compassion and mercy that Sara could use. Add words of your own in the extra space.

Get lost!
Let's shake hands.

I'm sorry.

Can I help?

It's your fault!

Hey, Stupid!

It was my fault too.

You're ok.

Let's be friends.

How do we ask
for guidance
to heal
and forgive?



Prayer Celebration

A Response Prayer

Reader 1: God called Saint Francis to bring his healing and forgiveness to others.
God does not forget us when we hurt from sickness or sin.

Reader 2: God shows us mercy and compassion.
Let us share our words of compassion and mercy.

(Share words of compassion and mercy from Activity.)

All: Lord, free us from sin.

Reader 3: Saint Francis, servant of Jesus Christ

All: Pray for us.

Reader 4: Saint Francis, helper of the poor and homeless

All: Pray for us.

Reader 5: Saint Francis, healer of the sick

All: Pray for us.

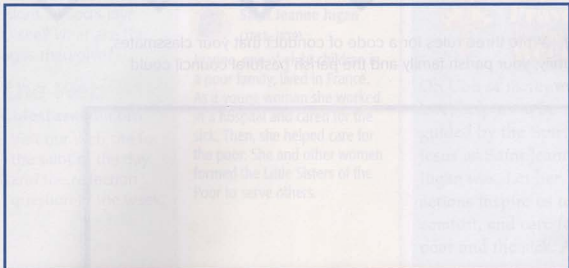
Reader 6: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

(All shake hands with persons near them.)

All: Peace be with you.

A Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. _____ means to have feeling for someone's problem and wanting to help.
 - a. power
 - b. mercy
 - c. compassion
 - d. forgiveness
2. God gave to Jesus _____.
 - a. original sin
 - b. power to heal
 - c. temptation
 - d. unhappiness
3. This is the sin of the first people on earth.
 - a. power
 - b. greed
 - c. original sin
 - d. misunderstanding
4. _____ is great kindness and generosity of God's forgiveness.
 - a. compassion
 - b. power
 - c. understanding
 - d. mercy

B Draw or write about two things Jesus did for the paralyzed man.

Faith in Action

The Parish Council In our families, people love us enough to make rules that help us learn how to become the very best we can be. In our parish family, there is also a special group of people to help members become the very best they can be. This group, the parish pastoral council, reminds us of the rules and what we stand for as a parish family. They ask us to do our part as members of the parish family. They listen to our ideas so that together we serve Jesus better.

In Everyday Life



Activity Draw a line from each rule in column 1 to a sentence about a person in column 2 who needs to be reminded of the rule.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Lights out at 9 p.m. | a. Sam ignores his sister's question. |
| 2. No snacks before dinner. | b. Mia reads her book long past bedtime. |
| 3. Respect your parents. | c. Miguel eats ice cream after school. |
| 4. Answer when you are spoken to. | d. Karen talks back to her mother. |

In Your Parish



Activity Write three rules for a code of conduct that your classmates, your family, your parish family and the parish pastoral council could all follow.