

Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

Q1, Inquiry • Journey of Faith

Compliant with *The Roman Missal*, third edition.

"How can I know God is real?"

Why can't I see Jesus and talk to him?"

Have you ever wondered about these things?
Let's stop now and think about things you believe in.

When your doctor gives you medicine, do you believe it will make you better?

When a family member says "I love you," do you believe it?

Do you believe what you learn in history class, even though you weren't there to see it all happen?

When you go to bed, do you believe morning will come?

Think about these things, then solve the rebus below to find a simple word that explains your belief in things you cannot see or touch.

A REBUS PUZZLE



Let's Talk About Faith!

You have **FAITH** in the ability of one who is trained to help.

You have **FAITH** in love that you can feel but not see.

You have **FAITH** in those who have knowledge to share with you.

You have **FAITH** in things that happen over and over again without fail.

Now list five people, things, or events that you believe in.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

God's Greatest Gift

What have you learned about faith? Every day of your life, you place your faith in someone or something. And guess what? All this trust and faith actually comes from God. God gives you faith as a gift. As a matter of fact, faith is the gift God most wants to give you. It is God's way of saying:

**"I love you and
want you to be well."**

"I love you and will always take care of you."

"I love you and have much to teach you."

"I love you and have created the world for you."



Faith And Jesus

We are starting a journey with Jesus. He will be your best friend, guide, and teacher on this journey. He said many things about faith. Let's find out what they are! Read the following quotes and think about the promise Jesus is making to you.

"All things can be done for the one who believes."

Mark 9:23



"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20



"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."

Matthew 21:22



"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me."

John 14:1

4 WAYS To Help Your Faith Grow Stronger

READING

Keep your Bible close by, so you can read about Jesus whenever you have a few minutes to spare. Choose other good books to read too: stories of Jesus, the saints, or good people who follow God's Word. A book of prayers or poetry can help you think about God and faith.

PRAYER

Set aside some time each day to spend with Jesus in prayer. You can pray in words, or thoughts and feelings. You can also pray by listening.

GOOD WORKS

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did [good] to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40). Every good work you do, all the little kindnesses, every smile you give is a gift that brings you closer to Jesus and makes your faith stronger.

FRIENDSHIPS

Jesus said, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34). Loving others will help you believe in friendships and will increase your faith.



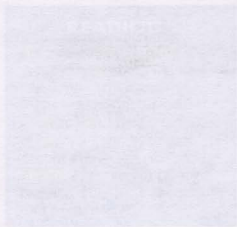
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My Space



My Space



...and you'll see
you can do it. You can
do anything you set your
mind to. You can be
anything you want to be.

...and you'll see
you can do it. You can
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anything you want to be.

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Q2, Inquiry • What do Catholics Believe?

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We Believe

The Creed is the faith prayer of Christians. It lists the most important things that Catholics and other Christians believe about God, especially Jesus. We also pray a longer Creed at Mass.

Write down some things you already believe about God.

The Apostles' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and is seated
at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I 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.

Amen.

Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

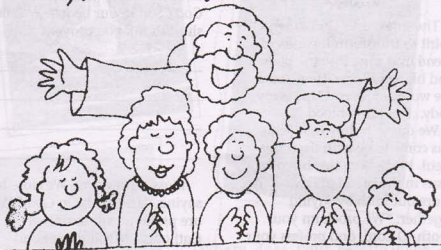
Q3, Inquiry • What is the Meaning of the Mass?

Compliant with *The Roman Missal*, third edition.

Gathering

All the people gather in the church. The priest and ministers enter and greet us. Together, we make the Sign of the Cross, to show that we all belong to God's family. We remember any not-too-long things we have done, and ask God to forgive us.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.



Together we sing or say a prayer called the *Gloria*, an ancient hymn of praise. "Glory to God in the highest," says the *Gloria*. We praise God for loving us, as Jesus always praised God for everything. The priest says, "Let us pray," and we silently thank God in our hearts. Write a short prayer of praise for something God has done for you.

Listening

Now it is time to listen to stories from the Bible, God's book of memories. This part of the Mass is called the *Liturgy of the Word*. The words we hear are God's words.

We hear three readings at Sunday Mass, and two during the week. In the first reading, we hear marvelous stories of God's love for the people long before Jesus came. We respond with a prayer from the Bible, called the *Responsorial Psalm*.



The second reading tells how God's people stayed together and prayed together after Jesus returned to God. Just by listening, we learn how to become closer to Jesus and one another.

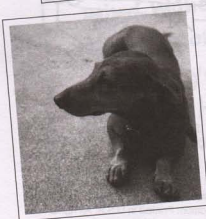
The final reading is the gospel, which means "good news." It contains words of Jesus himself. We stand and sing or say "Alleluia," praise God. We make a small cross on our forehead, lips, and heart, meaning, "May your words be in my thoughts, on my lips, and in my heart."

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Q4, Inquiry • The Bible

Compliant with *The Roman Missal*, third edition.

Family Memories



Where does your family keep its memories? Do you have a photograph album with pictures of your parents as children, your grandparents when they were young? Do you have photos of important things your family did together — summer vacations, graduations, birthday parties? List three of your favorite photographs.

1

2

3

Where do you keep your memories? Do you have a scrapbook? Do you save your most important papers, birthday cards, report cards, pressed flowers? List three things you saved, or wish you saved.

The Bible: God's Book Of Memories

The Bible is a memory book about God and God's people. It begins when God created the world and all living things. In the Bible, you will read about many adventures God shared with the people. You will read about how Jesus came into our world. You will also learn all the things God wants you to know about living your faith.



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Q5, Inquiry • How do Catholics Interpret the Bible?

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A Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Here is a prayer you can say whenever you are reading a story from the Bible.


Dear God,
Thank you for sharing
your memories with me
through the Bible. As I read
your stories and adventures,
inspire me with the faith of your
people, and guide me in right
understanding. Do not let my
mind wander, but keep my
thoughts on you. I ask this
through your Son, Jesus, who
with the Holy Spirit, can build
a bridge of knowing between us.
+Amen!




How Can I Know What God Is Saying To Me?

The Bible was written a long time ago. Sometimes, the words may seem strange and the ideas hard to understand. That's why we need help when we read from the Bible. It is not always easy to know what God is saying to us.

There are three very important ways to understand the Bible stories we read:

Pray  for God to speak to you as you read.

Listen to those people God sends to teach you.

Hear the love behind the words. 

Now try this. After you say the above prayer, read the story of the girl restored to life in Matthew 9:18-26. It's a long story of two miracles. Then think about the following ideas. There are no right or wrong answers, only the thoughts that come to you while you're reading. If a few friends or family members do this with you, that's even better.

- What did the little girl's father expect from Jesus?
- Would you have been in the crowd following Jesus? Why, or why not?
- What did the sick woman in the crowd feel when she touched Jesus' cloak?
- Why did Jesus go to the little girl's home after the people said she was already dead?
- How did the little girl feel when she came back to life?
- How would you have felt?

You can do this with all your favorite Bible stories, to see how prayer can open your mind and heart to new ideas whenever you read God's Word.

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Q6, Inquiry • The Saints

Compliant with *The Roman Missal*, third edition.

Choose Your Heros



Do you like to watch the Olympics? Do you choose your favorite athlete, follow every event, and hope your hero will win a medal?

Olympic athletes aren't born great at their sport. They spend years learning and practicing. They read about other athletes in their field. They practice making all the right moves. Only after they learned all they can practice, practiced all they can practice, are they ready for the Olympics.

To prepare for the Olympics, they follow the examples of great athletes before them. They watch videos of the games. They study all the moves. They find and correct their own mistakes. And then they practice some more.

If you want to be great at some sport, you do pretty much the same thing. First you learn how to play the game. Then you learn all you can about those who are great at it. Finally, you practice making all the right moves until you, too, are good at it.

The Saints — God's Holympic Team

What does the word "saint" mean to you?

Name someone you know who is a saint.

How does your chosen saint remind you of God?

God has a team of special athletes. They joined God's team by learning all about God, following Jesus' example, listening to his teachings, and by studying the lives of other holy people. We call them saints.

Some saints were given the title "saint" by the Church. When the Church says someone is a saint, it is called a "canonization." There are books written about most of the canonized saints. You can read about their lives and follow their examples.

Other saints are only known among their friends. You probably have a saint right in your own neighborhood. You may have a saint in your own family. You may be a saint yourself. These "living saints" are people who love God, believe in Jesus, and live holy, loving, and generous lives every day.

Every saint, alive or dead, canonized or unrecognized, belongs to a special "club." The Church calls this club the "communion of saints." You can call it "God's holympic team" because all the members are great athletes in the field of holiness.



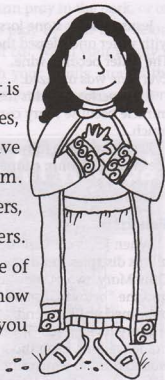
Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

Q7, Inquiry • Mary

Compliant with *The Roman Missal*, third edition.

Mothers Are Special People

Being a mother is a special job. It is more than just giving birth. Sometimes, children lose their mothers and have different people to “mother” them. Fathers, grandmothers, aunts, big sisters, or even big brothers can be mothers. Mothers are the people who take care of you, who love you, who help you to know God, and who are always there when you need them.



Mary: everything a mother should be

At Christmas, you hear the wonderful story of Mary, a young girl chosen by God to be Jesus' mother. Think of the words you unscrambled and see how Mary was all these things.

Prayerful

One day, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary. “Hail Mary,” Gabriel said, “You are truly blessed.”

Gabriel could see that Mary was startled. “Don't be afraid,” he said. “God loves you. You will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be called the Son of God.”

Gabriel told Mary that her relative, Elizabeth, who was very old, would also have a baby boy. “Nothing is impossible for God,” said the angel.

The words below are sometimes used to describe a mother. Unscramble them and write the name of one person in your life that they describe.

LUFFATHI _____

EBARV _____

LHEPLUF _____

MUHLBE _____

ACRGN _____

YARREPLUF _____



Mary loved God very much. “Let it happen as you have said,” Mary said.

You can read about the angel's visit in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 1, verses 26-38.

Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

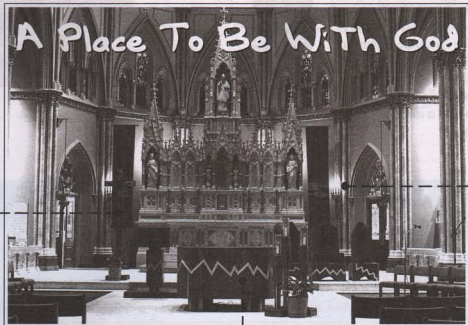
Q8, Inquiry • Places in the Catholic Church

Compliant with *The Roman Missal*, third edition.

You can pray almost anywhere. You can pray in the park, or on a walk through the woods. You can pray by your bed, before going to sleep. You can pray in your car, when your family is going on a trip. You can pray with your family around the dinner table, before each meal. God, who is everywhere, hears you every time you pray, no matter where you are.

The crucifix is a reminder that Jesus loves us enough to suffer and die for us.

But Jesus is no longer on the cross. Somewhere near the altar you will see the **tabernacle**.



Churches are special places to pray and worship God. The most important thing about church is how it reminds you of God. Everything you see in your church is a sign of how much God loves you. Here are some of God-reminders you will see.

When you walk in the door, you will see a small bowl of water. This is the **holy water font**. You touch the water and make the Sign of the Cross. This is a reminder of your



baptism in Jesus and your place in God's family.

The next thing you will notice is the **altar**. At the altar, the priest offers the bread and wine and says the words of Jesus: "This is my body...this is my blood." **Candles** on the altar remind us that Jesus is the light of our world. A book of Mass prayers is also used at the altar. This book is called the **Sacramentary**.

You will also see a **crucifix**, a cross with the image of Jesus on it.



This is the place where the bread is kept after it has been transformed into Jesus' body.

Near the tabernacle is a candle that burns at all times. This is the **sanctuary lamp**. It reminds us that Jesus is with us always.

Another important reminder of God's love is the **lectern**. At the lectern, stories from the Bible are read to us from the **lectionary**. Those who read the Bible stories are called **lectors**. As we listen to God's Word, we are reminded over and over again about God's love for us.

The **Easter candle**, a tall, decorated candle, is a reminder that Jesus rose from the dead at Easter time. During the Easter season, this candle burns at every Mass. Later, it is placed near the baptismal font



Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

Q9, Inquiry • Who's Who in the Church

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When you are baptized, you become a member of a special family. This family has many members. Each member has an important place in the family and important work to do for the family. Here are some members in the Church and the work they are called to do.



The Head of the Family

In the Bible, Saint Paul said we are all members of one body, and

Jesus is the head of the body. Saint Paul was describing the Church. Each member of the Church has something important to do, from the tiniest new baby to the pope in Rome. Jesus' work is to watch over the Church, and lead and guide all the members toward God.

The Pope

Jesus chose twelve apostles to help him in his work of bringing people to God. To Peter, one of

the apostles, Jesus said, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). Peter worked with the other apostles to build the Church of Jesus Christ.



The work Peter did in the early Church is now done by the pope in Rome. He watches over and guides the Church in the world. And, just as Peter worked with the apostles, so the pope works with his bishops.



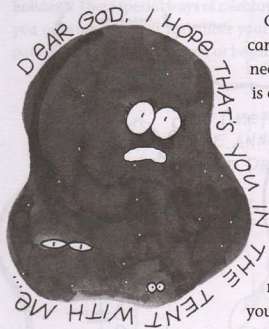
Bishops are the successors of the apostles. The bishop is in charge of all the parishes in the city or area. This group of parishes is called a diocese. If your diocese is very large, your bishop may have "helper" bishops. These are called

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Q10, Inquiry • Catholics and Prayer

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PRAYER A Conversation Between You And God



God is your best friend. You can talk to God anytime you need a friend. Talking with God is called "prayer."

When do you pray? Do you pray when you're alone?

Does your family pray together? Saint Paul said we should "pray always"

(1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Think about it for a few minutes. Write down times

you would like to talk to God, or some things you would say to God.

Learning by Praying

Sometimes you might like to talk to God, but you can't think of what to say. That's why we have certain prayers you can learn. These prayers help you to "connect" with God, to get

started with your prayer. Another way you can pray is by singing. In church, people pray together with song and with learned prayers. That way, they can all be praising God together.

THE OUR FATHER

The Lord's Own Prayer

One day, some people asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. He taught them the following prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

Catholics say this prayer every time they go to Mass. Sometimes they say it holding hands to show that they are all brothers and sisters in God.

This is
how you
are to
pray.



Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day
our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into
temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

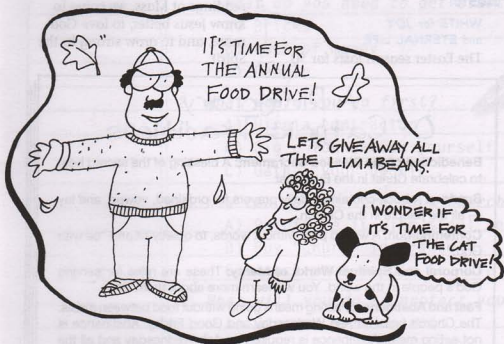
Journey of Faith FOR CHILDREN

Q11, Inquiry • Catholic Practices

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Celebrating in the Catholic Tradition

How does your family celebrate? What special things do you do on holidays? These special ways of celebrating are called "traditions." When you grow up, you will remember your childhood traditions. You might pass them on to your children or begin your own family traditions.



Describe one of your family traditions. Explain why this tradition is important to your family.

A Year As A Catholic

The Catholic Church has traditions, too. The most important tradition is the Liturgy, or the Mass. Each year, beginning on the first day of Advent, the Church follows a pattern of liturgical celebrations that never changes. This calendar will help you understand what the Church celebrates in each season, and the season's special colors.

Advent

BLUE-VIOLET or PURPLE
for HOPE

The Church year begins with Advent, when we look forward to the coming of Jesus. In the readings, we hear how God's people waited for a Savior. We hear the angel's messages to Mary, and to Zechariah, John the Baptist's father. John will prepare the people for Jesus. And don't forget, Jesus promised to come again. So we, too, await his coming.

Christmas

WHITE for
PURITY and JOY

In the Catholic Church, Christmas is not just one day. The Christmas season begins on Christmas day and continues for three weeks. It is time for the wonderful story of Jesus' birth. You will hear how Mary presents

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Q12, Inquiry • Catholics and Church

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What is The Church?

(Circle one answer for each question.)

1. *You are going to build a Church.
What do you need to get started?*

- A) Bricks
- B) Lots of money
- C) People

2. *What would you do first?*

- A) Hire a contractor
- B) Dig a foundation yourself
- C) Gather your people

3. *How can you be sure your Church will be strong?*

- A) Reinforce it with steel beams
- B) Buy "Church insurance"
- C) Teach your people to love one another

4. *What will you do to protect your Church?*

- A) Hire an armed guard
- B) Build a wall around it
- C) Place it in God's hands

5. *How can you build a Church that will last forever?*

- A) Use super bricks
- B) Hire a maintenance staff
- C) Promise to be with your Church always

Turn the page for the exciting answers!

