

saint mary's press

LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS

THE CHURCH FOUNDATIONS AND MISSION

CARRIE J. SCHROEDER

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High School Framework Course 4

CARRIE J. SCHROEDER, MDiv, EdD



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Thanks and Dedication

A very special thank you to our student contributors: Hannah from Cotter High School in Winona, MN; Rosa from Totino-Grace High School in Fridley, MN; Colin from Father Judge High School in Philadelphia, PA; Richard from Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana, CA; and Olivia from New Smyrna Beach High School in New Smyrna Beach, FL.

For Rev. Michael P. Norkett (1940–2018). A partner in ministry, and truly the best of what the Church can be.

The Subcommittee on the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found that this catechetical high school text, copyright 2020, is in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and that it fulfills the requirements of Core Course 4 of the *Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age*.

Nihil Obstat: Dr. John Martens, PhD
Censor Librorum
October 7, 2019

Imprimatur: † Most Rev. Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis
October 11, 2019

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The content in this resource was acquired, developed, and reviewed by the content engagement team at Saint Mary's Press. Content design and manufacturing were coordinated by the passionate team of creatives at Saint Mary's Press.

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Printed in the United States of America

1168INT

ISBN 978-1-64121-057-7

CONTENTS

UNIT 1: The Church: Christ's Living Presence in the World 8

CHAPTER 1: Founded by Christ: The Church Begins 10

Article 1: Rooted in the Past, Growing toward the Future 11

Article 2: The Seeds of the Church: Jesus' Preaching and Ministry 16

Article 3: The Church Is Born: Jesus' Death and Resurrection 22

Article 4: Matthew's Message: Where Two or Three Are Gathered 25

CHAPTER 2: Animated by the Holy Spirit: The Church Grows and Flourishes 30

Article 5: The Holy Spirit Is Sent: Pentecost 31

Article 6: The Holy Spirit Sustains: The Early Church 35

Article 7: The Holy Spirit Sanctifies: The Church Today 40

Article 8: Focus on Pope Francis: "The Joy of Love" 43

UNIT 2: The Marks of the Church 54

CHAPTER 3: The Church Is One 56

Article 9: The Church: Willed by God to Be One 57

Article 10: One in Faith 61

Article 11: One in Worship 65

Article 12: One in Leadership and Witness 69

Article 13: Divisions, Wounds, and Brokenness 72

CHAPTER 4: The Church Is Holy 80

Article 14: The Church: Both Human and Divine 81

Article 15: Grace: A Gift and an Opportunity 85

Article 16: The Communion of Saints 88

Article 17: Mary: Model of Holiness 92

Article 18: Focus on Pope Francis: “Rejoice and Be Glad” 95

CHAPTER 5: The Church Is Catholic 102

Article 19: Breaking Boundaries, Cultivating Connections 103

Article 20: Evangelization: The Gospel Reaching Far and Wide 107

Article 21: Inculturation: The Gospel Taking Root 112

CHAPTER 6: The Church Is Apostolic 120

Article 22: The Apostolic Tradition 121

Article 23: Sent Forth by Jesus 126

Article 24: The Apostolate of the Laity 130

Article 25: Matthew’s Message: The Great Commission 134

UNIT 3: Images of the Church 146

CHAPTER 7: The Church in Scripture 148

 Article 26: Old Testament Images 149

 Article 27: New Testament Images: The Gospels 157

 Article 28: New Testament Images: The Epistles 162

CHAPTER 8: Traditional and Contemporary Images of the Church..... 170

 Article 29: Marian Images171

 Article 30: Vatican II Images 177

 Article 31: Pope Francis: The Church in the Heart of the Action 182

CHAPTER 9: The Church and Other Religions..... 190

 Article 32: What Are Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue?191

 Article 33: The Church’s Relationship with Judaism 196

 Article 34: Matthew’s Message: The Jewish Gospel 201

 Article 35: The Church’s Relationship with Islam206

 Article 36: Focus on Pope Francis: “The Joy of the Gospel” 212

UNIT 4: Ministry in the Church.....228

CHAPTER 10: The Ministry of Leadership..... 230

Article 37: The Structure of the Church 231

Article 38: Matthew’s Message: The Ministry of the Pope..... 236

Article 39: The Ministry of Bishops 240

Article 40: The Ministry of the Magisterium 244

Article 41: The Ministry of Priests and Deacons 248

Article 42: Lay Ministry..... 254

CHAPTER 11: Mission and Holiness 262

Article 43: The Universal Call to Holiness 263

Article 44: Focus on Pope Francis: “The Light of Faith” 268

Article 45: Priest, Prophet, and King 272

Article 46: Consecrated Life 278

UNIT 5: The Social Mission of the Church294

CHAPTER 12: The Gospel Message of Service and Justice 296

 Article 47: Reading the Signs of the Times..... 297

 Article 48: A Call to Conversion: The Parables 301

 Article 49: Matthew’s Message: The Corporal Works of Mercy 307

 Article 50: The Washing of the Feet 313

CHAPTER 13: Strength in Numbers: Catholic Service Organizations 320

 Article 51: Serving the Least among Us..... 321

 Article 52: Apostolic Religious Orders 330

 Article 53: Focus on Pope Francis: “On Care for Our Common Home” 336

CHAPTER 14: The Gift of Oneself: Gospel-Centered Volunteer Service 346

 Article 54: The Church Unified in Service and Liturgy 347

 Article 55: Making a Difference Now 352

 Article 56: Making a Difference in the Future 359

 Article 57: Being the Church in the World 364

APPENDIX: Challenge Questions 378

GLOSSARY 383

INDEX 391

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 399

A man in profile, wearing a light blue t-shirt, stands on the left side of the frame, looking out over a vast mountain landscape. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from a setting or rising sun, creating a hazy, atmospheric effect. The mountains in the distance are silhouetted against the bright sky. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

UNIT 1

The Church: Christ's Living Presence in the World

WHAT
DOES THE
CHURCH
HAVE TO
DO WITH
GOD?

LOOKING AHEAD

CHAPTER 1 Page 10

Founded by Christ:
The Church Begins

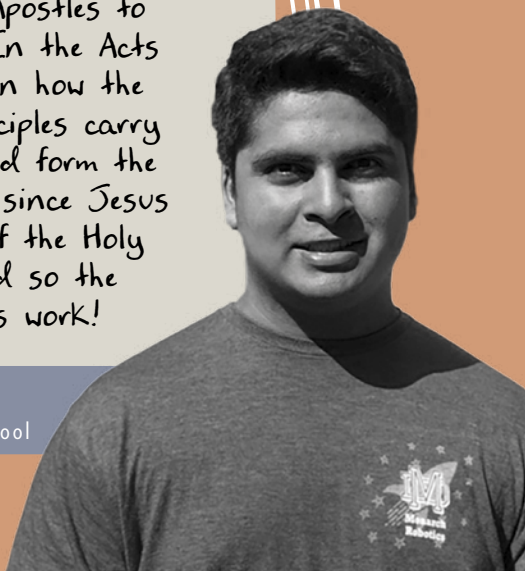
CHAPTER 2 Page 30

Animated by the Holy Spirit:
The Church Grows and Flourishes

In the Gospels, Jesus laid the foundation for the Church and gave the tools to the Apostles to continue his mission. In the Acts of the Apostles, we learn how the Apostles and early disciples carry on Christ's mission and form the early Church. However, since Jesus is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, he is God, and so the Church continues God's work!

RICHARD

Mater Dei High School



CHAPTER 1

Founded by Christ: The Church Begins

HOW DID THE CHURCH GET STARTED?

SNAPSHOT

Article 1

Page 11

Rooted in the Past, Growing toward the Future

Article 2

Page 16

The Seeds of the Church: Jesus' Preaching
and Ministry

Article 3

Page 22

The Church Is Born: Jesus' Death and Resurrection

- Pre-read: John 19:31–37

Article 4

Page 25

Matthew's Message: Where Two or Three
Are Gathered

- Pre-read: Matthew 18:15–20

Article 1

Rooted in the Past, Growing toward the Future

Have you ever tried to create a family tree, with the names of all your ancestors? If so, did you talk with your parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles in order to get information? Did you find any facts that surprised you? Did you hear stories that helped you understand yourself or your family better?

Looking back at our family's history can be amazing and rewarding. From our families, we inherit not only physical traits and personal characteristics but also our values and beliefs. Learning about where we have come from can give us insights into who we are now and who we may yet become in the future.

One of the many images often used to describe the **Church** is a family of faith or the family of God. Like our personal families, the Church stretches back centuries into the past, is living and thriving today, and will endure into the future.



Creating a family tree can help you discover your ancestors and understand your family history.

Church ► The term *Church* has three inseparable meanings: (1) the entire People of God throughout the world; (2) the diocese, which is also known as the local Church; and (3) the assembly of believers gathered for the celebration of the liturgy, especially the Eucharist.

TAKE IT TO GOD

God,
 You hold all of human history in the palm of your hand.
 How wonderful are your works, and how amazing is your
 plan for each of us!
 Help me to listen carefully to your voice and to be
 aware of your presence in my family, my friends, and,
 especially, in the Church, my family of faith.
 Give me the courage to serve you joyfully and generously,
 until the day when all people are fully united with you.
 Amen.

The Past: A Plan in the Very Heart of God

“God loves you.” How often have you heard that? You may have heard it so often that you take it for granted. But think about it for a moment. God, the Creator of all things, the source of all that is, loves and cares for you. And he has loved and cared for every human person who has ever lived and ever will live. He wants us, and all of creation, to be united with him.

When human sinfulness destroyed our union with God and with one another, God sent Jesus, his own beloved Son, to redeem us through the **Paschal Mystery** and to establish the Church as the means of our salvation.

Throughout **salvation history**, we can see hints of God’s eternal plan for the Church. God called Abraham and promised that he and his wife, Sarah, would have many descendants, giving rise to a great nation, Israel. After Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, they gathered at Mount Sinai to renew their covenant with God and receive his Law. Through the **covenant**—a sacred commitment—God claimed them as his own chosen people. When Moses went up the mountain to meet God, God spoke to him and said,

Paschal Mystery ➤ The work of salvation accomplished by Jesus Christ mainly through his Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension.

salvation history ➤ The pattern of specific events in human history in which God clearly reveals his presence and saving actions. Salvation was accomplished once and for all through Jesus Christ, a truth foreshadowed and revealed throughout the Old Testament.

“This is what you will say to the house of Jacob; tell the Israelites: . . .
 ‘Now if you obey me completely and keep my covenant, you will be my
 treasured possession among all peoples, though all the earth is mine. You
 will be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation’ (Exodus 19:3-6).



After Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, he went up Mount Sinai to receive God's Law and renew the Israelites' covenant with God.

The Israelites struggled to be faithful to the covenant. Over and over again, they sinned, and over and over again, God forgave them. God sent the prophets to call the people back to faithfulness and to teach them how to live in unity, justice, and holiness. Recall the stories of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and others, who warned the Israelites of the consequences of their infidelity, guiding and encouraging them to live a life in accordance with the covenant.

Finally, when the time was right, God sent Jesus Christ, who gathered a family of faith and established the Church according to God's divine purpose and mission. Jesus chose the Twelve Apostles as the Church's first leaders, with Peter foremost among these leaders, and he alone gave the Church divine authority, power, and responsibility.

covenant ► A solemn agreement between human beings or between God and a human being in which mutual commitments are made.



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Jesus chose the Twelve Apostles to help him carry out his mission to spread the Good News.

After Jesus' Paschal Mystery had been accomplished, he ascended into Heaven. He was no longer physically present in an ordinary manner with his followers, though he remains physically present in a sacramental manner in the Eucharist. Emboldened by the Holy Spirit, the Apostles went out to spread the Good News. As Christian communities were formed, the Church, then, became the way Jesus' disciples could continue to experience his living presence.

The Present and the Future: Salvation Now and Always

From its origins in Jesus' earthly ministry with a few hundred followers, to the globe-spanning institution today, the Church is an essential way in which we encounter God's grace and experience his saving love. The Church's liturgy and sacraments unite us with God and with all our brothers and sisters in faith, restoring the unity and blessedness that had once been lost by sin.

When you created your family tree, did you think about how it will continue growing in the future? Through marriage and children, your family tree will likely continue adding new members, nieces, nephews, and perhaps, someday, your own children—as a new generation begins. In much the same

TAKE IT TO GOD

God,
 You hold all of human history in the palm of your hand.
 How wonderful are your works, and how amazing is your plan for each of us!
 Help me to listen carefully to your voice and to be aware of your presence in my family, my friends, and, especially, in the Church, my family of faith.
 Give me the courage to serve you joyfully and generously, until the day when all people are fully united with you.
 Amen.

way, we know that the Church will grow and flourish for many years into the future. In fact, the structure that Jesus established for the Church will remain until the end of time; that is, until God's Kingdom of justice and peace is fully achieved. As members of the Church through our Baptism, we are part of something much greater than ourselves: something that existed long before us and that will endure far after we are gone. *

HMMM...

How does being a part of the Church connect you to something greater than yourself?

Article 2

The Seeds of the Church:
Jesus' Preaching and Ministry

As usual, Alyssa was running a little late as she drove across town to the elementary school to pick up her little sister. When she finally got there, Nadia was bubbling with enthusiasm, as if kindergarten were the Most. Exciting. Thing. Ever.

"We planted seeds! We're making flowers! But it might take awhile. That's what my teacher said."

The sunflower seed in the paper cup! Alyssa remembered doing that when *she* was in kindergarten, almost ten years ago. She had planted her seed in the dirt and then stared at it, waiting for the flower to appear. Her teacher had laughed a little as she explained that the flower was still inside the seed and would take time to grow. So, every day, she had checked her paper cup on the window sill and watered it if the soil was dry. Sure enough, little green sprouts appeared, then a stalk, and then leaves. Alyssa remembered being amazed when, one day, she saw a tiny bud—the beginning of her sunflower that had been there, in the seed, all along.

God the Father's plan for the Church was present since the very beginning of time. This plan came from God's desire to be fully united with us and to

redeem us. Yet who would carry out this plan on Earth, within human history? Who would plant the seeds that, one day, would grow into the Church as we know it today? The answer is Jesus Christ, who established the Church through his preaching and ministry, through his selection of the Apostles as the Church's first leaders, and, most especially, through the total gift of himself on the Cross.

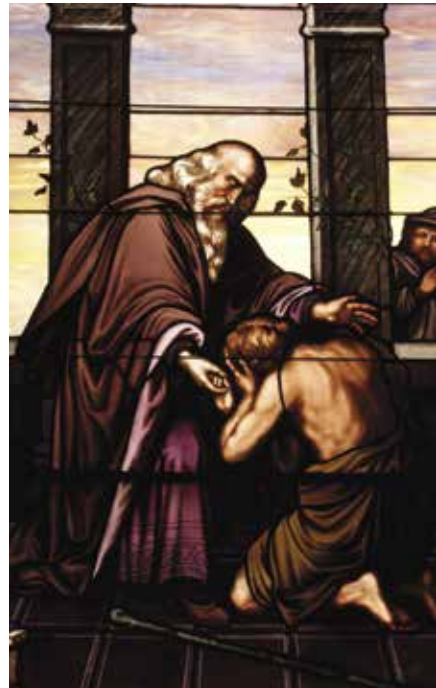


Just as everything a beautiful flowering plant needs in order to grow is contained in one tiny seed, God's plan for the Church was present from the very beginning of time.

Jesus Preaches the Good News

Jesus' preaching of the Good News of God's love and salvation established the Church. Jesus knew that he would not always be physically present in an ordinary manner with his followers. So, in accordance with God's plan, he focused his earthly ministry on establishing the Church that would continue his mission after his saving work had been fulfilled through his life, death, Resurrection, and Ascension—the Paschal Mystery. When we celebrate this Mystery in the Eucharist, Jesus is fully present to us, strengthening us as we continue his mission.

Jesus preached through both his words and his actions. He taught his followers how to live in peace with one another by loving their enemies (see Matthew 5:44), extending forgiveness freely (see Luke 6:37), and serving people who are hungry, homeless, sick, or in prison (see Matthew 25:35–26). In his preaching, Jesus particularly emphasized the **Reign (or Kingdom) of God**. He used **parables**, drawn from the everyday experiences of the people of his time, to teach about what the Reign of God is like. For example, he compared the Reign of God to a father who welcomes home a wayward son (see Luke 15:11–32), to a tiny seed that grows into a magnificent tree (see Mark 4:30–32), and to a small amount of yeast that makes a huge batch of dough rise (see Luke 13:20–21). In these and other powerful images, Jesus invited his listeners to share in his mission of making God's Reign a reality. He welcomed all people to participate in this mission by following him: rich and poor, women and men,



In what way do you think the Parable of the Prodigal Son is a parallel for the Kingdom of God?

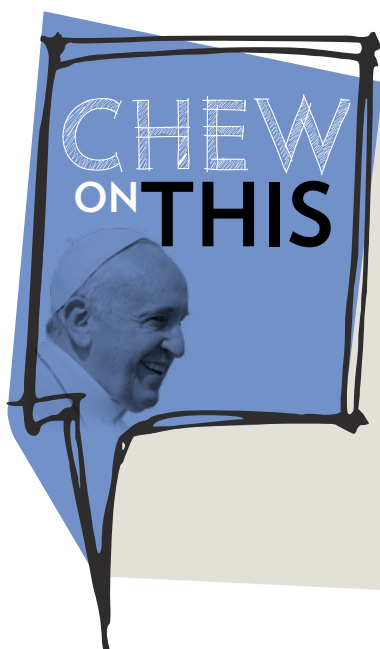
Reign of God ➤ The reign or rule of God over the hearts of people and, as a consequence of that, the development of a new social order based on unconditional love. The fullness of God's Reign will not be realized until the end of time. Also called the Kingdom of God.

parable ➤ Generally a short story that uses everyday images to communicate religious messages. Jesus used parables frequently in his teaching as a way of presenting the Good News of salvation.

the sick and the well, the proud and the humble.

Jesus also preached through his actions, including his miracles. Whether healing people afflicted with leprosy, blindness, or paralysis (see Matthew 9:1–8, Mark 10:46–52, and Luke 17:11–19), raising the dead (see Matthew 9:18–26; Mark 5:21–43; Luke 7:11–15, 8:40–56; and John 11:1–44), feeding a crowd (see Matthew 14:15–21), or calming a storm (see Mark 4:35–41), Jesus demonstrated his care and concern, his authority, and his willingness to put his teachings into action. His miracles both proclaimed and began a time in which the ancient prophecy of Isaiah would be fulfilled:

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
 because the LORD has anointed me;
 He has sent me to bring Good News to the afflicted,
 to bind up the brokenhearted,
 To proclaim liberty to the captives,
 release to the prisoners,
 To announce a year of favor from the LORD.
 (Isaiah 61:1–2)



Today too, as always, the Lord needs you, young people, for his Church. My friends, the Lord needs you! Today too, he is calling each of you to follow him in his Church and to be missionaries. The Lord is calling you today! Not the masses, but you, and you, and you, each one of you. Listen to what he is saying to you in your heart. (“Apostolic Journey to Rio De Janeiro on the Occasion of the XXVIII World Youth Day,” July 27, 2013)

Jesus Chooses the Apostles

Have you ever worked on a group project for class and been frustrated by a lack of leadership? Everyone might want to work to get a good grade on the project, but, without a leader, it can be hard to get the project organized. If one or two students in the group take on this leadership role, they can make a to-do list, figure out deadlines for each part of the project, and arrange times when the whole group can meet together. The result can be a much smoother, less frustrating process—and maybe even a better grade!

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When trying to work on a project or carry out a plan, good leadership is essential to success. What responsibilities did Jesus task the Apostles with?

Jesus knew that the Church he was establishing would need leadership, and, for that, he chose the Twelve Apostles. The word *apostle* comes from the Greek word *apostolos*, which means someone who is sent out, as a kind of ambassador, with a particular task, message, or mission. So when Jesus chose the Apostles, he sent them out with the power and authority to preach, teach, and heal in his name (see Matthew 10:1–15 and Mark 3:13–19).

The Apostles Jesus chose were ordinary people. Some, like Andrew, Peter, James, and John, were fishermen, which was a common occupation at that time. These were men whom ordinary people could relate to and trust. On the other hand, Matthew was a tax collector. Most people hated tax collectors because they worked for the Roman government, so Jesus' choice of Matthew to be an Apostle must have been very startling, to say the least. Yet, the idea that Jesus would choose someone whom others would find “unworthy” drew interest and curiosity.

The Twelve Apostles	Clues That the Apostles Were Ordinary People
Simon (Peter)	Peter was a fisherman. Known for being impulsive and emotional, he was also dearly loved by Christ. Though his faith in Jesus was deep, he also denied even knowing him during the time of Jesus’ arrest.
Andrew	Andrew was Peter’s brother and also a fisherman.
James	James, son of Zebedee, was probably a local fisherman when he met Jesus.
John	John, brother of James, was also a fisherman.
Philip	There isn’t much information about Philip’s background, but it is clear that he was one of the first followers of Jesus. He encouraged others, specifically Nathaniel, to do the same.
Bartholomew	Many people can relate to Bartholomew, who followed along after Philip without really knowing who Jesus was.
Thomas	Thomas was likely born in Galilee, which is mostly farming country. He most likely would have been a tradesman, craftsman, or farmer. He doubted Jesus’ Resurrection until he saw and touched Christ’s physical wounds.
James (sometimes referred to as James the Less)	We know very little about James. The fact that he is relatively obscure might be his most relatable characteristic. People can relate to him being a rather ordinary follower of Christ.
Matthew	Matthew was a tax collector for the Romans, and would have been looked down on for collaborating against the Jews with the Roman government.
Simon (the Zealot)	Simon was called “the Zealot.” He was a member of a group known as political radicals, determined to overthrow the Romans.
Jude	Along with Simon the Zealot and James the less, Jude is among the least-known disciples. He has been characterized as a tenderhearted, gentle man.
Judas Iscariot	Judas was an outsider and stranger to all the other Apostles. Though he betrayed Jesus, we know he regretted his actions because he threw down the silver he had received for identifying Jesus, and committed suicide.

Although Jesus entrusted the Apostles with sharing in his mission and leading the Church, they were not perfect. For example, they sometimes failed to understand Jesus' most basic teachings. James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were overly concerned with rank and privilege (see Mark 10:35–40). Perhaps most notably, Peter, who was specifically chosen by Jesus to be the head of the Apostles, denied that he even knew Jesus at the time when Jesus needed him most: when he was facing death.

If the Apostles, despite their mistakes, imperfections, and even sinfulness, could be chosen by Jesus to serve as leaders of the Church and share in his mission, then so can all of us—so can you! Even if you feel like you have little or nothing to offer the Church, the example of the Apostles teaches us that God accepts and delights in *whatever* we offer. Are you a talented writer, singer, or visual artist? Do you have a gift for putting others at ease with a listening ear and a compassionate heart? Are you great at motivating and organizing people to accomplish something? God accepts each and all of our gifts, our talents, our best efforts, our time, and our very selves, and puts all of this at the service of his kingdom. ✱

HMMMMMM...

What gift or talent can you offer to serve
and build up the Church?

Article 3

The Church Is Born: Jesus' Death and Resurrection

During Jesus' lifetime, his preaching and ministry planted the seeds of the Church, according to God's plan. However, the Church was born primarily out of the events that occurred near the *end* of Jesus' earthly life; that is, his total self-giving through his death on the cross and his Resurrection.

Jesus' Death

Jesus' death and Resurrection are the climactic events of the entire Paschal Mystery. By freely accepting his death on the cross, Jesus triumphed over death forever, redeemed us, and made it possible for us to share eternal life with him in Heaven.

All four Gospels tell the story of Jesus' Passion and death on the cross. However, the Gospel of John contains a unique detail that the other Gospels lack. When a Roman soldier puts a sword in Jesus' side, "blood and water flowed out" (John 19:34). This detail is not meant to be gruesome. Rather, its symbolism is meant to teach us something about the Church.

This detail tells us that the Church was born from the side of the crucified Christ. In other words, the Church came about because of the suffering that Jesus freely underwent on the cross for the sake of our salvation. Perhaps in your health or biology class, you have seen a video of a woman giving birth.



The birth process is painful, and, when the baby is born, the blood and water that have kept him or her alive for nine months in the womb flow out of the woman's body. In and through this suffering, new life—a new human being—emerges. Similarly, in and through Christ's suffering on the cross, new life—the Church—begins.

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How is the birth of a baby a symbol for the birth of the Church?



In all four Gospels, one woman is among those who first receive the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection: Saint Mary Magdalene (first century). Mary Magdalene has sometimes been confused with other Gospel women named Mary, such as Mary of Bethany (the sister of Martha and Lazarus). She has also been mistakenly identified as a prostitute. However, the Gospel witness is clear: Mary Magdalene was her own person. She was among the group of women disciples who accompanied Jesus during his ministry and who used her resources to help provide for him (see Luke 8:3). She was present with Jesus when he died, even though many of the other disciples had run away in fear (see Matthew 27:55–56). And, the Risen Jesus entrusts her with the task of proclaiming the resurrection to the Apostles (see John 20:17–18). For this reason, Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) gave Mary Magdalene the title “Apostle to the Apostles.” Those who think that women have not been important in the life of the Church need look no farther than Mary Magdalene to correct this mistaken assumption. She is truly, in the words of Pope Francis, “the Apostle of the new and greatest hope” (“General Audience,” May 17, 2017).



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The reference to water and blood also symbolizes two of the sacraments. Water is meant to remind us of **Baptism**, and blood is meant to remind us of the **Eucharist**. Baptism is the sacrament by which we are reborn in Christ and become members of the Church. The Eucharist is the center of life in the Church, because sharing in it unites us with Christ and with the Christian community and reaffirms our commitment to live as Jesus' disciples. By symbolically referring to Baptism and the Eucharist in the account of Jesus' death on the cross, the Gospel of John portrays these sacraments as a sort of “parting gift” from Jesus. They allow us to share in the new, resurrected life that Jesus' death brought about.

Baptism ➤ The first of the Seven Sacraments and one of the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation (the others being Confirmation and the Eucharist) by which one becomes a member of the Church and a new creature in Christ.

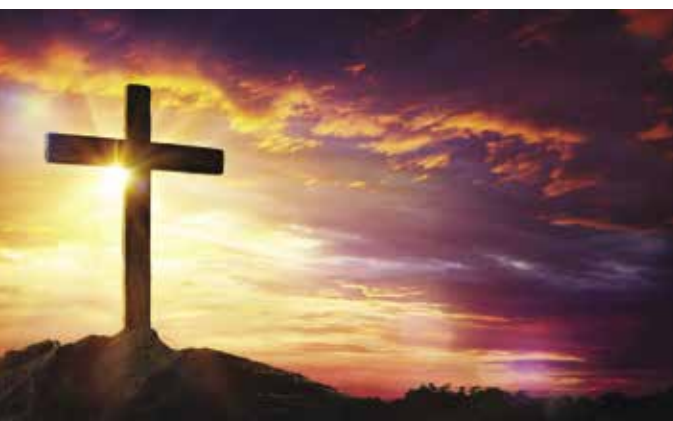
Eucharist, the ➤ The celebration of the entire Mass. The term can also refer specifically to the consecrated bread and wine that have become the Body and Blood of Christ.

Jesus' Resurrection

You know from your study of the Gospels that Jesus' death on the cross is not the end of the story. Rather, the story continues with the discovery of the empty tomb, the appearances of the Risen Jesus, and the Apostles' growing faith in the Resurrection.

The Risen Jesus appears to the Apostles (and some other disciples) for forty days after his death. In some of these appearance stories, he shares a meal with them (see Luke 24:30 and John 21:10–13). In others, he teaches them what it means to believe in him (see John 20:24–29). These appearances help the Apostles to understand what being part of the Church involves: gathering to celebrate the Eucharist, recognizing the presence of the Risen Christ in one another, keeping faith even in difficult or confusing times, and sharing the Good News with others.

The appearance stories clarify that Jesus' Resurrection is what makes the Church possible. The presence of the Risen Jesus with the Apostles and disciples empowers them to take on the leadership of the Church. After Jesus ascends to the Father, they are responsible for sharing the Good News, with the reassurance that Jesus will be with them always, “until the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).



A crucifix is a reminder of Christ's suffering and sacrifice for us. But the empty cross is also a powerful symbol, a reminder that Jesus' Resurrection is what makes the Church possible.

Today, the Risen Christ continues to be present in and with the Church in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is Christ who meets us in Word and sacrament, Christ who unites through the Church's leaders and ministers, and Christ who guides us toward wisdom and holiness. ✱

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HMMMMM.

In your own experience, how has suffering sometimes led to new life and hope?

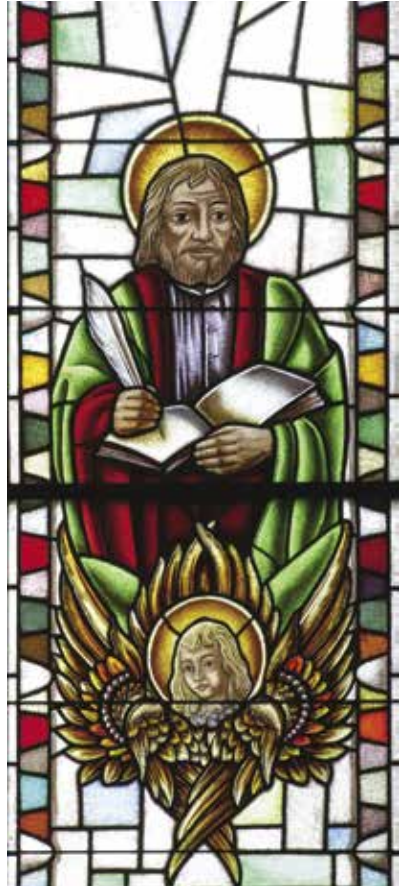
Article 4

Matthew's Message: Where Two or Three Are Gathered

Do you have a favorite Gospel? At this point, you probably have a good sense of how the four Gospels are similar to one another, as well as the ways in which each Gospel is unique. Those unique elements—the stories, people, and themes that no other Gospel has—sometimes cause people to have a favorite Gospel. For example, they may enjoy the parables of Luke (like the Parable of the Good Samaritan and the Parable of the Prodigal Son), the Christmas story as told by Matthew, or the symbolism and imagery of John (like the vine and the branches or the Good Shepherd).

The Gospel of the Church

Although this course will give you the opportunity to explore Scripture passages from both Testaments, the Gospel of Matthew will receive special emphasis because it is known as “The Gospel of the Church.” You may be thinking that *all* four Gospels are Gospels of the Church. In one sense, that’s true, because all the Gospels are proclaimed in the Church’s liturgy and shape the Church’s beliefs, practices, and teachings. However, Matthew is the only Gospel that actually uses the word *church*.



Can you think of two or three characteristics that make the Gospel of Matthew different from the other Gospels?

The Greek word that we translate into English as *church* is *ekklesia*, which means “an assembly or gathering of people.” In the Greek translation of the Old Testament, *ekklesia* was used to refer to the assembly of the Chosen People: for example, when they gathered before God at Mount Sinai to receive the Law. The early Christians used this same word to refer to their own gatherings, except these gatherings were of those whom God had called to be Jesus’ disciples. In Matthew’s Gospel, the word *ekklesia* appears three times: once in chapter 16—in a passage that we’ll look at in-depth later in this course—and twice in chapter 18.

Gathered in Christ’s Name

In Matthew 18:15–20, Jesus emphasizes the communal nature of the Church. The Church can help us to live in harmony with one another, to resolve disputes, and to repent when we have sinned. The passage ends with a beautiful affirmation of the power of a praying community, as Jesus promises that “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (verse 20).

Perhaps you have felt Christ’s presence in a huge cathedral packed with people, at an all-school liturgy, or at a youth rally with thousands in attendance. Although these can be amazing experiences, this passage assures us that the Church can exist on a smaller, quieter scale as well. All that is needed is two or three people, gathered in faith, and Jesus is there. ✱



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The Gospel of Matthew is known as “The Gospel of the Church.” Whether we are in a packed church or a small group, Jesus assures us he is there.

MAKE IT SO

Praying together with a friend or two can be a powerful experience that strengthens both our shared faith and our friendship. If you have a friend with whom you would like to pray, invite him or her to join you in your school's chapel one day a week, either in the morning before school or in the afternoon after the school day ends. Read a short Scripture passage together, voice your prayers aloud, and end with the Lord's Prayer or the Hail Mary. Eventually you may invite other friends to join you. Notice how praying together brings you closer to one another and to God. And remember Jesus' promise to be with you, whenever and wherever "two or three are gathered together in my name" (Matthew 18:20).

OVERVIEW

of the Gospel of Matthew

- **Time period:** Probably written around AD 75–80.
- **Author:** An unknown Jewish Christian, traditionally the Apostle Matthew.
- **Intended audience:** A Jewish Christian community, likely in Antioch, Syria.
- **Themes:** Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies; Peter as a key leader in the early Church; Jesus commissions his followers to continue his teaching and ministry.
- **Reasons for writing:** It connects the life and teachings of Jesus to important leaders and events of the Old Testament. This Gospel also captures a picture of Jesus as the Son of God and Teacher of the New Law.

HMMMMM.

What is your favorite Gospel story? What special meaning or message does this story hold for you?



DOUBLE CHECK

1. Who established the Church according to God's divine purpose and mission?
2. What group of people served as the first leaders of the Church? Which person was foremost among these leaders?
3. Who founded the Catholic Worker movement? What does this movement do?
4. How did Jesus preach the Good News through both his words and actions?
5. How do we know that the Apostles were not perfect? What can we learn from that?
6. What unique detail about Jesus' death on the cross does the Gospel of John contain? What two things can we learn about the Church from this detail?
7. In all four Gospels, who is among those who first receive the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection? Why is this important?
8. What does the Greek word *ekklesia* mean? What is the significance of this word in Matthew's Gospel?

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ART STUDY

THE CHURCH

1. How does this image represent the preaching and ministry of Jesus?
2. What is the significance of having so many people featured in this artwork?
3. Where do you think you might find yourself in this painting? Why?

An abstract painting featuring large, overlapping rectangular blocks of color. The top section has a greenish-blue sky, a dark blue horizon, and a large yellow block. The bottom section has a large red block, a smaller yellow block, and a dark blue block. The background is a solid orange color.

Live, Jesus, in our hearts . . . forever!

—Saint John Baptist de La Salle



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