



SEVENTH ANNUAL

ESSAY CONTEST

SPONSORED BY COMCENTER.COM

**“CHRIST IS ALIVE AND HE WANTS YOU TO BE ALIVE!
HE IS IN YOU, HE IS WITH YOU AND HE NEVER ABANDONS YOU.”
— POPE FRANCIS**

Your parish and/or school is invited to participate in the Christ Is Alive! National Essay Contest. The contest is open to children in grades 3 through 8 who are enrolled in a Catholic school or in a parish religious education program. We will select two winners in each grade from across the United States.

ESSAY TOPIC

Describe a moment in the last year when you felt close to God.

For example, it could have been when you were praying, on a retreat, or at Mass. Or it could have been in an answer to one of your prayers, or in the mercy or kindness of someone you know.

God is at work in the world all the time. He is close to his people in their daily lives, in all their joys and sorrows. He comforts us, heals us and helps us. That's the good news: God is with us! For this essay, think of a time when you felt God was with you and write about it.

FAMILY PARTICIPATION

This contest provides a wonderful opportunity for families to talk about times when they have experienced God in their lives.

CONTEST AWARDS

- Each student winner will receive \$100 and any Bible from comcenter.com.
- Each winner's class will receive \$100 for a celebration.
- The religion teacher of each student winner will receive \$100.
- The parish or school of each student winner will receive \$200.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN THIS PACKET

1. Contest Details
2. Student Invitation
3. Essay Cover Sheet
4. Bulletin Board Flyers

You can find all contest information at www.comcenter.com/christisalive



CONTEST RULES

All entries must adhere to guidelines below. Due to high submission volume, we are not able to accept entries that do not comply.

1. The contest is open to students in grades 3 through 8 who are enrolled in a Catholic school or in a parish religious education program.
2. We will select two winners in each grade from across the United States.
3. Each school **may submit one entry per grade**, and each parish program may submit one entry per grade. If a church has both a school and a parish program, it could submit a total of 12 essays: 6 from the school and 6 from the parish program.
4. We encourage schools and parishes to hold contests at each grade level in order to choose the essays that will be submitted.
5. Schools and parishes should create their own internal deadlines for student submissions and allow time for internal judging.
6. Essays are **limited to one side of one 8.5 x 11 piece of paper**. Depending on the age of the student, this could be several typed paragraphs, or it could be a couple of handwritten sentences.
7. Students should put their names in the top right corner of their paper.
8. **Staple the completed Essay Cover Sheet to each entry** submitted.
9. No student contact information is needed to submit an essay, just name and grade level.
10. Comcenter will notify the parish or school contact person for each winning entry. That person can decide how best to communicate with the winning student.
11. For privacy reasons, Comcenter will not publish the names of the winners. By submitting a contest entry, **the entrant grants Comcenter permission to post their essay anonymously on comcenter.com.**

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

1. The expression of faith in Christ and spiritual awareness: believing in, looking for, and seeing God at work in the world and in the lives of oneself and others: 90%.
2. Paragraph structure, grammar and spelling (age-appropriate): 10%.

DUE DATE

Entries must be **sent by mail** and postmarked by **April 1, 2026**.

MAILING ADDRESS

Comcenter
Christ Is Alive! Essay Contest
4315 Ralph Jones Court
South Bend, IN 46628

AWARD DATE

The parish or school contacts listed on the winners' Essay Cover Sheets will be notified by email or phone.

ABOUT THE SPONSOR

Comcenter has been serving the Catholic Church for 50 years. We aim to serve as a one-stop solution for schools and parishes, providing the best religious education materials from a wide array of publishers. We have strong partnerships with all major Catholic publishers, and we are the leading U.S. distributor specializing in products for Catholic religious education. Profits generated through our product sales are used to support missionary outreach. Visit us at www.comcenter.com to learn more!





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YOUR FAMILY CAN HELP

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PRIZES

- Each student winner will receive \$100 and any Bible from comcenter.com
- Each winner's class will receive \$100 for a class celebration.

HOW TO ENTER

- Your teacher will tell you when you need to hand in your essay.
- Your essay can be typed or handwritten.
- Your essay can only be on one side of one page.
- Put your name in the top right corner of your paper.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you or your parents want to learn more about the Christ Is Alive! Essay Contest, please visit comcenter.com/christisalive





ESSAY COVER SHEET

☐ Parish ☐ School

Parish / School Name _____

Parish / School Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Parish / School Contact Name _____

Title _____ Phone _____

Parish/School Contact Email _____

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name _____ Grade _____

IMPORTANT RULES

- Each school may submit **one entry per grade**, and each parish program may submit one entry per grade.
- Essays are limited to one side of one 8.5 x 11 piece of paper.
- Staple this completed Essay Cover Sheet to each entry submitted.
- Entries must be sent by mail and postmarked by April 1, 2026.

Additional contest rules and information can be found on page 2 of the information packet or at www.comcenter.com/christisalive

☐ I have reviewed and accept the contest rules.

MAIL TO:

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4315 Ralph Jones Ct.
South Bend, IN 46628





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DETAILS

Contact your religion teacher for more information.



For complete details, please visit comcenter.com/christisalive



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

**CONTACT MRS. SMITH,
ROOM 203**



For complete details, please visit comcenter.com/christisalive