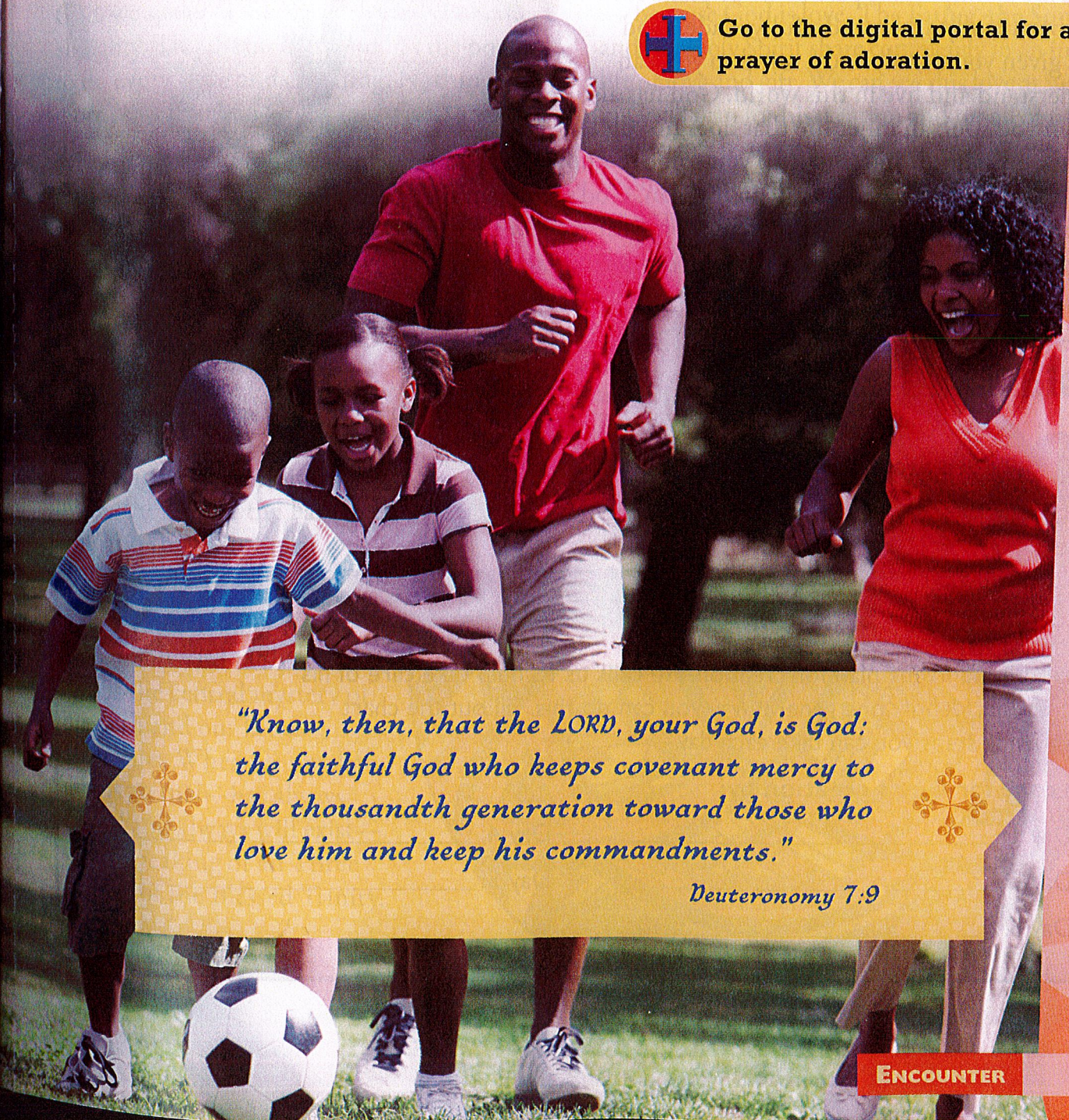


God is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is the one, true, and eternal God. God has created everything in the universe from nothing, and he keeps everything in existence. God is all-powerful and all-knowing. He is present in all times and places. Yet God is also our loving Father who has created us. God loves each one of us as his own children.



Go to the digital portal for a prayer of adoration.



"Know, then, that the LORD, your God, is God: the faithful God who keeps covenant mercy to the thousandth generation toward those who love him and keep his commandments."

Deuteronomy 7:9

God has a loving plan for us.

We all make plans. We might plan what we'll do tomorrow or where we'll play later today.

God is infinitely wise and infinitely good. He has a divine plan for all of creation. When you see leaves on trees changing from green to golden and hear them crunch under your feet, you can observe that the seasons have changed. You are using the gifts God gave you—your mind and senses—to help you understand something about God's loving plan for his creation.

You are an important part of God's plan. You are beautifully and wonderfully made. God has given you a body and a mind so you can understand and live in this world. God has also given you soul, an inner life that does not die. Your body, mind, and soul help you come to know God so that you can cooperate in his plan. God's plan is for all of us to live in communion with him forever.



How do I know God?

Did You Know?



There are different kinds of crosses.

Activity

God has a loving plan for creation. He calls us to help take care of his creation. Identify one general way you can do this. Fill out the chart showing steps you can take each day.

I care for God's creation by:

Day 1: _____.

Day 4: _____.

Day 2: _____.

Day 5: _____.

Day 3: _____.

God reveals himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

God's love, power, goodness, and wisdom are a rich mystery, beyond the limits of our reason. But through faith we know that God is a Trinity: Three Persons in One God. There is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God has revealed himself in the Bible and in his creation.

Each Person of the Blessed Trinity is God. Each Person of the Trinity is unique. When we gather at Mass and profess our faith in God, we speak of our belief in God the Father almighty. This means that God has the power to do everything and anything. Nothing is more powerful than God.

We also say that God is the Creator of all things, both visible and invisible. This means that God has created both everything that we can see and everything that we cannot see, or even imagine. Nothing existed before God created everything. God alone has created everything out of love.

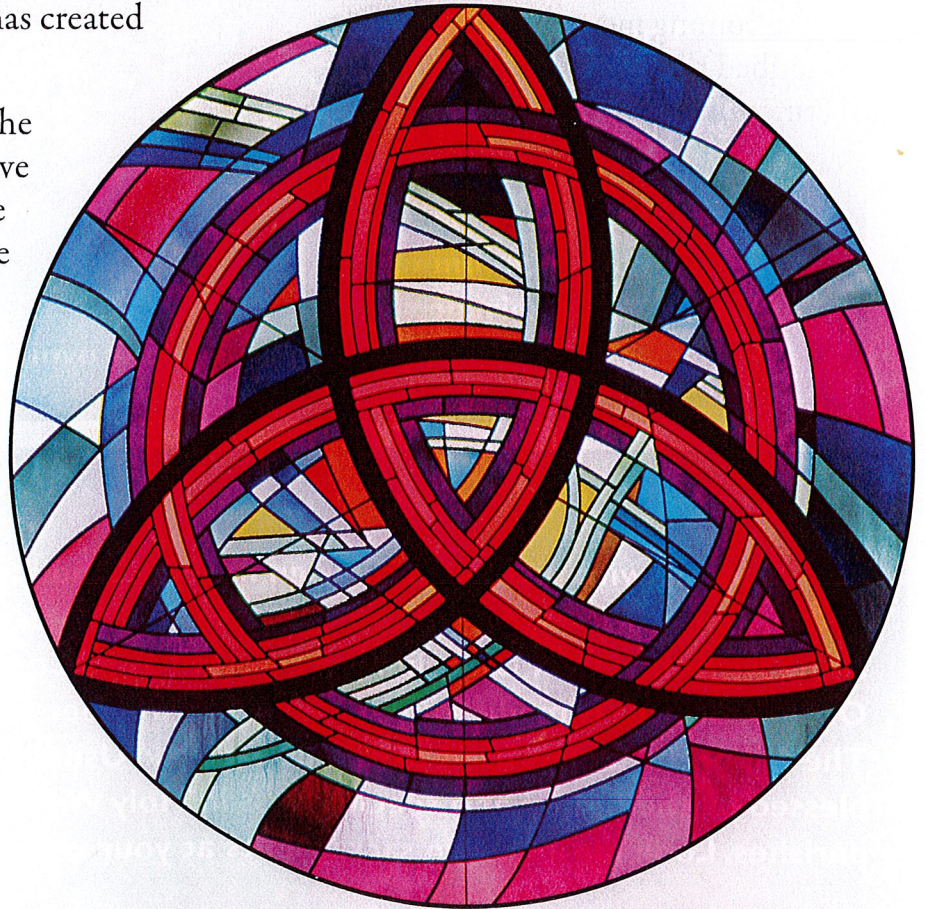
God has created us to share in the life of the Blessed Trinity. We live according to God's plan when we live in the love of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The Blessed Trinity is one God in three distinct Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is the central mystery of our faith and our life as Christians. When we say that God is eternal—has always existed and always will exist—we are speaking of all Three Persons of the Blessed Trinity.

When we say that God alone created everything out of love, we are speaking of the Blessed Trinity. When we say that God is always at work in his creation, we are speaking of the Blessed Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Humans cannot fully understand the Blessed Trinity, because God's mysterious, loving, and all-powerful nature is larger than our minds. One thing that we can know is that God loves us, because God is love. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit share completely in an inner life of love and gift. We can see this love at work in God's plan for his creation and for all of us: God wants us to grow in love so that we can live in unity with him. When we imitate God's love, we grow closer to the Trinity.

We grow in God's eternal life and love.



Jesus Christ is the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

From the beginning, God has had a plan for us to live in his friendship. However, humans have often turned away from God by sinning. This did not divert or end God's plan. Instead, God promised to send a person who would save all people from sin so that everyone could live in God's friendship forever. Restoring our friendship with God is called *salvation*.

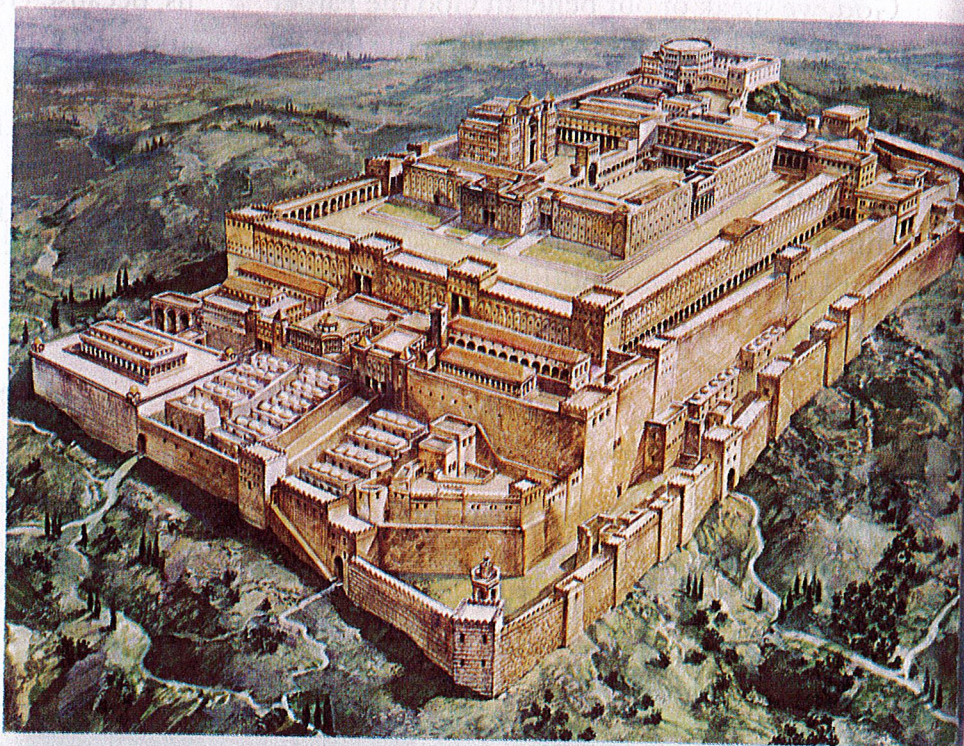
We read in the Bible that God promised to send a savior, or **messiah**. The word *messiah* means "anointed one." A person who is anointed has a special mission. The messiah sent by God had a mission to save God's people.

For many hundreds of years, God's people waited and prayed for the messiah to come. The prophet Isaiah gave people hope by telling them about the coming messiah. He described the messiah as the "Prince of Peace."

Faith Word

Messiah see p. 258

We know this messiah is our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. The name *Jesus* means "God saves." Jesus is God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity. Jesus was born into the world and was like us in every way, except that he did not sin. When Jesus grew up, he revealed his mission at the synagogue one day.



The Temple in Jerusalem

What Makes Us Catholic?

Anointing with oil is a special sign in the Catholic Church. Chrism, or holy oil, is used in several sacraments. It is used in Baptism along with the Oil of Catechumens, as well as in Confirmation and Holy Orders. Chrism is made from olive oil and a sweet fragrance, often balsam. The Oil of the Sick is used to anoint the sick. Usually the oil for a diocese is blessed by the bishop at a special Mass in Holy Week. It is then given to parishes. Look for its use in sacraments at your church.



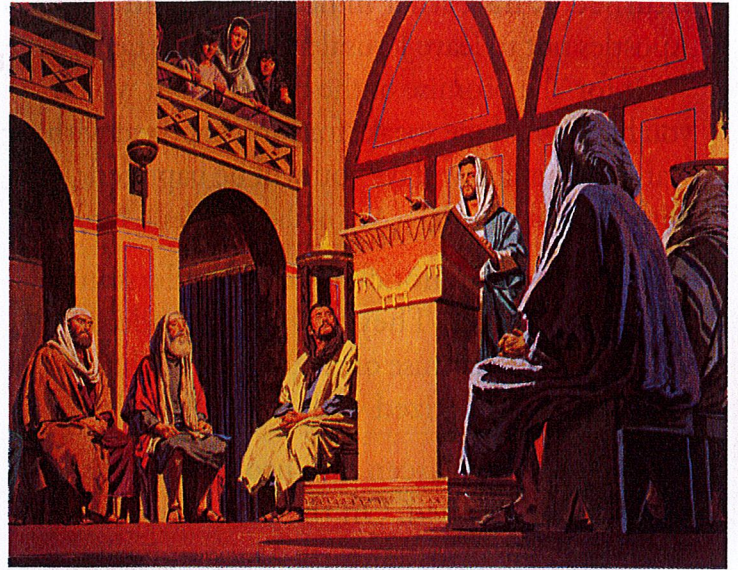
“He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.’

Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, ‘Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing’” (Luke 4:16–21).

Jesus showed everyone that he was sent by God the Father to fulfill his promises.

Through Jesus’ life and teaching, we learn how to live in God’s friendship. Jesus’ Death and Resurrection has saved us from our sin. Jesus brings saving grace to all people so that we can live in the Trinity’s love forever.



One Church, Many Cultures

Catholic explorers and missionaries named countries, cities, and even mountains after Jesus. They did this to honor and thank God as they built communities for Christ in new lands. Some places named after Jesus are the Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ) mountains; Corpus Christi (Body of Christ), Texas; and El Salvador (the Savior), a country in Central America. These names all remind us of the power of Christ and the work of those explorers and missionaries, who wanted to share Christ’s name and love with all people.



Activity

The words and phrases below describe Jesus. Choose one and write a prayer using that word or phrase.

Savior

Son of God

Lord

Christ

Good Shepherd

Teach your prayer to a partner.

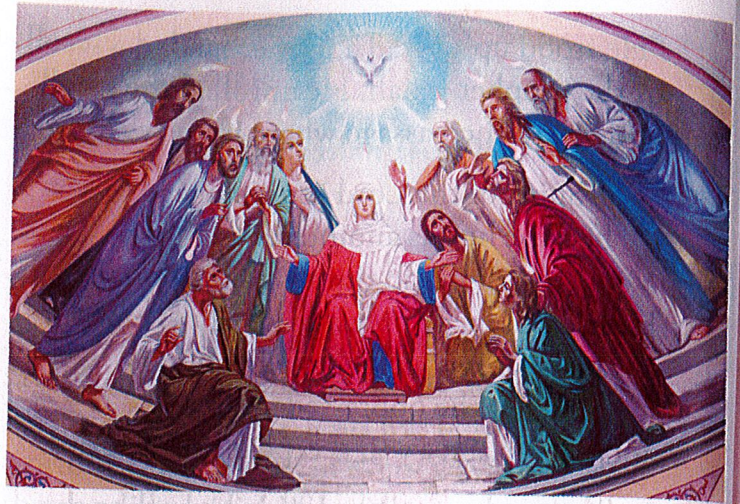
The Holy Spirit guides and makes holy the Church.

After his Resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples many times over forty days, teaching them about God's Kingdom. Just before Jesus returned to his Father in heaven, he told the Apostles not to leave Jerusalem. He told them to "wait for 'the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the holy Spirit'" (Acts of the Apostles 1:4-5).

The disciples did not completely understand what Jesus meant. They may have wondered: what was the "promise of the Father"? What did it mean to be baptized with the Holy Spirit?

Then, after Jesus ascended into heaven, his words were fulfilled. On the Jewish feast of Pentecost, the Apostles, with Mary and other disciples, had gathered to pray.

"And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit" (Acts of the Apostles 2:2-4).



With the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles were able to go out and spread the Good News throughout the world. The Holy Spirit empowered them to go out and tell of Jesus' life, Death, and Resurrection. They preached and healed in Jesus' name. Through the centuries, the Holy Spirit has continued to guide and strengthen the Church. The Holy Spirit will guide the Church until the end of time. This is possible because our God is a living God who brings life and holiness to the Church through the Holy Spirit.

As members of the Church, we know that the Holy Spirit also guides each of us by helping us follow Jesus.

Partners in Faith

Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity

Elizabeth Catez was a French woman who loved the Trinity very much. She took the name of the Trinity when she became a nun. She said we can find God everywhere. She said she found God while praying, but also while cleaning up. Even when Elizabeth was sad, she praised God.



Learn more about the life of Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity.





Show What You Know

In your own words, explain who the Blessed Trinity is.

Why do we call Jesus the Messiah?

What does it mean to be anointed?

Live Your Faith

- The Holy Spirit guides the Church. What is the Holy Spirit guiding you to do?

- What is something you can do this week to find out more about God's plan for your life?
