

The Catholic Church

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 3, Session 12**.

The Church is a sign that we are one with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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The Vicar of Christ is the title given to the pope. He leads the whole Church.

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Men who lead, teach, and guide the Church and appoint pastors are called bishops.

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A pastor is a priest who is the spiritual leader of a parish.

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The Church can be seen on earth and felt in our hearts. This is why we call the Church the Mystical Body of Christ.

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The Church has four important qualities, or marks. The Marks of the Church are that it is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. *Catholic* means “universal.”

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As Mass we pray for the Church and our leaders during the Eucharistic Prayer.

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Jesus chose Peter and the other apostles to be the leaders of the Church. Today the pope and the bishops continue the mission of the apostles.

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Jesus told Peter that he would give him the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.

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Peter’s name means “rock.” The rock and the keys are symbols of Saint Peter.

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