Art Print 1 shows God’s creatures of the air, land, and sea. How is God’s creation a gift to us? How can we care for God’s creation?

God Made Heaven and Earth

At first, there was only God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

God made the world. He made the sky, the sun, and the moon. He made the sea. God filled it with different kinds of fish. He made the land. He filled it with many kinds of animals.

Then God said, “Let us make someone special.” So God made a man and a woman. He blessed them and told them to have children. He told them to take good care of the earth.

God looked at everything he had made. God was pleased with all he had done.

adapted from Genesis 1:1–31

Taking Care of God’s Earth

God created the sky, land, sea, and animals. Like the first man and woman, God wants us to take care of the earth. How do you show your family and friends that you take care of God’s creation? Write one thing you do. Write one thing you see others do.
Art Print 2 shows a colorful picture of the Holy Family. What do you like to do with your family?

The Story of Joseph

Before Joseph and Mary were married, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph that the baby that Mary was going to have would be from the Holy Spirit.

Joseph did not understand. Then the angel said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife.”

The angel told Joseph to name the child Jesus. The name Jesus means “God saves” or “God saves us.” Because Jesus saves us from our sins, he is our Savior.

After Joseph woke up from his dream, he took Mary as his wife.

adapted from Matthew 1:18–24

Families Are Special

Like the Holy Family, every member of your family is important. This makes your family special. Write two ways that tell how your family is special.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Reading God’s Word

I will be with you always, until the end of the world!

adapted from Matthew 28:20
Art Print 3 shows a playful view of the earth from space. How does God care for the earth and for us?

Trust in God

Jesus wants us to know that God our Father is close to us. Jesus helps us learn to trust in God.

Jesus said, “Do not worry about your life. Do not worry about what you will eat or drink or what you will wear. Worrying will not add one minute to your life.”

“See the birds that fly and the flowers that grow. The birds in the sky do not work. Yet God gives them the food they need to live.”

“Be like the flowers that grow wild. They do not work. But God helps them grow strong. God provides for all of them. And he will provide for you.”

adapted from Matthew 6:25–34

Resting in God’s Hands

When you trust in God, you feel as if you are being held in his hands. Close your eyes. Imagine being held by God. How does it feel? Write your feelings.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Reading God’s Word

Trust in the power of God. Place all your cares in his hands because he cares for you.

adapted from 1 Peter 5:6–7
Art Print 4 shows Jesus bringing light to a dark world. How can you bring the light of the Holy Spirit to those around you?

The Work of the Holy Spirit

We learn about the goodness of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit works within us and helps us do good things. We should not hide the good things we do. When others see the good we do, we shine like a light to the world.

Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. You cannot hide a city on a hill. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket. The lamp is put on a lamp stand. There it can give light to everyone in the house. Let your light shine on everyone you know. This way they will see the good things you do. Then they will praise God, the Father, in heaven.”

adapted from Matthew 5:14–16

Shine a Light on Good Deeds

When we do good things, we know the Holy Spirit is helping us. Write a good thing you have done for others. Write a good thing that someone has done for you.

Reading God’s Word

You will be my light to the ends of the earth so that all people may be saved.

adapted from Isaiah 49:6
Art Print 5 shows the breaking of the bread at Mass. What is your favorite part of the Mass?

We Celebrate Ordinary Time

During Ordinary Time we celebrate Jesus. We learn to listen to his message and follow his example.

Green is the color of Ordinary Time. It is also the color of nature when everything grows. We grow in Ordinary Time also. We grow by learning more about Jesus. We grow by showing our love for Jesus and others. It is a good time to reflect on all that is good and turn what we have learned into action.

Mass in Ordinary Time

When we go to Mass, we see the priest wearing a green chasuble. The chasuble is the outermost layer of a priest’s vestments worn when celebrating Mass.

Color this chasuble green as a symbol of Ordinary Time.
Art Print 6 shows Jesus talking to the teachers. What do you talk about with your teachers?

**Jesus with the Teachers**

When Jesus was 12 years old, he went with his parents to a festival in Jerusalem. After the festival Mary and Joseph headed for home with their friends. Mary and Joseph thought Jesus was traveling with them. When they could not find him, they became very worried. Mary and Joseph returned to Jerusalem to look for Jesus. After three days they found him in the Temple.

Jesus was sitting with the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. When his parents saw him, they were amazed.

Mary asked, “Son, why did you do this to us? We were very worried about you.”

Jesus said, “I must do what my Father wants me to do.” His parents did not completely understand.

Jesus returned home with Mary and Joseph. Mary remembered what happened. Jesus grew older and wiser.

*adapted from Luke 2:41–52*

**Lost and Found**

Think of a time you lost something special. Draw a picture of how you felt when it was lost and how you felt when it was found.
Art Print 7 shows Jesus healing a blind man. People talked about Jesus’ miracles. What do you tell others about Jesus?

Jesus Heals

Jesus helped many people who were in need. He gave sight to those who could not see. He healed people who could not walk. These are examples of Jesus’ miracles.

At the same time, there was a holy man named John the Baptist. He was teaching people about the coming of the Messiah. Some of John’s followers told him about Jesus. So John sent them to ask Jesus, “Are you the one we are waiting for, or should we keep looking?”

Jesus said to John’s followers, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard. The blind see again. The sick get well. The deaf hear, and the dead are raised. The poor hear the good news that God loves them.

Love Through Actions

Think about ways you can be like Jesus by helping people. Write two things you can do to help others.

Reading God’s Word

The eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf will be opened.

adapted from Isaiah 35:5
Art Print 8 shows the parable of the banquet. How does God welcome everyone? How do we welcome others?

The Parable of the Banquet

Jesus often told a parable, or story, to teach an important lesson. This parable tells how everyone is invited to follow God.

A man planned a dinner party and invited many people. On the day of the party, the man sent his servant to tell the guests, “Come, everything is ready.”

One by one, the guests made excuses. One said, “Sorry, but I must check the new land I bought.” Another said, “I must take care of the animals I bought.”

The servant reported to the master who got very angry. He said, “Go into the town. Bring the poor and the sick, the blind and the lame.” Even so, there was still room for more guests.

The master said, “Go out to the streets and highways. Have people come and fill my house.”

adapted from Luke 14:16–23

God’s Invitation

Write a note thanking God for his invitation to be close to him.
Art Print 9 shows a sculpture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. How are you a good shepherd at home or school?

**Jesus, Our Shepherd**

A shepherd cares for his sheep. Jesus cares for us.

A shepherd leads his flock. The sheep follow. Jesus leads us through his words and actions. We follow Jesus.

A shepherd searches for any sheep that stray. Jesus will always help us come back to him.

A shepherd feeds his flock. Jesus feeds us through the Eucharist.

**The Good Shepherd**

Draw a picture of Jesus as your shepherd.
Art Print 10 shows an Advent wreath.
How does Jesus light our way?

**Lighting the Way for Jesus**

Advent is a time of waiting and getting ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Advent is also a time of lights. We see lighted candles on the Advent wreath. Homes and trees are decorated with colorful lights.

Lights remind us that Jesus lights our way to love and happiness. We can do many things to make room for Jesus’ light in our hearts. We can pray. We can do good deeds. We can enjoy family customs to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

**Making Room for Jesus’ Light**

Write a list of specific things you will do this Advent to make room for the light of Jesus. Then draw a picture that shows how you feel when the waiting is over and Christmas has come.

**Things I Can Do This Advent**

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Art Print 11 shows a beautiful flowering tree. What beautiful things are growing in you as you grow closer to God?

**Jesus Is the Vine**

Take a walk. Look at the branches on trees. The healthy branches are like people who live close to God. God helps us when we invite him into our lives. We can ask God to guide us.

Jesus said, “I am the vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He helps the good branches become healthier. You are already healthy because you have listened to what I have said.”

Jesus continued, “A branch cannot grow strong unless it stays on the vine. You cannot grow strong unless you stay close to me. Whoever stays close to me will grow strong.”

*adapted from John 15:1–5*

---

**Grow Like a Vine**

Write two ways you can grow closer to God.

---

**Reading God’s Word**

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness.

*adapted from Galatians 5:22*
Art Print 12 shows Jesus talking with a man who is in a tree. What would you like to talk with Jesus about today?

**Zacchaeus, the Rich Man**

Zacchaeus was a dishonest tax collector. He was very rich. One day he heard that Jesus was coming through town. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus very much. But Jesus was walking in a big crowd, and Zacchaeus was not tall. He could not see over the crowd.

Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed up a tree. Jesus saw him and said, “Zacchaeus, come down. I want to stay at your house today.” This made Zacchaeus very happy.

The people in the crowd became angry. They wondered why Jesus was going to the home of a sinner.

Zacchaeus said to Jesus, “I will give half of everything I have to the poor. I will give money back to anyone I have cheated.”

Jesus was pleased. He said that Zacchaeus was saved that day.

adapted from Luke 19:2–9

**Forgive One Another**

Jesus forgave Zacchaeus. Write what forgiveness means to you.

Forgiveness means ____________________________.

---

**Reading God’s Word**

Sell what you have and give to those who do not have much. Your treasure is with the Lord. No thief can steal that from you.

adapted from Luke 12:33
Art Print 13 shows four friends lowering a man through the roof. How would you help a friend who wanted to see Jesus?

**Jesus Heals**

Jesus was talking with some people in a house. The people crowded the rooms and blocked the doorways.

Four men came carrying their friend who wanted to see Jesus. He was paralyzed and could not walk. The men climbed to the roof and made an opening. They lowered their friend to Jesus.

Jesus saw their faith. He said to the man who was paralyzed, “Your sins are forgiven.” Some people said, “Only God can forgive sins!”

Jesus told the people that he had the power to forgive sins. He turned to the man who was paralyzed and said, “Stand up and walk home.” The man got up and walked away. The people were amazed. They knew that Jesus must be God.

*adapted from Mark 2:1–12*

**Friendship**

Draw a picture of a time that you helped a friend. Write one word on the line below that describes how you felt afterward.

______________________________
Art Print 14 shows the Virgin Mary with flowers.
If you could give Mary a gift, what would it be?

**Mother of the Church**

Like Mary, the Church has a special relationship with God.

The Church is made up of people who are called by God. The Church shows how much God loves the world. God loves everyone.

Mary is the Mother of the Church.
She received God’s help to follow him.

God gives us the same help, or grace. Mary prays for us so that we will listen to God.

**Special Women**

Mary is a special woman in our faith. Draw a picture of a special woman in your life. Write three words that describe her.

___________________________
___________________________
___________________________

**Reading God’s Word**

Mary remembered all these things and kept them always in her heart.

*adapted from Luke 2:19*
Art Print 15 shows the manger scene in Bethlehem. Imagine yourself at the manger. Where would you like to be?

The Feast of Christmas

The feast of Christmas celebrates the mystery of Jesus’ birth.

Christmas is a time to celebrate with our families. It is a time to share with friends. Families and friends gather in church to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Christmas is also a time for giving. God gave his only Son to us. When you look at a Nativity scene, remember God’s greatest gift as you observe Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus.

Gifts from family and friends are given and unwrapped at Christmas. You are a gift as well. Unwrap your talents and share them with others for Christmas.

You Are a Gift

Write a list of talents you can unwrap for Christmas to share with others.
Art Print 16 shows Saint Peter holding two keys. In what ways are you a leader?

**Peter Speaks to the People**

Jesus chose Peter to lead the Church. He wanted Peter to keep showing people how to be close to God.

Peter said to the people, “Change your lives and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

*adapted from Acts of the Apostles 2:38*

**Saint Peter Is a Leader**

A leader is not the first or the greatest person. A leader is someone who serves others. A leader helps others become the best they can be.

Cut out and glue pictures of leaders below. Look in newspapers or magazines. They can be school, Church, community, state, country, or world leaders. Say a prayer for them each day.
Art Print 17 shows adults and children walking to a country church. How do you get ready to go to Mass?

We Are Members of the Church

Followers of Jesus make others feel welcome inside of church. When you go to Mass, you gather with others to worship. When you leave, your work is not done. You continue the work of Jesus. People who worship in a parish also give their time and talents to serve others. This is called a ministry. Ministry is service or work done for others.

List what you do inside church as a follower of Jesus. Then list what you do outside of church. Write your ideas in the chart.

In Church | Outside of Church
---|---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inside Church</th>
<th>Outside Church</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Link to Liturgy

Many churches have ministers of hospitality who welcome people to the parish church for Mass.
Art Print 18 shows a plaque with symbols of the four Gospel writers.
If you were a Gospel writer, what would you write about Jesus?

The Four Gospels

At Mass we listen to God’s Word in the Bible. When it is time for the Liturgy of the Word, what do you see and hear? The priest or deacon reads from the Lectionary for Mass. He reads a story about Jesus’ life from one of the four Gospels. It is one part of the Liturgy of the Word.

The Gospels are from a part of the Bible called the New Testament. The Gospel writers are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They are called Evangelists.

The Evangelists are often shown as symbols. Matthew is a winged man. Mark is a winged lion. Luke is a winged ox. John is an eagle.

Symbol Match

Think about the meaning for each symbol. Draw a line from each symbol to its meaning.

1. winged man ● a. strength, sacrifice
2. winged lion ● b. swift, Heaven
3. winged ox ● c. human, thinking
4. eagle ● d. courage, royalty
Art Print 19 shows Jesus and his disciples having a meal together. If you were at the table with Jesus, what would you like to ask him?

**The Last Supper**

Jesus sat at the table with his disciples. He said, “I want to share this supper with you.”

Then Jesus took the bread. He blessed it and broke it. He gave it to them and said, “This is my body which will be given for you. Do this in memory of me.”

After the meal he took a cup of wine. He said, “This is my blood. It is given for you.”

*adapted from Luke 22:14–20*

**Thank You, God**

Write a thank-you note inside the gift box, thanking God for the gift of his Son.

**Reading God’s Word**

Jesus sacrificed himself for our sins. He is with God forever.

*adapted from Hebrews 10:12*
Art Print 20 shows Jesus hanging on the cross. Do you know someone who wears a cross on a necklace? What do you think that means?

Lent and Holy Week

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Ashes are put on our foreheads. The ashes are a sign that we are sorry for our sins.

The last week of Lent is Holy Week. It is a special time for remembering. We remember all that happened leading to Jesus’ Death and Resurrection.

On Palm Sunday we remember Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem. On Holy Thursday we recall how Jesus gave himself to us in the Eucharist. On Good Friday we remember how Jesus suffered and died. At the vigil Mass on Holy Saturday, we celebrate Jesus’ Resurrection.

Jesus died for our sins so that we could live a new life. With Jesus’ help we can learn to care for others as Jesus did.

About Lent

Write a word from the word box to finish each sentence.

change Lent remember prepare

1. Lent is a time to _______________ what Jesus has done for us.
2. During Lent we _______________ for Easter.
3. The last week of _______________ begins with Palm Sunday.
4. During Lent we _______________ our ways to follow Jesus.
Art Print 21 shows Jesus’ plan for true happiness that we call the Beatitudes. How does following Jesus make you happy?

Reaching Out to Others

Many people came to hear Jesus. He talked to them about ways to live a happy life. He gave them a plan to follow. This plan is called the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes help us to live more like Jesus.

One Beatitude teaches us to reach out to others. We do this by sharing, helping, and showing kindness in our words and actions.

Jesus said, “Blessed are those who are kind to others. They shall have kindness shown to them.”

adapted from Matthew 5:7

Blessed Are the Kind

Write about a time you showed kindness.
Write about a time someone was kind to you.

Link to Liturgy

At the end of Mass, we are blessed and sent forth. The priest or deacon says, “Go forth, the Mass is ended.” We say, “Thanks be to God.”
Follow God’s Laws

Moses was a great leader of the Jewish people. He led them to freedom. He reminded them why it was important to do what God wanted.

Moses said, “Good things will happen if you obey the Ten Commandments. Love God and follow his laws. Then you will be blessed.”

“You can also choose not to follow God. Then you will not be blessed. The choice is yours to make.”

adapted from Deuteronomy 30:16–18

Choose God

Read each sentence. One word is scrambled. Draw a line from the sentence to the unscrambled word.

1. osMse was a great leader. • (a) freedom
2. Moses led the people to dmerfeo. • (b) Commandments
3. Obey the manCommnetsd. • (c) laws
4. Choose to follow God’s wlsa. • (d) Moses

Reading God’s Word

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

adapted from John 14:6
Art Print 23 shows friends playing and bringing joy to their neighborhood. How are you a good neighbor where you live?

**Love Your Neighbor**

Jesus often spoke about loving one another. He teaches us that all people are our neighbors and that we should love them as we do ourselves.

Jesus’ teachings tell us, “If you see a neighbor who needs help, do not close your heart to this person. Your love is not to be just words you say. Love must be something that you do.”

*adapted from 1 John 3:17–18*

**Love in Action**

Jesus teaches us to love others as we love ourselves. Write down some ways you show love in your life.

---

**Name people you love.**

________________________

________________________

________________________

**Name things you love.**

________________________

________________________

________________________

**What do you say to show love?**

________________________

________________________

________________________

**What do you do to show love?**

________________________

________________________

________________________
Art Print 24 shows a mother teaching her son to walk. How do we learn to help one another?

Respect Others

God wants us to treat everyone with love and kindness. He teaches us that we will be happy if we show respect for others and their feelings.

We can show respect by
- living in peace with others.
- saying kind things about one another.
- returning things we borrow.

Keeping the Peace

Write ways that you can be a peacemaker by showing respect.

I show respect to my family when I _________________________________.

I show respect to friends and neighbors when I _________________.

Link to Liturgy

At Mass the sign of peace is one way we show respect for others.
Art Print 25 shows a bouquet of lilies. If you could give the risen Jesus a bouquet of flowers, what kind would you give? Why?

We Celebrate Easter

Easter is the most joyful season of the Church year. On Easter Sunday we celebrate Jesus’ Resurrection from the dead. During the Easter season, we also remember Jesus’ Ascension into Heaven. Jesus Christ is there with God the Father.

The Easter Season lasts 50 days. It ends on Pentecost Sunday. On that day the Holy Spirit came to the disciples. Then they went out to tell the world about Jesus.

Jesus brings us all the gift of Salvation. We can live in peace, knowing that we have been saved.

Alleluia

Write an Easter prayer. End with Alleluia.