

Looking for Jesus

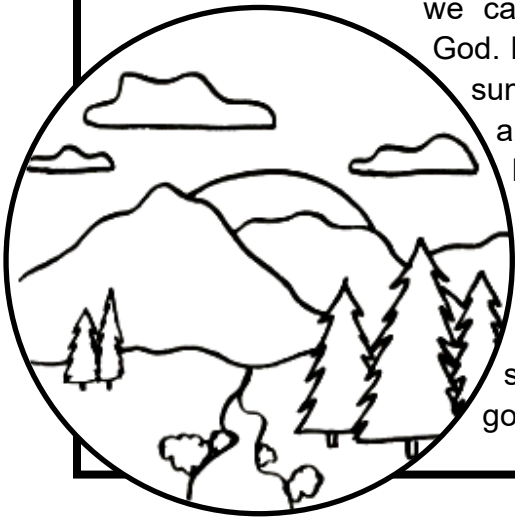
Edition #4

Look Closely: Nature

Have you ever been to the ocean? How about the mountains? Have you visited a National Park, like the Grand Canyon or the Sequoia Forest? Can you remember watching a beautiful sunset or seeing a bright rainbow stretch across the sky?

The world around us is awesome! God has created a wonderful place for us to live. When we look at the mountains or the sunset, or when we see a delicate flower or watch a hummingbird fly, we can be filled with amazement. If creation can be this amazing, the Creator who made them must be too!

The natural world should fill us with wonder and awe. When we spend time with creation, we can feel closer to God. He has made the sun and rain, trees and rivers, birds, bugs, and animals all for us! Next time you are outside, look closely for signs of God's goodness.



Peek Inside the Mass

Many families have special places where they spend time outside together. You might like to sit and tell stories around a bonfire or maybe your family goes on hikes in a park. Your yard might have a patio or porch where you share meals during nice weather. Those places can feel set apart, somewhere special where your family can enjoy and celebrate life.

Did you know that the roots of the Hebrew word for "holy" mean to be set apart? Something that is holy has been set apart specifically for God. While the whole world has been created by God, places like a Catholic church are especially used for holy purposes. Using materials from creation like stone, steel, wood, and glass, architects build churches to give us a specific place to worship the Creator.

The main part of a church is called the nave. This is where the congregation gathers to pray. The nave leads to the sanctuary, a holy place that is set apart from the rest of the church. The sanctuary holds the altar where the holy sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated.

Because the sanctuary is so special and sacred, the architecture of the church shows that it is set apart. There might be steps leading up into the sanctuary, or an altar rail around it's perimeter. The ceiling of the sanctuary might be painted a different color, like a deep blue. Next time you are in your church, find the sanctuary and look for how it is set apart for a holy purpose. Then watch and see what happens in the sanctuary during Mass!

Crack the Code

Use the key to find the missing words in this verse. Then use your Bible to check!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
☆	+	☺	◐	⊗	⬆	◑	⊗	★	△	☹	⊕	⊗	⬇	○	◼	☆	⊕	☺	☹	➡	◊	⊗	⬆	●	⊗

"I am the __ __ __ __, you are the __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __. Whoever __ __ __ __ __ __ in me and I in him will

bear much __ __ __ __ __ __, because without me you can do __ __ __ __ __ __."

~John 15:5

Saintly Superstars

St. Kateri Tekakwitha was the first Native American to be canonized a saint in the Catholic Church. She is the patron Saint of ecology (the study of the natural world and living organisms), as well as care for creation.

Kateri was born in 1656 in what is now the state of New York. Her father was a Mohawk chief and her mother was from the Algonquin People. Sadly, when she was very young her village experienced a smallpox outbreak. Her parents and her brother died, but Kateri survived. Her skin was left scarred and her eyesight was damaged from the disease. She was adopted by her uncle.

When Kateri was a teenager, Jesuit missionaries visited her village and taught her about the Catholic Faith. She chose to be baptized in 1676. Kateri's conversion was not well received by her village, and many no longer treated her with kindness. Kateri continued to live virtuously, striving to be holy despite the obstacles around no longer being fully accepted by her people.

She was remembered by those that knew her as being hard working, quiet, and prayerful. Her health was poor, and she died in 1680, just a few years after being baptized. Kateri is known as the "Lily of the Mohawks." She was canonized in 2012 and her feast day is celebrated on July 14th.



I Spy: Vine & Branches

Have you ever planted seeds and watched them grow? It takes just the right combination of water, sun, and soil for a plant to thrive and bloom. Even when the tree, vine, or plant is strong, you can still damage the growing plant. If you break off a branch or snap off a leaf, they will no longer grow. Cut off from the plant, they will shrivel and die.

Jesus speaks of the vine and the branches in the Gospel of John, chapter 15. When Jesus says we are the branches and he is the vine, he is telling us that we grow and thrive when we are connected to him. The symbol of the vine also reminds us of grapes. These are used to make wine, which is consecrated at Mass and becomes the Precious Blood of Jesus. Receiving the Eucharist is a way to remain with the true vine, Jesus Christ.

Seek & You Will Find

Can you find these ten words in the word search?

They might be across, up and down, or diagonal.

Circle or highlight the words inside the word search, and then cross them off the list as you find them!

I R V R S Y N D S G U N P L K
S L M N N O E O W A Z O Y V C
U A M T Z C F Q X I P G H Z U
Z P C C E U F Z B A C B U C L
O I R R E K M A I E Y E V R Y
Q K W X E D A A Z V T A W E H
K A B O B D F K J F I L Z A B
J T H U B N Q T W W K N Q T F
J E B E R U A U U I Q R E I D
H R K W A W Y T X W T R E O O
N I L I N B A W U O F H V N H
W A N S C F C Y L R R U A X O
T K V B H K I A E G E S A L L
F J F E E U S A N C T U A R Y
E P L V S G Q V X D G O T F C

CREATION
NATURE
VINE
BRANCHES
SANCTUARY
NAVE
SACRED
HOLY
KATERI
TEKAKWITHA