

Getting Ready for Chapter 1

Take Home



God's Wonderful Creation

In the Book of Genesis, we read about the creation of the world. We read how God in his goodness created the sun and moon and stars, the oceans and the seas, the land animals, the birds of the sky, and all kinds of plant life. We read how God created human beings, male and female, in his divine image. When we look at all the amazing gifts of creation, we cannot but be overwhelmed with gratitude and reverence for our loving, mighty, and generous God.

ACTIVITY

Imagine Creation Imagine the dawn of the universe. Discuss what it might have been like when God created the first creatures of the sea, the birds of the sky, the land animals, and the first human beings. Your family might read the book *The Magician's Nephew* by C. S. Lewis and discuss its description of creation.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

At Mass, listen for references to God as the Creator in parts of the liturgy, especially in the Nicene Creed.

On the Web

www.blestarewe.com



Visit our Web site for the saint of the day and the reflection question of the week.

Saint of the Week



Blessed Damien of Molokai (1840–1889)

Father Damien was born in Belgium. As a young priest, he volunteered to be a missionary to the Hawaiian Islands. Later, he volunteered to minister to the lepers living on the island of Molokai. After 15 years of caring for the lepers, Father Damien contracted leprosy himself and died.

Feast Day: May 10



A Prayer for the Week

God, our Father, you have created each person in your divine image. Help us to follow the example of Blessed Damien and treat every person with compassion, dignity, and respect. Amen.

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Scripture Background

Before the Time of Jesus

The Garden of Eden Although people may think of the Garden of Eden as an imaginary place, the Bible describes it as a historical place. Eden probably comprised a large geographical area that included all of the Fertile Crescent. The word *Eden* is believed to derive from a Hebrew word for “delight.” The four rivers in the region made Eden a place of fertile land. In an otherwise arid region, this surely was a place of delight. It was from this paradise that humanity fell.

To learn more about Eden, read the story of creation in Genesis 1:1–31.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Art

The Sistine Chapel Michelangelo painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican between 1508 and 1512. This painting is one of the world’s greatest works of art. It includes Michelangelo’s depiction of the creation of light, the creation of the stars and planets, and the creation of Eve. Perhaps the most famous scene in the painting is the creation of Adam. It shows God the Father imparting the spark of divine life to humanity through a touch of his finger. Toward the end of the twentieth century, the Sistine Chapel ceiling was restored. The restoration took fourteen years to complete—more than three times as long as it took Michelangelo to paint the ceiling originally.