

Getting Ready for Chapter 7

Take Home



Grace: A Gift of Strength and Support

When we receive the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, the Holy Spirit infuses us with the gift of grace. This gift from God provides us with the strength and support we need to live our lives as Jesus taught us.

ACTIVITY

Grace Before Meals Have each family member compose a “grace before meals” for a different day of the week. Remember to thank God for his strength and support and for all his blessings.

WEEKLY PLANNER

On Sunday

As the priest gives the final blessing, think about how to respond to the grace from that blessing.

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



Saint Katharine Drexel (1858–1955)

Saint Katharine was born in Philadelphia, the daughter of a millionaire banker. She became a nun and founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. Katharine and her sisters devoted their lives to helping Native Americans and African Americans.

Feast Day: March 3



A Prayer for the Week

Fill us with your grace, Lord, so that like Saint Katharine we will have the courage to be your messengers in the world. Amen.

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Scripture Background

In the Early Church

Damascus Today the capital of Syria, Damascus, is believed to be the oldest continuously occupied national capital. Paul was converted en route from Jerusalem to Damascus, where he was headed to persecute Christians. It was on Straight Street in Damascus that the disciple Ananias found the blinded Saul in the house of Judas, and healed and baptized him (Acts 9:10–19). A Christian community has existed in Damascus since Apostolic times, although its influence has declined since the Arab conquests of the seventh century.

OUR CATHOLIC TRADITION in Art

Saint Paul According to the Scripture cited in this chapter, Saul, a Roman citizen, was traveling to Damascus to persecute Christians when a divine light knocked him to the ground. Saul was blinded for three days, after which he converted to Christianity.

The dramatic conversion of Saint Paul has inspired many paintings. Perhaps the best is by the Italian artist Caravaggio (1573–1610). The light descending from the upper-right corner of the painting represents the heavenly message, which Saul accepts with open arms. The painting is located in a chapel in the Church of Santa Maria del Popolo in Rome.