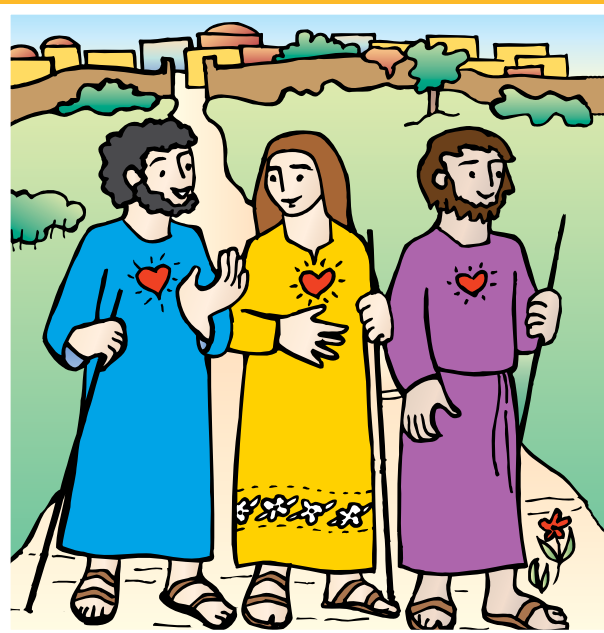
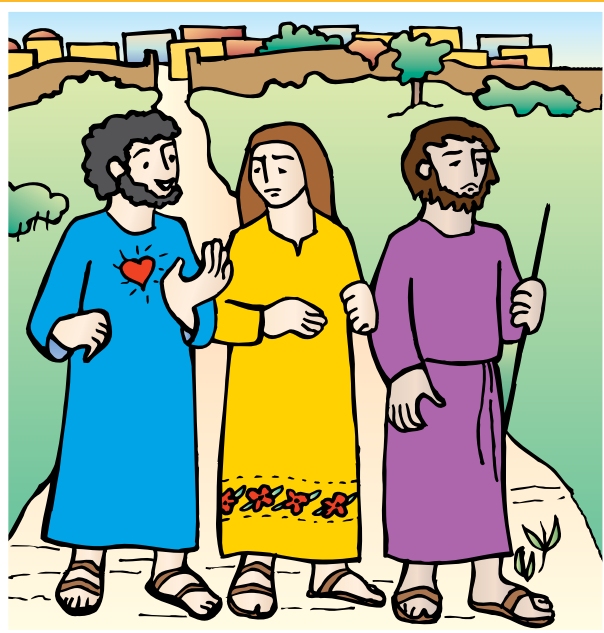
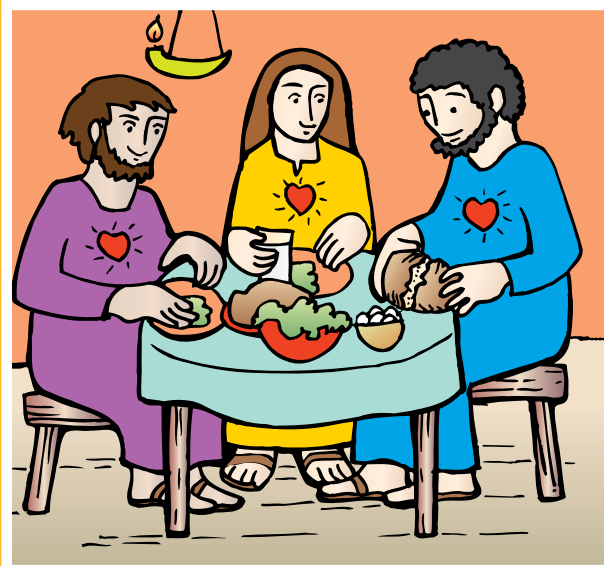
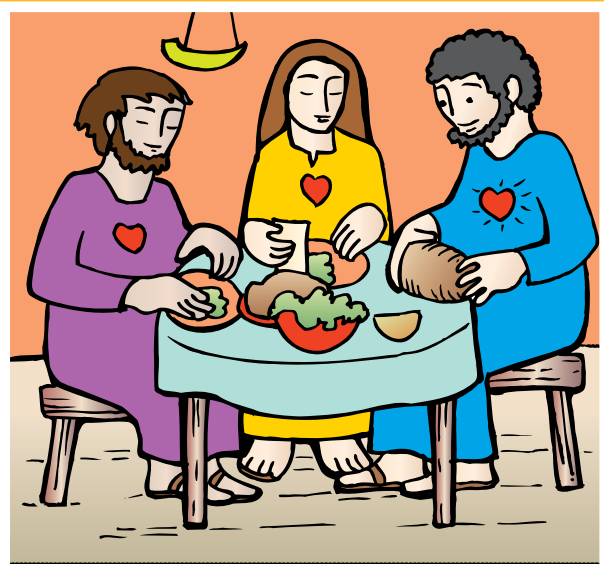


How Do We Recognize Jesus?



What is Jesus doing in these illustrations? Circle the differences you see between the pictures on the left and right.





How the **BUTTERFLY LADY** Helped the **MONARCHS**



Every year, monarch butterflies migrate north and south across North America.

Some of them travel as far as 3,000 miles! But monarch routes are in trouble.

Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on milkweed leaves. The caterpillars that hatch from the eggs are picky. They only eat milkweed, but these plants are disappearing from fields and ditches along roadsides. To help the butterflies, people along the migration routes plant milkweed and other nourishing plants in their gardens.

More than 60,000 American students participate in school programs that support butterflies and other animal species. Some build Monarch Way Stations, which are garden areas planted along migration routes. They help prevent butterflies from becoming extinct. Extinction means that there are no more of that plant or animal, and it will never, ever come back again.

Some students at a Catholic school in Indiana had a special teacher, Mrs. Cole. She loved butterflies. When she retired, Mrs. Cole led the students in an after-school science club. They built a

butterfly garden. Before Mrs. Cole died in 2016, she taught many children why it's so important to care for monarch butterflies.

Mrs. Cole was nicknamed "the Butterfly Lady." She lived on a farm when she was young. In the summer, Mrs. Cole and her siblings had to pull milkweed plants out of her father's bean field. These plants were thought of as weeds that choked out the plants a farmer was trying to grow.

As a grownup, Mrs. Cole taught her students how important milkweed plants are for monarchs. Farmers and gardeners sometimes spray chemicals called herbicides (to kill plants and weeds) and insecticides (to

kill insects) to protect their plants from damage. But butterflies and other insects also pollinate plants so they can grow.

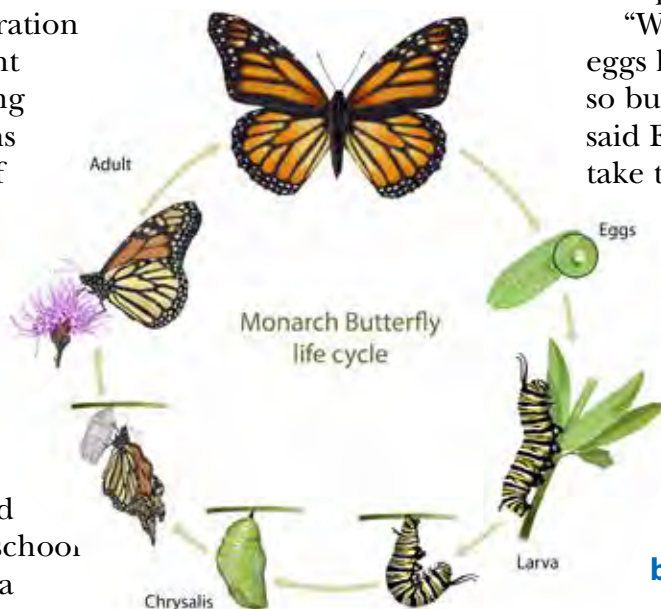
The children who worked with Mrs. Cole cleaned up their garden every spring, removing dead leaves and sticks. They checked to see if the butterfly bushes survived the cold winter. Plants like Joe Pye weed, echinacea, and black-eyed Susans peeked through the earth. These plants have nectar for the butterflies that come through Indiana on their migration route to Mexico.

"Our garden is a way station for the butterflies," said Kieran. "The milkweed we plant is for them to lay their eggs on and for the caterpillars to eat."

"We help the butterfly eggs hatch by watching them, so bugs won't eat them," said Evan. "Sometimes we take the leaves the eggs are on and put them in a container that has milkweed leaves."

"We had one big rule: Do not shake the container!" Kieran said. "The eggs might fall off the leaf."

Monarch butterfly eggs become caterpillars.





Children in the United States make paper butterflies to send to children who live near the butterfly sanctuaries in Mexico. When the butterflies arrive, the Mexican children send back a photo.

The caterpillars stay on the milkweed leaf after they hatch. They nibble at the leaf for about two weeks. Then the outer surface of the caterpillar hardens into a chrysalis. The chrysalis hangs from the milkweed leaf by a tiny thread.

After nine or ten days, the butterfly begins to emerge from the chrysalis. The new butterflies let their wings dry in the sun. They begin to fly to flowers and sip their nectar.

Then it's time to tag the monarchs. Monarch Watch is an organization at the University of Kansas that tracks butterflies in North America. It provides tags to put on the butterflies. Each tag has a number for the butterfly and the email address and phone number for Monarch Watch. When someone finds a butterfly with a tag, they report to Monarch Watch (monarchwatch.org).

"It's fun when you see a butterfly start from our

school on its way to Mexico," said Lilian. "Because of the tags, the children in Mexico can write to us when our butterflies get there."

Children can also participate in a Symbolic Migration.

This program is sponsored by Journey North, an organization that studies all kinds of animal migrations (journeynorth.org). Butterflies live in protected areas called sanctuaries during the winter.

To be part of a symbolic migration, American students send paper butterflies to children in schools in Mexico. These paper butterflies let the children know that the butterflies are on their way south. In May, when the butterflies leave Mexico to fly north, the children in Mexico send the paper butterflies back to the United States.

Students learn about the butterflies' journey—how long it is, the dangers the



butterflies meet, and where they find food along the way.

Mrs. Cole's students also did experiments. One student tested what happened when he sprayed milkweed leaves with pesticides. He found that the caterpillar that ate the leaves stayed healthy, but the butterfly never came out of the chrysalis.

Other students tracked the insects in their garden. They noted the bugs that help and those that harm butterflies at the three stages in their lifecycle. They keep track of plants that survive from year to year and plan when and how to plant new ones.

"The best part of our monarch project is learning about the interconnectedness of all God's Creation," said Mrs. Cole. "God has a plan for all creatures no matter what their importance is on our planet."



- 1** Why were butterflies so important to Mrs. Cole?
- 2** What reasons do we have for caring for butterflies and other living creatures? What will you do to help?
- 3** Think of a person who protects God's Creation. How does this person influence you?

Jesus' Friends Recognize Him in the Breaking of Bread

Narrator 1: Cleopas and another of Jesus' disciples were making their way to a village named Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking over all that had happened to Jesus. A stranger approached and began to walk with them. The stranger was Jesus, but they didn't recognize him.

Jesus: What are you talking about?

Cleopas: You must be the only person in Jerusalem who does not know the things that happened these past few days.

Jesus: What sort of things?

Disciple 1: Everything to do with Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet powerful in word and deed in the eyes of God and all the people. Our chief priests and leaders delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him. We were hoping that he was the one who would set Israel free.

Cleopas: Besides today, the third day since Jesus was put to death, some of the women in our group brought us astonishing news. They were at Jesus' tomb before dawn, but could not find his body. They came back saying they had seen a vision of angels who declared Jesus was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found it empty as the women said. But they did not see Jesus.

Jesus: How foolish you are! How slow you are to believe all the prophets have said! Didn't the Christ have to undergo all these things so as to enter into his glory?

Narrator 2: Then, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted for them every passage of Scripture that referred to him. When they got near Emmaus, Jesus started to go on.

Disciple 2: Stay with us. It is almost evening. The day is just about over.

blessing, then broke the bread and began to give it to them. With that, their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished.

Cleopas: Were not our hearts burning inside us as he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures?

Narrator 1: The two got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the eleven and the rest of their group gathered together.

Disciple 1: The Lord has been raised!

Disciple 2: It is true! He has appeared to Simon.

Narrator 2: Then the two told their friends what had happened on the road and how they had recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread.



Narrator 1: So Jesus stayed with them.

Narrator 2: When he had seated himself with them to eat, Jesus took bread, said the



- 1 How do Jesus' friends feel as they head for Emmaus?
- 2 What does Jesus explain to them?
- 3 Why do the disciples' hearts burn inside them when Jesus is talking?
- 4 How do Jesus' friends recognize him? How do we recognize Jesus today?

How Is Jesus Still With Us?

The two disciples in Sunday's Gospel have a problem. Jesus is gone. The two followers don't know what to do without him, so they decide to go home.

On this first Easter Sunday, these two disciples begin their journey home without Jesus. They discover on their journey how Jesus will be with them. What happens for these two on the first Easter Sunday is what Christians do every Sunday.

First, two disciples are walking together and remembering Jesus. They are talking about all that happened three days before, when he was crucified. When a stranger asks what they are discussing, they tell him about Jesus.

When do Christians gather and remember Jesus?

Second, the stranger talks about the Scriptures. He reminds them of places in the Old Testament that say that the Messiah would suffer in order to enter into glory.

When do we listen to what the Scriptures tell us about Jesus?

Third, the two invite the stranger to stay and eat with them in their village. When they are eating, the stranger takes bread, blesses it, and gives it to them, and they recognize the stranger is Jesus.

When do we bless, break, and share bread as Jesus taught us?



TRANSUBSTANTIATION

The changing of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.



Connecting GOSPEL and DOCTRINE

The Risen Jesus is present with us in many ways—in words, actions, and people. Jesus is present in the actions of the sacraments. Jesus welcomes us into his family in Baptism, seals us with the Spirit in Confirmation, shares his love in Eucharist, forgives our sins in Penance and Reconciliation, strengthens us when we are sick in the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

At Mass, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus through

Jesus Is With Us in the Eucharist

transubstantiation. Jesus is also present in the person of the priest who celebrates the Eucharist. Jesus is present in the Word (the Bible) and in the parish assembly when we gather to pray in his name. In fact, Jesus is present whenever two of us gather to pray in his name. "The Church is the Body of Christ" (CCC, 805).



1 Think about the sacraments you have received. In what ways did you feel the presence of Jesus?

2 Why do we gather as a community to celebrate the Eucharist and the other sacraments?



The Sacrament of the Eucharist is a sacrament we may receive again and again—and we are encouraged to! Turn to pages 21–23 in *What the Church Believes and Teaches*. Learn why Catholics must receive the Eucharist and how it is unlike every other sacrament.

Bella's Birthday Boxes

If fourth-grader Bella Smith had a favorite Scripture, it probably would be “love your neighbor.” When Bella was in first grade, a friend shared that his family could not afford a birthday party for him. That bothered Bella. She decided to start “Bella’s Birthday Boxes.”

A birthday box gives families all the supplies to throw a birthday bash. The boxes come filled with a cake mix, frosting, and sprinkles as well as balloons and other party supplies, including candles, party hats, plates, and napkins. Bella’s birthday is March 26, but she doesn’t want presents. Instead, Bella asks for birthday box donations.

Bella attends Wyan-Pine Grove Elementary School in London, Kentucky. Bella’s school distributes the boxes to families through its Family Resource Center. Bella’s mom, Marlana Evans, is a teacher at Bella’s school. More than 80 percent of families whose children attend Bella’s school live below the poverty line. In the United States, a family of four that makes less than \$25,750 in a year is considered to be in poverty.

Bella has now collected supplies and put together hundreds of boxes. Last August, for



example, Bella donated nearly one hundred birthday boxes to God’s Pantry Food Bank of Southeast Kentucky. The boxes will be distributed to church food banks in that area. With that delivery of birthday boxes and about twenty more in July, Bella’s organization had used up all of her supplies to create a total of 275 birthday boxes.

Others are taking Bella’s idea and assembling their own boxes to share with those in need. Last

summer, Bella met with Marie Rudd-Gregory from the Brooke It Forward Foundation. Marie heard about Bella’s story and decided to start a similar program in Cincinnati, Ohio, in honor of her teenage daughter, Brooke Posey, who died in an car accident in 2017. Brooke It Forward has donated birthday boxes to children at the Hope House Child Advocacy Center in Covington, Louisiana.



“Not all people have as much as I do, and I want to share a little bit of my birthday with them,” Bella told a news crew from LEX18 in Kentucky. She said it doesn’t matter where you are. You can help. “You can help out whether you’re 2, 4, 8, or 102.”



See Bella’s Birthday Boxes on Facebook for ways you can help or ideas for starting a birthday box drive at your school or parish. What would you include in a birthday box?

Take an Emmaus Walk



This activity invites you to take an Emmaus walk. Talk as a group on the walk about what the six followers of Jesus on this page believe about him.

- Cut out the six cards below. Read about the six Gospel people pictured on the cards.
- Decide where you will walk, take the cards with you, and plan to stop once for each card.
- At each stop, a volunteer will choose a card and read aloud the Gospel person's experience

of Jesus. Other walkers find the card in their set and ask the volunteer the questions on the back.

- Form a circle at the end of the walk. Take turns telling which Gospel character you feel most like and how this character's faith in Jesus is like your own.



I am Mary Magdalene.
I followed Jesus almost from the beginning.
I saw him crucified, and I was the first to find that his tomb was empty.
I was also first to meet the Risen Jesus.



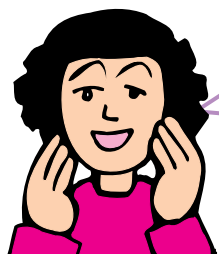
I am Peter.
Everyone knows who I am.
I am one of Jesus' first followers.
I was at the last supper we had with Jesus.
I followed Jesus when he was arrested.
Mary Magdalene brought me to see the empty tomb.



I am Thomas.
I am one of the Twelve Apostles that Jesus chose.
I heard Jesus teach and saw him heal people.
I was away when Jesus appeared to our group. I didn't believe their story.
I had to see Jesus risen for myself to believe.



I am the woman from Samaria that met Jesus at Jacob's well.
I loved talking with Jesus.
He reached out to us Samaritans.
He taught me about living water and the well inside of us.



I am the blind man that Jesus healed.
He put mud on my eyes and sent me away to wash it off.
I can see for the first time in my life.
My parents can't believe it.
My neighbors can't believe it.

I am Martha.
Mary and Lazarus are my siblings.
Jesus is our friend.
Jesus risked his life to bring my brother back to life.



For **free** at-home activities, visit



gospelweeklies.com/seasonal

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With My Family and Friends

Scan here for parent resources.



Pray

Jesus, our hearts are full of love for you. Help us to notice your presence with us. Amen.



Think

When do I recognize that Jesus is with me?



Act

Jesus is present to us in a special way in the Eucharist. Visit the tabernacle in your church. Note that Jesus' Body—in the form of bread—is present in the tabernacle whenever the sanctuary lamp is lit. Thank Jesus for the special gift of his presence.

- Why did you deny that you knew Jesus when he was on trial?
- Where did you go during and after Jesus' Crucifixion?
- Why didn't you believe Jesus was risen when you saw the empty tomb?
- Were you surprised when the Risen Jesus wished you peace rather than condemn you?
- Why did you stay at the Cross? Wasn't that awful to see? How did you feel?
- When you saw the empty tomb, what did you think had happened to Jesus' body?
- How did you feel when you heard Jesus call your name?
- How did Jesus' other followers react when you told them you had seen Jesus?
- Why don't people like Samaritans?
- Why did you talk to Jesus at the well?
- What did you think when he said he had living water and you would never be thirsty again?
- What did the people in your village say when you told them about Jesus?
- You weren't with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them on Easter evening. Why didn't you believe what they told you?
- Do you think Jesus came back the next week just to let you touch his wounds?
- What was it like to touch his wounds?
- How did you like being called Doubting Thomas?
- What was it like to have Jesus as your family friend?
- Were you disappointed when Jesus didn't come in time to save Lazarus?
- How did you feel when Lazarus walked out of the tomb?
- What do you tell people about who Jesus is?
- What did you think when Jesus put mud on your eyes?
- What was the best thing you saw after Jesus healed you?
- Your parents and neighbors didn't believe your story about Jesus healing you. Why not?
- What do you see in Jesus that they don't see?