

Monday: I am the face of God's mercy when I am kind and compassionate

At Baptism, we receive **seven special gifts** from the Holy Spirit. These gifts are freely given to us to help us live as followers of Jesus, and to build up the Body of Christ, the Church. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are sealed and strengthened within us at Confirmation. These seven gifts help us to respond to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to make good choices, and to serve God and others.

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

When we cooperate with the graces and gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit, we grow as followers of Jesus. We see the effect of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives in special qualities and attitudes that we develop as we grow in faith. These qualities and attitudes are called the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit are signs that the Holy Spirit is alive within us and helping us live the Catholic faith in our daily lives.

Here are the nine fruits:



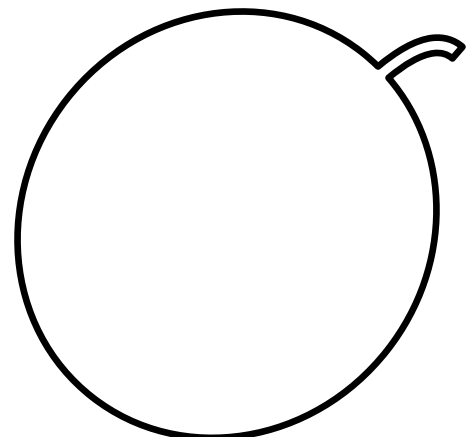
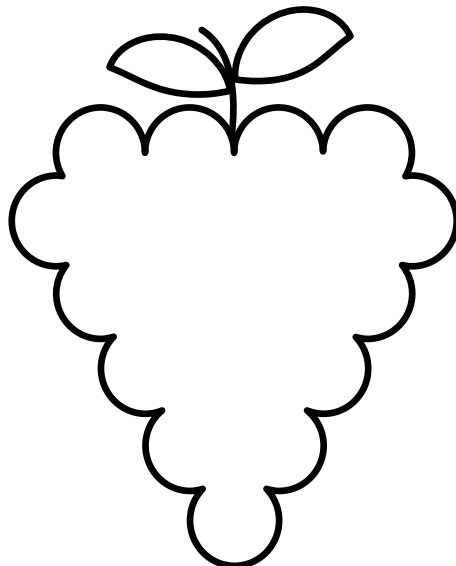
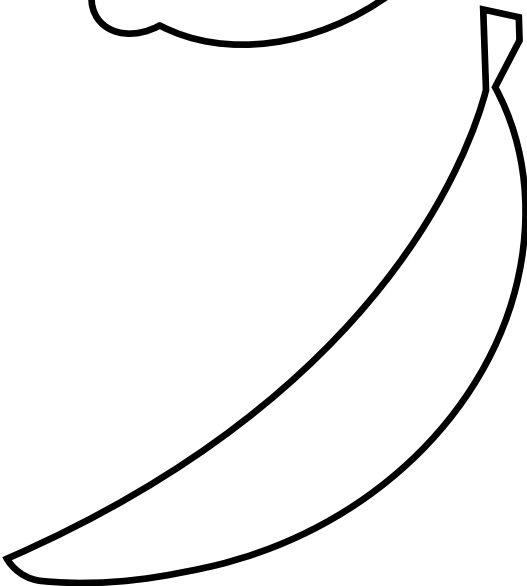
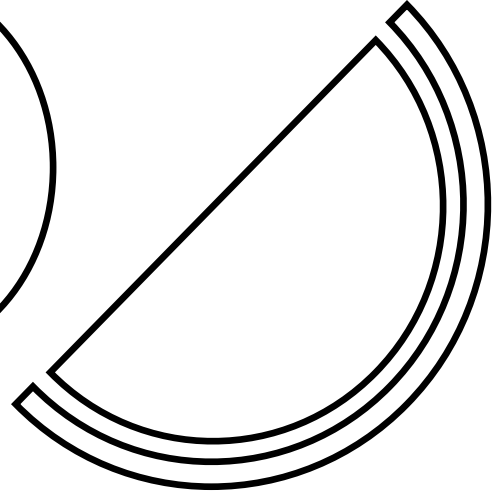
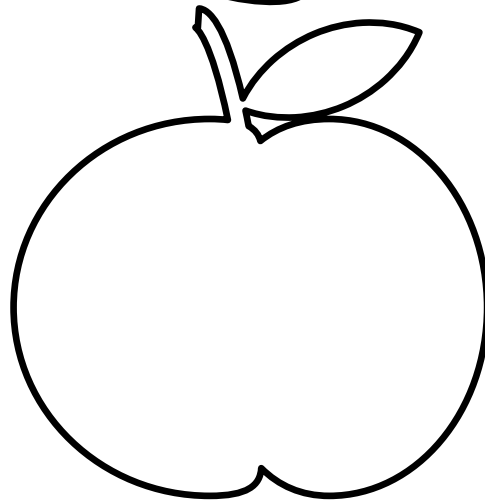
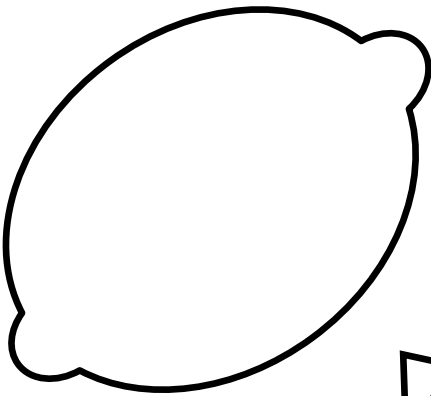
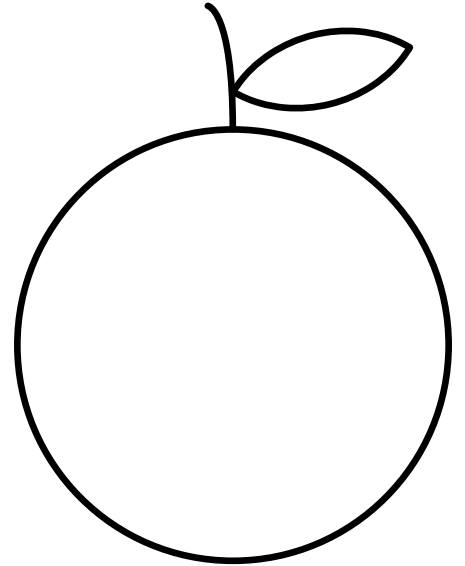
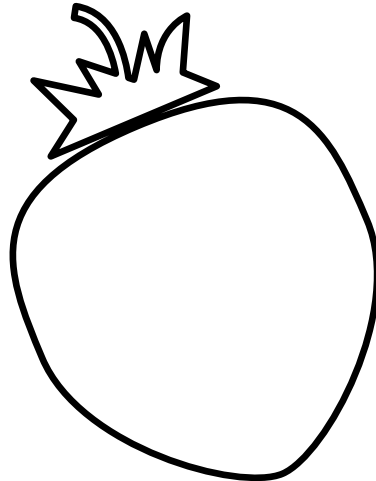
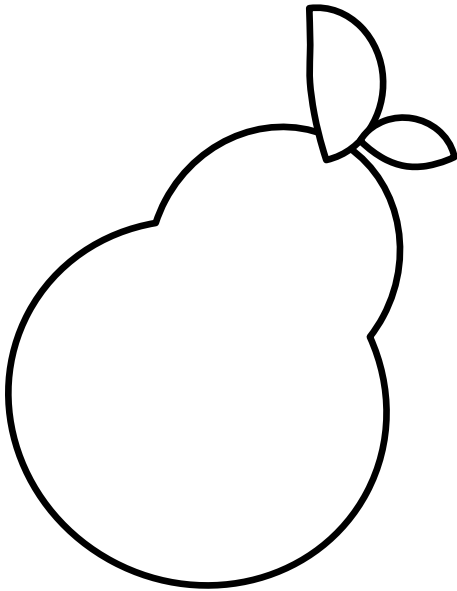
When we live out the fruits of the Holy Spirit we are the face of God's mercy in the world.



Activity

In groups or pairs, choose one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Cut out one of the drawings of fruit below and write the name of the chosen fruit of the Holy Spirit on it. On the back, write ways in which we can live out that fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Why not create a fruits of the Holy Spirit tree in your class Prayer Space?





Tuesday: I am the face of God's mercy when I forgive and reconcile

Being able to forgive and reconcile with those we have hurt or who have hurt us is a true face of God's mercy. If we can forgive we are living as Jesus asked us to. He told us to forgive and seek forgiveness in one of his most famous parables ...

The Prodigal Son

There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the food that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants."' So he got up and went to his father.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your money comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'



Can you summarise the message of Jesus in this parable?



What other parables do you know? List them and discuss the messages they reveal to us!



Thursday: I am the face of God's mercy when I am fair and just

God Asks Us to ...

When we act justly we are fair to those around us and those in our world. Sometimes we can look around and see that not everyone is treated fairly or justly. As followers of Jesus we should work to help those seeking justice to achieve it.

Think of some groups of people or individuals whom you see as being treated unfairly or unjustly in our community or our world.

Group or individual you see as being treated unfairly	Why and in what way are they being treated this way?	How can you help?	Are there any organisations working for justice for these people/ individuals?





Friday: I am the face of God's mercy when I live like Jesus

Jesus gave us the Eight Beatitudes at the Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes, or as some call them the 'beautiful attitudes', teach us how to live our lives as Jesus would want us to.

The Eight Beatitudes of Jesus

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart,
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Activities

Draw a symbol or an emoji beside each Beatitude to help you remember them.
Compare the Eight Beatitudes with the Ten Commandments.



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