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1 Longing for God..... 41

- True happiness can come only through communion with God.
- Religion expresses our relationship with God through beliefs, prayers, and practices.

SCRIPTURE

The Woman at the Well

John 4:7-29

2 Worshipping God..... 49

- Humans share in the Creator's loving plan by caring for creation.
- God's providence is his care and plan for all of creation.

SCRIPTURE

Glory to God

Psalms 98:4-9

3 Signs of God's Presence..... 57

- God communicates through signs.
- Through the signs and symbolic actions of the sacraments, God's life becomes truly present in your life.

SCRIPTURE

The Burning Bush

Exodus 3:1-15

Unit 1 Review 65

4 The Mystery of God..... 67

- The Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life.
- Virtue is the habit of doing good. The theological virtues of faith, hope, and love are gifts from God.

SCRIPTURE

The Baptism of Jesus

John 1:32–34

5 Prayer and Worship..... 75

- Prayer and worship are ways to show love for God and to thank him for his blessings.
- When we pray and worship, God fills us with joy, strength, and hope.

SCRIPTURE

A Day of Joy

2 Samuel 6:1–15

6 Doing Good..... 83

- The Great Commandment states that you will love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, soul, and mind.
- The cardinal virtues play a central role in helping people lead morally good lives.

SCRIPTURE

The Great Commandment

Mark 12:28–34

Unit 2 Review..... 91**7 The Image of God..... 93**

- The Incarnation is the belief that the Son of God became a human being in order to save all people.
- Jesus is both human and divine, truly God and truly human.

8 Proclaim the Kingdom..... 101

- God's kingdom is present and grows in the Church and its sacraments until God's reign comes in fullness at the end of time.
- Jesus proclaimed the kingdom of God through his actions and parables.

SCRIPTURE

The Parable of the Sower

Luke 8:5–8

9 New Life..... 109

- Through the sacraments, Christ unites his followers to his passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension.
- Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of the human race.

SCRIPTURE

The Resurrection of Jesus

Luke 24:5–9

Unit 3 Review..... 117

10 A Sign to the World 119

- As members of the Church, we are all united in living out the mission of Christ.
- The Church's unity is expressed in the images of the Body of Christ and the People of God.

SCRIPTURE

Built of Living Stones

1 Peter 2:4-5

11 The Teaching Church 127

- The Apostles proclaimed God's good news and brought the reign of God toward its fullness.
- Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the pope and the bishops continue the Apostles' mission to teach.

SCRIPTURE

Teach All Nations

Matthew 28:19-20

Upon This Rock

Matthew 16:15-19

12 Called to Holiness 135

- Mary and the saints provide the Church with models of holiness.
- Canonization declares that a model Christian is enjoying eternity with God.

SCRIPTURE

The Handmaid of the Lord

Luke 1:30-31, 38

Unit 4 Review 143**13 The Mystery of Evil** 145

- Evil is the result of humans turning away from God's goodness.
- God sent his Son to redeem people from the power of sin and evil.

SCRIPTURE

New Life in Christ

Romans 5:19

14 Reborn in Christ 153

- The process of becoming Catholic is called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.
- The Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

SCRIPTURE

Living for God

Romans 6:10-11

15 Forgiveness and Healing 161

- The Church receives God's forgiveness through the Sacraments of Healing.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation includes contrition, confession, penance, and absolution.

SCRIPTURE

The Two Sons

Luke 15:11-32

Unit 5 Review 169

16 Gathered for Mass 171

- The wheat bread and grape wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.
- In the liturgical assembly, the Holy Spirit's grace of faith strengthens the community.

SCRIPTURE

Rejoice Always

1 Thessalonians 5:14–18

17 Liturgy of the Word 179

- The word of God is conveyed through Scripture and Tradition.
- Jesus is truly present in the word as it is proclaimed and preached in the liturgy.

SCRIPTURE

Let the Word of Christ Dwell in You

Colossians 3:16

18 Liturgy of the Eucharist 187

- In Sunday worship and daily living, the community shows that the Eucharist is the source and the summit of the Catholic Church.
- The Eucharist closely unites Christ's followers to him and to one another.

SCRIPTURE

The Last Supper

Matthew 26:26–28

19 Answering God's Call 197

- The vocations of ordained and married people build the reign of God and serve others.
- The Sacraments of Service are Holy Orders and Matrimony.

SCRIPTURE

Laborers for the Harvest

Matthew 9:35–38

20 The Last Things 205

- Faith in the Resurrection is the source of hope in eternal life and happiness with God in heaven.
- The last rites of the Church include prayer, the Sacraments of Healing, and the Eucharist.

SCRIPTURE

The Judgment of the Nations

Matthew 25:31–40

21 Come, Lord Jesus 213

- The Church's mission is to bring the good news to all people everywhere.
- Every baptized person has the responsibility of sharing the good news.

SCRIPTURE

Fulfilled in Your Hearing

Luke 4:16–21

Unit 7 Review 221

Unit 6 Review 195



Unit 2 Trinity

In this unit you will...

learn about the many ways you experience the mystery of God. When we follow the First Commandment, we live in relationship with the Blessed Trinity. We respond to God's love with prayer, with worship, and with practicing virtues in our everyday life.



Chapter
4



Chapter
5



Chapter
6



What do you think you will learn in this unit about how God's people respond?

The Mystery Of God



Let Us Pray

Leader: Almighty and powerful God, we are in awe of you.

“Again his voice roars—
the majestic sound of his thunder.

He does great things beyond our knowing;
wonders past our searching out.”

Job 37:4-5

All: Almighty and powerful God, we are in awe of you. Amen.

Activity

Let's Begin

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

A selection from lyrics by Stuart K. Hine

- What things remind you of the greatness of God?
- Complete this sentence in as many ways as you can: God is like . . . because . . .

More Than Can Be Known


Focus

What gift did Patrick bring to the Irish people?

We can't always see God's plan for us. Blessings often come in the form of hardships. The following story shows how this was true for one Christian.

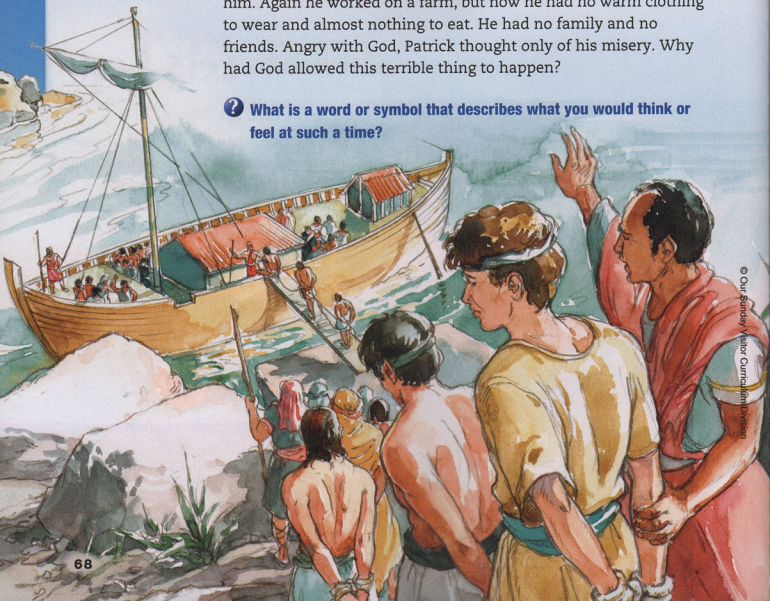
BIOGRAPHY

Kidnapped

Patrick, the son of a Roman official, lived on the western coast of Britain. While working on his father's farm one day, he was seized by a group of raiders and sold as a slave.

Patrick was taken away to Ireland, a place completely new to him. Again he worked on a farm, but now he had no warm clothing to wear and almost nothing to eat. He had no family and no friends. Angry with God, Patrick thought only of his misery. Why had God allowed this terrible thing to happen?

? What is a word or symbol that describes what you would think or feel at such a time?



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The Mystery Unfolds

As time went by, Patrick began to realize that despite his harsh life, the lives of his Irish masters were even harder because they did not know Jesus. They did not know the Christian faith, which is full of hope and love. Patrick began to pray with all his heart, turning his life and his future over to God. After six years, he escaped and made the long, hard journey home. His parents were overjoyed to see him. They hoped that he would never leave them again.

But Patrick kept thinking about the Irish people he had left. He never stopped wondering about the mystery of his life and what good might come from his time among these people. One night he dreamed that they were calling him. All at once it became clear to him that because he knew their language, he could bring them the Christian faith. Although the studies were hard for him, Patrick prepared to become a priest. In time, he became a bishop and returned to Ireland. When the Irish people heard Patrick speak, great numbers of them asked to be baptized. Because of his great holiness and love for God, the Church made Patrick a saint.

Experience taught Patrick that the mysteries in human life draw people toward the **mystery** of God, who is so much more than they can ever grasp.

? What are some things about your own life that cause you to wonder as Patrick did?

Words of Faith

A **mystery** is a truth of faith that you cannot fully understand but that you believe because God has shown it to people in Scripture, in the life of Jesus, or in the teachings of the Church.

Activity

Share Your Faith

Reflect: If you could ask God any questions about the mysteries in your life, what would they be?

Share: Share your questions with a partner.

Act: Write one question here. Pray to God for your understanding of this mystery.

The Mystery Beyond Words



Focus Who is the Holy Trinity?

Like Patrick, people today wonder about the mystery of God and the way God works in their lives. God wants to be known, yet he is greater than anyone can tell or understand.

From earliest Old Testament times, the Israelites learned through revelation that God is one, unfailing in truth and love. Jesus revealed a deeper level of this mystery, showing that the one God is three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—the **Holy Trinity**. Patrick emphasized and honored the Trinity in all his teaching. Jesus and his followers invite you into a deeper understanding of the mystery of the God you cannot see.



SCRIPTURE

John 1:32–34

The Baptism of Jesus



John the Baptist testified that Jesus was the Son of God, sent by the Father and filled with the Holy Spirit:

“I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the holy Spirit.’ Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.”

John 1:32–34

Whenever the Church baptizes, the names of the three Persons in the Holy Trinity are used. Those who are baptized enter into the very life of God, who is love. All of the sacraments offer a share in God’s life and into the mystery that is God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



What are some ways in which you experience the love of the Holy Trinity in your life?

The Baptism of Christ, Currier and Ives

Living Your Faith

The Sign of the Cross helps you recall that the Trinity is with you, protecting and guiding you to live as Jesus did. When you renew your baptismal promises, you are reminded that the Trinity gives you new life that never ends.

The first commandment is this: I am the Lord your God; you shall not have strange gods before me. This commandment calls you to believe in God, to hope in him, and to love him above everything else. In obeying this commandment, you live in relationship with the Trinity.

A **virtue** is a habit of doing good. The virtues of faith, hope, and love are called theological virtues because they are gifts from God.

- Faith is the virtue by which you freely choose to respond to God's invitation and say "yes" to all that he has revealed.
- Hope is your desire and expectation that God will grant you eternal life with the Trinity and give you the grace to attain it.
- Love, or charity, is the virtue by which you love God above all things and others for the love of God.

All people are made in the **image of God** because they are created by God. If you try, you can see traces of the Trinity reflected in every person. When people love one another, they reflect the communion of the three Persons in one God.

? How do some of the people you know show themselves as images of God?



Words of Faith

The **Holy Trinity** is the mystery of one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

A **virtue** is a habit of doing good that helps you grow in love for God.

Image of God means the divine likeness in each person, the result of being created by God.

Activity

Connect Your Faith

Discover Symbols of the Trinity Legend says that Patrick used the shamrock as an image for the Trinity. How could the shamrock be useful in explaining the Trinity? What other images would help explain the Trinity? Draw one or more of them in this space.



Apostles' Creed



Let Us Pray

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: Let us affirm what we believe.
After each reader, say: *I do believe!*

Reader 1: I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including
the Virgin Mary, all bow.

Reader 2: who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again
from the dead;

Reader 3: he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

Reader 4: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.



O most holy Trinity,
Undivided unity;
Holy God, mighty God,
God immortal be adored!



Review and Apply

A Check Understanding Circle True if a statement is true, and circle False if a statement is false. Correct any false statements.

1. Faith in God means that God is not a mystery.

True False _____

2. The mystery of God in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is called the image of God.

True False _____

3. Jesus reveals to people the God they cannot see.

True False _____

4. Those who are baptized are baptized into the very life of God.

True False _____

5. When he baptized Jesus, Patrick learned more about the mystery of God.

True False _____

B Make Connections What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

Activity

Live Your Faith

Imagine Create a scene for a movie. In your scene, one character has just challenged another person's faith in God. Tell how the other character responds.



Family Faith

Activity

Live Your Faith

Catholics Believe

- The Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life.
- Virtue is the habit of doing good. The theological virtues of faith, hope, and love are gifts from God.

SCRIPTURE

Read *1 Corinthians 13:1–13* to learn how Saint Paul describes love.

Make a Symbol Love is one of the virtues talked about in this week's lesson. Love is the glue that holds a family together. The love within a family is meant to reflect the love of the Holy Trinity. Create a symbol that represents how your family shows God's love to others. If someone in your family is skilled with art or fabric, you can help that person make a more permanent symbol to display in your home.



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People of Faith

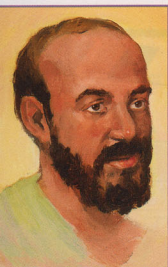
Athanasius became the bishop of Alexandria in Egypt at the age of thirty. He lived at a time when many people were supporting a false teaching that Jesus was not really the Son of God. As bishop, Athanasius defended the doctrine of the Trinity. Because of his outspokenness, he was sent into exile— not once, but five times over the course of his life. During these times he lived in hardship but spent his time writing, praying, and encouraging other Christians. The Church celebrates his feast day on May 2.

In Unit 2 your child is learning about the TRINITY.

74 **CCC** See *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 234, 1812, 1813 for further reading on chapter content.

Family Prayer

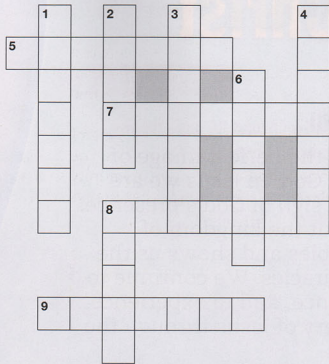
Saint Athanasius, pray for us that we may know and love the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as you did. May we also follow your example and uphold our convictions even when it is difficult to do so. Amen.



▲ Saint Athanasius
c. 295–373

UNIT 2 REVIEW

A Work with Words Solve the puzzle, using the clues provided.



Across

- Prayer and _____ are ways to respond to God's love as King David did.
- We worship the Trinity in the Church's _____.
- God is called a _____ because humans never completely know and understand him.
- The "Glory to God," or doxology, praises the _____.

Down

- Fortitude is showing _____, especially in the face of evil.
- King David wrote a particular prayer of praise called a _____.
- _____ are habits of doing good that help humans grow in love of God.
- The _____ to worship God on the Lord's day is also a _____ and a gift.
- _____ is talking and listening to God.
- Humans can pray by playing _____.