

# Grade 5 Contents

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## 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.



## Faith in Action!

Catholic Social Teaching Principle:  
Life and Dignity of the Human Person

# 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 are some things that remind you of the greatness of God?

To describe God, write a word or phrase that begins with each of the letters in the word below.

**G** \_\_\_\_\_

**R** \_\_\_\_\_

**E** \_\_\_\_\_

**A** \_\_\_\_\_

**T** \_\_\_\_\_

● **God in Nature** Draw something in nature that shows God's greatness.



# 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.

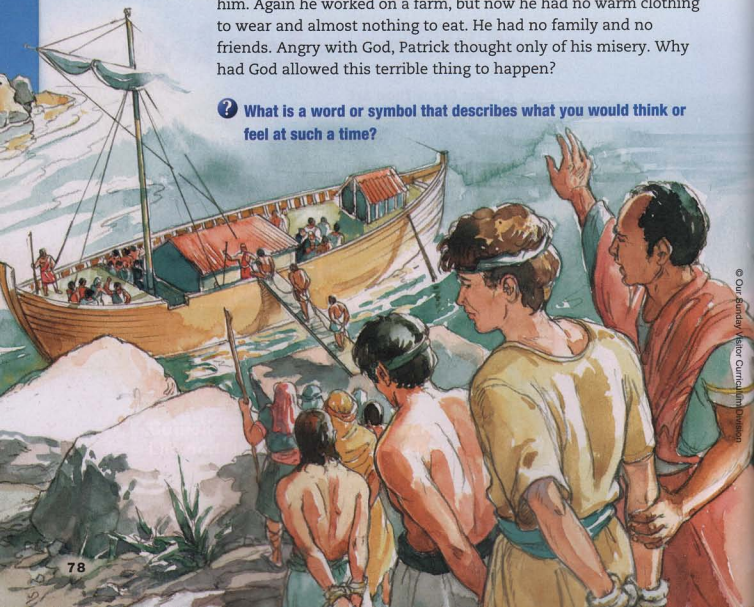
## BIOGRAPHY

### 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?





## 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

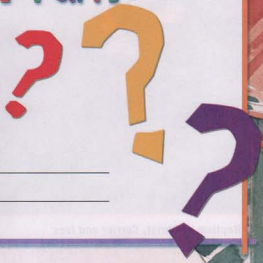
**Reflect:** If you could ask God any questions about the mysteries in your life, what would they be?

**Share:** Share your questions with a partner.

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

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# 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.



# Your Response to God's Love



## Focus

How do you respond to the love God shows you?

The theological virtues of faith, hope, and love are actions that people do and see others doing every day. Here are some everyday examples of faith, hope, and love.

## Virtues in Action

### Faith

- Peter goes through the process of becoming a Christian.
- Amanda makes the Sign of the Cross each day when she wakes up.
- Carlos attends a Bible study.

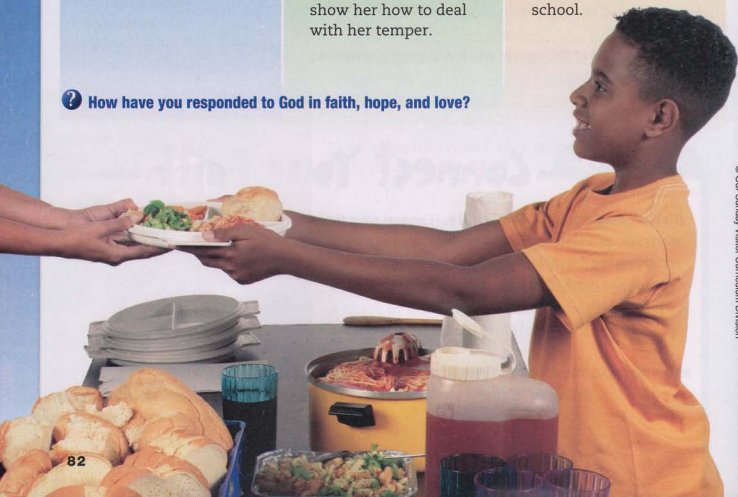
### Hope

- Elena goes to Mass with her family on the anniversary of her grandfather's death.
- Tony gathers with other people of his parish to pray for peace.
- Shantelle asks God to show her how to deal with her temper.

### Love

- Meg helps the teacher of a first-grade religion class every Saturday.
- Andrew helps serve dinner at a homeless shelter.
- José volunteers at a nursing home after school.

**?** How have you responded to God in faith, hope, and love?





## Activity

# Live Your Faith

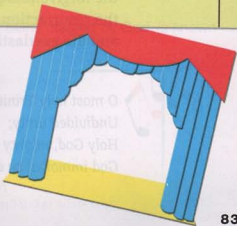
**Bring It to Life** In a small group, brainstorm four examples of people practicing the virtues of faith, hope, and love. Jot down each idea below.

Faith	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	Faith
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Hope	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	Hope
------	-------------------------	------

Love	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	Love
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**Act It Out** Make up a short skit or pantomime that shows each of the three virtues, and present the skit to the rest of the class.



# 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!







# 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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For weekly scripture readings and seasonal resources

## 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.

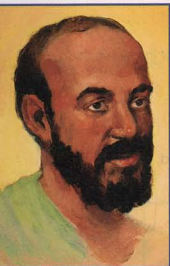
*In Unit 2 your child is learning about the TRINITY.*

86 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.**

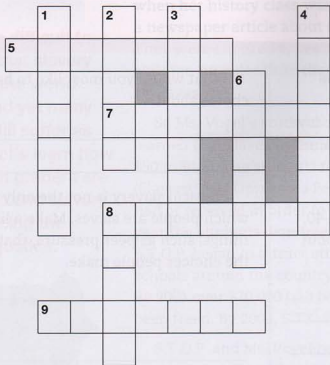


▲ Saint Athanasius  
c. 295–373



# UNIT 2 REVIEW

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



## Across

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

## Down

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

- B Check Understanding** Match each description in Column 1 with the correct term in Column 2.

**Column 1**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. a box containing the tablets of the law
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. means "work of the people"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. says that faithful people have a duty to pray and to offer worship to God on the Lord's day
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. divine likeness in each person
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. "Hear O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength."

**Column 2**

- a. image of God
- b. Ark of the Covenant
- c. the first commandment
- d. liturgy
- e. the third commandment

- C Make Connections** Write a response to each statement.

- 16-17.** Choose the theological virtue you understand most clearly, and in a few sentences explain:

What it means

How you practice it

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- 18-20.** Describe a moral decision you have made. Be sure to cover these steps:

Listen

Focus

Evaluate

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