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God made humans in his image and likeness so we could be in relationship with him.



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CATHOLICS BELIEVE

God reveals his love to us, and we are free to respond in faith by what we say and do.



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We relate to the three Persons of the Trinity in different ways. We are children of God the Father, brother and sister of Christ, and Spirit-filled.



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CATHOLICS BELIEVE

God the Holy Spirit lives within each of us as individuals and in the Church as a community. We are temples of the Holy Spirit, as is the Church.



SCRIPTURE

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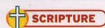
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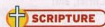


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CATHOLICS BELIEVE

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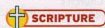


John 15:1–10; Romans 5:1

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CATHOLICS BELIEVE

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CATHOLICS BELIEVE

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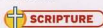


Matthew 16:13–19; Acts 2:1–4; Romans 10:13–15

11 The Church Is Catholic 144

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

As members of the Church, we are called to proclaim the Good News of Christ to the world.



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CATHOLICS BELIEVE

All baptized Catholics are called to be priests, prophets, and kings to serve the mission of the Church, but there are different roles in serving.



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CATHOLICS BELIEVE

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CATHOLICS BELIEVE

Families are called to be schools of faith in which we learn how to love, act, and treat others.



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CATHOLICS BELIEVE

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SCRIPTURE

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The way we worship and pray has an impact on the choices we make and the ways we live our daily lives.



SCRIPTURE

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CATHOLICS BELIEVE

The sacraments strengthen us to be faithful to our commitments and our relationships.



SCRIPTURE

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CATHOLICS BELIEVE

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SCRIPTURE

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SCRIPTURE

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CATHOLICS BELIEVE

Faith-filled men and women have made an impact on how the Church responded to the needs of their time.



SCRIPTURE

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JESUS

Reveals the Trinity

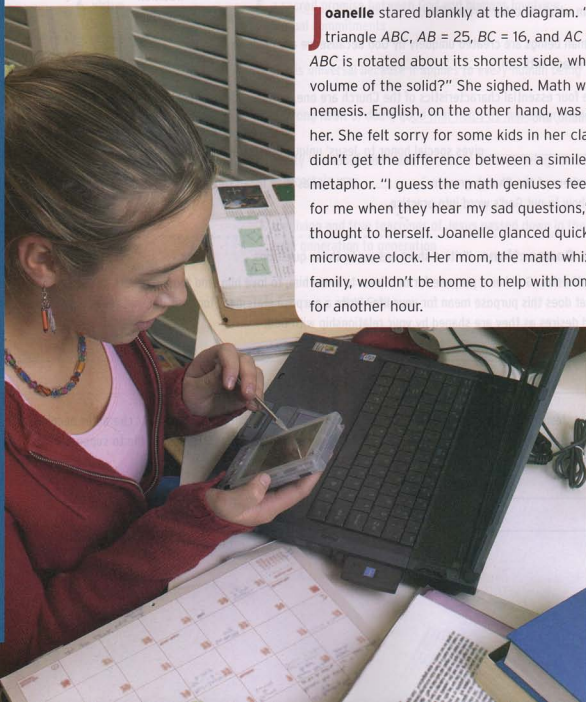


PRAYER

Holy Spirit, please guide me.

*I'm so many different things to different people,
sometimes I forget who I am.
I can feel my relationship with my parents changing . . .
and that scares me a little!*

Joannele stared blankly at the diagram. "In triangle ABC, $AB = 25$, $BC = 16$, and $AC = 39$. If ABC is rotated about its shortest side, what is the volume of the solid?" She sighed. Math was her nemesis. English, on the other hand, was easy for her. She felt sorry for some kids in her class who didn't get the difference between a simile and metaphor. "I guess the math geniuses feel sorry for me when they hear my sad questions," she thought to herself. Joannele glanced quickly at the microwave clock. Her mom, the math whiz of the family, wouldn't be home to help with homework for another hour.



"I'm hungry," howled Jadon, her ten-year-old brother, as he hopped on one foot next to her chair. Joanelle called him the human food processor because he was always starving. She stopped herself from telling him to get his own snack, remembering the deal she had struck with her parents: take care of Jadon after school and they would double her allowance.

As she was fixing him a big plate of crackers and peanut butter, her best friend, Tania, called. Joanelle usually loved talking to her on the phone, but Tania had been in a two-day funk because of a boy. Joanelle was tired of listening to Tania talk about it. She couldn't just ignore her best friend when she needed help, but the call seemed to go on forever.

Maybe what Tania needs is experienced help, she thought as she hung up the phone. She decided to ask her dad and see if he could help. "Well," he said with a grin, "I had no clue about girls when I was your age." Picturing her dad as a clueless teenager made Joanelle smile.

Okay then, on to the next expert. Joanelle questioned her mom about Tania's problems. "All that's just normal teenage stuff," her mom said. Joanelle sighed. "Yes, but what can I do when Tania won't stop talking about it?" "I understand, honey. Listening can be tiring. But that's an important part of friendship. It might seem like you aren't doing anything, but what you are doing could be just the thing she needs."



ACTIVITY

LET'S BEGIN Discuss the events of the story. What are the different roles that Joanelle has in other people's lives? What roles does she want or need other people to assume in *her* life?

- Draw a diagram of the network of relationships in your life (start with you in the center). How did those relationships come about and what are the connections between them?



A UNIQUE VIEW INTO JESUS



Focus What did the Transfiguration reveal about Jesus?



SCRIPTURE

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. **John 8:12**



SCRIPTURE

GO TO THE SOURCE

Read **Luke 9:28–36** to find out what Elijah, Moses, and Jesus were discussing. What parallel can be made between what the Old Testament figures said to Jesus and what they themselves had experienced?



SCRIPTURE

The Transfiguration One day, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a mountain to pray. His friends didn't expect anything out of the ordinary. However, they found out that Jesus was much more than simply their down-to-earth teacher and friend. As Jesus prayed, an incredible thing happened. Suddenly, his face changed and his clothes glowed whiter than anything imaginable. Then two men, also in shining clothing like an angel's, appeared out of nowhere and began talking with Jesus.

The disciples realized that the two men with Jesus were historic leaders of the Jewish people: Moses, the Lawgiver, and Elijah, the prophet, were standing before them, talking with their friend! The disciples had never seen this glorious side of Jesus before. They had walked many dusty miles with him and stayed in places that were far from heavenly. The unexpected experience was almost too much for the disciples. Then it became even more amazing when a cloud came and darkened the mountaintop, and they heard a voice from the cloud proclaim, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" (Luke 9:35).



How did the voice set Jesus apart from Moses and Elijah?



◀ *The Transfiguration*, by Giovanni Lanfranco (1582–1647)

A Glimpse into God Throughout Scripture, we find examples of God choosing to reveal important messages on mountaintops. In this particular mountaintop episode, the disciples witnessed the **Transfiguration** of the Lord, the event in which Jesus' divine glory was shown to them.

The Transfiguration not only revealed something about Jesus, but it also gave the disciples a glimpse into the Trinity. God the Father's voice was heard from the cloud, telling the disciples about the uniqueness of Jesus: He is not another prophet or Lawgiver, he is the Son of God, and they should listen to him. The cloud represented the Holy Spirit, as it had become a sign during Old Testament times of God's presence among his People.

As the voice finished speaking, the disciples looked around. The cloud was gone. Moses and Elijah were gone. Jesus alone stood before them. (See *Luke 9:34–36*.) The point was clear. The laws and prophets of the Old Testament had prepared the way for the coming of the Son of God. But now, Jesus is the Chosen One, the Person in whom we find the truth, the Person who reveals God to the world.

- ▶ Jesus spans the distance between God and humanity. He provides the bridge between heaven and earth. His role in the Trinity is to bring humanity back to God.

- 2 What separates us from God? How does Jesus act as a bridge between heaven and earth?

ACTIVITY

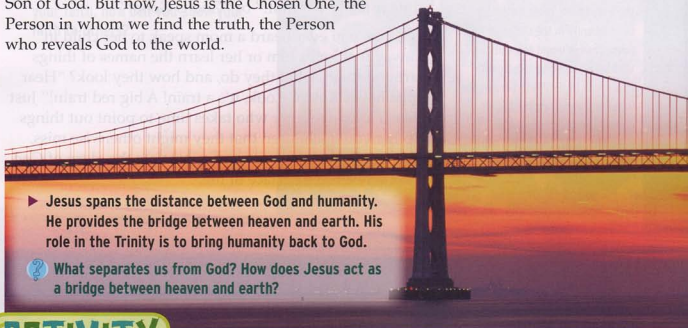
SHARE YOUR FAITH Are there times when you don't listen to someone you know you should listen to? What gets in the way of accepting what that person has to say? How can that person's words help you to make faith-filled decisions or to better live as a follower of Jesus?

CHAPTER Words of Faith

Transfiguration

Pentecost

grace



CATHOLICS
TODAY

We celebrate Pentecost as the beginning of the Church—the day the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles in the form of fire and wind, filling them with the courage to go out and spread the news of salvation in Jesus Christ. That day, no matter what language they spoke, everyone who heard the Apostles understood them! During Pentecost, the Church celebrates the gifts of Baptism and Confirmation given to us by the Holy Spirit. Those gifts help us build unity in the Christian faith, grow in moral and spiritual well-being, and give us strength to witness to the Risen Lord in our lives. On Pentecost, the Church gives thanks by renewing its commitment to spread the Word.

GOD'S GLORY
REVEALED

Focus How does the Holy Spirit further God's work on earth?

Even your favorite class, with a fascinating subject and a dynamic teacher, can sometimes put you to sleep. No one can deny that life has its boring moments. But there are also glorious moments—totally exciting times that take your breath away:

- ▶ making the team
- ▶ going on the big class trip
- ▶ getting praise from someone you admire
- ▶ moments of understanding, discovery, or inspiration

In these moments, we have a glimpse of what glory feels like. It seems as if everything is coming together. We feel more deeply aware and alive. We realize, "Wow! Life is really worth it!" or "God is Good!"

Have you ever heard a mom speak to her child in a way that helps him or her learn the names of things around them, what they do, and how they look? "Hear that noise, Kevin? Look, it's a train! A big red train!" Just like a loving mother who takes time to point out things to her young children that they might otherwise miss, the Church helps us see and appreciate the glory of God just beneath the surface of life.



The Holy Spirit Gives Us the Church Jesus promised his Apostles that the Holy Spirit would come to them. The Holy Spirit would help them spread the Good News of Jesus' life to others once Jesus had ascended to his heavenly Father.

The Church was given to us on **Pentecost**, the day that the Holy Spirit descended on those first followers—so that all believers thereafter would have help like that of a loving parent, pointing out to them what is truly important in life.

The Church has the role of helping us recognize and give thanks for the many ways in which God reveals his glory. In the Church, the Holy Spirit prepares us to know and love Christ, to share his communion, and to transform us in Christ's saving work.

▼ *The Pentecost*, by Domenico Theotocopuli, known as "El Greco" (1541–1614)

2 Apart from religion class or a parish youth group, when was the last time you talked about Jesus to another person?

2 If you're shy about talking about your faith, how can you *show* your faith to others?



ACTIVITY

CONNECT YOUR FAITH What are some of your glorious moments? Make a list and then describe how the experience brought you closer to your family, friends, or God.

MOMENT OF GLORY

CONNECTION TO OTHERS

	...	
	...	
	...	
	...	

RELATING TO GOD

Focus How do you respond to God's gifts?

God does not leave it up to us to invent our relationship with him. He is always in relationship with us, waiting for us to respond. He gives us the Church to help us know and love him. God gives us the desire and the ability to know and love him as adopted sons and daughters. This gift is called **grace**.

Grace is God's free gift to us. We do not deserve it. We do not earn it on our own. God offers us this gift again and again in many different ways. He is generous; he is always giving us the possibility of a life lived as his sons and daughters.

But the choice is always ours. We are free to accept and respond to the gift of grace. When we do respond to grace, it makes our relationship to the Holy Trinity stronger and deeper.

Knowing the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit In the Sacrament of Baptism we are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. As we get older, we are introduced to different ways of speaking about God. At Mass, at home, and in religion classes, we pray to God using different titles or names that reflect the various roles he has in our lives.

A favorite prayer addressed to Jesus is called the Jesus Prayer and uses two of his many titles, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner!" When you speak of Jesus as "Lord," you are saying that you believe he is God.

✓ CHECK THIS OUT!

Did you know that if there is great need, anyone can baptize another person? But only in an emergency situation and the person performing the Baptism must do it for the same reasons that the Church does. Water must be used, poured three times on the person's head, while the following words are said: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Usually this sort of Baptism is celebrated when the person is in danger of dying without being baptized.



TO WHOM WE PRAY

- ▼ Prayer is usually addressed to the Father, although it can also be directed to Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

TO THE FATHER:



Lord God
Almighty God
O God
Heavenly Father

TO JESUS:



Lord Jesus Christ
Savior
Son of God
Lamb of God

TO THE HOLY SPIRIT:



Lord, giver of Life
Spirit of Truth
Breath of God
Come, Holy Spirit

- ▲ Look at the titles to address God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Choose one from each column and explain what it means to you to call God by that name.

ACTIVITY

LIVE YOUR FAITH When was the last time you were given a significant gift and simply set it aside, not using it? How would you feel if you gave someone a gift and he or she didn't seem to want it or like it?

- How do you think God reacts when you don't accept or respond to his gift of grace?

IN SUMMARY

CATHOLICS BELIEVE

We relate to the three Persons of the Trinity in different ways. We are children of God the Father, brother and sister of Christ, and Spirit-filled.

- Jesus' Transfiguration revealed his divine glory as the Son of God, and shows us God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

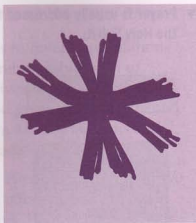
- The Holy Spirit is alive and active in the Church, who helps us recognize and give thanks for the many ways in which God reveals his glory.
- The gift of grace helps us to know and love God, to learn what it means to be his adopted children, and to grow in that role.



PROFESSION OF FAITH

Reader 1: I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

Reader 2: I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,



At the words that follow up to and including and became man, all bow.

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

All: Yes, I believe.

Reader 1: For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

All: Yes, I believe.

Reader 2: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

All: Amen.



"If You Believe"

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REVIEW

A Work with Words Circle the letter of the choice that best completes the sentence.

- The event in which Jesus' divine glory was shown to his disciples on a mountaintop is the _____.
a. Last Supper c. Sermon on the Mount
b. Transfiguration d. Ascension
- _____ is the free gift of God that enables us to be his adopted children.
a. Courage c. Mercy
b. Canon law d. Grace
- The day the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples is known as _____.
a. Easter c. the Ascension
b. Pentecost d. the Transfiguration
- Jesus promised the Apostles that the _____ would help them spread the Good News after his Ascension.
a. disciples c. Holy Spirit
b. Bible d. Church
- The Transfiguration gave the disciples a glimpse into the _____.
a. Word c. salvation
b. mercy d. Trinity

B Check Understanding Complete each sentence with the correct term(s). You may use some words more than once.

- The two men who appeared with Jesus at the Transfiguration were _____ and _____.
- A role of Jesus in the _____ is to reveal God the Father to the world.
- _____ is celebrated as the beginning of the Church.
- In the Church _____ prepares us to love Christ and to share in his communion.
- In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are baptized in the name of the _____, _____, and _____.

Word Bank

Father
Pentecost
Christmas
Trinity
Elijah
Holy Spirit
Moses
Matthew
Son

C Make Connections: Compare and Contrast Write a one-paragraph response to the questions.

List three different titles or names by which you address the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in your prayers. Reflect on what those names or titles reveal about the various roles the Trinity has in your life. How are their roles the same? How are they different?

OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

WHAT NOW?

- ★ Think about what role God has in your life.
- ★ As you pray, become aware of which Person in the Trinity you are praying to.
- ★ Evaluate what you need most from God right now.
- ★ Decide on one small thing you think God is calling you to do and do it.
- ★ Name some roles you play in your life and reflect on what role you play when you pray.

ACTIVITY

LIVE YOUR FAITH Allow the Persons of the Holy Trinity to work for you in your prayer life. Think about which of the three divine Persons you need right now and why:

God the Father, protector and provider

God the Son, friend, Redeemer, and source of wisdom

God the Holy Spirit, guide, comforter, source of strength

- ▶ Write down how each Person could offer you the help you need in different situations.
- ▶ Because you were probably baptized when you were a baby and therefore don't remember it, call your parish and find out when the next Baptism will be celebrated. Sit as a member of the assembly and enjoy someone else's Baptism. Let that celebration be a touchstone for you in appreciating your own Baptism!
- ▶ Afterward, write about your experience. What did you see and hear? What were the highlights of the celebration? How did those present express their joy? What was the most interesting part of the celebration? What does this sacrament say to us about God? About the Church?



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PRAYER

Father, Son, and Spirit, be with me today and always.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity Catez

gatherings in her hometown of Dijon, France, and played the piano brilliantly for guests. She spread joy to many through her music.

One day Father Valee, a Dominican, had a long conversation with Elizabeth. He explained to her that the Blessed Trinity dwelt in her soul. She was immediately inspired to live a life of praise and homage to God dwelling in her. She began to focus on her mission and her place in the society in which she lived. She visited the sick and taught catechism to the children.

Prayer became the center of Elizabeth's life. She would start each day praying before daybreak. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Rosary, and the Way of the Cross were her special prayers. She did penance and even wore a rough hair shirt. But Elizabeth wanted to feel more strongly that she was sacrificing all for God, so she prayed to suffer the Crown of Thorns. She wanted to experience the same pain that Jesus had suffered. She began to have terrible headaches. After two years, the headaches disappeared at the command of Elizabeth's spiritual director. She lived by the following rule: "In order to have peace, one must forget about oneself."

Elizabeth entered the Carmelite Convent in 1901. There she received the name of Sister Elizabeth of the Trinity. She devoutly referred to the Trinity as "My Three." She understood that a Carmelite lives a life of prayer and penance offered for souls. She spent long hours, sometimes days, in contemplation of the Blessed Mother and the suffering of Our Lord.

Toward the end of her life, Sister Elizabeth wrote on a wide variety of religious subjects. In 1906 she became incurably ill with what is believed to have been Addison's disease. However, she continued to pray and write rather than stay in bed. On August 31, 1906, Sister Elizabeth died at the age of 26.

After her death, the letters and retreat notes of Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity were studied and commended by a number of leading theologians. Some have even said that her ability to express theology and her talent for writing "rivals that of Saint Paul." Among her best-known writings was her "Prayer to the Trinity." She was beatified by Blessed Pope John Paul II in 1984.

Elizabeth Catez had a cheerful personality, even though she lost her father at a very young age.

As a girl, she attended family



▲ Insignia of the Carmelite Order, which Blessed Elizabeth joined in 1901.

GLOBAL DATA



- France is the largest nation in Western Europe, about the size of Texas.
- France is the only nation in Europe that borders both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.
- France is about 85 percent Catholic.
- Avignon, in southern France, was the Holy See for seven popes from 1309 to 1377.