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SCRIPTURE

The Creation of the Earth

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- The Bible is the word of God written in human words.
- The Church is the People of God gathered in the name of Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

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- Children first learn about God's love through their families.
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SCRIPTURE

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- The Holy Trinity is three Persons in one God.
- Jesus, God the Son, taught about God the Father and God the Spirit.

SCRIPTURE

The Father and the Spirit

John 14:6-7, 16-17

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- The Mass is the Church's most important form of worship.
- In the Mass, the Church remembers what Jesus did at the Last Supper.

SCRIPTURE

The Last Supper

Luke 22:14-20

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- Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God.
- Prayer is an important part of a Christian's daily life.

SCRIPTURE

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Luke 18:9-14

Praying Well

Matthew 6:5-8

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- Jesus shared the good news about God's kingdom of justice, love, and peace.
- Jesus is the Messiah, the chosen one, and Savior.

SCRIPTURE

Jesus in the Synagogue

Luke 4:16-22

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- Jesus died and rose to new life to save all people from the power of sin.
- The Church celebrates the Paschal mystery in all the sacraments.

SCRIPTURE

Mary Meets Jesus

John 20:11-18

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- The Church is the Body of Christ to which all members belong.
- Church members continue Jesus' work when they help others.

SCRIPTURE

Those Who Helped

Matthew 25:34-40

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- The bishops are the successors of the Apostles.
- The Pope, bishops, and pastors lead and guide the Church.

SCRIPTURE

Peter and Jesus

Matthew 16:15–19, 26:69–75;
John 21:15–17

11 One Holy People 127

- The Holy Spirit unites the Church and makes its members holy.
- Many cultures together make up the unity of the Church.

SCRIPTURE

The Feast of Pentecost

Acts 2:1–12

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- The Church's mission is to share Jesus' good news with the people of all nations.
- The Church is catholic because it is everywhere and welcomes everyone.

SCRIPTURE

Doing God's Work

1 Corinthians 3:5–9

Unit 4 Review 143**13 Choose Love 145**

- Jesus' law of love is to love one another as Jesus loves each of us.
- Jesus teaches that we should love and forgive our enemies.

SCRIPTURE

Love Your Enemy

Matthew 5:43–48

14 Share Your Light 153

- God's gifts of faith, hope, and love help you live a good and moral life.
- Christians are called by Jesus to be the light of the world.

SCRIPTURE

Your Light Must Shine

Matthew 5:14–16

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- The Holy Spirit and the teachings of the Church help you make good choices.
- Your conscience and grace also help you follow God.

SCRIPTURE

Saul and Jesus

Acts 9:1–30

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- Sacraments are signs that come from Jesus and give grace.
- The Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

SCRIPTURE

Many Are Baptized

Acts 2:38–41

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- The Sacraments of Healing are Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.
- In these sacraments the Church prays for spiritual and physical healing.

SCRIPTURE

Jesus Gives New Life

Luke 8:40–42, 49–56

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- The Sacraments of Service are Holy Orders and Matrimony.
- These sacraments celebrate people's commitment to God and the community.

SCRIPTURE

Servants and Stewards

1 Corinthians 4:1–2

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- God kept his promise to be forever faithful when he sent his Son, Jesus.
- The Church continues to be a sign of God's covenant.

20 The Church Today..... 205

- All members of the Church share in its mission to work for peace and justice.
- The Church is a sign of the kingdom of God.

SCRIPTURE

Sending Out the Disciples

Matthew 10:5–14

21 Life Forever! 213

- People who die in God's friendship live forever in God's presence.
- At the end of the world, Christ will judge all people on the way they lived their lives.

SCRIPTURE

A New Earth

Revelation 21:1–4

Alpha and Omega

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Unit 2 Trinity

In this unit you will...

learn about the mystery of the Blessed Trinity. There is one God in three Persons who are united in love. Each of the Persons of the Trinity is distinct, and they work together in love. We worship the Trinity when we gather for liturgy and in personal prayer.



What do you think you will learn in this unit about responding to God?

Chapter
4

The Holy Trinity



Let Us Pray

Leader: Lord God, send forth the Holy Spirit to set our hearts on fire!

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the holy Spirit be with all of you."

2 Corinthians 13:13

All: Lord God, send forth the Holy Spirit to set our hearts on fire! Amen.

Activity

Let's Begin

- Mysteries of Nature** Some things in this world just can't be explained. Only God understands the mysteries of his creation.
- Why did God make the sky blue and the grass green?
- Why can't mud be a prettier color?
- Why do insects have so many legs?
- Why don't dogs meow and cats bark?
- What questions do you have about the mystery of God's creation?



Learning About Mystery

**Focus**

What did Saint Patrick teach about the Holy Trinity?

Faith Fact

Bishop Patrick lived about 400 years after the birth of Jesus.



A STORY

Three in One

Long ago the people of Ireland had questions about God. As a bishop, Patrick was teaching about the three Persons in one God, someone asked, “How can you say that there is only one God when you pray to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?”

Patrick explained the **Holy Trinity** by plucking a shamrock from the ground. He held it up for the people to see. “The shamrock I am holding is one plant, but it has three leaves. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are not three gods. They are three Persons in one God. This is a mystery that we accept on faith.”

? What helped the people better understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity ?

One God

Patrick helped the people understand that there is only one God.

You can also learn from Jesus, who told his followers about the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Words of Faith

The **Holy Trinity** is the name for the three Persons in one God.



SCRIPTURE

John 14:6-7, 16-17

The Father and the Spirit

One day Jesus was talking with his followers about God. Jesus told them, “No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father.”

Jesus promised to ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to teach the people.

From John 14:6-7, 16-17

❓ What did Jesus say about the Father and the Spirit?

Activity

Share Your Faith



Think: Think about the Holy Trinity and the shamrock.

Share: Talk to your group about how the shamrock is like the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Act: Draw a shamrock and label one leaf “Father,” one leaf “Son,” and one leaf “Holy Spirit.”

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit


Focus
What is the work of the Trinity?

Jesus called God “Father,” and he taught his followers to call God “Father,” too. By his actions Jesus showed that he is God the Son, who became human to save all people. Jesus asked his Father to send the Holy Spirit, who is God’s love and grace, to be present with you.

The most important thing about the Holy Trinity is that it is a loving communion of Persons joined as one in love. The Holy Trinity is a mystery, a truth of faith that Catholics believe even though they cannot understand it completely. A mystery is a truth that only God can fully understand.

Through God’s revelation and with his help, you can understand more about a mystery like the Trinity. You can see the Trinity at work when you see love in the world. You can see the reflection of the Trinity in the Church. You will better understand the Trinity when you see God in heaven.

? What other mystery of faith do you believe?



Honoring the Trinity

The Church remembers and honors the three Persons in one God in such prayers as the Sign of the Cross and the Glory to the Father. The Church has developed summaries of faith called **creeds**. One of the oldest creeds is the Apostles' Creed. It is a summary of faith in the Holy Trinity. Here is how the three parts begin.

"I believe in God, the Father . . .

and in Jesus Christ . . .

I believe in the Holy Spirit . . ."

Working Together

God the Father created you. The Son, Jesus, saved you and is your brother. The Holy Spirit is with you now, making you holy and helping you bring God's love and peace to the world. All three Persons of the Trinity work together as one God.

? When can the Holy Spirit help and guide you?

Activity

Connect Your Faith

Write a Prayer Finish each prayer in your own words.

God our Father, _____

Jesus, Son of God, _____

Holy Spirit, help us _____

Words of Faith

Creeds are statements of the basic beliefs about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and about other teachings of the Church.



Celebration of the Word



Let Us Pray

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.



Sing together.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
There is one God who is Father of all.

"There Is One Lord", Taizé Community, © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé,
GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Leader: Joined together as one community, we are
called to one faith.

Reader: A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.

Read Ephesians 4:1-6.

The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Let us share our belief in the Trinity.
Do you believe in God the Father?

All: **I do.**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son?

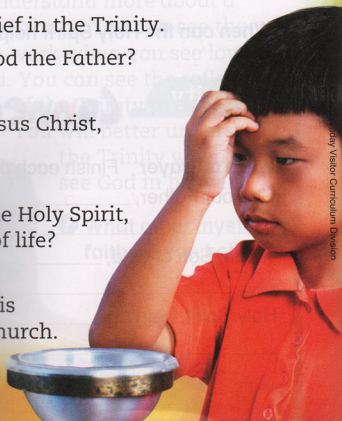
All: **I do.**

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life?

All: **I do.**

Leader: This is our faith. This
is the faith of the Church.

All: **Amen.**



Review and Apply


A Work with Words Complete each statement.

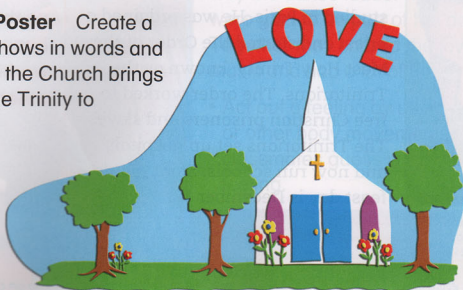
1. One of the Church's oldest creeds is the _____.
2. The name given to the three Persons in one God is the _____.
3. A truth that only God can fully understand is called a _____.
4. All three Persons of the Holy Trinity work together as _____.
5. Saint Patrick taught about the Trinity by using a _____.

B Check Understanding Name two ways to honor the Trinity.

Activity

Live Your Faith

 **Make a Poster** Create a poster that shows in words and pictures how the Church brings the love of the Trinity to the world.





Family Faith



Catholics Believe

- The Holy Trinity is three Persons in one God.
- Jesus, God the Son, taught about God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.



SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:1–4 is about the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Talk about how the Holy Spirit helped the Apostles.



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Activity

Live Your Faith

Show Love Talk about your family's life together. List ways that you show the love of the Holy Trinity to one another. Place a paper shamrock on the refrigerator or wall in your kitchen. Each time someone in your family shows love, place a sticker on the shamrock. When the shamrock is filled, go out for a family treat together.



▲ Saint John
of Matha
1160–1213

People of Faith

John was born in France, and he studied in Paris. He was ordained a priest and started the Order of the Most Holy Trinity, known as the Trinitarians. The order worked to free Christian prisoners and slaves. The Trinitarians set up hospitals and now run schools. Saint John's feast day is December 17.



Family Prayer

Saint John, pray for us that we may honor the Trinity by working to serve others. Amen.

Unit 2 Review

A Work with Words Answer each question with the correct word from the Word Bank.

1. Which form of prayer asks God for forgiveness? _____
2. Which form of prayer asks God to help other people? _____
3. Which form of prayer thanks God for all the good things in your life?

4. Which form of prayer recognizes God's greatness? _____
5. Which form of prayer returns God's love? _____

WORD BANK

blessing
praise
petition
intercession
thanksgiving

B Check Understanding Complete each sentence by circling the correct word.

6. The Holy Trinity is the (three/two) Persons in one God.
7. Catholics believe in the (questions/mysteries) of faith without completely understanding them.
8. The Church requires that you receive Holy Communion at least once each year during (Easter/Christmas) Season.
9. Catholics must attend (meetings/Mass) on Sundays and holy days.
10. The (rectory/tabernacle) holds the Holy Eucharist.