

Opening Lesson 1

This chapter introduces you to the different parts of your book and invites you to learn, love, and celebrate your Catholic faith.

God's Word One in Christ Jesus *Galatians 3:27-28*

The Church Year Feasts and Seasons 9

In these lessons, you learn about special days and times of the Church year that celebrate Jesus and honor Mary and the Saints.

Ordinary Time

All Saints and All Souls 9

God's Word A Grain of Wheat *John 12:24, 26*

Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Faithfulness

Advent

Walk in the Light 17

God's Word The Day Is at Hand *Romans 13:12-13a*

Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Patience

Our Lady of Guadalupe 23

God's Word The Canticle of Mary *Luke 1:46-50*

Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Goodness

Christmas

Glory to God 29

God's Word Prince of Peace *Isaiah 9:5*

Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Generosity

Lent

Time for Change 37

God's Word The Light Has Come *John 3:19-21*

Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Self-Control

Holy Week 45

God's Word Do This in Remembrance of Me

1 Corinthians 11:23b-25

Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Charity

Easter

Holy, Holy, Holy 51

God's Word Christ Our Passover *1 Corinthians 5:6-8*

Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Joy

Pentecost 59

God's Word I Will Pour Out My Spirit *Joel 3:1-2*

Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Peace





UNIT 1: Revelation

Unit 1 Preview 68

Chapter 1: The Creator's Work. 69

God's Word You Formed Me *Psalm 139:13-15*

The Creation of the World *Genesis 1:1-2:3*

- God created everything. All creation shows God's goodness.
- God created humans in his image and likeness with a unique roll in his creation.
- God gave us his gifts of creation to use, enjoy, and take care of.

Chapter 2 The Church Gathered. 81

God's Word Jesus Prays *John 17:20-23*

Helping One Another *Acts 2:42-47*

- The Bible is the Word of God written in human words.
- The Church is the community of all baptized people who believe in God and follow Jesus.
- Church members are called together to do God's work on Earth and to live out Jesus' message.

Chapter 3: Families Teach Love 93

God's Word Those Who Hear and Act on the Word of God *Luke 8:19-21* Mary Visits Elizabeth *Luke 1:39-47*

- Mary is a special member of God's family and the greatest Saint.
- The family home is called the "domestic Church."
- When we treat our family members with respect, we honor them as gifts from God.

Unit 1 Review 105



UNIT 2: Trinity

Unit 2 Preview 108

Chapter 4: The Holy Trinity 109

God's Word This Is How We Know *1 John 4:13-14, 16*

The Father and the Spirit *John 14:6-7, 16-17*

- The Holy Trinity is one God in three Divine Persons.
- Jesus, God the Son, taught about God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.
- Our family and Church leaders help us to grow in our understanding of the Catholic faith.



Chapter 5: The Church Celebrates 121

God's Word They Were Hungry *Mark 6:34-42* The Last Supper *Luke 22:14-20*

- The Eucharist is the Church's most important form of worship.
- In the Eucharist, the Church remembers what Jesus said and did at the Last Supper and receives the Body and Blood of Christ.
- During Mass we show respect to God by our gestures, prayers, active listening, and singing.

Chapter 6: Pray Always 133

God's Word Pray Quietly *Matthew 6:5-6* The Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13* Praying Well *Matthew 6:6-8*

- Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God.
- Prayer is an important part of a Catholic's daily life.
- We can pray to God in many ways and places.

Unit 2 Review 145

UNIT 3: Jesus Christ

Unit 3 Preview 148

Chapter 7: The Good News 149

God's Word The Woman and the Lost Coin *Luke 15:8-10*
The Rejection at Nazareth *Luke 4:16-21* The Mustard Seed *Mark 4:30-32*

- Jesus taught about God's Kingdom of love, peace, and justice that is in Heaven and is still being built on Earth.
- Jesus established the Kingdom of God on Earth, and his teaching and miracles were signs of the Kingdom.
- Jesus' parables help us to learn more about God the Father, his Kingdom, and faith.

Chapter 8: The Paschal Mystery 161

God's Word No Greater Love *John 15:12-13*
The Appearance to Mary Magdalene *John 20:11-18*

- Jesus died and rose to new life to save all people from sin.
- The Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery in all of the Sacraments.
- We sacrifice when we offer our time, talent, or treasure to God and others.

Chapter 9: The Body of Christ 173

God's Word Gifts of the Spirit *1 Corinthians 12:4-7*
Those Who Helped *Matthew 25:31-40*

- The Church is the Body of Christ, to which all her members belong.
- Stewardship is the way we appreciate and use God's gifts.
- As a parish, we can bring hope and understanding to others.

Unit 3 Review 185



UNIT 4: The Church

Unit 4 Preview 188

Chapter 10: Church Leaders 189

God's Word Jesus Sent Out the Twelve *Matthew 10:5-10*
Peter and Jesus *Matthew 16:15-19, 26:69-75, John 21:15-17*

- The bishops are the successors of the Apostles who teach, lead, and make the Church holy.
- The Pope is the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome, and the head of the entire Church.
- The Pope is the leader of the whole Church, and he teaches, prays, and cares for all of us.

Chapter 11: One and Holy 201

God's Word Jesus Preached Peace *Ephesians 2:19-21*
The Coming of the Spirit *Acts 2:1-12*

- The four Marks of the Church identify Christ's Church.
- The Communion of Saints includes all members of the Church, both living and dead, and form one Body in Christ.
- The Saints, show us how to live, love God, and make good choices.

Chapter 12: Catholic and Apostolic 213

God's Word Do Everything in the Name of Jesus
Colossians 3:16-17 Doing God's Work *1 Corinthians 3:5-9*

- The Church's mission is to share Jesus' Good News.
- The Church is catholic because she is everywhere and she welcomes everyone.
- When we show our concern for the needs of others, we help share God's Good News.

Unit 4 Review 225



UNIT 5: Morality

Unit 5 Preview 228

Chapter 13: Choose Love. 229

God's Word Pray for Those Who Mistreat You *Luke 6:27-28, 31*
The Story of Joseph *Genesis 37-45* Love of Enemies *Matthew 5:43-47*

- Jesus' New Commandment is to love one another as he loves us.
- The Beatitudes are teachings of Jesus that show the way to true happiness and tell how to live in God's Kingdom.
- When we share the sign of peace, it shows that the people gathered for Mass are one community of believers.





Chapter 14: Live in the Light 241

God's Word The Light of the World *John 8:12* Your Light Must Shine *Matthew 5:14-16*

- Each of us has a purpose and vocation that helps us follow God's plan and be a light to the world.
- The Theological Virtues help you live a good and moral life.
- Daily prayer, such as grace before meals and at bedtime, as well as participation in the Mass, strengthens us.

Chapter 15: Help with Choices 253

God's Word You Know My Thoughts *Psalms 139:23-24*
Saul and Jesus *Acts 9:1-30*

- Our conscience helps us make choices about right and wrong.
- God's grace in the Sacraments, and the Holy Spirit, help us make changes and good choices.
- Prayer, Scripture, listening to trusted adults, and the Sacraments help form our conscience.

Unit 5 Review 265



UNIT 6: Sacraments

Unit 6 Preview 268

Chapter 16: Sacraments of Initiation 269

God's Word A People Chosen by God *1 Peter 2:9-10*
Many Are Baptized *Acts 2:38-41*

- Baptism frees us from sin and gives new life in Christ.
- In the Eucharist, Jesus gives us the gift of his Body and Blood.
- We welcome and pray for those who have received the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and have become members of the Church.

Chapter 17: Sacraments of Healing 281

God's Word All Were Healed *Matthew 14:34-36*
Jesus Gives New Life *Luke 8:40-42, 49-56*

- The Sacraments of Healing offer God's forgiveness and healing.
- In Penance, a priest absolves sin. In the Anointing of the Sick, the priest anoints and prays for God to send his healing love.
- We all are in need of healing at one time or another, and our parish provides many opportunities to receive the Sacraments of Healing.

Chapter 18: Sacraments at the Service of Communion 293

God's Word Called to Be Free *Galatians 5:13-14*
 Servants of Christ *1 Corinthians 3:21-4:2*

- Holy Orders is the Sacrament in which baptized men are ordained as deacons, priests, or bishops to lead and serve the Church.
- Matrimony joins a baptized man and a baptized woman in Christian marriage to serve God by loving and serving each other and any children they may have.
- All the baptized are called to use their gifts and talents to serve others.

Unit 6 Review 305



UNIT 7: Kingdom of God

Unit 7 Preview. 308

Chapter 19: The Church Through Time 309

God's Word They Lived Together *Acts 2:42* I Will Be Your God *Genesis 17:1-19*

- God kept his promise to be forever faithful when he sent his son, Jesus.
- Throughout her history, the Church strives to be faithful to God's covenant and proclaim the Good News.
- When we study the Church's past, we can learn more about people and events that spread the Good News.

Chapter 20: The Work of the Church 321

God's Word Be Happy *2 Corinthians 13:11* The Commissioning of the Twelve *Matthew 10:5-14*

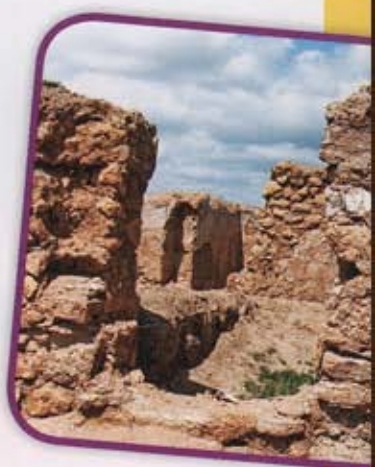
- We can use our time, talent, and treasure to worship God, help others know about him, and respect and help others.
- The Church is a sign of the Kingdom of God.
- When we give witness, we act according to our beliefs and bring the Good News of God's Kingdom to the world.

Chapter 21: Everlasting Life. 333

God's Word Whoever Knows Jesus Has Life *1 John 5:11-12*
 The New Heaven and the New Earth *Revelation 21:1-4*

- People who die in God's friendship will live forever in his presence.
- At the end of the world, Christ will judge all people on the way they lived their lives.
- As Catholics, we live in hope that God's grace and our loving actions will lead to everlasting life with God.

Unit 7 Review 345





Catholic Social Teaching Live Your Faith . . . 348

These pages introduce you to important teachings of Jesus and the Church that help us live Jesus' New Commandment to love as he loved.

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Care for Creation	360

Our Catholic Tradition Faith Basics 362

This section presents information on our Creeds, Sacraments, prayers and practices of our Catholic faith.

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The Holy Trinity



Let Us Pray

Leader: Lord God, send 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: God, you are so much more than our minds can ever understand. Be with us as we explore the mystery of your great love. Amen.



God's Word

This is how we know that we remain in Jesus, and he is with us, that he has given us his Spirit. “Moreover, we have seen and testify that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.”

Based on 1 John 4:13–14, 16



What Do You Wonder?

- Who is God?
- If you cannot see God right now, how do you know he is here?

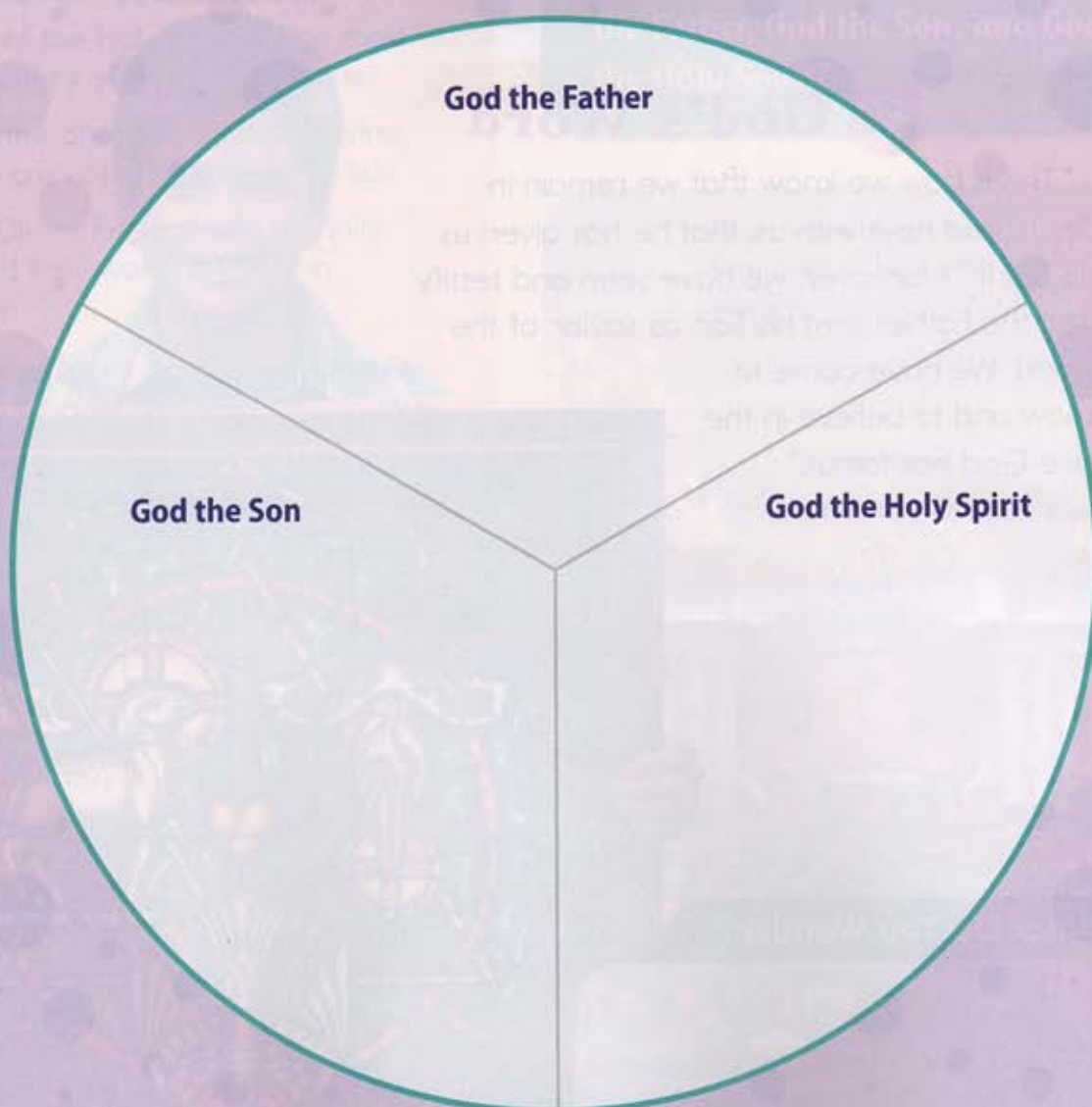
Getting Started

In this chapter you will learn that the Holy Trinity is one God in three Divine Persons, a perfect communion of love. Jesus, God's Son, taught us about God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

Use this circle to show some things you know about the Holy Trinity.



In each of the pieces of the chart, write at least one thing that you know about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.



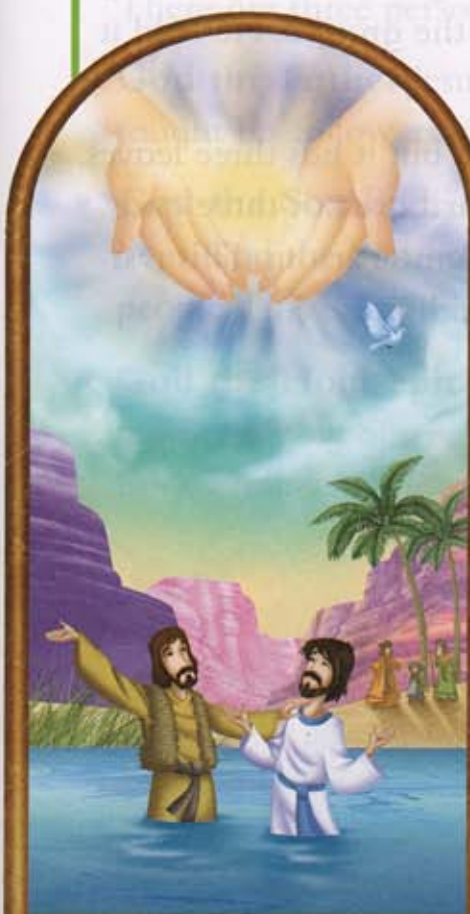
Catholic Faith Words

Here are the vocabulary words for this chapter.

- mystery
- Incarnation
- creed
- Apostle's Creed

Activity

The Holy Trinity Below is a triptych with two panels completed; one represents the First Person of the Holy Trinity, God the Father, and the other represents the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, God the Holy Spirit. In the middle panel, draw a picture of someone who has helped you know Jesus, the Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.



One God, Three Divine Persons

What can we learn about the Holy Trinity?

Have you ever learned something that was hard to understand? The story of Saint Patrick tells how the people of Ireland learned about the Holy Trinity.

Saint Patrick

Long ago, the people of Ireland had questions about God. As a bishop, Patrick was teaching about the three Divine 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?”

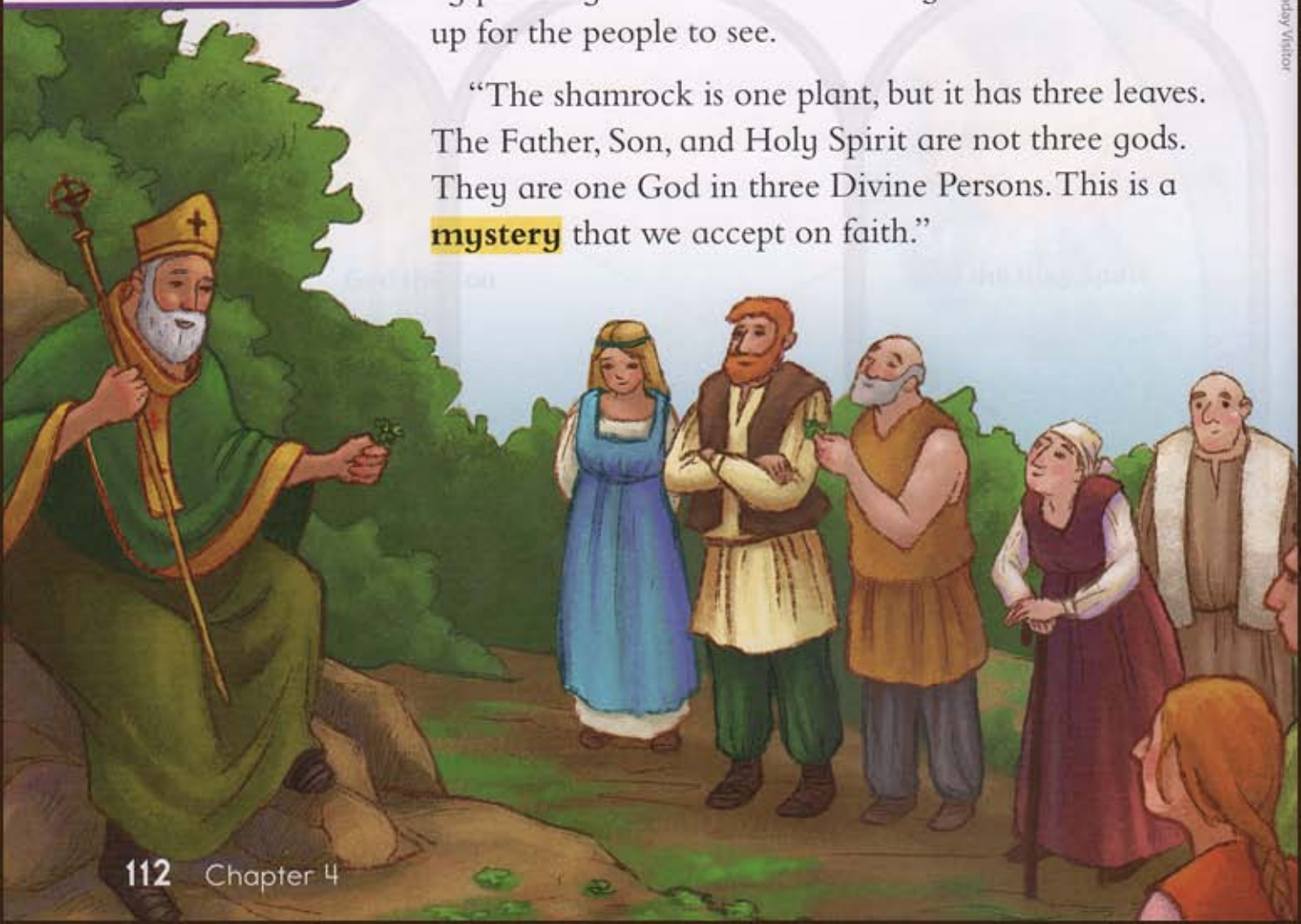
Patrick explained the mystery of the Holy Trinity by plucking a shamrock from the ground. He held it up for the people to see.

“The shamrock is one plant, but it has three leaves. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not three gods. They are one God in three Divine Persons. This is a **mystery** that we accept on faith.”

Catholic Faith Words

mystery a spiritual truth that is difficult to perceive or understand with our senses, but is known through faith and through signs

Incarnation the mystery that the Son of God became man to save all people



Jesus Makes the Mystery Known

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.



Along with the shamrock, a triangle or three interlocking rings are also used to explain the Holy Trinity.



God's Word

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 and guide the people. **Based on John 14:6-7, 16-17**



Underline what Jesus said about the Father.

There are three persons in one God:

- **God the Father** Jesus called God "Father," and he taught his followers to call God "Father," too.
- **God the Son** By his actions, Jesus showed that he is God the Son, who became man to save all people. This is known as the **Incarnation**.
- **God the Holy Spirit** Jesus asked his Father to send the Holy Spirit, who is God's love and grace, to be present with us.

Activity

Think How can symbols help you understand that the Trinity is one God in three Divine Persons?

Share Share your answer with a classmate.



Communion of Love

What is the work of the Holy Trinity?

The most important thing about the Holy Trinity is that he is a loving communion of Divine Persons joined as one in love.

The Holy Trinity is a mystery, a truth of faith that Catholics believe even though we cannot understand it completely. A mystery is a truth that only God can fully understand. But, Jesus came to help us begin to see that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are a perfect communion of love. The Holy Trinity is one God in three Divine Persons.

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.

Catholic Faith Words

creed a statement of the Church's beliefs

Apostles' Creed one of the Church's oldest creeds. It is a summary of Christian beliefs taught since the time of the Apostles. This creed is used in the celebration of Baptism.



Underline the most important thing about the Holy Trinity.



Honoring the Trinity

The Church remembers and honors the one God in three Divine Persons in such prayers as the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be and in the creeds. A **creed** is a statement of the Church's beliefs. 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 ...

I believe in Jesus Christ ...

I believe in the Holy Spirit ..."

Working Together

God the Father created you. God the Son, Jesus Christ, saved you and is your brother. God 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?**

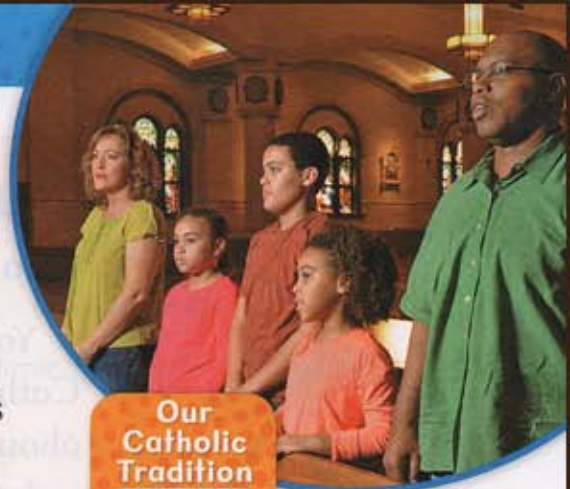
Activity

Write a Prayer Finish each prayer in your own words.

God our Father, _____

Jesus, Son of God, _____

Holy Spirit, _____



**Our
Catholic
Tradition**

For more,
go to page

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Our Catholic Life

Who answers your questions about the Church?

You are growing in your understanding of the Catholic faith. You probably have some questions about what you have been learning this year. It is all right to ask questions when you want to understand something better. There are people in the Church who will be glad to help you find the answers.

Finding Answers

There are many places to go to find answers to your questions about the Catholic faith. Ask your parents or guardians, your parish priest, or a religious education teacher to help you find the answers. They can probably lead you to the correct information source. Here are some places to look:



Place a check mark next to one resource you will use this week to help you find answers.

Resources

☐

The Bible

☐

Your school library

☐

The Our Catholic Tradition section at the back of this book

☐

With a parent or other adult, websites such as **aliveinchrist.osv.com**, or sites from the U.S. Bishops (**usccb.com**), your local diocese, and the Vatican (**vatican.va**)



People of Faith

Saint John of Matha, 1160–1213

December 17

Saint John of Matha was born in France. From the time he was a very little boy he tried to show his love for the Trinity. He obeyed his parents and studied hard. For a while he lived alone as a hermit. But he decided that God wanted him to become a priest, so he went to Paris. After he was ordained, he started a group of priests called the Order of the Most Holy Trinity or Trinitarians. They worked to free Christians who were slaves. There are still Trinitarian priests today. They honor the Trinity by working in schools and churches.



Discuss: How can you show that you love the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?



Learn more about Saint John at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Activity

Write a Letter Who do you think can help you learn more about the Catholic faith? Draft a letter to that person and ask a question about your Catholic faith.



Dear _____,

6. The _____ describes the

☐ Incarnation

☐ Mystery

☐ Annunciation



Let Us Pray

Profess Our Faith

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

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.



Sing "Yes, Lord, I Believe"



Chapter 4 Review

A Work with Words Complete the following statements.

1. A statement of Church beliefs is a _____.
2. The name given to the one God in three Divine Persons is the _____.
3. A spiritual truth that is hard to understand is called a _____.
4. All three Persons of the Trinity work together as one _____.
5. Saint Patrick taught about the Trinity by using a _____.

B Check Understanding Fill in the circle next to the answer.

6. The _____ describes the Son of God becoming man.
☐ Incarnation
☐ Mystery
☐ Annunciation

7. Jesus called God “_____.”

- ☐ Trinity
☐ Father
☐ Sir

8. One of the Church’s oldest creeds is the _____.

- ☐ prayers
☐ Scriptures
☐ Apostles’ Creed

9. The Holy Spirit helps bring love and _____ to the world.

- ☐ peace
☐ sin
☐ riches

10. You _____ learn more about your Catholic faith from people in the Church.

- ☐ can
☐ cannot
☐ should not



Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com for an interactive review.

FAMILY+FAITH

LIVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter examines the mystery of the Holy Trinity and the relationship between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

God's Word



Read **1 John 4:13–14, 16** and talk about how each of you know and believe in the Trinity.

Catholics Believe

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

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #253, 237 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child met Saint John of Matha, the founder of the Trinitarians. Saint John is known for his work in freeing Christian slaves in Tunis.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand The Trinity Because community is so important to many third-grade children, this is a perfect age to explore our understanding that God himself is a communion of Divine Persons. Your child is learning that community (and communion) between persons means mutual giving of self (especially important in parent-child and spousal relationships). This self-giving love is also evident in God's revelation of himself to us. The Trinity is a communion of three Divine Persons.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

How important is it to live what you believe?

Most people want to be seen as a person of integrity—a person who lives what he or she believes. So, we must be clear about what we believe. “The Church hears the perennial questions that each person asks at some point: ‘How shall I live?’ ‘What values or principles shall I accept?’ ‘What norms shall I make my own?’ ‘What gives meaning to my life?’ To answer questions such as these, we turn to a wise teacher. Christ is the ultimate teacher, and he continues to be heard in and through the Church today” (USCCA, p. 330).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain how the shamrock helps us understand the Holy Trinity.
- Give examples of how the Holy Spirit has helped guide you in your life.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint John, pray for us that we may honor the Trinity by serving others at work, at school, and at home. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.