

Lesson 4

I Believe in the Holy Spirit

Let Us Pray

The Apostles' Creed



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

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.

— *Roman Missal*

My Catholic Faith

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of our Catholic beliefs.

➡ **What does it mean to you when you express these beliefs?**

Sacred Scripture

When the time came for Jesus' Ascension into Heaven, the Apostles were gathered with him. Jesus promised them that they would receive the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would help them bring the Good News of Jesus' love to all people.

The following words from Scripture tell how this promise became real at **Pentecost**.



More Scripture on the Holy Spirit

You can read more about the Holy Spirit in your Bible. Here are some passages:

➡ God Guides the Israelites out of Egypt – Exodus 13:21

➡ The Preaching of John the Baptist – Matthew 3:11

➡ Jesus Appears to the Apostles – John 20:19–23

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were.

Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded and in amazement they asked, “Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language?”



—Acts 2:1–11

Living the Scripture

When the Apostles received the Holy Spirit, something amazing happened. When they spoke, each person heard them in his or her own language.

Have you ever had trouble explaining something you felt strongly about? Give an example.

How can the Holy Spirit help you talk at times like these?

How can the Holy Spirit help you share with others what you know about God?



Words to Know

Pentecost

the feast that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit fifty days after Easter

Our Catholic Tradition



The Holy Spirit Shares Jesus' Mission

In the story of the Incarnation in the Bible, we learn that Mary conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through Mary, the Holy Spirit made it possible for Jesus to come into the world. We can see the Holy Spirit at work in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. For example, in the Old Testament, when God created the world, the Holy Spirit appeared as a mighty wind. In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is present at Jesus' Baptism. Here, the Holy Spirit appears as a dove. Later in the Gospels, Jesus promises his disciples that the Father will send the Holy Spirit to be with them always. As you read in the Scripture about the coming of the Holy Spirit, this promise was fulfilled on Pentecost. On that day, the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles and to the Virgin Mary.

Pentecost marks the day the work of the Church began. On Pentecost, the Apostles were able to begin their work of **evangelization**. Today, the Holy Spirit continues to help the Church and make her holy.

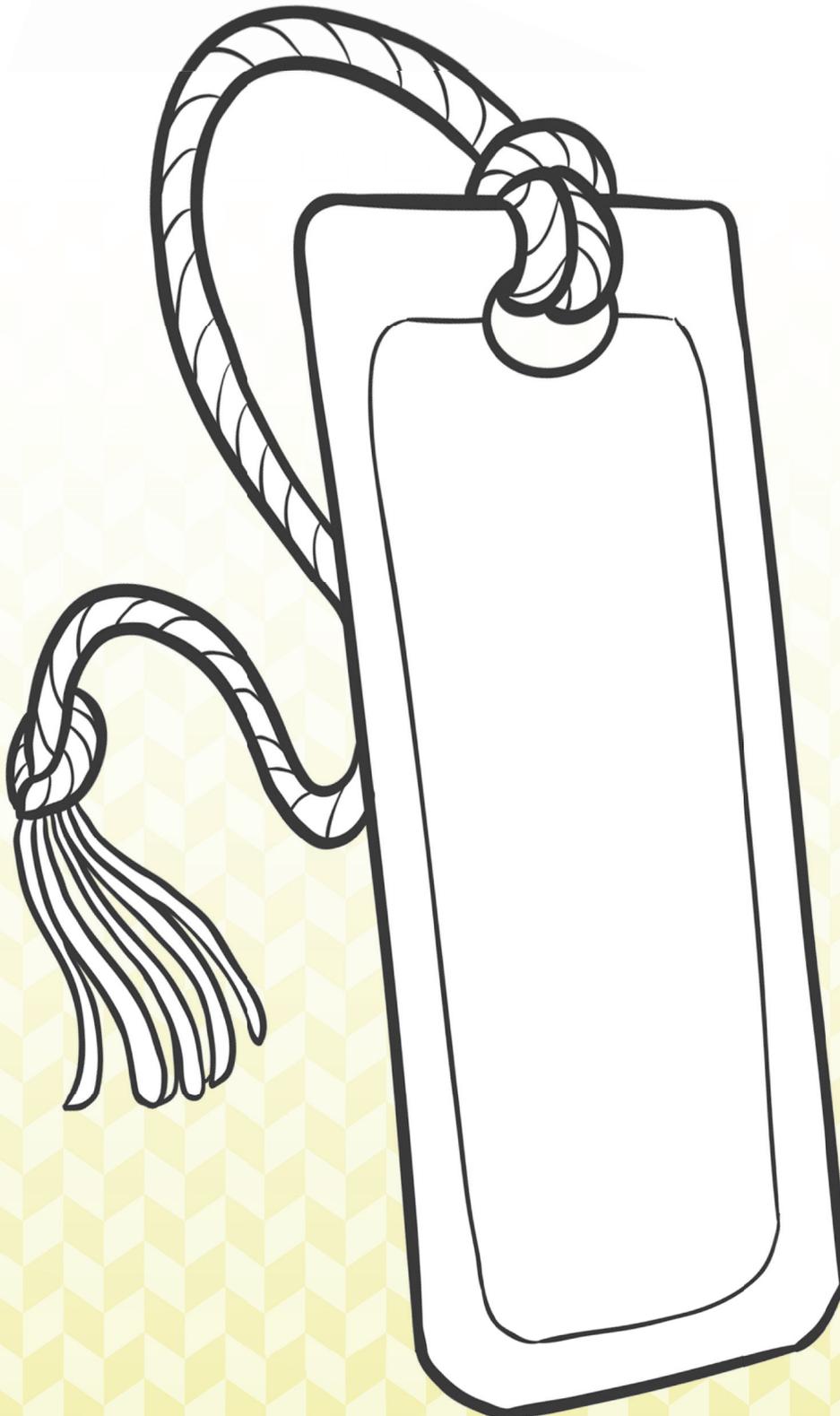
The Holy Spirit is the Third Divine Person of the Blessed Trinity. The role of the Holy Spirit is united with the role of Jesus. Together they strengthen the Church and make her holy.

Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work in the Bible?

Why did the Church begin to grow at Pentecost?

Live Your Faith

Design and decorate a bookmark about Pentecost. Be sure to include a symbol for the Holy Spirit and a message about what happened at Pentecost.



FAITH FACTS

Two symbols for the Holy Spirit are water and anointing with oil. Water is used at Baptism. Anointing with oil is part of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Orders.

Mary conceived Jesus, the Son of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Words to Know

evangelization

sharing the Good News of Jesus through words and actions in a way that invites people to accept the Gospel

Saints and Holy People

Saint Patrick (c. 387–460)

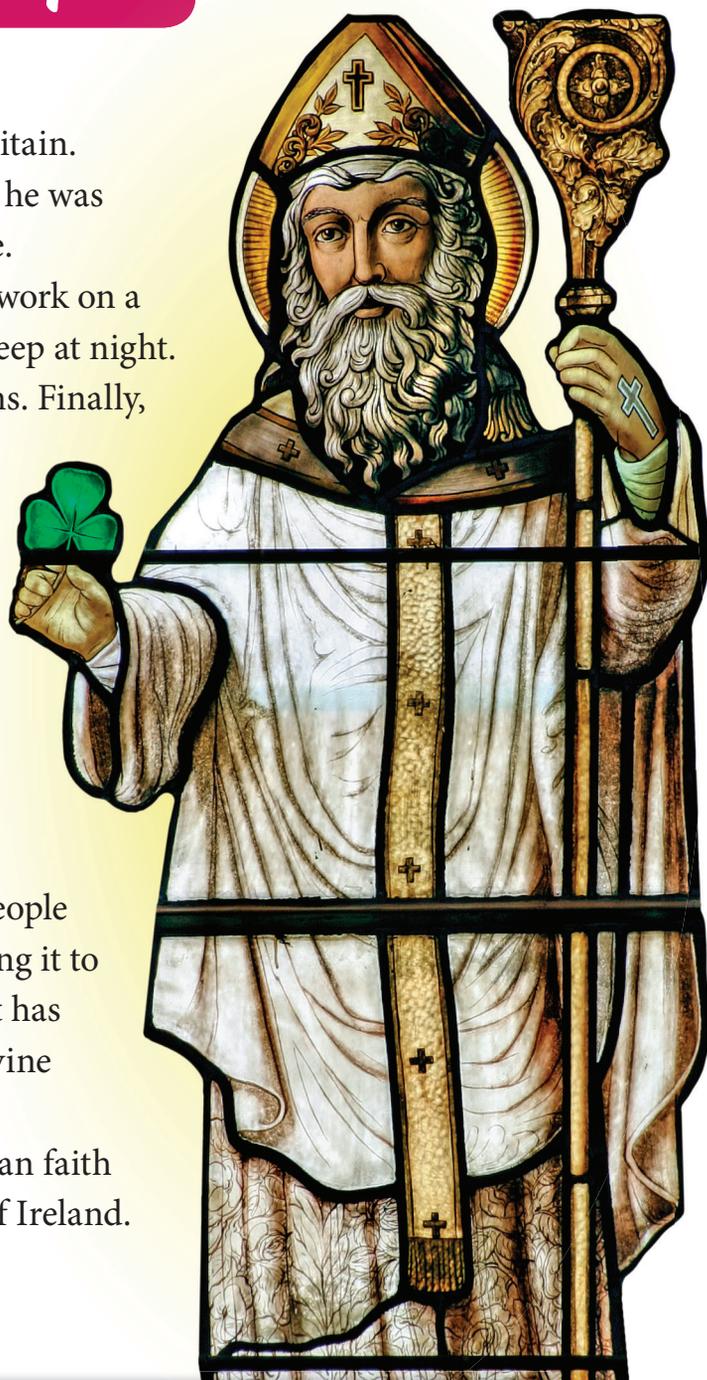
Saint Patrick was the son of a Roman official in Britain. One day, while tending sheep on his father's farm, he was kidnapped by a group of pirates and sold as a slave.

Patrick was taken to Ireland. He was forced to work on a farm, and had little to eat and no warm place to sleep at night. For six years Patrick lived in these harsh conditions. Finally, he was able to escape and return to his family.

When he was back home in Britain, Patrick often thought about the people of Ireland. He wanted to help them know about God's love and about Jesus.

Patrick prepared to become a priest. In time, he became a bishop and returned to Ireland. Patrick helped the people of Ireland learn about God. He taught them about the Blessed Trinity. According to legend, Patrick helped the people understand the mystery of the Trinity by comparing it to a shamrock. Just as the shamrock is one clover but has three leaves, so the Trinity is one God in three Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Saint Patrick is known for bringing the Christian faith to Ireland. Because of this, he is the patron saint of Ireland. The Church celebrates his feast day on March 17.



Catholic Customs

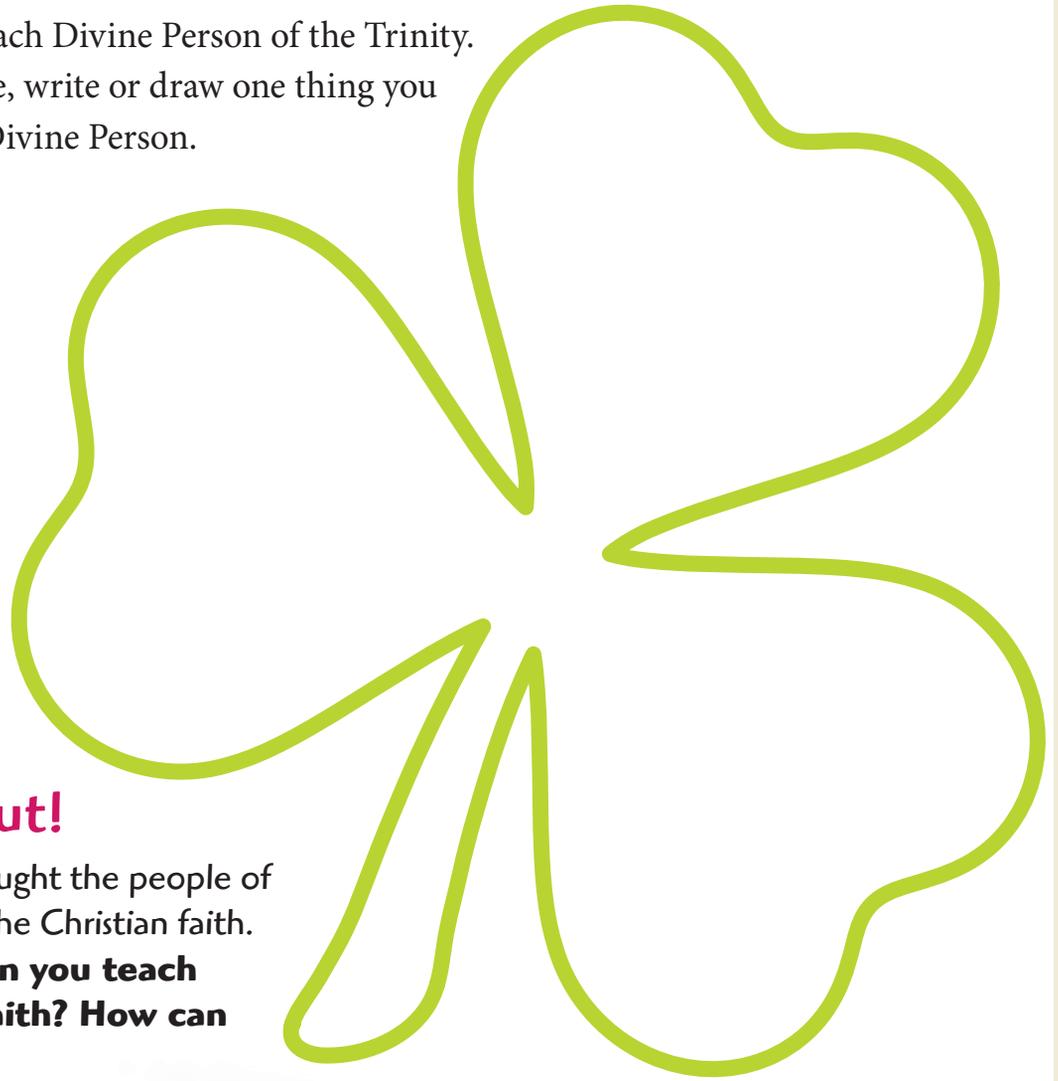
The Triquetra: A Symbol for the Trinity

Saint Patrick used the shamrock to help people understand one God in three Divine Persons. Another symbol of the Blessed Trinity is the triquetra (tri KE ta). The triquetra has three points and three equal sides, and it has no beginning and no end. This represents the unity, equality, and eternal nature of the Blessed Trinity.



Make It Happen

Saint Patrick used a shamrock to help people understand one God in three Divine Persons. Label each of the spaces below for each Divine Person of the Trinity. Then in each space, write or draw one thing you know about that Divine Person.



Reach Out!

Saint Patrick taught the people of Ireland about the Christian faith.

➡ **Whom can you teach about your faith? How can you do so?**

We Pray

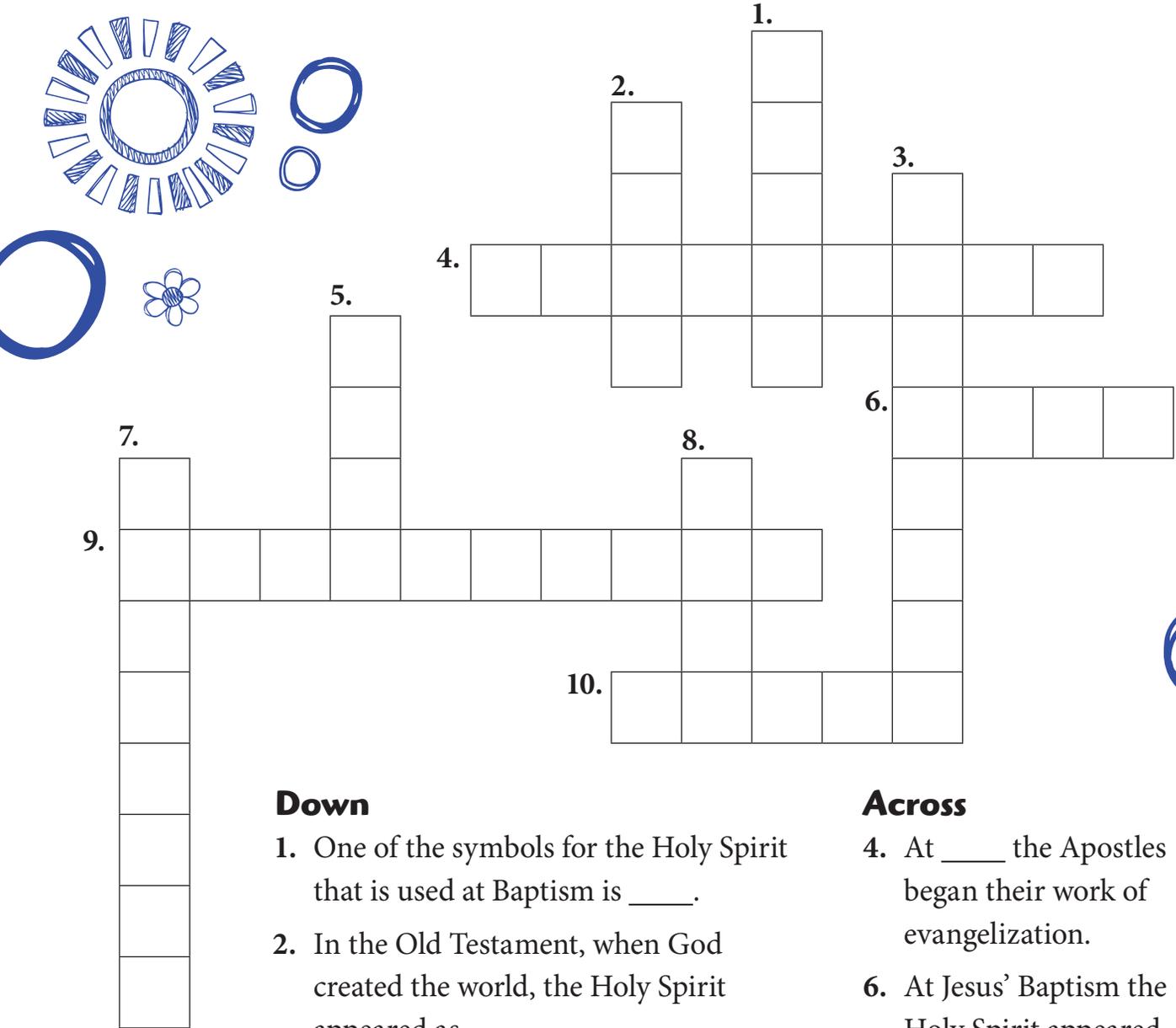
Glory Be

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end.
Amen.



Lesson 4 Review

A Complete the crossword puzzle using the following clues.



Down

1. One of the symbols for the Holy Spirit that is used at Baptism is _____.
2. In the Old Testament, when God created the world, the Holy Spirit appeared as _____.
3. Proclaiming the _____ of Jesus and the love of God is called evangelization.
5. _____ was present with the Apostles at Pentecost.
7. Saint Patrick used a _____ to explain the mystery of the Blessed Trinity.
8. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit came in the form of tongues of _____.

Across

4. At _____ the Apostles began their work of evangelization.
6. At Jesus' Baptism the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a _____.
9. The _____ is the Third Divine Person of the Blessed Trinity.
10. Mary conceived _____ by the power of the Holy Spirit.