

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 5

The Seven Sacraments

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Our Sunday Visitor

Trinity



Our Catholic Tradition

- The mystery of the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith and life. It is revealed to us and celebrated in many ways. (CCC, 234, 259)
- When we follow the First Commandment, we live in faith, hope, and charity. (CCC, 2086)
- We respond to God's love with prayer, with worship, and by practicing virtues in our everyday life. (CCC, 143)

How does our belief in the Holy Trinity affect the way we worship and the way we live?



The Mystery of the Trinity

Let Us Pray

Leader: Almighty God, we can scarcely imagine the wonder that is you.

“Who has gone up to heaven and come down again—
who has cupped the wind in the hollow of the hand?
Who has bound up the waters in a cloak—
who has established all the ends of the earth?”

Proverbs 30:4

All: God of signs and wonders, help us to adore the wonder that is you. Amen.

Scripture

“...Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.’” **Mark 1:9–11**

What Do You Wonder?

- Why did Jesus go to be baptized if he knew that he was God?
- What does this passage reveal about the mystery of God?

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

More Than Can Be Known

What gift did Saint 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 story of Saint Patrick is a good example of finding blessing in hardship.

Saint Patrick

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 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 if you were Patrick?





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 prayed 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. 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 those 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 Saint Patrick that the mysteries in human life draw people toward the **mystery** of God, who is so much more than they can ever grasp.

Share Your Faith

Reflect What are some things about your own life experiences that cause you to wonder about the mystery of God?

Share your thoughts with a partner.

Catholic Faith Words

Holy Trinity the mystery of one God in three Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

virtues good spiritual habits that strengthen you and enable you to do what is right and good. They develop over time with our practice and openness to God's grace.



Underline how God the Father made himself known during Jesus' baptism.

One God in Three Divine Persons

Who is the Holy Trinity?

Like Saint 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 Divine 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 the Baptist's Testimony to 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, she does so using the names of the three Divine Persons of the Holy Trinity. Those who are baptized enter into the very life of God, who is love. Every time we make the Sign of the Cross, we are reminded of our Baptism and our participation in the life of the Holy Trinity.

All of the Sacraments offer a share in God's life and into the divine mystery that is God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the Sacraments and personal prayer, we profess our belief in the Trinity when we pray the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.



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 other 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 good spiritual habit that strengthens you and enables you to do what is right and good. The virtues of faith, hope, and charity (love) are called Theological Virtues because they are gifts from God.

All people are made in the image of God because they are created by God.

The Theological Virtues

Faith	The virtue that makes it possible for us to believe in God and the things that he has revealed
Hope	The virtue that helps us trust in the true happiness God wants us to have and in Jesus' promise of eternal life, and to rely on the help of the Holy Spirit
Charity (Love)	The virtue that directs us to love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves, for the love of 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 Divine Persons in one God.

➔ How do some of the people you know reflect the image of God?

Connect Your Faith

Symbols of the Trinity Legend says that Saint 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.

Our Catholic Life

How do you respond to the love God shows you?

The Theological Virtues of faith, hope, and charity are actions that people do and see others doing every day. Here are some everyday examples.



In the space below each virtue, explain how you have responded to God in faith, hope, and charity.



Virtues in Action

Faith

- Peter goes through the process of becoming a Catholic.
- 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.
- Shannon asks God to show her how to deal with her temper.

- _____
- _____
- _____

Charity

- 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.

- _____
- _____
- _____

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People of Faith

May 2

Saint Athanasius, c. 295–373

Saint Athanasius was a bishop in Egypt. He lived at a time when some people said that Jesus was not really the Son of God. Athanasius taught that Jesus was both God and man. He also defended the doctrine of the Trinity. He helped people understand that there are three Divine Persons in one God. He suffered many hardships because of his faith. He was even sent far away from his home—not once, but five times! When he was alone, he spent his time writing, praying, and encouraging other Christians.



Discuss: How do you show your faith in the Holy Trinity?



Learn more about Saint Athanasius at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Name one way you can live each of the Theological Virtues: faith, hope, and charity.



Faith



Hope



Charity

Role-play a short scene that shows one of these virtues in action.

 Let Us Pray

The Apostles' Creed

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.



Sing "Holy, Holy, Holy"



YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter addresses the mystery of the Holy Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—and defines faith, hope, and charity as the Theological Virtues.

Scripture



Read **Mark 1:9–11** to find out about the baptism of Jesus.

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 charity are gifts from God.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #234, 1812, 1813 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

In this chapter, your child learned about Saint Athanasius. He is known for his courage to speak out about the Holy Trinity and his defense of Jesus as the true Son of God.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand God as Trinity The central mystery of our faith is also the most mysterious—how can God be Three and also One? Some theologians explain this mystery in terms of relationship. God, in his very nature, is a communion of Divine Persons, and he wants to be in communion with us. Relationships, especially “best friend”-ships, are increasingly important to children this age, and consequently they can identify with this relational nature of God in a way they could not when they were younger.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Has someone ever taught you how to stretch before participating in physical activities?

We need to warm up and stretch our muscles before we begin physical activity. Then our muscles perform better and we decrease risk of injury. God gives us the Theological Virtues to help strengthen our lives. As Catholics, we understand that “the Theological Virtues of faith, hope, and charity (love)... are not acquired through human effort but, beginning with Baptism, they are infused within us as gifts from God. They dispose us to live in relationship with the Holy Trinity. Faith, hope, and charity influence human virtues by increasing their stability and strength for our lives” (*USCCA, p. 317*).

LET’S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain virtue as the habit of doing God’s will.
- Share how your family lives the Theological Virtues of faith, hope, and charity (or love).

LET’S PRAY >>>



Saint Athanasius, pray for us that we may know and love the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as you did. May we always keep our faith even when it is difficult to do so. Amen.



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

Chapter 4 Review

A Work with Words Fill in the circle next to the choice that best completes the sentence.

1. A virtue is a _____.
 prayer prayed during Mass
 spiritual habit
 symbol
2. The Theological Virtue that expresses your expectation that God will grant you eternal life is _____.
 patience
 charity
 hope
3. A truth of faith that God has shown in Sacred Scripture, in the life of Jesus, or in the teaching of the Church is called a _____.
 stewardship
 covenant
 mystery
4. The divine likeness in each person, the result of being created by God, is known as _____.
 the image of God
 virtue
 faith
5. The mystery beyond words is _____.
 the Trinity
 virtue
 creation

B Check Understanding Circle True if a statement is true, and circle False if a statement is false. Correct any false statements.

6. Faith in God means that God is not a mystery. **True/False**

7. The mystery of one God in three Divine Persons is called the image of God. **True/False**

8. Jesus reveals to people the God they cannot see. **True/False**

9. Those who are baptized are baptized into the very life of God. **True/False**

10. The Theological Virtues are feelings that give us comfort. **True/False**

