

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 8

The Church

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Our Sunday Visitor

TRINITY



How is Jesus the perfect sign of the Father made visible in the world through the work of the Holy Spirit?

CHURCH HISTORY TIMELINE

- 313** Edict of Milan establishes religious freedom for Christians
- 325** The First Council of Nicaea
- 1274** Saint Thomas Aquinas finishes the *Summa Theologiae*
- 1978** Pope Saint John Paul II is elected Pope

Go to page 348 for more



Our Catholic Tradition

- We relate to the three Divine Persons of the Trinity in different ways. We are children of God the Father, brothers and sisters of Christ, and Temples of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit furthers God's work on Earth. (CCC, 257)
- We belong to the People of God through Baptism and belief in Christ. The Church is part of God's plan for all people to come to know him and love him, and all her members have a role in spreading his message. (CCC, 778)
- The Church is both a visible, structured organization and the Mystical Body of Christ, in which the Holy Spirit lives uniting the Church, guiding her, and giving the community and each of us life. (CCC, 771, 809)

Our Catholic Life

- Jesus' Transfiguration revealed his Divine glory as the Son of God, and shows us God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (CCC 554–556)
- Through Baptism, each of us shares in Christ's mission as Priest, Prophet, and King. We offer our lives and prayer to God, and we show others the Good News through our words and actions, and through how we serve and lead others. (CCC 1546–1547)
- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to give witness to Christ and live faithful lives, and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit are the results of those gifts working in our lives. (CCC 1831–1832)

The Trinity Made Known

♥ Let Us Pray

Leader: Loving God, all praise and glory and honor are yours forever! We praise you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

“Great is the LORD and worthy of much praise,
whose grandeur is beyond understanding.” **Psalm 145:3**

All: Holy Spirit, give us knowledge and understanding of who God is. Please guide us.

✚ Scripture

“At that very moment he rejoiced [in] the holy Spirit and said, ‘I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have

been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.’”

Luke 10:21–22

Have you ever thought...

- How does Jesus reveal God the Father to us?
- What does God’s being the Holy Trinity teach us about him?



Getting Started

In this chapter, you will learn about Jesus' Transfiguration and what it revealed about the Trinity. You will discover how the Holy Spirit furthers God's work on Earth and shows us his power through the Church.

Catholic Faith Words

- Transfiguration
- Pentecost
- grace
- Holy Trinity
- Creed

In the chart below, record what you know about ways that we encounter Jesus and explain what each one means on the lines next to it. This first one is begun for you.



| Encountering Jesus | |
|---|---|
| 1. <u>During the Mass</u> | : |
| <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | |
| 2. _____ | : |
| <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | |
| 3. _____ | : |
| <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | |

DESCRIBE

Relationships To be in relationship with someone is to know that person. It can mean you are related, but it always means that you have an association or connection with someone. Our relationships typically fall into categories such as primary, secondary, and acquaintances. In the first

three boxes below, write a phrase or sentence to describe the nature of the relationships in each category and list some people you would consider to be in each. In the fourth box, describe how someone could move from being your acquaintance to a secondary or primary relationship.

Primary:

Secondary:

Relationships

Acquaintances:

Moving from Acquaintance to Primary:



A Glimpse into God

What did the Transfiguration reveal about Jesus?

Sometimes we think we have someone figured out. Then that person does something that surprises us, showing us a whole different side of his or her personality.

As Jesus' disciples grew in relationship with him, they began to see Jesus in different ways. His followers had seen him preaching and healing. They knew he was special, but they had to grow in their understanding of who he really was.

Right Before Their Eyes

We read in the Gospel according to Luke that one day, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a mountain to pray. His Apostles didn't expect anything out of the ordinary. However, they found out that Jesus was much more than their 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 Apostles 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 experience was almost too much for Jesus' friends. 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 chosen Son; listen to him" (**Luke 9:35**).

As the voice finished speaking, the Apostles looked around. The cloud was gone. Moses and Elijah were gone. Jesus alone stood before them. (See Luke 9:34–36.)

Catholic Faith Words

Transfiguration the revelation of Jesus' Divine glory to the Apostles Peter, James, and John

Jesus spans the distance between God and humanity. He provides the bridge between Heaven and Earth. His mission in the Trinity is to bring humanity back to God the Father.

➤ **What separates us from God? How does Jesus act as a bridge?**

On the Mountaintop

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 the revelation of Jesus' Divine glory was shown to them.



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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 in their service to God and his People?

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.

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 One in whom we find the truth, the One who reveals God to the world. "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (**John 8:12**).

IDENTIFY

There are times when we do not listen to people's good advice. Identify a time when you did not listen to good advice and how it affected you.

God's Glory Revealed

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

No one can deny that life has its boring moments. But there are also glorious moments—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, “Life is really worth it!” or “God is good!”

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 Guides 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 Holy Spirit would be their Advocate, guiding and comforting believers and strengthening them to know and live by Christ's truth.

The Church was fully revealed on **Pentecost**, fifty days after Jesus' Resurrection on Easter, when the Holy Spirit descended on those first Apostles and disciples so that all believers thereafter would have help like that of a loving parent, pointing out to them what is truly important in life.

Catholic Faith Words

Pentecost the feast that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and first disciples fifty days after Easter



CATHOLICS TODAY

Every year, Catholics end the Easter Season by celebrating the Feast of Pentecost, remembering 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!

On Pentecost, the Church celebrates the Gifts of the Holy Spirit given to us at Baptism and Confirmation. Those gifts help us build unity in the Catholic 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 her commitment to spread the Word.

The Church helps 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.

- **Apart from religion class or a parish youth group, when was the last time you talked about Jesus to another person?**
- **If you're shy about talking about your faith, how can you show your faith to others?**



DESCRIBE

Make a list of your most glorious moments.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Describe how the experiences brought you closer to your family, friends, or God.



Relating to God

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 initiating a relationship with us, and waiting for us to respond. His Church helps us know and love him. God gives us the free, loving gift of his own life and help to do what he calls us to do. This gift is called **grace**, and it is participation in the life of the **Holy Trinity**, the mystery of one God in three Divine Persons.

We do not deserve God's grace. We cannot earn it. God offers us this gift in many ways, particularly in the Seven Sacraments. But the choice is always ours. We are free to accept and respond to this gift. When we do respond to grace, it strengthens and deepens our relationship to the Trinity.

Knowing the Trinity

In the Sacrament of Baptism we are baptized in the name of the Father, and of

the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is our gateway to the other Sacraments, and our first share in God's life and help. It is so important that, if there is great need, anyone can baptize another person. But only in an emergency situation, such as when the person is in danger of dying without being baptized. 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."

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 that reflect the roles he has in our lives.

A favorite prayer addressed to Jesus is called the Jesus Prayer, which 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. When you proclaim the Nicene or Apostles' **Creed** at Mass, you also make a formal statement of this belief.

Catholic Faith Words

grace God's free, loving gift of his own life and help to do what he calls us to do. It is participation in the life of the Holy Trinity.

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

Creed a formal statement of what is believed about the Holy Trinity and the Church. The word *creed* comes from the Latin for "I believe." There are two main creeds of the Church: the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed.

To Whom We Pray

Prayer is usually addressed to the Father, although it can also be directed to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The chart below shows titles we use to address God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Choose one title from each column and explain what it means to you to call God by that name.



| Titles Used in Prayer | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| The Father: | The Son: | The Holy Spirit: |
| Lord God | Lord Jesus Christ | Lord, Giver of Life |
| Almighty God | Son of God | Spirit of Truth |
| Heavenly Father | Lamb of God | Come, Holy Spirit |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

REFLECT

Explain the consequence in this world, for ourselves, others, and even globally, for not accepting God's gift of grace.



IN SUMMARY Catholics Believe

We relate to the Three Divine Persons of the Trinity in different ways. We are children of God the Father, brothers and sisters of Christ, and Temples of the Holy Spirit.

- 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.
- God gives us the free, loving gift of his own life and help to do what he calls us to do. This gift of grace is a participation in the life of the Holy Trinity.

Our Catholic Life

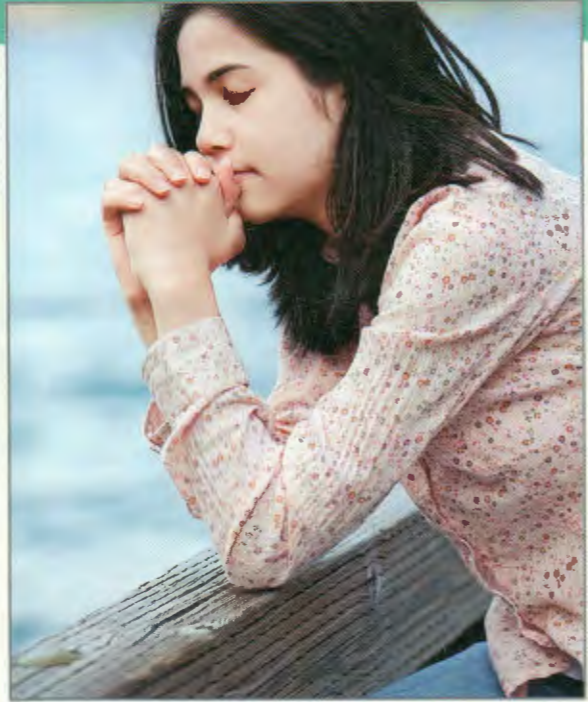
During Mass, we often call on all three Divine Persons of the **Trinity** in one prayer. In our personal prayer we can call on the the Trinity, together or individually. We can open ourselves to their work by thinking about how we might need each of them—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—right now and why:

God the Father, protector and provider, who ...

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

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

➤ **When did you last pray to a specific Person of the Trinity?**



People of Faith

Saint Lucy, 283–304

Saint Lucy lived nearly two thousand years ago. When she was ordered to make a sacrifice to an image of the Roman emperor, Lucy refused, saying, "If you were to lift my hand to your idol and so make me offer against my will, I would still be guiltless in the sight of the true God, who judges according to the will and knows all things." Because of her refusal, she was killed. Today we remember her as one of seven women mentioned by name during Mass. The Church celebrates her feast day on **December 13**.



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IDENTIFY

Explain what place God has in your life.

What do you need most from God right now or what can you offer him?

What is one thing God is calling you to do? How could you do it?



♥ 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,
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.

Reader 3: 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.

▶ *Sing or play "I Believe"*

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

- A Work with Words** Circle the letter of the choice that best completes the sentence.
- The revelation of Jesus' Divine glory to his Apostles on a mountaintop is called the _____.
 - Last Supper
 - Transfiguration
 - Sermon on the Mount
 - Ascension
 - _____ is God's free, loving gift of his own life and help to do what he calls us to do.
 - Courage
 - Canon law
 - Mercy
 - Grace
 - The day the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and first disciples is known as _____.
 - Easter
 - Pentecost
 - the Ascension
 - the Transfiguration
 - Jesus promised the Apostles that the _____ would help them spread the Good News after his Ascension.
 - disciples
 - Bible
 - Holy Spirit
 - Church
 - The Transfiguration gave the disciples a glimpse into _____.
 - the Word
 - mercy
 - salvation
 - the Holy Trinity

- B Check Understanding** Complete each sentence with the correct term(s) from the Word Bank. You may use some terms more than once.

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Father | Holy Spirit |
| Pentecost | Moses |
| Christmas | Creed |
| Holy Trinity | Son |
| Elijah | Abraham |

- The two men who appeared with Jesus at the Transfiguration were _____ and _____.
- A mission of Jesus in the Holy Trinity is to reveal God the _____ to the world.
- _____ is celebrated as the full revelation of the Church.
- When we proclaim a _____ at Mass, we make a formal statement of belief.
- In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are baptized in the name of the _____, the _____, and the _____.

- C Make Connections** On a separate sheet of paper, write a response to the questions: List two different titles by which we address the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Reflect on what those titles reveal about the various roles the Trinity has. How are their roles the same? How are they different?