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THE HOLY TRINITY

I pray that the Lord Jesus Christ will bless you and be kind to you! May God bless you with his love, and may the Holy Spirit join all your hearts together. (2 Corinthians 13:13)

Read

The **Holy Trinity** (also called the **Blessed Trinity**) is the mystery of one God in three divine persons. This is the most important mystery of our faith! We believe in God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. Each person of the Holy Trinity is unique and helps us in a different way. As Catholics, God wants us to share in the life of the Holy Trinity now and forever. The Sign of the Cross is a prayer about the Holy Trinity. When we make the Sign of the Cross, we say, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." This reminds us that God is always with us.

Talk About It!

1. What is a mystery? Why is the Holy Trinity a mystery?
2. Describe the different persons of the Holy Trinity. How are they alike? How are they different?
3. Is one person in the Holy Trinity more important than another? Why or why not?

Reflection Words

Holy Trinity
Blessed Trinity
divine
mystery
God the Father
Jesus the Son
Holy Spirit

Connect How are God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit with us during Sunday Mass?

Questions?
Call 1-800-940-2270

Reflect Each person of the Holy Trinity helps us in a different way. What does each person do?

Step 1: Organize your thoughts and plan your answer.

How does God help us?

How does Jesus help us?

How does the Holy Spirit help us?

Step 2: Using your notes, complete your answer in paragraph form.

Questions?
Call 1-800-940-2270

PENTECOST

On the day of Pentecost all the Lord's followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind!...The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak. (Acts 2:1-2, 4)

Read

Pentecost is a very important day in the Catholic Church. Each year, this feast day marks the birthday of the Church. On the first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to the apostles, who were very sad and afraid to share their faith after the death of Jesus. The Holy Spirit gave them the strength to go out and share the good news of Jesus with people everywhere! This act is what began the Church. Today, Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The symbols of this day are doves, fire, and wind. The church is decorated in red and the priest wears red or white vestments to show the love of the Holy Spirit and the fire the apostles had for their faith!

Talk About It!

1. Why do you think the apostles were scared to share their faith after the death of Jesus?
2. Why do you think the dove is a symbol for Pentecost?
3. On Pentecost, the apostles told the good news of Jesus to everyone. How do you think they did this?

Reflection Words

Pentecost

feast day

birthday

Catholic Church

Connect How does your parish celebrate Pentecost?

Questions?
Call 1-800-940-2270

Reflect Imagine that the pope has asked you to think of a new symbol to represent Pentecost. Draw this symbol and describe what it means.

EXAMINATION COPY
FOR YOUR REVIEW

Questions?
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ROLES OF PEOPLE DURING MASS

Read

There are many different lay people who play important roles during Mass to help the parish celebrate. **Lay people** are parishioners who have not received Holy Orders to become members of the **clergy**. The service of lay people reminds us that God has important work for all of us! Lay people can serve as lectors, cantors, Eucharistic ministers, and altar servers. A **lector** is a person who proclaims the Word of God during Mass. Lectors read the first and second readings out loud to the congregation. A **cantor** helps lead the congregation in the songs that are sung during Mass. **Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion** assist the priest or deacon in distributing Holy Communion. **Altar servers** are boys or girls who assist the priest at the altar during Mass.

Talk About It!

1. Why don't lay people proclaim the Gospel during Mass?
2. How many extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion does your parish have?
3. Who is the cantor at your parish? How long has this person served as cantor?

Reflection Words

lay people clergy
cantor lector
parishioner
congregation
extraordinary
ministers of Holy
Communion
altar server

Connect What do the altar servers in your parish do to help your priest?

SACRAMENTS AT THE SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Read

The **Sacraments at the Service of Communion** celebrate two very special ways for members of the Church to serve God. These sacraments are Holy Orders and Matrimony. The **Sacrament of Holy Orders** celebrates a man's service and dedication to the Church. He serves God in the role of bishop, priest, or deacon. The **Sacrament of Matrimony** celebrates the lifetime commitment a man and a woman make to each other. They serve God by being faithful to each other and raising a family. Both sacraments strengthen the recipients so that they can faithfully serve God by serving others.

Talk About It!

1. Have you ever seen someone receive the Sacrament of Matrimony? What took place during this sacrament?
2. Can a person receive both the Sacrament of Holy Orders and the Sacrament of Matrimony? Why or why not?
3. Why can only men receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders?

Reflection Words

Sacraments at
the Service
of Communion

Holy Orders

Matrimony

Connect Who in your parish has received the Sacrament of Holy Orders?

Questions?
Call 1-800-940-2270

Reflect Describe a marriage ceremony using your five senses.

Step 1: Organize your thoughts and plan your answer.

What do you **feel** at a marriage ceremony?

What do you **see** at a marriage ceremony?

What do you **hear** at a marriage ceremony?

What do you **smell** at a marriage ceremony?

What do you **taste** at a marriage ceremony?

Step 2: Using your notes, complete your answer in paragraph form.

Questions?
Call 1-800-940-2270

MARKS OF THE CHURCH

Read

Jesus founded the Catholic Church many years ago. The Catholic Church is unique because it is the only Church that can claim four marks, or qualities. These marks are one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. The **Marks of the Church** show that the Church belongs to Christ. Each mark has a different meaning:

One	The Church shares one faith in God alone.
Holy	The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are holy. We share in their sacraments so that we can become holy, too.
Catholic	Catholic means “universal.” The Catholic Church accepts all of God’s people.
Apostolic	Jesus founded the Church and entrusted it to the apostles. The pope and bishops are the apostles’ successors.

Talk About It!

1. Why do you think Jesus gave the Church these qualities?
2. One of the marks of the Church is catholic, and we are called Catholics. Do you think the word “catholic” has the same meaning for both?
3. How does the Church show that it is one?

Reflection Words

mark
one
holy
catholic
apostolic

Connect How do bishops carry on the work of the apostles?

Questions?

Call 1-800-940-2270

Reflect Draw a symbol to represent each of the marks. What does each symbol mean?

One

Holy

Catholic

Apostolic