

Catechumenate Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA
The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity • Year C • June 15, 2025

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—PROVERBS 8:22-31

In this reading, divine wisdom is personified. Wisdom describes herself as present with God before and during creation. Christian faith sees in this passage a foreshadowing of Christ, whom Saint Paul calls the very “wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:24).

SECOND READING—ROMANS 5:1-5

Theologians seeking to understand more deeply the inner nature of the Trinity have often looked at the fundamental Christian experience described in this section of Saint Paul’s letter.

GOSPEL—JOHN 16:12-15

Underneath the carefully constructed Johannine Last Supper are traces of the lived experience of the early Christian community. They came to recognize the Spirit of Jesus as an abiding source of truth, comfort, and guidance. After his Death and Resurrection, the disciples came to a deeper and fuller understanding of all he had revealed to them during his ministry—an understanding that proceeded from the promised Spirit.

Church Teaching

The mystery encapsulated by the dogma of the Most Holy Trinity has been revealed to humanity by Jesus Christ himself. This mystery, made discernable through human language, clarified by Church teaching, and professed in the Creed, is ultimately grasped by faith.

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 251, 257, 259

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: pages 51–53

Compendium—Catechism of the Catholic Church: 42–49

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Have the space set with chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a white cloth, a white candle, and a symbol that reflects the Trinity, such as a shamrock or an icon.

Discover

Ask the participants to share what they noticed about the music and the environment in the worship space for this weekend. Then ask:

What word, phrase, or image from our celebration of the Liturgy of the Word stays with you?

What is the message you hear in that word, phrase, or image?

Deepen

1. Pray the Glory Be together: *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.*
2. Lead the participants in a discussion around the following points:
 - The Glory Be summarizes the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity.
 - The Holy Trinity is Three Persons in One God.
 - God has no beginning or end; God is and will always be.
 - The solemnity celebrates God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 - We sign ourselves in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—God, who is Three Persons.

Pray

Pray the Glory Be together again, or use the prayer on the participant page as the closing prayer: *Most Holy and triune God, we glorify you: Father, all-powerful, Jesus Christ, Lord and Redeemer, Holy Spirit, fire of divine love. Draw us closer to your mystery, you who are One God in Three Persons, that we may worship you as we proclaim and live our faith in you. Amen.*

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Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Readings

Proverbs 8:22-31

Psalms 8:4-9

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

Welcome

Welcome everyone who is present, including sponsors, team members, and spouses who are joining the group.

Engage

1. Explain to the participants that the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity is always celebrated the Sunday after Pentecost. It came to be celebrated in the Middle Ages.
2. Explore what the participants already know about the dogma of the Holy Trinity. If possible, show the group several symbols used for the Trinity, such as a triangle, a shamrock, or an icon of the Trinity, and explain their meaning.
3. Proclaim the Gospel (John 16:12-15) and allow some time for silent reflection. Then highlight the following points:
 - The Holy Spirit guides our understanding and helps us to embrace the teachings of Jesus Christ.
 - The Holy Spirit opens our minds and hearts to hear the Good News of Jesus.

Explore

1. Summarize the **Church Teaching** section. Then lead the participants in a discussion about the Trinity, highlighting the following points:
 - The Trinity is a central teaching (dogma) of our faith.

- It is a mystery that we will never totally understand. We can grasp a sense of it but never fully understand. Compare it to the mystery of love: We know love, and we grow in love, but we never totally understand love. We cannot explain love, but we know when we are loved.
- The Trinity is the mystery of God: One God, Three Persons. Each Person is completely God; God is not divided equally into three parts.
- The Trinity is community. It is a union and communion of Three Persons in One God.

2. Highlight the **Key Terms** and **Voices of Faith** sections.

Apply

1. Encourage the catechumens and candidates to complete these statements:
From the prayer, discussion, and study for this Sunday, I understand the Church's teaching to be . . .
I am challenged to live the message of this Sunday by . . .
2. Remind the participants and their sponsors that when we make the Sign of the Cross when we enter the Church, we remember that we are called to carry the Good News out to the world. Invite them to discuss how they can be Good News this week.

Pray

Use the blessing 97F from the OCIA ritual text, or use the prayer on the participant page, as the closing prayer: *Most Holy and triune God, we glorify you: Father, all-powerful, Jesus Christ, Lord and Redeemer, Holy Spirit, fire of divine love. Draw us closer to your mystery, you who are One God in Three Persons, that we may worship you as we proclaim and live our faith in you. Amen.*