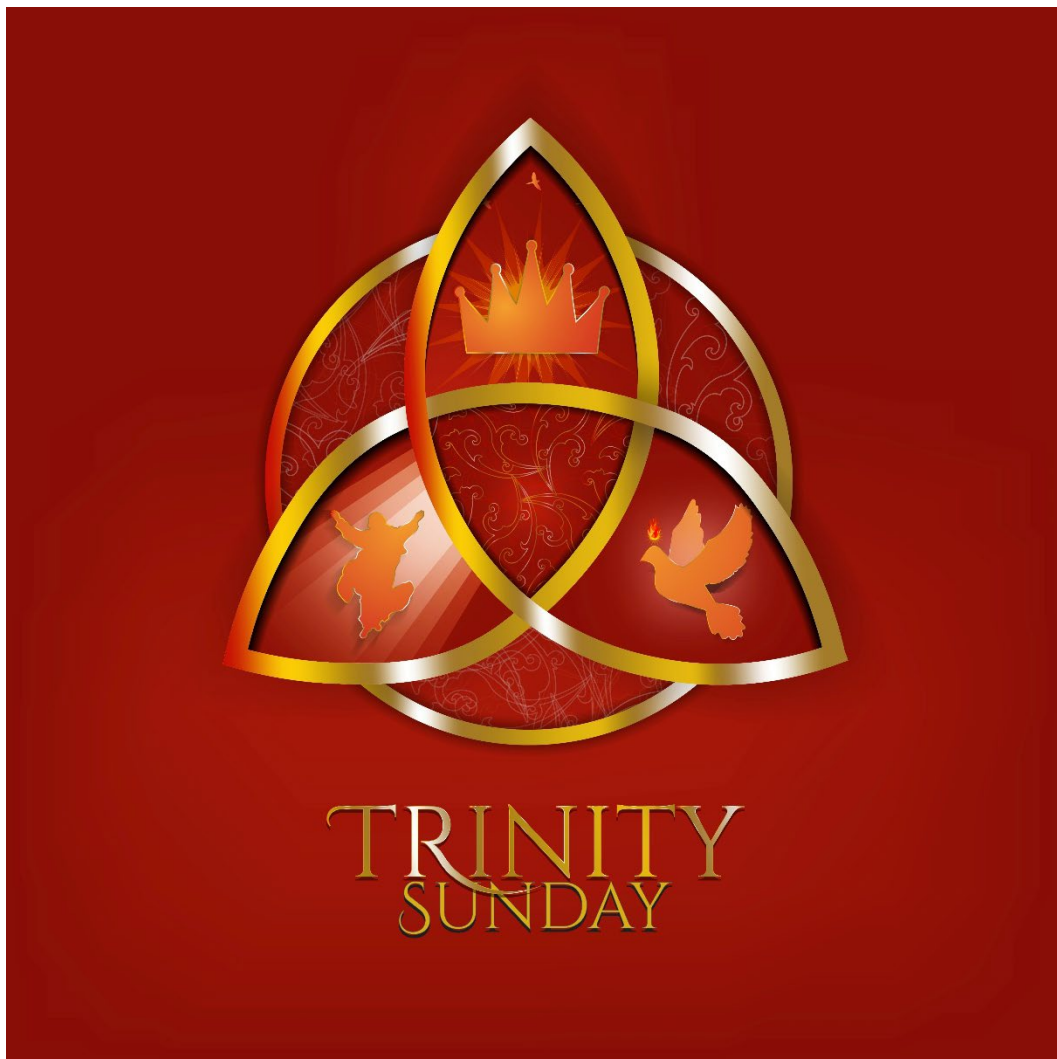




# DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD



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## Overview

The Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith: God is truly one, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—a reality that God revealed to us.

The Trinity is not a riddle for us to solve; rather, it is how we humans live in relationship with God. On Trinity Sunday, the Church celebrates God's communion with us and that this Divine communion reaches us through Christ and in the Holy Spirit.

Vatican II helped us understand that God sent the Holy Spirit to continually sanctify the Church and to give us access, through Christ in one Spirit, to the Father. Vatican II also makes a direct link between the Trinity and Christian mission: Christ sends the Apostles to make disciples and to baptize "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Children's Liturgy of the Word is not only about transmitting information. It is about helping young people develop a relationship with God as Father, through the Son, in the Spirit—so that the world can grow into "the People of God."

Every Mass is Trinitarian. We address every prayer to God the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit. The Trinitarian action that most of us practice frequently and regularly is the Sign of the Cross, always made "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Let us help children see the Trinity as the one true God who envelops them. Let us help children see the Trinity as merciful, gracious, healing and in Communion with us through Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This week, we can help children understand that each time they make the Sign of the Cross, they are offering a prayer to God. With this in mind, we included two additional reflections for you to choose from, one specifically to help them learn the Sign of the Cross.

Thank you for your ministry.

### Key Messages for Children

- † There is one God in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- † The Father is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love.
- † Jesus wants us to ask for forgiveness.
- † When we believe in God, we live in peace with others.
- † We praise God.

### Key Messages for Leaders

- † God is not far away— Trinity is the "central mystery" of the Christian faith.
- † We worship the Trinity with our prayer to God the Father, through Christ, in the Spirit.
- † Keep it personal and simple.
- † Children learn by experience, not by too much explaining.
- † Silence is a part of prayer. Sacred silence has its importance.

### Leader's Personal Reflection Questions

- When can I remember to *thank* God and *pray to God*?
- When I do something wrong, what is one thing I will say to Jesus: "Forgive me, Lord"?
- When I face a difficult moment, how do I incite the Holy Spirit to help me?

### Leader Takeaway

One God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who loves us, saves us, and accompanies us to live in peace

## Background

**Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9** Moses ascends Sinai a second time with the renewed tablets. God descended in the cloud and proclaimed His Name, revealing His character and fidelity. The reading presents us with the Name in a cluster of attributes—mercy, grace, patience, steadfast love, faithfulness—so that Israel understands who God is in relation to them. God is the living God whose love communicates and restores.

**Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55** blesses and praises God's glorious, holy Name, emphasizing worship that is joyful, reverent, and enduring. The Psalm prepares our hearts to receive the Trinitarian blessing in the Second Reading and the salvific love in the Gospel.

**2 Corinthians 13:11-13** Paul ends this letter to the Corinthians by exhorting unity, peace, and reconciliation, then gives a Trinitarian blessing. The formula is both theological and pastoral. Before the blessing, he urges believers to "live in peace," "agree," and be reconciled; then he grounds that community life in God's own gifts.

**John 3:16-18** God's love for the world is so great that He gives His "only Son," so that believers may have eternal life. God did not send the Son to condemn, but to save; yet those who reject the Son remain under condemnation already because they refuse to believe in the Son's name.

The logic is love, a gift that gives life. The Gospel centers on divine initiative—not our own: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." The giving is the decisive act; belief responds to it.

The condemnation stated in the gospel can be misunderstood. It is not described as God's first purpose. Rather, Jesus reveals salvation; refusal becomes the real crisis. John said: "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Those who "do not believe in the name of the only Son of God" are described as already condemned—not because the Son's mission is condemning, but because unbelief rejects the only offered path to life. The reflection and children's Gospel do not include references to Condemnation to avoid difficult explanations that children may not understand.

## The Liturgy

### Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

**Dear children, today, we celebrate Trinity Sunday. Go with your leaders and listen to God's messages to you.**

Once most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the celebration site. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the CLoW room, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

### Welcome

The leaders assist the children in sitting and preparing. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.** Help the children think and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may offer the following prayer, in these or similar words.

**Let's quiet our hearts and make the Sign of the Cross.**

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Father,**

**You sent Jesus to give us the truth  
and your Spirit to make us holy.**

**Through them, we come to know the mystery of your life.**

**Help us to worship you, one God in three Persons,  
by proclaiming and living our faith in you.**

**Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
God, forever and ever.**

**— Amen.**

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, the Gospel must be proclaimed.

## READINGS

### First Reading

Exodus 34:4b-34:6, 34:8-34:9

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Moses rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tablets of stone.

The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name, "The Lord."

The Lord passed before him, and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."

And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.

He said, "If now I have found favour in your sight, O Lord, I pray, let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance."

The word of the Lord

*A period of silence is observed after the reading.*

**R.** Glory and praise forever.

Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers,  
and to be praised and blessed is your glorious and holy name. **R.**

Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory,  
and to be extolled and highly glorified forever. **R.**

Blessed are you on the throne of the kingdom,  
and to be extolled and highly exalted forever. **R.**

Blessed are you who look into the depths  
from your throne on the cherubim. **R.**

Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven,  
to be sung and glorified forever. **R.**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 13:11-13:13

A reading from the second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

"God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## REIMAGINED READINGS FOR CHILDREN

The reimagined readings below are intended for use after the children have heard the original reading. The intent is to allow the children to listen to the original reading and help them better understand it (not replace it).

Read at a minimum, the Gospel, which has the highest priority, and then ask the children to sit down. You can then read the reimagined reading. Leaders may not have time to read all of the reading. If time permits, after the Gospel, proclaim the Psalm, and then the first reading, if time permits.

Reimagined readers must always remain faithful to the original Scripture's intent, making it age-appropriate for children to understand.

### First Reading

Exodus 34:4b-34:6, 34:8-34:9

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Moses got up early in the morning and climbed Mount Sinai, just like God told him to do. He brought two stone tablets (the Ten Commandments) in his hands.

Then God came near—there was a cloud—and God stood with Moses. God said His holy Name: "The Lord."

God also told Moses that God is merciful and kind, patient and slow to anger, and full of steadfast love, always keeping His promises.

Moses bowed down and worshiped God. He prayed, "Lord, please go with us. Help us even though we are stubborn and make mistakes. Forgive our sins. Be our God, and take us as Your own people."

**R.** Glory and praise forever.

Blessed are You, Lord,  
God of our fathers! **R.**

Blessed are You on Your King's throne  
ruling with love forever. **R.**

Blessed are You in the heaven  
where You are praised and sung to with joy forever. **R.**

A reading from the second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Friends:

St. Paul says, "Help each other and live in a way that brings peace. Try to get along, be friendly, and agree as best as you can. If you live this way, God will be with you.

He also says to talk with each other with kindness, the way people greet family.

And then he prays this special blessing: May the grace of Jesus be with you, may God's love be with you, and may the Holy Spirit help you feel close to God and to each other.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus told Nicodemus:

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

God's love is really, really big. God gave us His Son, Jesus, because God wants to save us, not leave us alone.

## Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Remember the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions. An excellent place to begin is the question:

### **What did you hear?**

Today we celebrate the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. God is not far away—God wants to be close to us and to bring us life, peace, and love.

When we listen to the readings at Mass, it is not just "story time." God is speaking to His people.

### **When you hear the readings, do you think God is speaking *to everyone*, or only to grown-ups?**

In the first reading, Moses meets God on Mount Sinai. God tells Moses what God is like. God is merciful, patient, and full of steadfast love and faithfulness.

### **If God is merciful, what does that mean God does when we make mistakes?**

Moses bows down and worships because God's heart is good.

In the Gospel, Jesus says something wonderful and strong: God loved the world so much that God gave His only Son—Jesus. Jesus came not to condemn, but to save people and give them eternal life with God.

### **Do you think Jesus came to help people feel loved—or to scare people?**

Jesus also says, "When people believe in Him, they are not condemned."

### **What can you do this week to show you believe Jesus is God's Son?**

A simple way to remember the Trinity (for you this week)

A Father who is merciful, a Son who saves, and a Spirit who brings peace and togetherness.

### **Choose one small action:**

When you mess up, ask for forgiveness.

When someone is mean, try to be gentle.

When you pray, say "Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit."

## Alternative Reflection

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity is the ideal day to introduce, practice or explain the Sign of the Cross. The reflection below is meant to help children and may be presented in these or similar words.

### Introducing the Sign of the Cross to Children

#### 1. Start with Why (Explain the Meaning)

- Explain it: "The Sign of the Cross is a special prayer that shows we are Christians and that we love God."
- God's Love: "When we make the Sign of the Cross, we're asking God – the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit – to be with us and to bless us."

#### 2. Show Them How (Demonstrate the Gesture)

- Slowly and clearly: "We use our right hand to make the Sign of the Cross. Watch me."
- Forehead: "First, we touch our forehead and say, 'In the name of the Father...'"
- Chest: "Then, we touch our chest and say, '...and of the Son...'"
- Shoulders: "Next, we touch our left shoulder, then our right shoulder, and say, '...and of the Holy Spirit.'"
- Joining Hands: "Finally, we bring our hands together and say, 'Amen.'"
- Emphasize reverence: Make the sign slowly and deliberately, not rushed.

#### 3. Explain the Symbolism (What it Means)

- The Trinity: "When we say 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,' we remember that God is three persons in one."
- The Cross of Jesus: "The Sign of the Cross reminds us that Jesus died on the cross for us because He loves us very much."
- Our Whole Being: "We move our hand from our head to our heart to our shoulders, asking God to bless our thoughts, our feelings, and our actions."

#### 4. Practice Together (Make it Fun)

- Follow the leader: "Now, let's try it together! We'll go slowly, and you can follow me."
- Repeat and reinforce: Practice the Sign of the Cross several times, repeating the words each time.
- Make it a game: Turn it into a fun activity by saying it differently (e.g., whisper, loud voice, slow motion).

#### 5. When to Use It (Make it a Habit)

- Start and end prayers: "We can make the Sign of the Cross when we start and end our prayers."
- Entering a church: "We can make it when we come into church."
- Times of trouble: "We can make it when we are scared or need God's help."
- Morning and night: "We can make it when we wake up and before we go to sleep."

#### 6. Reinforce and Encourage (Positive Feedback)

- Praise and encouragement: "Great job, everyone! You're learning to make the Sign of the Cross!"
- Explain its importance: "Every time you make the Sign of the Cross, you tell yourself and others that you belong to God."

#### Additional Tips:

- **Keep it Simple:** Avoid overwhelming them with too much information at once.
- **Be Patient:** It takes time and practice to learn, so be patient and encouraging.
- **Personal Testimony:** Share why the Sign of the Cross is important to you.

## Second Alternative Reflection

Good morning, children. Let's begin by making the Sign of the Cross.

### **What did we hear?**

Today, we celebrate something very special: the Most Holy Trinity. That might sound like a big, complicated word, but it's actually a beautiful idea. It means that God is three persons in one: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Think about your own family. Maybe you have a mom, a dad, brothers, sisters, grandparents, and cousins. Each person is different, but you all belong to the same family. You love each other, help each other, and share your lives together.

God is like that, but even more amazing! God the Father is like the head of the family. He created everything – the sun, the moon, the stars, the earth, and all of us! He loves us very, very much, like a parent who always wants what's best for their children. Then there's God the Son, Jesus. Jesus came to Earth to show us how much God loves us. He taught us to be kind, to forgive, and to love everyone, even our enemies. Jesus is like a big brother who always looks out for us and shows us the right way to live. And then there's God, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is like the love that the Father and the Son share with each other. It's like a warm, cozy feeling in our hearts that helps us know what is right and gives us the strength to do good things. The Holy Spirit is always with us, guiding us and helping us feel close to God.

The Trinity means that God is a family of love. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all love each other perfectly, and they love us too! The Trinity is a mystery, which means it's hard to understand completely, but we can feel God's love in our hearts every day. Today, let's try to be more like God's family. Let's be kind to each other, help each other, and share our love with everyone we meet. Because when we love each other, we show the world how wonderful God's love is!

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess their faith. Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

## The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who gave his life for us?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: I believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

## Prayer of the Faithful

Leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. The leader may need to repeat and paraphrase the petition, concluding it with the cue for the response: 'We pray.' All respond to each petition by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." Sample intercessions are below.

The intercessions are said. The Leader introduces them, and an assistant announces them.

The leader says:

**God our Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—please hear us. The response is: please hear us.**

Assistant:

**For everyone in this church: that we may praise God's holy Name with happy hearts, now and always. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For people who need hope: that they may learn how much God loves the world and that Jesus came to save them. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For our families and friends: that we may live in peace, agree with one another, and help each other. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For children and grown-ups who make mistakes: that God, who is merciful and gracious, slow to anger will help us say "sorry" and start again. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For everyone here at Mass, that we may greet one another with kindness, like God's family. We pray to the Lord. R:**

The Leader says:

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thank You for loving us and staying close to us.  
Amen.**

## Return to the church

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and reflect on what they have heard and what they are now doing. Be mindful of children who may have difficulty finding their families.



## DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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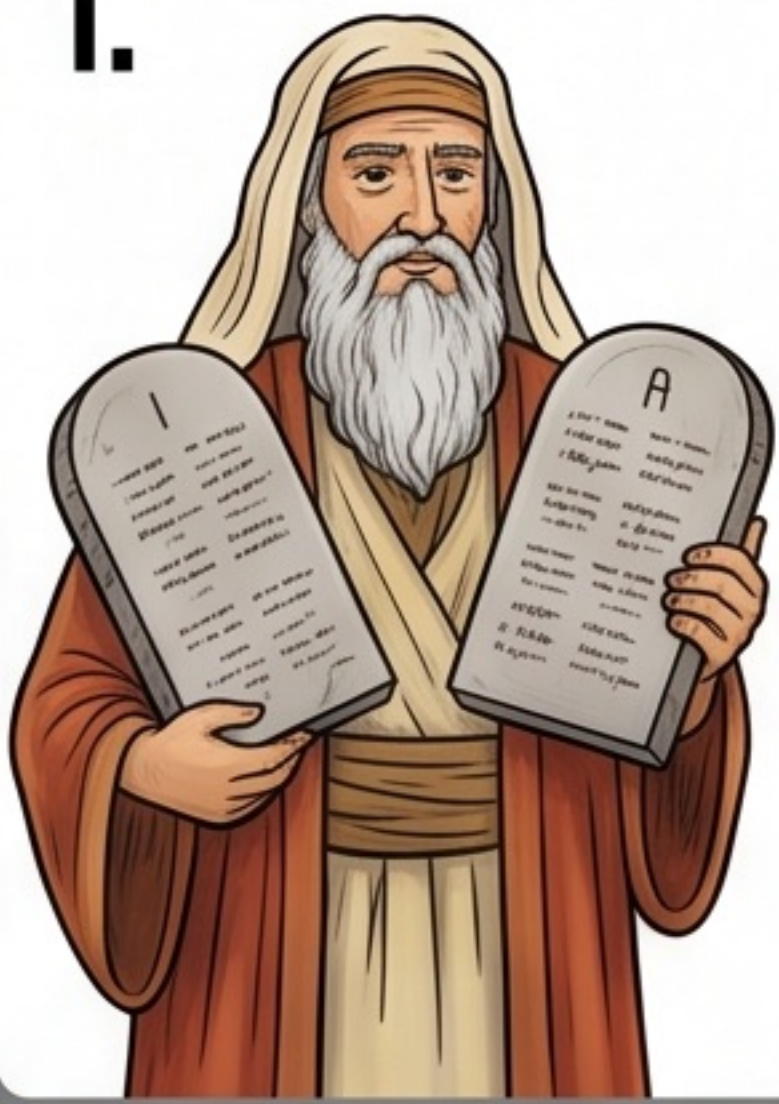
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John 3:16-18 - handout provided by thewordthisweek.net

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# John 3:16-18 • Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9

1.



What did Moses hold in his hands when he went up Mount Sinai early in the morning?

- A. A golden staff
- B. Two stone tablets
- C. A wooden cross

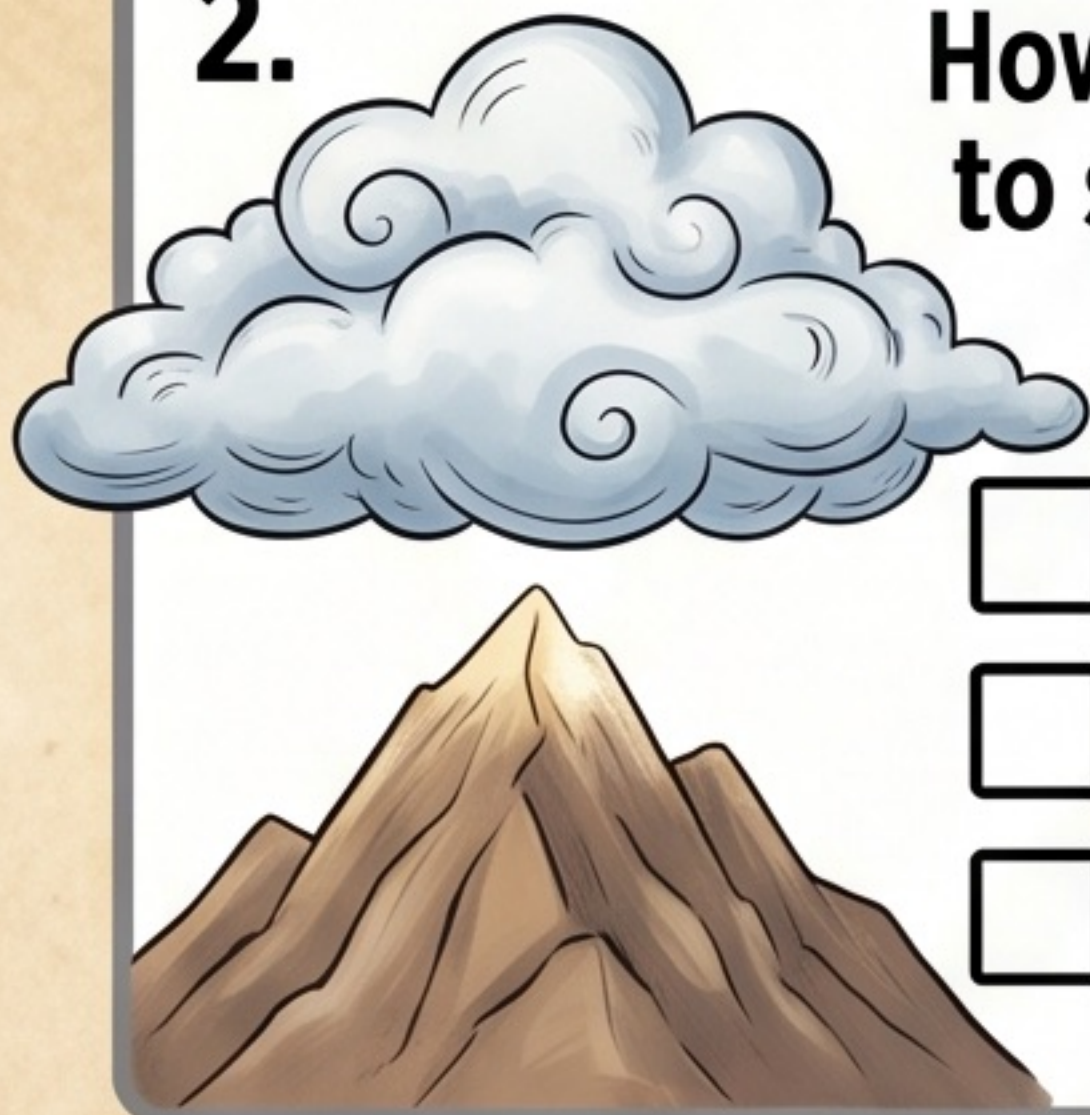
5.

Why did God give His only Son to the world?



- A. Because He wanted to show His great power
- B. Because He loved the people of this world so much
- C. Because the people asked for a sign in the sky

2.



How did the Lord descend to stand with Moses on the mountain?

- A. In a cloud
- B. In a flash of lightning
- C. In a roaring fire

6. What is promised to everyone who has faith and believes in the Son?

- A. Great wealth and earthly kingdoms
- B. Eternal life instead of perishing
- C. An easy life with no challenges

3. Which characteristics did the Lord proclaim about Himself to Moses?

- A. Distant, powerful, and mysterious
- B. Merciful, gracious, and slow to anger
- C. Strict, demanding, and unyielding

7. What was God's purpose in sending His Son into the world?



- A. To condemn the people of the world
- B. To save the people of the world
- C. To rule over earthly governments

4. What did Moses do immediately after the Lord passed before him and spoke?



- A. He ran down the mountain to tell the people
- B. He wrote down everything in a book
- C. He bowed down to the ground and worshiped

8. Although the people were described as headstrong or stiff-necked, what did Moses beg the Lord to do?



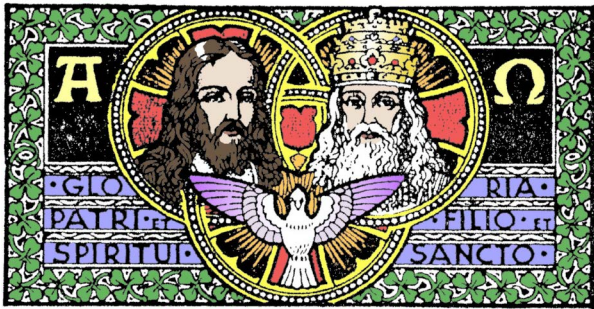
- A. Forgive their sins and take them as His inheritance
- B. Give them a new leader to guide them
- C. Send them back to Egypt

# The Holy Trinity

Today we are celebrating the feast of the Holy Trinity. "Trinity" means "three" and tells us that there are three Persons in God. There is only one God, but God is a relationship of the Father and the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit.

Each of the Persons in the Holy Trinity is really God, so the Father is really God, and Jesus is really God, and the Holy Spirit is really God. But they are not all the same Person. Each of the Persons in the Holy Trinity is also equal to all the others. So the Father is not greater than the Son or the Holy Spirit; they are all equal.

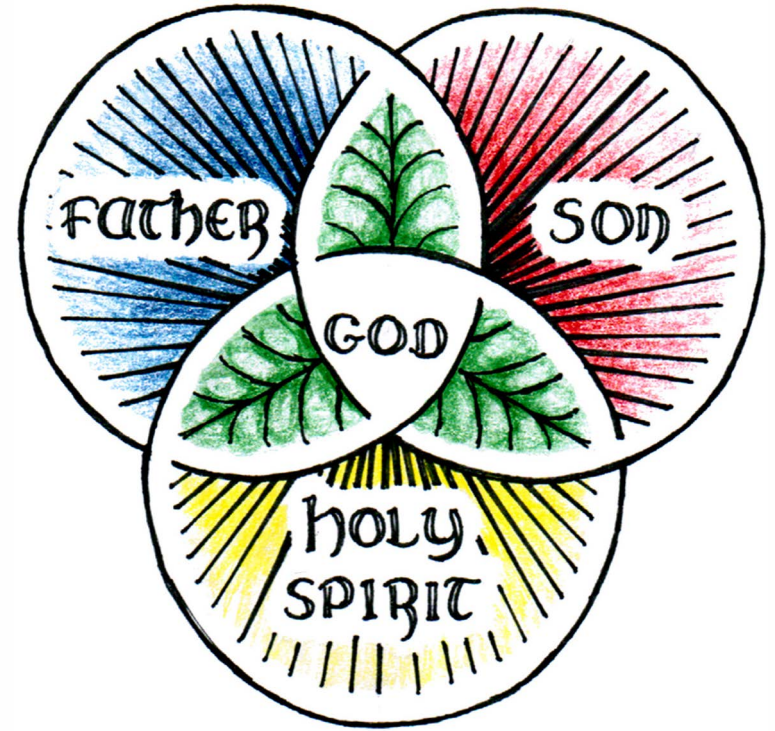
Sometimes we can understand the Holy Trinity as if it were like a family. Each of the persons is different, but the family wouldn't really exist if any one of them were missing. The Holy Trinity is also a relationship of love. Because God is so full of love He wanted to share it with others, so that is why He made us! When we live the way God wants us to we are joining in the life of the Holy Trinity. Isn't that amazing?



Answer to puzzle on front page: Three Persons in One God  
 Answers to Cross-Word Puzzle: Across: 1. send 3. gave 5. be 6. condemn 8. life 10. loved  
 12. not 13. perish 15. only Down: 2. everyone 3. God 4. world 7. eternal 9. into 11. who 14. in

# The Kids' Bulletin

*Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity*



What does the word "Trinity" say about God?  
 Use the code to find out!

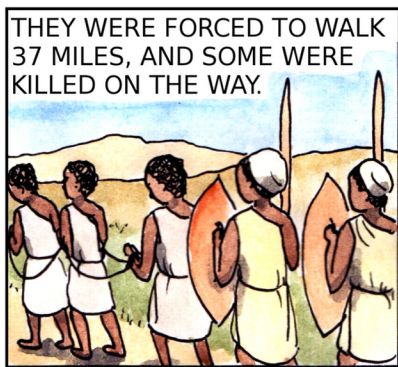
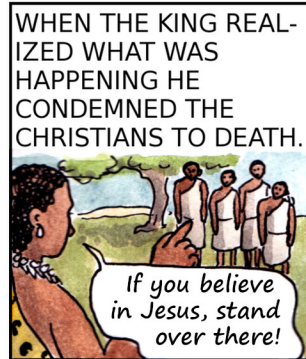
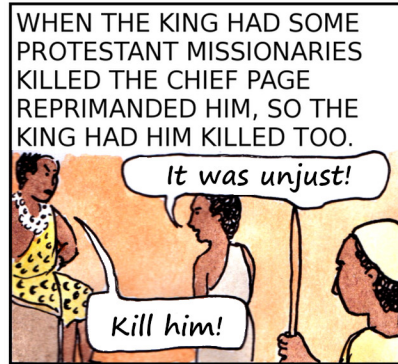
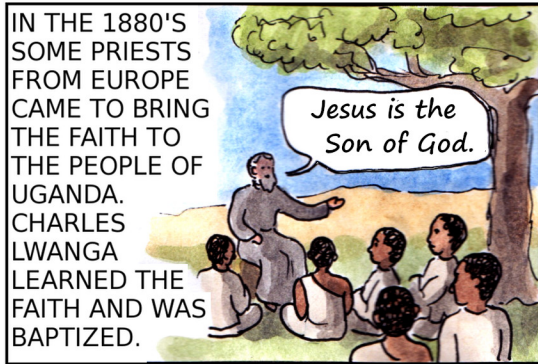
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# Saint Charles Lwanga And Companions

June 3

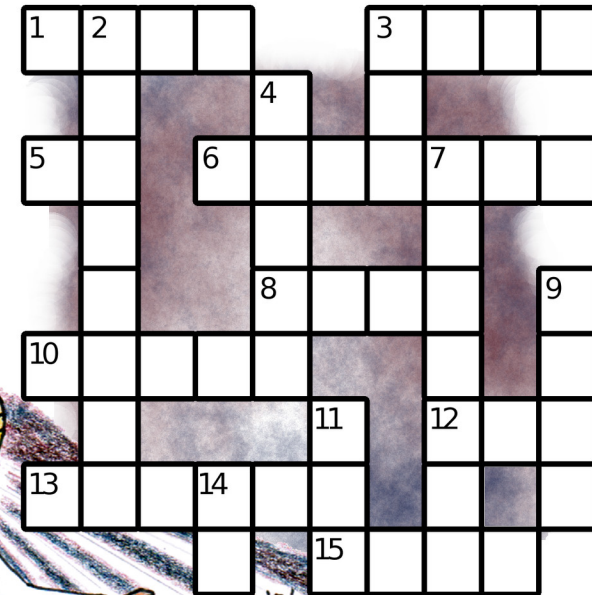


SAINT CHARLES AND HIS FELLOW PAGES DID NOT LET THE FEAR OF DEATH STOP THEM FROM FOLLOWING GOD AND DOING WHAT WAS RIGHT. IF EVER YOU ARE TEMPTED TO SIN OR TO MAKE AN EASY CHOICE THAT IS WRONG, PRAY TO SAINT CHARLES AND HIS FRIENDS FOR STRENGTH TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION.

## God So Loved The World Cross-Word

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ (3d) so \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ (10a) the world  
that he \_\_\_ \_\_\_ (3a) his \_\_\_ \_\_\_ (15a) Son,  
so that \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ (2d)  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ (11d) believes \_\_\_ (14d) him might  
not \_\_\_ \_\_\_ (13a) but might have  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ (7d) \_\_\_ \_\_\_ (8a) For  
God did \_\_\_ \_\_\_ (12a) \_\_\_ \_\_\_ (1a) his Son  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ (9d) the \_\_\_ \_\_\_ (4d) to  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ (6a) the world, but that the  
world might \_\_\_ (5a) saved through him.

Use the words in the list to fill in the blanks in today's Gospel reading. Then fit them into the cross-word



BE  
GAVE  
GOD  
IN  
INTO  
LIFE  
LOVED  
NOT  
ONLY  
PERISH  
SEND  
WHO  
WORLD  
CONDEMN  
ETERNAL  
EVERYONE

