

## The Most Holy Trinity (Year A)

### The *Catechism* on the Mystery of the Trinity

The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is *the central mystery of Christian faith and life*. It is *the mystery of God in himself*. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the “hierarchy of the truths of faith.” (CCC 234; cf. Baptism, the Sign of the Cross)

### Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9—The LORD proclaims His Name to Moses

1. Why is this passage for Trinity Sunday? It is an “Theophany” (appearance of God)
2. Literal Sense: an account of Moses meeting God on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34)
3. Spiritual Sense: ‘Traces’ of the Trinity in the Old Testament (cf. CCC 237)
  - a. The “Cloud” = the Spirit (cf. CCC 697 on Exod 24:15-18; 33:9-10; 40:36-38)
  - b. The LORD = the Son

### The *Catechism* on Old Testament Theophanies

Theophanies (manifestations of God) light up the way of the promise, from the patriarchs to Moses and from Joshua to the visions that inaugurated the missions of the great prophets. *Christian tradition has always recognized that God’s Word allowed himself to be seen and heard in these theophanies, in which the cloud of the Holy Spirit both revealed him and concealed him in its shadow.* (CCC 707)

### Daniel 3—Glory and Praise Forever to God!

1. A Song of Praise to the “Name” of the Lord (v. 52)

### 2 Corinthians 13:11-13—Paul’s Trinitarian Blessing to the Corinthians

1. The grace of *the Lord Jesus Christ*
2. and the love of *God*
3. and the fellowship of *the Holy Spirit* be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:13)

### John 3:16-18—For God So Loved the World...

1. Unique Son: Jesus is the “only begotten” (Greek, *monogenēs*, “only-begotten”) Son
  - a. Angels: *created* sons of God (Job 1)
  - b. Humans: *adopted* sons of God (Romans 8; Galatians 3)
2. Eternal Son: “God *sent the Son into the world*” (3:17)

### The Nicene Creed

I believe in *one God*, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth...

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...*  
I believe in *the Holy Spirit, the Lord*, the giver of life....

### Questions for Discussion and Reflection (Most Holy Trinity, Year A)

1. According to the *Catechism* the mystery of the Trinity is the “central mystery of Christian faith and life” (CCC 234)? Is that how you see the Trinity? Does the Trinity play a central role in your faith and life? If so, how? If not, why not?

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2. Reread the *Catechism’s* teaching on how the Trinity is a “mystery of faith in the strict sense” (CCC 237), one that must be revealed by God. Then go back and read through Genesis 1 and see if you can discover any “traces” of the Trinity in Scripture.

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3. What kind of sonship exactly is the Nicene Creed ascribing to Jesus? How is it different from every human being a “child of God,” and why does this difference matter?

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### For Further Study

1. CCC 232-267: the Church’s official teaching on the Mystery of the Trinity. This is the place to begin reflecting on the Trinity if you have never read about this mystery and want a solid place to begin.
2. Scott Hahn. *First Comes Love: Finding Your Family in the Church and the Trinity* (Doubleday, 2002). Perhaps the most easy-to-read and engaging introduction to the Trinity in print.
3. John Paul II. *The Trinity’s Embrace: God’s Saving Plan* (Boston: Pauline Books, 2002). General audiences of St. John Paul II on the mystery of the Trinity. Extremely rich.
4. Augustine, *The Trinity* (New City Press, 2012). Perhaps the greatest work on the Trinity ever penned, this classic book by a doctor of the Church laid the groundwork for Trinitarian thought for over a thousand years.