

# The Mystery of the Trinity

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 95,**  
the Family + Faith page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 191

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Appreciate the hardships our ancestors endured to help us to know about the mystery of the one God in three Divine Persons
- Recognize that Jesus invites us into a deeper understanding of the mystery of God, whom we cannot see except through him
- Recall that those who are baptized enter into the very life of the Holy Trinity, who is love
- Understand that the Theological Virtues help us obey the First Commandment and live in relationship with the Trinity

**Turn to Page 87,**  
The Mystery of the Trinity  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 175

**Read** the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

**Parents, Consider This:** *No one analogy or visual image can convey the fullness of the mystery of the Trinity, but some common visual symbols, such as a shamrock, a triangle, and a pretzel with three loops, are used to initiate some understanding. God, by his very nature, is a communion of persons, and he wants to be in communion with us. The regular practice of making the Sign of the Cross in your family prayer is a reminder of this central mystery of our faith.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



**Let's Sing:** These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

- Holy, Holy, Holy
- Love Which Never Ends

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



**Let Us Pray** Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

**Explain** that God created human beings with a great gift. Unlike all the rest of creation, we have the ability to know God. We can use our minds and our hearts to think about him.

**Say:** God is a mystery. But this doesn't mean we can't know him. God makes himself known to us. God tells us that he lives in a community of love called the Holy Trinity.



**Guide** your child through the Preparing for God’s Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God’s Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

**Invite** your child to respond and also share what you heard.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

**Say:** The baptism that John offered was a sign of a person’s desire to change their ways and return to God. But it did not bring about the forgiveness that the Seven Sacraments do. All the Sacraments offer us a share in God’s life and invite us into the mystery of God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Invite** your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else your child might wonder about Jesus Baptism and the mystery of God.

## DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 88,**  
More Than Can Be Known  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 177

**Turn to Page 89,**  
The Mystery Unfolds  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 179

**Read** aloud the three paragraphs.

**Discuss** the purple question.

**Have** your child silently read the paragraphs on this page.

**Ask:** What does the word *mystery* mean to you? (Many children probably have a secular understanding of the word.)

**Have** your child find the word **mystery** and then move to the Catholic Faith Words box. Ask your child to read the definition there.

## Activity

**Have** your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Many legends about the life of Saint Patrick abound, but few can be verified. His missionary activity seems to have been in the north of Ireland. He may have founded the first Irish bishopric. Saint Patrick’s autobiography shows him to be a modest and devout man with an engaging personality. His story and attempt to teach such a profound mystery as the Trinity with the most common of symbols is a reminder of how we can reveal God’s love in the ordinary events, objects, and experiences of our daily lives.*

**Turn to Page 90,**  
One God in Three Divine Persons  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 181

**Have** your child silently read the first and second paragraph. Direct your child to the Catholic Faith Words box and review the definition of the **Holy Trinity**.

**Read** aloud the rest of the paragraphs on this page.



**Proclaim** the Scripture story.



**Complete** the gold-star activity.

**Turn to Page 91,**  
Living Your Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 183

**Have** your child read aloud the paragraphs on this page, including the “Theological Virtues” chart. Point out the highlighted word **virtue** and go over its definition.

**Discuss** with your child the value of developing virtues in our lives. Share a virtue you especially value.

**Invite** your child to write a paragraph about how he or she would describe each of the Theological Virtues in their own words. Have them identify someone in his or her life who exemplifies each virtue.

**Parents, Consider This:** *The Theological Virtues of faith, hope, and charity (love) are gifts from God to help us live in kinder and more loving ways with one another. When we do this, we become closer to God. Be aware of the tone of conversations in your family. Do they reflect these virtues? Encourage everyone in your family to reflect these virtues in the way we talk and live with each other.*

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 92,**  
Our Catholic Life  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 185

**Read** the opening question and opening paragraph.



**Do** the gold-star activity. Have your child do this activity by him or herself. Once they’ve completed it, have them share their responses with you.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Who in your immediate or extended family has exemplified the Theological Virtues for you? In your conversations with your child, share some stories about these people. As we remember how they lived virtues, we are more mindful to do so ourselves.*

**Turn to Page 93,**  
People of Faith  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 187

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Athanasius.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about ways your family can show faith in the Holy Trinity.

## Activity

**Have** your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

**Parents, Consider This:** *The love among Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is so intense that the human mind cannot conceive it. It is, nevertheless, the very love which, by virtue of our Baptism, we are invited to share. Write a letter to your child reflecting on his or her Baptism and the love you have for your child. Express what your faith means to you and your hope for your child to have faith in God. Save the letter in a special place and give it to your child at some point in the future when you feel they need to be encouraged in their faith.*

**Turn to Page 95,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let's Pray  
prayer on this page.  
*Vivos en Cristo*, Page 191

**Parents, Consider This:** *It is important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Glory Be (see Page 320), during your night prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).