

Letter for Families • Unit 1

Getting Ready

In Unit 1, children in all grades learn about the church and our creedal beliefs. They discover our beliefs about our one God in three person, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

God is the Creator of the universe, and the diversity and intricacy of all living things tell us that God is good, loving, and awesome. The biblical stories about creation teach that the pinnacle of creation was that of human beings in God's image and that God asked humans to care for creation.

The mystery of the Incarnation—that the Son of God became human without giving up his divinity—reveals the infinite love of God for us. Christ is true God and true man. In him God's promises are fulfilled. Jesus' life on earth showed God's love and care for all. Jesus showed us how to love God and one another.

The Holy Spirit sparks faith in the hearts of all who believe in Jesus Christ. We come to know and believe in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our guide, our

teacher, our advocate, and our helper. The Holy Spirit blesses us with gifts and empowers us to live as followers of Jesus.

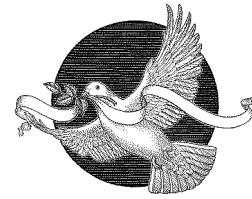
The Church is the People of God and the Body of Christ. We, the Church, make Christ visible, continue his mission, and are signs of Christ in the world. Through the community of the Church our faith is nurtured and flourishes.

Looking for More?

- *The Apostle's Creed* by Inos Biffi (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company). Origins and meaning of the Apostle's Creed.
- *God Loves Me* by Julie Walters and Kathryn Kelly (Ave Maria Press). The Psalms introduce children to God's relationship with his people.

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For more ideas on how your family can live your faith, visit the "Faith First for Families" page at www.FaithFirst.com. Click on "Gospel Reflections" and use the discussion questions to talk about and reflect on Sunday's Gospel.



Catholic Family Traditions

Children will remember for a lifetime the traditions you practice in your home. Here are two ideas:

1. Since this unit focuses on the basic teachings about Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, make a special effort to make the Sign of the Cross properly and reverently whenever you pray as a family—at mealtime, at bedtime, or at other special times.
2. Form the habit of blessing your children whenever they leave the house. Simply trace a cross on their foreheads and say words such as these:

May God bless you, protect you, and walk with you this day.

Invite your child to say "Amen."

By the way, even older children and teens appreciate this gesture more than you may know.