

Grade 3 - Chapter 4

Discover

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Discover

Catechist Tips: Greeting of the Mass

2 Corinthians 13:13 appears at the end of the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians and is used as a greeting at the beginning of the Mass and at other liturgies.

- The verse is a benediction, or a blessing, from Paul to his readers and listeners.
- Note the mention of the three Persons in one God.

Catechist Tips: Saint Patrick

When he was sixteen, Patrick was sold into slavery and taken to Ireland. After escaping slavery, Patrick began studies to become a priest.

- After his ordination, he returned to Ireland.
- Patrick was made a bishop in 431. He died c. 461 and later became the patron Saint of Ireland. His feast day is March 17.

Catechist Tips: Visual Learners

As Saint Patrick learned when he taught the people of Ireland, some individuals need to see or touch something concrete to help them understand.

- To illustrate abstract ideas, bring in props such as a shamrock.
- If props are not available, draw pictures on chart paper or the board to help the children visualize.

Catechist Tips: The Trinity

In this passage from the Gospel according to John, the special actions of each Person of the Trinity are

described.

- As Jesus points out, his teaching comes from the Father. In addition, the Holy Spirit will be sent to the followers of Jesus when Jesus returns to the Father.
- Other scripture passages that refer to the Persons of the Trinity include Matthew 28:19, Luke 1:15, and Acts 5:32.

Catechist Tips: Start With a Question

Most questions begin with one of six words. When the children appear to have run out of questions, encourage them to think about the following list of question words.

- Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How

Glossary Activity: Mystery of Faith

Have the children make a list of things they have questions about such as love, peace, joy and how these feelings come about. Suggest that some things are a mystery. We may love someone but we don't know why or how we came to love another.

- Help the children share their thoughts with a partner.
- Ask volunteers to share with the group some of their mysteries.
- Remind them that the mystery of faith, believing without seeing, is an important part of our faith.

Additional Activity: Church Tour

Many parish churches display symbols of the Trinity.

- Take the children on a tour of the church to look for the symbols in church features.
- If a tour is not possible, describe any symbols in the church.

Additional Activity: Church Teachings

Work with your school librarian to find examples of the resources listed in the children's text.

- Allow the children to work with the resources to find answers to their questions.
- Allow time for browsing so that the children may see the richness of Church teachings.

Additional Activity: Letters

Have the children write a letter describing the Holy Trinity. Point out that there are two types of letters, business letters and personal letters.

- Show the class the format for each type of letter.
- Discuss the purpose of each type of letter.
- Decide which type of letter the children will send.

Additional Activity: Show Love

Create a special bulletin board in your classroom.

- Title the board, "I Show God's Love."
- At the beginning of each class, distribute paper cut in the shape of shamrocks.

- Have the children write how they have shown God's love since the last class. Post the shamrocks.

Additional Activity: Scavenger Hunt

Supplies: *(Depending on what your parish has available.)*

- missalettes
- worship aids or hymnals (one of the same for each child)
- paper
- pencils

Distribute the missalettes, worship aids or hymnals, paper and pencils to the children. Explain that you are going to have a contest to see who can find the most references to the Holy Trinity in the books they have. Organize the children in pairs and direct them to write down the page numbers as they find references. Allot them a certain amount of time. The pair with the most correct references is the winner. You may wish to award a prize, but it is not necessary.

Additional Activity: Music Trinity

Supplies:

- marshmallows
- toothpicks

Review what the Holy Trinity means. Give everyone one marshmallow and one toothpick. Ask them to see if they can get the marshmallow to stand on top of one toothpick. Give everyone a second toothpick and ask them again to see if they can get the marshmallow to stand with two toothpicks. Give everyone a third toothpick and show them how to make a tripod to get the marshmallow to stand on top of the three toothpicks.

Discuss how the different Persons of the Trinity can "lift" us up. Ask: **Why do we need God the Father? Why do we need Jesus? Why do we need the Holy Spirit?**

Have the children eat their marshmallows after removing and discarding the toothpicks.