



FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION
September 10, 2023

CATHOLICISM 101 – WEEK 1: WHO IS GOD?

In modern America, even the most unchurched people have a basic idea of who God is. They've heard of Him, seen on our coinage that "In God we trust," and have some basic sense of what God is like. Because of this, it's easy to miss that one of the most fundamental questions of the Catholic faith is, "Who is God?"

I think culturally we tend to lump God into an academic category of deities writ large. There's God, and Allah, and Zeus, and the flying spaghetti monster. Some people treat all these as philosophical constructs meant to explain the universe.

But the claim of Christianity is quite different. What we claim is that God has made Himself known over the course of centuries. We claim that people, who otherwise were minding their own business, came to meet this God and come to know Him. Moses was busy tending sheep. Elijah was hiding in a cave. Peter was fishing. All of them met this God. What they learned about Him was vitally important for the rest of us to know.



First, this God is a pure spirit, but not a spirit like any other. Other spirits have abilities and powers that exceed that of human beings, but there is no limit to God's power. He is all powerful, all knowing, all present, alive for all time, and all good. It puts Him in a different category from any other spirit or deity we might know about.

This "all good" factor is notable. A brief survey of the world history, religion, and literature will tell you that not all spirits are angels. That God is perfectly good (and that His track record bears it out) is remarkable.

More strikingly, this God is set apart in that He created all that exists, including us. You can imagine that for someone first hearing about God, there's something strange in that. "God made me, and yet I never knew Him." Suddenly, this all powerful, all good being matters to me. This is no longer a matter of interesting dinner table conversation, the way a discussion about African hippos might be fascinating but utterly irrelevant. My life is intertwined with this God who appeared to the patriarchs, prophets, and apostles, and therefore it matters that I know who He is.

This coming week we will begin the Catholicism 101 series by talking about "Who is God?" Classes will take place Friday, September 15 at St. Jude from 6-6:45 pm, Saturday, September 16 at St. Gregory from 5:15-6 pm, Tuesday, September 19 at Sacred Heart from 9-9:45 am and Tuesday September 19 at Holy Martyrs from 7-7:45 pm. Hope to see you there!

-Joe Moreshead

[Watch the recorded class here.](#)