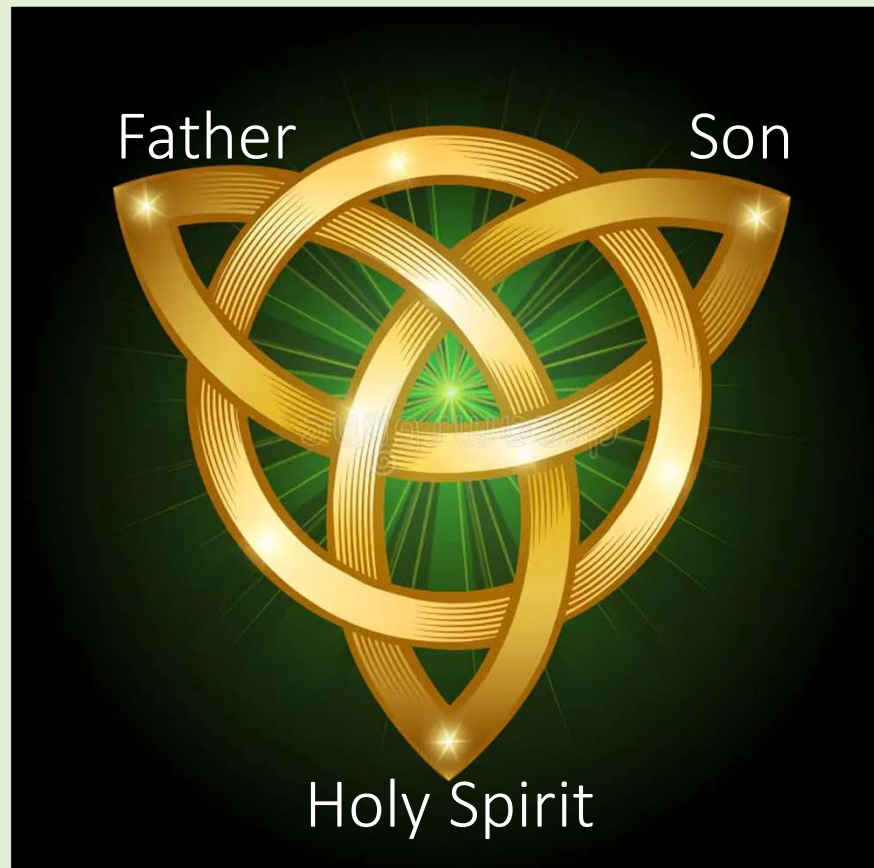


# The Holy Trinity

The Central Doctrine of the Catholic Faith



Throughout the Old Testament, the idea of monotheism separates the Jews from other religions of that time.

**Monotheism** The belief in ONE God

“To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord is God; there is no other besides him.” Dt 4:35

“Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is One Lord.” Dt 6:4

- The Great Shema is prayed by every faithful Jew even to this day



**JUST ONE GOD**

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

MIGHTY GOD

**FOR A CHILD IS**  
*a son is given to us*  
**BORN TO US**



EVERLASTING FATHER

PRINCE OF PEACE

ISAIAH 9:6

Through Jesus' words and actions, he confirmed that the prophecies God promised throughout the Old Testament were fulfilled in Him:

“For unto us a child is born, to us a child is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God...” Is 9:6  
Emmanuel...God is with us.

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. j Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Mt 1: 18-21

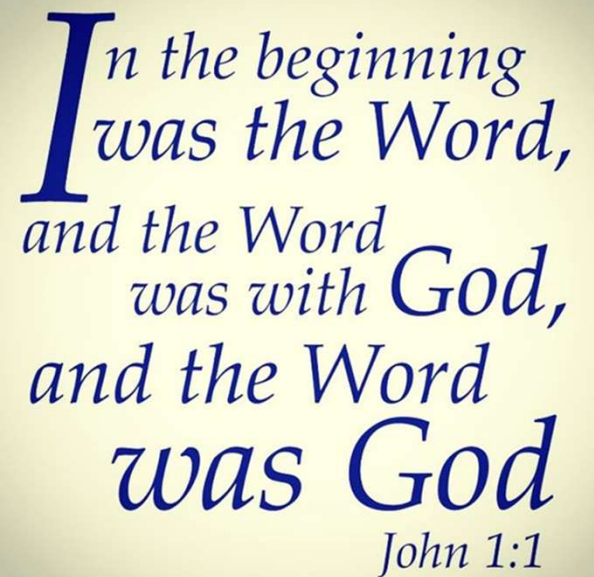
*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.” (John 1:14)*



“In the beginning was the Word And the Word was with God And the Word was God.”  
Jn 1:1

Remember...the Word is Jesus!

Everything that God wanted to reveal to man was said through His Son. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jn 1:14



*In the beginning  
was the Word,  
and the Word  
was with God,  
and the Word  
was God*  
*John 1:1*

But how is it possible for there to be only ONE God, but for that God to have a Son who is also God? CCC 237

The Trinity is a mystery of faith in the strict sense, one of the "mysteries that are hidden in God, which can never be known unless they are revealed by God". To be sure, God has left traces of his Trinitarian being in his work of creation and in his Revelation throughout the Old Testament. But his inmost Being as Holy Trinity is a mystery that is inaccessible to reason alone or even to Israel's faith before the Incarnation of God's Son and the sending of the Holy Spirit. A mystery in this sense is something that we would not know if God had not revealed it to us.

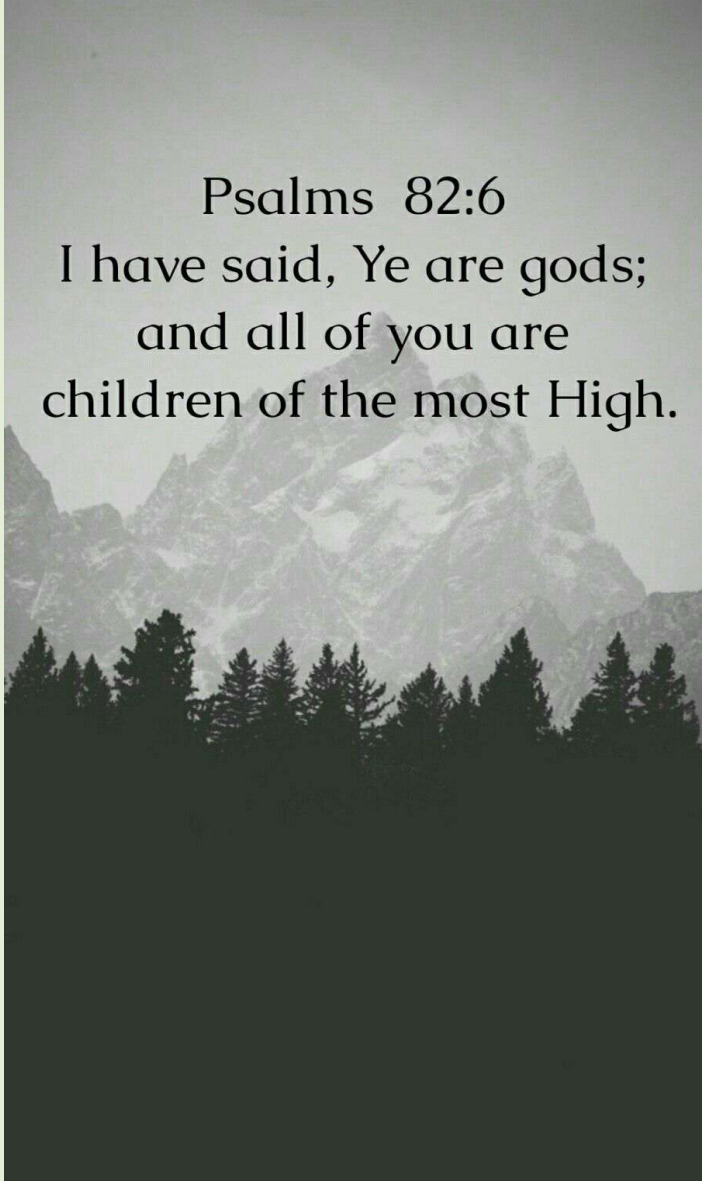


# Is Jesus Equal With God?

John 5:18

Jesus also claimed that He was God: “I and the Father are One.” Jn 10:30 “If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.” Jn 10:37-38

“Therefore, the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.” John 5:18



Psalms 82:6  
I have said, Ye are gods;  
and all of you are  
children of the most High.

# The Greatest Commandment

Mark 12:28-34



“ I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me.” Is 45:5

Jesus agreed with this! “ And one of the Scribes came up...and asked him, ‘Which commandment is the first of all?’. Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” Mk 12:28-30



## What do we know?

- When speaking of the Trinity, the Church teaches... One divine substance (Hypostasis)
  1. Philosophy – an underlying reality or substance, as opposed to attributes or to that which lacks substance
  2. Theology – each persons of the Trinity, as contrasted with the unity of the Godhead
- What you are.... Three divine persons (Prosopon)
  1. Self-manifestation of an individual hypostasis. Prosopon is the form in which hypostasis appears. Every hypostasis has its own prosopon: face or countenance
- Who you are... This is called the Hypostatic Union
  1. Jesus is fully God and fully man simultaneously, both natures coexist

Each person of the Trinity is whole and entirely God,  
but is also completely distinct.

God the Father is not Jesus, is not the Holy Spirit; Jesus is not the Holy Spirit, is not the Father; Holy Spirit is not the Father, is not the Son

All divine persons share certain attributes:

- Eternal Almighty (Omnipotent)
- All-knowing (Omniscient)
- Transcendent (Omnipresent)

The three Persons are in relationship to each other in a unique way; these relationships are an intrinsic aspect of the mystery of the Trinity:

Father, Son, Holy Spirit

There has to be someone else to love!

God is Love

The Father, Jesus called God, “Father” and taught us to do the same.

Generally, a son or daughter comes from the same “substance” of the father... The word “Father” implies the presence of a son or daughter...The Father begets. Thus... “I and the Father are One.”  
Jn 10:30

When we are baptized, we are welcomed into the divine life of God! We become His children!

The distinction in the persons of the Trinity resides in their relationship to one another:

- The Father begets (to bring into existence)
- The Son is only begotten (Greek – Monogenes, singular)
- The Spirit proceeds (Latin – Spirare, breath)

There is no opposition between the persons. We do not profess three gods, but three persons in one God. Each person resides wholly in the other.

God the father revealed that Jesus was “his beloved son with whom he is well pleased” Mt 3:16

Remember: Jesus is one Divine person with two natures;  
God, and human

The Son Jesus Christ: eternally begotten and incarnate in time

There was a time when Jesus Christ did not exist, but never a time when the second person of the Trinity did not exist.

Son of God and Son of Mary True God; True Man Jesus was the perfection of who we are created to be...

**Ad intra** – Internal work of God within the Trinity. When one person of the Trinity acts, all three persons are present.

For instance, in the act of Creation and Redemption, only Jesus Christ became incarnate and was crucified for our sins... ....yet, this act was the act of the ONE God in three persons.

**Ad extra** – External work of God in relation to the world and how God's divine nature interacts with human life.

Father – Creator

Son – Redeemer

Holy Spirit - Sanctifier

## CCC 242

Following this apostolic tradition, the Church confessed at the first ecumenical council at Nicaea (325) that the Son is "consubstantial" with the Father, that is, one only God with him.

The second ecumenical council, held at Constantinople in 381, kept this expression in its formulation of the Nicene Creed and confessed "the only-begotten Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father".

The Holy Spirit The Holy Spirit proceeds (spirares) from BOTH the Father and the Son - Filioque (Council of Nicea – 325 AD)

This is the major theological doctrine that separates East from West!

The Spirit was only **fully** revealed by Jesus and acts as the Sanctifier of the Church and her members.

Important to memorize:

## 2 Missions of the Trinity

- Creation
- Redemption

## 2 Processions of the Trinity

- The Father begets the Son
- The Father and the Son, Spirare, the Holy Spirit

## Summary...

Jesus is

- one divine person
- two natures

The Trinity is

- one divine substance
- three persons