



GOD Is Trinity

Session Background

Purpose

Young people will learn about the mystery of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, which we approach through faith. They will learn how the love shared in the Trinity shows us what our own relationships can be like.

Objectives

Learners will

- ▶ explore how God has been and is always present.
- ▶ know that the Father sent his Son, Jesus, to show us the way to him and bring salvation to all.
- ▶ know that Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as guide and counselor to the Church.
- ▶ understand that the Blessed Trinity is a mystery.

Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 261, 267, 314, 316, 320, 455, 743, 1890, 2248, 2254, and 2680.

One of the essential faith themes for younger adolescents is teaching about the Holy Trinity as an “introduction to God’s unique self-revelation as three in one and some implications for living Christian faith and spiritual life.”

—*Renewing the Vision*, page 31

Catechist Formation

As Catholics we profess belief in one God manifested in three distinct Persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit who together created us, redeemed us, and continue to sanctify and inspire us. This is a mystery we will never fully comprehend, yet we accept it as an article of faith. We must embrace the Trinity as truth if we are to appreciate the unique character of Christianity. Like our Jewish and Islamic brothers and sisters, we believe in one God, but we are unique in our understanding that God is an eternal community of divine Persons. Everything we, as Christians, hold to be true flows from our understanding of the relationship between the Father, Son, and Spirit, and we cannot embrace the Christian faith without also embracing this central mystery.



How do relationships in your own life help you to better understand the individual Persons in the Blessed Trinity?



Catechist Prayer

Father, Son, Holy Spirit, I worship you with my whole being. Help me to always hold you in my heart as I share faith with young people, that your love and truth may ever be the cornerstone of my catechesis. I ask this with faith in you, Most Holy Trinity. Amen.

Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ At this age, young people are expanding their imagery of God. They are beginning to come to terms with a God who cannot be understood in concrete terms. As a catechist, you have an opportunity to help youth expand their understanding of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ▶ For better or worse, young adolescents still understand God primarily through the lens of their own lived experience. Help youth to grow in their understanding of Trinity by providing meaningful prayer experiences and thoughtful exploration of Scripture and stories of faith.

Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit www.osvcurriculum.com.

Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

PRAY the opening prayer.

SHARE about people in our lives that we can always depend on.

READ about Mark and his family, **PAGES 2–3**.

REFLECT on healthy relationships.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

REFLECT on core beliefs of Catholics.

READ the copy on **PAGES 4–5**.

FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY to identify ways we can deepen our relationship with the Trinity.

PRESENT about one God in three divine Persons, **PAGES 6–7**.

EXTEND THE SESSION by considering how our relationships model the love and unity of the Blessed Trinity, using **Resource 1**, add 15 minutes.

SHARE how families work together for the common good.

READ **GOD'S PLAN FOR US** on **PAGE 8**.

EXTEND THE SESSION by creating Q & A's based on the mystery of the Trinity, add 20 minutes.

REFLECT on how the gift of faith is like a compass.

READ **HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS** on **PAGE 9**.

FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY about letting faith be our guide.

PRESENT what **CATHOLICS BELIEVE** on **PAGE 9**.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

READ the ideas under **LIVE OUR FAITH** on **PAGE 10**.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY to consider descriptions for the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity.

EXTEND THE SESSION by reading and discussing **PEOPLE OF FAITH** on **PAGE 11**.

PRAY the closing prayer.

Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 1** in *The Trinity Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and cross. Be sure to have matches or a lighter for the candle. (Review the cautionary statement on candles on **PAGE 14**.)
- ▶ Using colored construction paper and footprint outlines, cut out a left and a right footprint for each participant.
- ▶ Determine in advance a pathway through the room for the closing prayer.
- ▶ Identify young adolescents to help with prayer and to read aloud portions of the text.

Supplies Needed

- *The Trinity Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- newsprint
- tape
- markers
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8* Music CDs

See individual **EXTEND THE SESSION** activities for other supplies needed.

Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In *What's the Issue?*, you will share about a person in your life who you know will always be there for you. You will also share about how having a shared history with family members makes a difference for you. 2 minutes
- ▶ In *What Does Faith Say?*, you will share about how your family works together for common goals. 1 minute
- ▶ In *What Now?*, you will share about circumstances when you would pray to the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit. You will also share about people you know in whom you see reflections of the Trinity. 2 minutes



JESUS

Word of God

Session Background

Purpose

Young people will learn how in the Incarnation, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity became fully man while remaining fully divine. They will explore how in Jesus' lifetime, he showed his divinity particularly through working miracles, and how his life gives us a glimpse into his human nature.

Objectives

Learners will

- ▶ know that Jesus is the Son of God, and is the eternal Word of God, existing for all times.
- ▶ reflect on Mary, the Mother of God.
- ▶ explore the wonder of the Incarnation, Jesus as both true God and true man.

Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 452, 454, 479, 480, 483, 509, 744, and 973.

"We need to provide concrete ways by which the demands, excitement, and adventure of being a disciple of Jesus Christ can be personally experienced by adolescents..."

—*Renewing the Vision*, pages 10–11

Catechist Formation

In his incredible love for us God, chose to become man. In so doing, he restored the intimacy that Adam and Eve lost through their sinfulness. Jesus, true God and true man, came to show us what a human life is supposed to be like. In him we have the template for a life lived lovingly and generously, without being held back by fear as our lives so often are. Jesus reminds us of the magnificent dignity of the human person, and challenges us to live as he lived. He also reminds us that, while death is indeed part of the human experience, we do not need to be enslaved by it. Just as Jesus did, we are called to face with courage and faith, all the "deaths" in our lives, big and small.



How has Jesus been an inspiration for you to overcome personal weakness and failure?



Catechist Prayer

Jesus, my Lord and my brother, walk with me today. Help me to remember your loving presence when I feel alone, to follow your example when I feel weak, and to look to your cross when I feel powerless. I ask this in your holy name. Amen.

Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ Younger adolescents often feel as if they lead multiple lives—they might feel like one person to their families, another to their friends at school, and so on. In the process, they try to discover who they are for themselves. Self-definition is a key developmental need for young people. Your patient presence is important as they develop their identity and grow as young disciples.
- ▶ Since what others think of them is so important at this age, some young people are often reluctant to share their true feelings with anyone until they feel complete trust in that person. Encourage youth to share, but don't force it.

Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit www.osvcurriculum.com.

Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

PRAY the opening prayer.

SHARE about assumptions.

READ about Maria and Jenn, **PAGES 12–13**.

REFLECT on the story in large group discussion.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

PRESENT that Jesus is the Son of God and reveals who God is.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY to discover how complex the human person is.

READ about **THE ETERNAL WORD, THE SON OF GOD**, and **THE WONDER OF THE INCARNATION** on **PAGES 14–15**.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY to explore Scripture passages that tell us about who Jesus is.

PRESENT how Jesus changes our relationship with God on **PAGES 16–17**.

EXTEND THE SESSION by creating an art piece representing ways we can say “yes” to God, add 20 minutes.

REFLECT on how we know Jesus is the Son of God.

READ about **SIGNS OF BEING GOD** on **PAGE 18**.

EXTEND THE SESSION by reflecting on Scripture passages about Jesus’ divinity and humanity, add 15 minutes.

PRESENT what **CATHOLICS BELIEVE** on **PAGE 19**.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

FACILITATE ACTIVITY to complete the What Now? section on **PAGE 20**.

EXTEND THE SESSION to explore **PEOPLE OF FAITH** on **PAGE 21**.

PRAY the closing prayer, using **Resource 2**.

Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 2** in *The Trinity Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and cross. Be sure to have matches or a lighter for the candle.
- ▶ Identify young adolescents to help with prayer and to read aloud portions of the text.

Supplies Needed

- *The Trinity Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- newsprint
- markers
- tape
- Bibles—one per participant
- pens or pencils
- blank sheets of paper—one per participant
- copies of **Resource 2**—one per participant
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8 Music CDs*

See individual **EXTEND THE SESSION** activities for other supplies needed.

Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In *What’s the Issue?*, you will share about being surprised by someone you have made an assumption about. 1 minute
- ▶ In *What Does Faith Say?*, you will participate in the activity to describe yourself along with the young people. 1 minute
- ▶ In *What Now?*, you will share about a person you know who is authentic and why. 1 minute



HOLY SPIRIT

Comforter and Guide

Session Background

Purpose

Young people will learn how being human means facing times of struggle and solitude. The Holy Spirit is our companion and helper even at our loneliest moments. He works through the Church and those around us to guide us and help us live virtuous and happy lives.

Objectives

Learners will

- ▶ discover why the Holy Spirit was sent to us.
- ▶ identify the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives and in the Church.
- ▶ explore what the Holy Spirit does, and what we can do in the Church to benefit our brothers and sisters.

Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 747, 809, 2590, 2644, and 2661.

One of the essential faith themes for younger adolescents is “understanding how the Spirit dwells in our midst in a new way since Pentecost and understanding that God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

—*Renewing the Vision*, page 31

Catechist Formation

The Holy Spirit is our greatest asset for living a virtuous life. God the Father and God the Son freely and generously share God the Spirit with us to sustain and give us strength as we make our way through the twists and turns of life. Do we take full advantage of the Holy Spirit’s power? In the Rite of Confirmation, we receive a special outpouring of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, right judgment (counsel), courage (fortitude), knowledge, reverence (piety), and wonder & awe (fear of the Lord). These Gifts of the Holy Spirit are life-changing virtues, which give us the ability to live a life of Christian witness and joy.



Choose one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that you see reflected in your life. How has that gift helped you in your ministry?



Catechist Prayer

Holy Spirit, be my inspiration, fill my mind. Teach me compassion, fill my heart. Bring me wholeness; mend my brokenness. Holy Spirit, strengthen my fidelity; give me steadfastness. Provide encouragement; motivate me. O Spirit of God, make me your own. Amen.

Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ Young adolescents are concrete thinkers who are moving toward being able to think abstractly. The Holy Spirit can be harder for them to grasp than the other Persons of the Trinity: God the Father and God the Son (Jesus). Be open to their questions and doubts as they grapple with this mystery.
- ▶ Youth are experiencing new and sometimes complex social situations. At times, they can feel all alone or lost in a crowd. This session presents the Holy Spirit as someone who walks with us always. Make this connection personal for youth so that they rely upon the Spirit in the times of their greatest need.

Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit www.osvcurriculum.com.

Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

PRAY the opening prayer.

SHARE times when you felt misunderstood.

EXTEND THE SESSION with Tales of Woe skits as a focusing activity, add 20 minutes.

READ about Stan, PAGES 22–23.

REFLECT on **WHAT ABOUT IT?** and **WHAT ABOUT YOU?** questions on PAGE 23.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

REFLECT on why Catholics believe they are never alone.

READ **A PROMISE KEPT** and **ALWAYS WITH THEM**, on PAGE 24.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY to begin job description for the Holy Spirit.

READ aloud **THE SOUL OF THE CHURCH** on PAGE 25 and point out What the Spirit Does in the **CONNECT YOUR FAITH** activity.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY by continuing to develop the Holy Spirit job descriptions.

EXTEND THE SESSION by completing the **CONNECT YOUR FAITH** activity on PAGE 25.

PRESENT the content on PAGE 26 about the Holy Spirit as comforter.

SHARE about a time when you needed someone to be your advocate.

READ the **FAITH WALK** on PAGE 26.

READ Invite the young people to read PAGES 27–28 in their small groups.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY to complete the Holy Spirit job descriptions.

EXTEND THE SESSION by creating prayer cards or bookmarks, add 15 minutes.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

READ the **LIVE OUR FAITH** suggestions.

EXTEND THE SESSION by facilitating the **WHAT ABOUT IT?** and **WHAT NOW?** activities, add 10 minutes.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY to write prayers using Resource 3.

PRAY the closing prayer.

Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 3** in *The Trinity Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and cross. Be sure to have matches or a lighter for the candle.
- ▶ Prepare newsprint that lists the elements of a job description for Role of the Holy Spirit, Part III: Purpose of the Job, Nature and Scope of Job, Duties, Essential Functions, Work Year, Qualifications, Skills Required, Responsibilities, Experience, Work Environment, Supervisory Responsibilities.
- ▶ Identify young adolescents to help with prayer and to read aloud portions of the text.

Supplies Needed

- *The Trinity Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- newsprint
- tape
- markers
- pens or pencils
- copies of **Resource 3**—one per participant
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8* Music CDs

See individual **EXTEND THE SESSION** activities for other supplies needed.

Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In *What's the Issue?*, you will share about a time when you felt alone or misunderstood.
1 minute
- ▶ In *What Does Faith Say?*, you will share about a time when you needed someone to be your advocate and a time when you needed comforting. You will also walk the participants through the elements of a job description, using an example from your life experience.
3 minutes



JESUS Reveals the Trinity

Session Background

Purpose

The young people will learn about the Transfiguration, and how through God's gift of grace we grow in wisdom and faith, and come to know God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They will appreciate the role that the Blessed Trinity plays in their lives.

Objectives

Learners will

- ▶ discover how Jesus reveals the Trinity.
- ▶ understand how the Holy Spirit helps build unity.
- ▶ reflect on how we can open the gift of God's grace, power, and love in our lives.

Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 455, 1112, 1284, 2021, and 2680.

Christian faith is radically Trinitarian; therefore, our catechesis must consistently reflect a Catholic understanding of the Blessed Trinity and be oriented toward an explicit confession of faith in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

—See *National Directory for Catechesis*, 25

Catechist Formation

Everything Jesus did reflected the Father's glory. As he made possible new understandings of the Father, so too, the Holy Spirit makes possible a new appreciation of Jesus. Recall that when Jesus ascended to his Father, there was still much to be done by the disciples. The Holy Spirit inspired them to understand Jesus' identity as the Messiah of prophecy and their own role in making him known throughout the world. The three Persons of the Blessed Trinity not only reveal themselves individually, but also reveal each other by how they interact. In this revelation, we come to know the intimate relationship of love and holiness that is our Triune God.



How does your belief in God as Trinity influence your own relationships?



Catechist Prayer

Loving Jesus, in all that you said and did on earth, you reflected your Father's magnificent love. Today, as I seek to share about you with young people, help me to also be a reflection of that love. I ask this with faith in you and with confidence in your Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ Young people at this age often define themselves by their various relationships. They may perceive and struggle to reconcile inconsistencies between home, school, social relationships, and different groups. They can look to the Blessed Trinity as a model for transforming their relationships.
- ▶ For the most part, young adolescents have not yet developed the capacity to fully appreciate the rights and feelings of others as equal to their own, but they are moving toward that awareness. Selfless insights and other-centered actions should be encouraged and commended.

Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit www.osvcurriculum.com.

Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

PRAY the opening prayer.

SHARE about roles we have in our lives.

READ about Joanelle, **PAGES 30–31**.

REFLECT on the meaning of the story.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY to diagram our relationships and draw connections.

EXTEND THE SESSION to explore our connections to each other, add 10 minutes.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

PRESENT about the Transfiguration on **PAGES 32–33**.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY to reflect on the challenge to “walk up the mountain.”

READ **GOD’S GLORY IS REVEALED** and **THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US THE CHURCH** on **PAGES 34–35**.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY to consider personal glory moments and how these moments bring us closer to our families, friends, and God.

READ about **RELATING TO GOD** and **KNOWING THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT** on **PAGE 36**.

PRESENT the many ways God gives us to relate to him using the graphic organizer on **PAGE 37**.

SHARE how you pray with a member of the Blessed Trinity.

EXTEND THE SESSION to create collages depicting how we can pray to the three Persons of the Trinity, add 20 minutes.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY to open God’s gift of grace using the **FAITH WALK** on **PAGE 37**.

PRESENT what **CATHOLICS BELIEVE** on **PAGE 37**.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

READ the **LIVE OUR FAITH** ideas on **PAGE 38**, and choose one to incorporate.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY to write prayers to the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity.

EXTEND THE SESSION by reading **PEOPLE OF FAITH** on **PAGE 39** and writing a prayer to the Trinity, add 10 minutes.

PRAY the closing prayer using **Resource 4**.

Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 4** in the *The Trinity Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and cross. Be sure to have matches or a lighter for the candle.
- ▶ Prepare to tell the story of the Transfiguration. See *Faith Booklet* **PAGES 32–33**.
- ▶ Identify young adolescents to help with prayer and to read aloud portions of the text.

Supplies Needed

- *The Trinity Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- newsprint
- markers
- tape
- 3 x 5 index cards
- blank pieces of paper—one per participant
- poster board, materials for making collages
- small cardboard gift boxes, various art supplies
- copies of **Resource 4**—one per participant
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8 Music CDs*

Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In *What’s the Issue?*, you will share about your various roles in life as well as a diagram of relationships in your life. 2 minutes
- ▶ In *What Does Faith Say?*, you will share about a time when someone did something that you did not expect of that person. In addition, you will share how a moment of glory brought you closer to God. You will also share examples of when you would use one of the images describing a Person of the Trinity in your prayer life. 3 minutes



WE ARE Christ's People

Session Background

Purpose

All members of the Church have an important role in spreading the message of the Gospel. The young people will learn how they belong to the Church, the People of God, through their Baptism and belief in Christ, and that the Church is a part of God's plan for people to come to know and love him.

Objectives

Learners will

- ▶ understand why the Church is called the People of God.
- ▶ identify ways that the family is the domestic Church.
- ▶ discover ways they are called to live out the mission of Jesus.

Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 777, 778, 804, 808, and 942.

Christ founded the Church upon the Apostles and entrusted to them the responsibility to hand on faithfully all that he taught. Those who engage in catechesis have a special responsibility to conscientiously teach. . . the same faith entrusted to that first generation of believers.

—See *National Directory for Catechesis*, 19

Catechist Formation

Christ relies on us to be his eyes, ears, hands, and voice in today's world—in other words, to be him for the sake of others. The bishops, priests, and deacons have special roles of leadership in the Church; however, the mission to evangelize and serve is shared in some way by all the faithful. We are all called to act with compassion in our homes, communities, and places of business; to bring our moral convictions into the ballot box; and to transform our culture not by preaching, but by living with integrity and justice. Acting on behalf of Jesus means being willing, as he was, to embrace the cross. Sacrifice will come, perhaps not as dramatically as it came to Christ, but it will come nonetheless. There is much more to discipleship than simply calling oneself a Christian.



How has Christian discipleship called for sacrifice on your part?



Catechist Prayer

Jesus, Lord of Life, I commit to you this day all my thoughts, all my actions, and my entire will. May all those I meet feel your loving presence in me. I ask this with confidence in your grace. Amen.

Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ Family relationships are changing for young adolescents. Often they are exploring boundaries and changing the way that they communicate with their parents and siblings. This session helps youth understand belonging to Church in terms of being part of a family.
- ▶ This session reminds youth about the importance of attending Mass regularly. This is often a source of conflict between parents and young people. Support youth and families in strengthening their participation in weekly Mass with patience and by providing practical ideas for ways to overcome the obstacles for participating.

Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit www.osvcurriculum.com.

Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

PRAY the opening prayer.

SHARE about relationship “tug of wars.”

READ Tracy’s story on **PAGES 40–41**.

REFLECT on the story.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

FACILITATE ACTIVITY about being a part of groups or communities.

PRESENT about God’s People.

READ FROM “NO PEOPLE” TO “GOD’S PEOPLE” on **PAGE 42** and **THE PEOPLE OF GOD** on **PAGE 43**.

EXTEND THE SESSION to consider faithful acts of others and of God in our lives, add 15 minutes.

PRESENT about the job of the Church and how the Church is like a family from **PAGES 44–45**.

EXTEND THE SESSION to reflect on God’s plan and on how the Church is a part of that plan, add 20 minutes.

FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY on being the Church at home on **PAGE 45**.

READ HIS WORK IS OURS on **PAGE 46**.

FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY to explore how we share in Jesus’ role of priest, prophet, and king.

REFLECT on what **CATHOLICS BELIEVE** on **PAGE 47**.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

REFLECT on **LIVE OUR FAITH** ideas on **PAGE 48**.

FACILITATE ACTIVITY in **WHAT ABOUT IT?** and **WHAT ABOUT YOU?**

EXTEND THE SESSION with **PEOPLE OF FAITH** on **PAGE 49**, add 10 minutes.

PRAY the closing prayer using **Resource 5**.

Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 5** in the *The Trinity Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and cross. Be sure to have matches or a lighter for the candle.
- ▶ Identify young adolescents to help with prayer and to read aloud portions of the text.

See individual **EXTEND THE SESSION** activities for other supplies needed.

Supplies Needed

- *The Trinity Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- newsprint
- markers
- tape
- copies of **Resource 5**—one per participant
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8* Music CDs

Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In *What’s the Issue?*, you will share about times when your relationships felt like a “tug of war.” 2 minutes
- ▶ In *What Does Faith Say?*, you will share about a time when you have witnessed a faithful act of another person, and a faithful act of God. 2 minutes



TEMPLE of the Holy Spirit

Session Background

Purpose

God the Holy Spirit lives within each of us and within the Church. The young people will learn how they are temples of the Holy Spirit, how the Spirit's gifts help them give witness to Christ, and how they can live faithful lives.

Objectives

Learners will

- ▶ understand that we are Temples of the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ identify the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives.
- ▶ come to know that the Church is both visible and spiritual.

Church Documents

For more background on session content, refer to *Catechism* paragraphs 382, 747, 809, 852, 1280, 1316, 1317, 1597, and 1845.

"The Church's ministry with adolescents seeks to help young people recognize the movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives and discern their particular Christian vocation in the world—in the workplace, in marriage or single life, in the priesthood or consecrated life..."

—*Renewing the Vision*, pages 16–17

Catechist Formation

Jesus promised his disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen them as they began the mission of spreading his Good News throughout the world. The Church is a spiritual community founded by Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. But it is also a human institution that can make mistakes. Any honest examination of our history makes that clear. Such mistakes have taken place because sometimes members of the Church have not heard or acted according to the guidance of the Spirit.

The Church has fulfilled its mission for more than two millennia and remains a powerful force for good in the world today. This fulfillment is evidence that Jesus' promise of the Spirit's presence has been—and will continue to be—kept.



In what ways does the Holy Spirit influence your catechetical ministry?



Catechist Prayer

Holy Spirit, Giver of Life, you have guided and inspired the Church throughout the ages, guide and inspire me in my ministry as a catechist. Help me to be an honorable vessel for handing on the faith of our ancestors, the faith given to them by Christ. Amen.

Young Adolescents Learning Faith

- ▶ Young adolescents often sense the Holy Spirit through emotion and imagination more than through intellect. Provide an environment that draws on the many different ways of learning: verbal, musical, logical, visual, bodily, interpersonal, intrapersonal, and through nature.
- ▶ Many young adolescents understand and articulate everything through the lens of their own experience. It is important to help expand their experience in ways that reflect the Gospel message.

Preparing for the Session



For a session planning sheet, visit www.osvcurriculum.com.

Session at a Glance

WHAT'S the ISSUE?

10 minutes

- PRAY** the opening prayer.
- SHARE** about experiencing people in need.
- READ** Connor's story on **PAGES 50–51**.
- REFLECT** on the story.

WHAT does FAITH SAY?

40 minutes

- REFLECT** on whether or not young people can make a difference in the world.
- PRESENT** the image of our bodies as temples where our souls live from **PAGES 52–53**.
 - EXTEND THE SESSION** by reflecting on Scripture about our bodies as temples, add 10 minutes.
- REFLECT** on the Gifts of the Spirit using the image of Soul Food.
- READ** about **SOUL FOOD, THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT, and MATURITY** on **PAGES 54–55**.
 - EXTEND THE SESSION** by exploring how the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are present in our lives, using **Resource 6**.
- FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY** to identify how the Fruits of the Spirit are present in people's lives, **PAGE 55**.
- PRESENT** the Church as a visible and spiritual community.
- READ** about the Mystical Body of Christ on **PAGES 56–57**.
- FACILITATE FAITH WALK ACTIVITY** to see how the Church follows Christ in his mission of outreach to the poor and helpless, **PAGE 57**.
 - EXTEND THE SESSION** with guest speakers who are a part of the Church's outreach efforts, add 20 minutes.
- REFLECT** on what **CATHOLICS BELIEVE** on **PAGE 57**.

WHAT NOW?

10 minutes

- REFLECT** on the **LIVE OUR FAITH** ideas on **PAGE 58**.
- FACILITATE ACTIVITY** to brainstorm ways the

parish reaches out to the poor and to create a personal action plan.

EXTEND THE SESSION to participate in service in the community; this is a long-term project.

EXTEND THE SESSION by reading **PEOPLE OF FAITH** and discussing people we know who "take the Church with them", add 10 minutes.

PRAY the closing prayer.

Getting Ready

- ▶ Read **Session 6** in the *The Trinity Faith Booklet*.
- ▶ Prepare a prayer space with a small table, simple cloth, a Bible, candle, and cross. Be sure to have matches or a lighter for the candle.
- ▶ Research ways that your parish community reaches out to the poor and needy.
- ▶ Write the 12 Fruits of the Spirit down on 3 x 5 cards or slips of paper.
- ▶ Research ways that the young people can become involved in outreach to the poor and needy in the local parish or civic community.
- ▶ Identify young adolescents to help with prayer and to read aloud portions of the text.

Supplies Needed

- *The Trinity Faith Booklets*—one per participant
- newsprint
- markers
- 8½ x 11 paper—one per participant
- Bibles—one per participant
- copies of **Resource 6**—one per participant
- *Call to Faith Grade 7 & 8* Music CDs

Personal Sharing Preparation

Prepare for personal sharing and faith sharing.

- ▶ In What's the Issue, you will share about experiencing people in need. 1 minute
- ▶ In What Does Faith Say?, you will share about Spirit Indicators (Fruits of the Spirit) you see in the young people. 2 minutes