

All four Gospels tell us that the people who saw Jesus' baptism heard a voice from heaven. The Holy Spirit came down like a dove. This was one way God revealed who he is: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We may not be able to see and hear God in the same way the people at Jesus' baptism did. We can read, hear, and understand God's own Word in the Bible and in the teachings of the Church. These are ways God tells us who he is.



Go to the digital portal for a *Lectio and Visio Divina* prayer.

"He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, 'This is my beloved Son.'" Matthew 3:16-17

We can know God through creation.

When people know you, they might know your name or what grade you are in. Someone who knows you a little better might know your birthday and what you like to do. Someone who knows you really well might know what makes you happy, sad, or afraid. Knowing *about* you and really *knowing* you are different things.

The same is true for God. We can know about him, but knowing God deep in our hearts is different. God is a mystery. That means we need some help to truly get to know and love him.



Who is someone
who knows me well?

Did You Know?



The Sign of the Cross is used in many ways.

Little by little, God revealed his good and loving plan for us to get to know him. God loves us so much that he comes first to us. He loves us so much that he has a plan to help us know him. His plan began with creating the world out of nothing.

Over time, God fully revealed his love by sending us his Son, Jesus, who gives us our best understanding of God. And through the Holy Spirit, Jesus gave us the Church, so that all people in all times can know and love God.



Activity

Write one thing you know about God right now.

Tell a friend how you know this.

Write one thing about God that you'd like to know more about.

What I Know	How I Know This	What I Want to Know

Blessed Trinity God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are One God in Three Persons



God revealed himself as One God in Three Divine Persons.

God showed us that he is One God in Three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This is something we cannot understand on our own. We know it and believe it because God revealed it. God tells us this in the Bible and in the Church, and God does not lie.

The Church calls this mystery of One God in Three Persons the **Blessed Trinity**. The Gospels and the Church teach us that the Blessed Trinity is three equal and divine Persons. The Persons of the Blessed Trinity have always existed and always will.

The Blessed Trinity is a mystery that is at the heart of our faith! We may not be able to see the Trinity the same way we can see the people around us. Yet we can see the Trinity at work in our lives. We see God's love in the world in many ways, including in the beauty of creation, in children helping their families, and in people taking care of the sick.

Each Divine Person of the Trinity has a special role. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit show us how much God loves and cares for us.

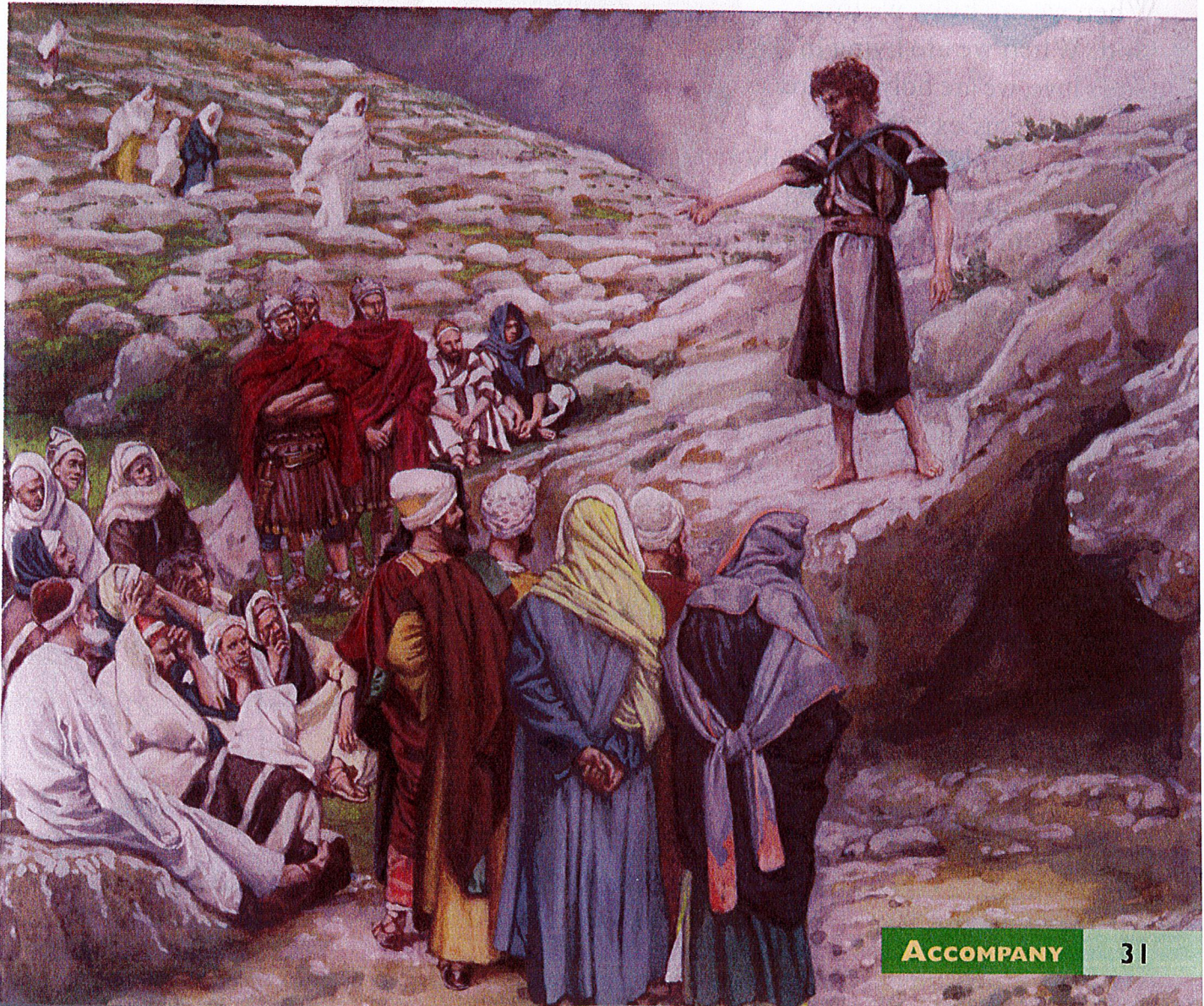
Jesus is the Son of God, and God himself.

The Gospels tell us that one day Jesus came to a river called the Jordan. John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said:

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, ‘A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.’ . . . Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God” (John 1:29–34).

John the Baptist knew Jesus was the Savior whom God promised to send. John also knew that the Savior whom God sent was both human and divine. He said that Jesus “is the Son of God.”

Jesus is the Son of God and the son of Mary. He is both God and man. He is our Savior who lived, died, and rose again to save us from our sins. Jesus is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. He was born and lived among us as one of us. Jesus felt joy, sadness, and pain the same way that we do. Jesus was like us in every way except sin.



Jesus and the Holy Spirit strengthen and guide the Church and her members.

Faith Word

holy growing in God's love and sharing it

Jesus sent his disciples out to heal the sick and preach about God. He told them the Blessed Trinity would be with them. He said, "For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you" (Matthew 10:20).

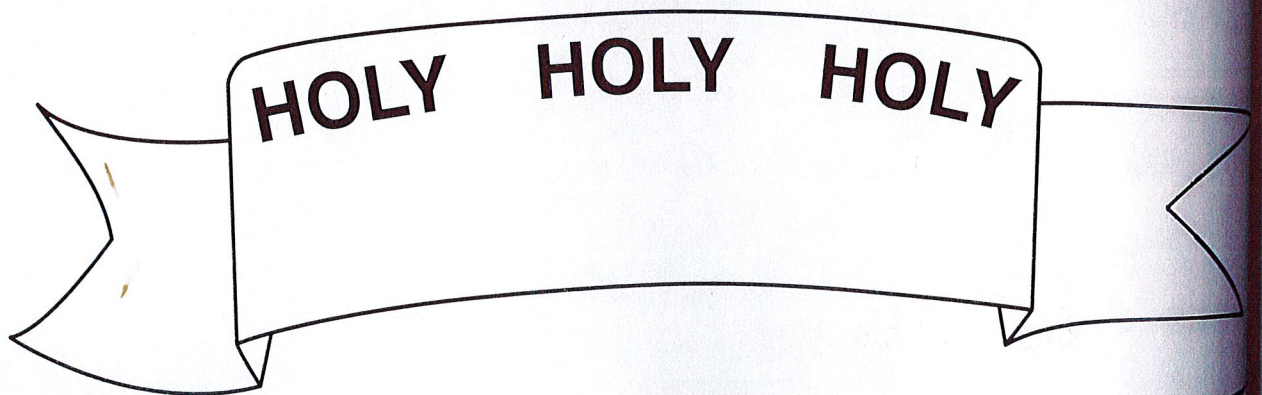
Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. We sometimes call the Holy Spirit our Advocate. An advocate is someone who works on someone else's behalf. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus gives us the Church, so that all people in all times can know and love God. The Holy Spirit unites and guides the whole Church and helps her members grow in holiness.

The Holy Spirit also works within each of us by helping us live in God's love. The Holy Spirit helps us to grow in holiness. When we are **holy**, we love God. When we are living in God's love, we are holy. We are following Jesus' example of loving God and others. The Holy Spirit helps us respond to God's great love for us and to love God and others perfectly.



Activity

The Holy Spirit helps you love God and others. Write a short prayer to the Holy Spirit on the banner. Have a friend say the prayer with you.





Show What You Know

Put an X next to the correct answers.

1. The _____ is One God in Three Persons.
 Blessed Trinity | Body of Christ
2. Jesus is the _____ Person of the Blessed Trinity.
 Second | Third
3. When we are _____, we grow in God's love and share it with others.
 heavenly | holy
4. The Blessed Trinity is a _____ of our faith.
 mystery | message
5. Jesus and the _____ strengthen and guide the Church and her members.
 People of God | Holy Spirit

Partners in Faith

Saint John the Baptist

Saint John the Baptist helped people prepare for Jesus. He baptized people and told them to be sorry for their sins. He told them to do good deeds. John recognized Jesus as the Son of God.



Learn more about the life of Saint John the Baptist.

