

2020-2021 RCIA #4

10/5/20

Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults

The Faith Explained

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Liturgical Cycle

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY

ORDINARY TIME

LENT

Paschal Triduum

EASTER

Pentecost

ORDINARY TIME

Christ the King

ADVENT

Part I: The Creed (Chapter 3)

The Unity and Trinity of God

- How Are There Three?

The Trinity is based on the Baptism of Jesus

- **Matthew 3:13-17**
- Mark 1:9-11
- Luke 3:21-22
- John 1:29-34

Introduction and Overview (Cont)

- Early Heresies

- Judaizers – said had to be a Jew to be a Christian
- Gnostics – secret knowledge
- Dualism – two gods: one good, one bad
- Montanism – end of the world was imminent
- Manacheism – two equal gods run everything
- **Arianism** – Jesus was not divine
- Nestorianism – Mary was not the mother of God
- **Apollinarianism** – Jesus had an incomplete human nature

Introduction and Overview (Cont)

- Early Councils

- **Jerusalem** – 50 A.D. - *Gentiles can become Christians without becoming Jews – rejected Judaizers*
- **Nicaea** – 325 A.D. - *Christ is the same as God – **rejected Arianism***
- **Constantinople** – 381 A.D. – *HS is the same as God and Jesus – **rejected revised Arianism***
- **Ephesus** – 431 A.D. – *Blessed Mother was the Mother of God – rejected Nestorianism*
- **Chalcedon** – 451 A.D. – *Christ possessed two natures: human and divine – **rejected Apollinarianism***

The Trinity (Cont)

- What are some images we have for the Trinity?
 - Clover
 - Ice, water, steam
 - Intersecting circles
 - Husband/wife/child
 - A MYSTERY

What is the Trinity of God

- According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* the Trinity is the:
 - Central mystery of Christian faith
 - Mystery of God in himself
 - Source of all other mysteries of faith
 - Light that enlightens them
 - Most fundamental and essential teaching in the “hierarchy of the truths” of faith

What is the Trinity of God (Cont)

- It is one of the mysteries that are hidden in God which can never be known unless they are revealed by God
- A dogma of the Church teaches that all three persons of the Trinity exist for all times
- One God – Three Persons
 - Three Missions
 - **Father** – creator
 - **Son** – redeemer
 - **Holy Spirit** – sanctifier

The Trinity

- When you pray to God, what does He look like?
 - Father figure
 - Old man
 - Cloud
 - Spirit
- Let us look at the ascension of Jesus from **Luke 24** and **Acts 1** as discussed Pope Benedict XVI's book *Jesus of Nazareth*

Part I: The Creed (Chapter 4)

Creation and Angels

- How Did Creation Begin?
- Is the Devil Real?

The Nicene Creed

Our belief in “God the Father” is expressed as:

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

God and Creation

- How did creation begin?
 - God created everything out of nothing (*ex nihilo*)
 - He wills and it is done (**Gn 1**)
 - He keeps everything in existence

God As Creator

- The Book of Genesis begins with the two stories of creation
 - **Genesis 1:1- 2:3**
 - **Genesis 2:4-24**

He Creates Everything Out of Nothing

- The Seven Days of Creation
 - “And God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.”
 - God spoke (*debar* - Hebrew) and it came to be
- The “Word of God” was understood in the Old Testament to be the “*sophia*” - Greek for “wisdom”

First Six Days of Creation

From the Void

- Day One
 - Day/night
- Day Two
 - Sea/Sky
- Day Three
 - Land/Vegetation

Filled the Void

- Day Four
 - Sun/Moon/Stars
- Day Five
 - Birds/Fish
- Day Six
 - Animals/Man

The Seventh Day of Creation

- God Rested on the 7th Day:
 - Sabbath
 - A day to praise, adore, glorify and worship God

Hierarchy of Beings

- Divine Life – God in the Trinity – pure uncreated spirit with infinite intelligence and will
- Angelic Life – Pure created spirits with intellect and will
- Human Life – A spiritual soul w/ intellect and will
- Animal Life – Existence, growth, and feelings
- Plant Life – Existence and growth
- No Life – Existence

Reminder

- Next week, October 12, we will not meet because of the Columbus Day Federal holiday
- Monday, October 19 we will continue looking at Chapter 4 - Creation and the Angels