



Before the session: Read the following materials.

Catechism of the Catholic Church (Should read before class)

- **CCC 232–267** – The section on the Trinity (especially 232–237 on mystery, 253–256 on “One God in Three Persons”).
- **CCC 221** – God is Love; destined us to share in His eternal exchange of love.
- **CCC 234** – The Trinity as the central mystery of faith and Christian life.
- **CCC 261–267** – Trinitarian prayer and doxology in the life of the Church.
- **CCC 685–747** – The mission of Christ and the Spirit (how the Trinity works in salvation).
- **CCC 249–252** – Historical development of Trinitarian doctrine (Creeds, Councils, theological language).
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Sacred Scripture (should read before class)

Old Testament

- *Genesis 1:26* – “Let us make man in our image.”
- *Genesis 18:1–15* – The three visitors to Abraham.
- *Isaiah 6:1–3* – Vision of the Lord, “Holy, holy, holy.”
- *Proverbs 8:22–31* – Wisdom beside God in creation.

New Testament

- *Matthew 3:13–17* – The Baptism of Jesus (Father, Son, Spirit revealed).
- *Matthew 28:18–20* – The Great Commission: Baptism in the name of the Trinity.
- *John 1:1–18* – The Word with God, the Word is God.
- *John 14–16* – Jesus promises the Spirit and reveals the Father.
- *Romans 8:14–17, 26–27* – The Spirit of adoption helps us cry “Abba, Father.”
- *2 Corinthians 13:13* – Trinitarian blessing: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit...”
- *Ephesians 1:3–14* – The Father’s plan, the Son’s redemption, the Spirit’s seal.



Church Fathers & Magisterial Texts (recommended but not required)

- **St. Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*** (focus on the divinity of the Son).
- **St. Augustine, *De Trinitate (On the Trinity)*** – classic reflection on how we understand the Trinity through love and the mind.
- **St. Basil the Great, *On the Holy Spirit*** – development of Trinitarian theology.
- **Council of Nicaea (325) & Constantinople (381)** – Creeds affirming the Trinity.

Articles & Modern Resources (recommended but not required)

- Vatican Website: *Compendium of the Catechism* (Questions 44–49 deal directly with the Trinity).
- Pope Benedict XVI, *Audience Catechesis on the Trinity* (2009, General Audience series).
- Pope St. John Paul II, *Dominum et Vivificantem* (encyclical on the Holy Spirit).
- Catholic Answers:
 - ["The Trinity"](#) (concise apologetics overview).
 - ["God in Three Persons"](#) (explains common misunderstandings).
- Bishop Robert Barron, *Catholicism Series* (Episode 1 introduces the Trinity through beauty and mystery).

Introductory & Accessible Books

- **Frank Sheed – *Theology for Beginners***
 - Clear, readable introduction to Catholic theology; has an excellent section on understanding the Trinity.
- **Frank Sheed – *Theology and Sanity***
 - Expands the same themes at a deeper level. His explanation of the Trinity is considered a classic for lay readers.
- **Scott Hahn – *First Comes Love: Finding Your Family in the Church and the Trinity***
 - Accessible reflection on how the Trinity is the model for human love, family, and Church life.
- **Peter Kreeft – *Catholic Christianity* (esp. ch. 2–3)**
 - Concise explanation of Trinitarian doctrine drawn from the Catechism.