

Enrichment: Sacred Art

Praying with Sacred Art: *The Holy Trinity*, by Guercino

Full-page image available on page 16 of the Student Text.

When we pray with this sacred art, we learn about the most amazing mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. [Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.](#)

Look at the figures in this painting. **Who are they?**
What are they doing?

- In this painting, we see the three Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity. At the top, we see God the Father, shown as an old, bearded figure who looks lovingly down to His Divine Son, Jesus. God the Father's hands are open in a gesture of blessing. He is blessing His Divine Son, Jesus, as He is revealed to the world.
- God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to free us from sin and restore us to friendship with God. This is God's loving plan of salvation.



The Holy Trinity,
Guercino

Look at the center of the scene. **What is Jesus doing?**

Jesus is clothed in a deep blue robe and holding a large globe. Notice Jesus' right hand is raised in a gesture of blessing. Jesus is blessing the world just as God the Father blesses Him. **Whom do we see in between the two heavenly figures?**

- Here we see the Holy Spirit, symbolized as a dove, under the figure of God the Father and enclosed by God's hands. The Holy Spirit is one God with the Father and the Son.
- Together, the Father and the Son send the Holy Spirit to sanctify us with grace.

Look at the outer corners of the painting. Here we see angels playing beautiful music. We are reminded that this painting is set in Heaven, where the angels and saints sing the praises of God for all time. God gives Himself to us in love and invites us to one day be with Him, the angels, and the saints forever in Heaven.

Journal Reflection

Look carefully at the sacred art to see how the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity give themselves out of love to one another. We are created to love as God loves. **Can you name something you can do to give yourself completely out of love by sacrificing something for another person?** Write your answer on the journal page. [Journal pages are available on the parent and student portals.](#)

Conclude by praying the Our Father.