



Christian Education Bulletin Insert

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June 6, Trinity Sunday

Children think very literally and the doctrine of the Trinity is very abstract. Many adults have difficulty with it, and, after all, theologians and other scholars have written thousands upon thousands of words about it in an effort to understand and explain it. We can expect children to know the names of the three persons of the Trinity and that they are, in some way, related to each other. Even very young children can understand God as the creator of the world and a Father like figure who loves and cares for them. They can also understand that Jesus lived on earth and showed us the right way to live, eventually dying for us on the cross and rising again. Children may find the Holy Spirit more difficult to comprehend until they are older. Perhaps they can understand the Holy Spirits' presence when they experience a feeling that they should or should not do a certain thing, when they feel particularly close to God, and when they feel joy, peace and love.

On this day, point out things in threes. Maybe you will sing Holy, holy, holy in church. Tell children that there is one 'Holy' for each person of the Trinity.

Also, point out the words "Father, Son and Holy Spirit (or Holy Ghost)" when they occur at the ends of prayers or hymns, and the three parts of the Creed.

The image of a yacht might be a good way to explain the Trinity to older children. The boat represents God the Father, the mast God the Son (it is even made in the shape of a cross). The sail can represent us. We need the wind of the Holy Spirit to make the yacht work.

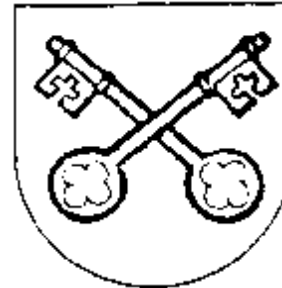
June 29, St Peter and St Paul

Tradition tells us that both St Peter and St Paul were killed in

Rome on the same day around the year 64 A.D. Paul was a Roman citizen which gave him the right to be beheaded with a sword but Peter was crucified upside down. The Church celebrates the lives of these two great apostles on the same day. The first half of the Book of Acts tells many stories about St Peter and how he founded the Church. In the second half it focuses on St Paul and his missionary journeys to take the gospel to the Gentiles.

Jesus called Peter the Rock on which he would build his Church. Children might collect some rocks and paint on each one a symbol for St Peter, e.g. keys, a fishing net or a boat.

Paul had a very dramatic conversion to faith in Jesus. Read Acts 9:1-9. Younger children may enjoy playing Blind Man's Buff to be able to understand better how Paul had to trust his friends to help him when he had been blinded by the bright light.



Shield of St Peter

The crossed keys remind us of the time when Peter told Jesus that he knew he was the Christ, the Son of God, and Jesus told him that he would give him (Peter) the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven Mt 16:13-20.



Shield of St Paul

The open Bible has on it the words "Spiritus Gladius" which are Latin for "Sword of the Spirit." Behind the Bible is the sword itself.

For Fun Try saying this three times fast. Sure the ship's shipshape, sir.