The Holy Trinity
One God in Three Persons

Old Testament Trinity icon by **Andrey Rublev**, Russian, *15th cent.*
An illustration of Genesis 18

From "**The Creed of Saint Athanasius**," *5th century*

…We worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity, neither confounding the Persons, nor
dividing the Substance.
For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost.
But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one, the Glory equal,
the Majesty co-eternal.
…So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God.
And yet they are not three Gods, but one God.

Some well-known analogies

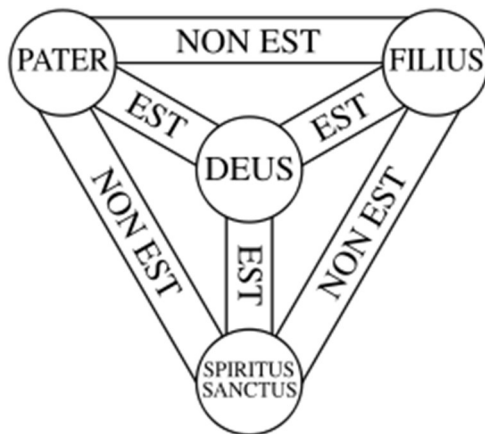+ The Shamrock: "both one leaf and three"
— St. Patrick, *5th century*

+ A Lover, the Beloved and the Love that binds them
— St. Augustine, *5th century*

+ Water, Ice & Steam: One substance, three forms

"The Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein pointed out that human words are completely incapable of describing something as mundane as the aroma of coffee. How much more difficult it must be to describe God in human language." ~ Nicky Gumbel, *Searching Issues*

Different roles in the work of salvation

- **Father:** Creator/ Source/ Head

- **Son:** Redeemer/ Reconciler/ Human face of God

- **Holy Spirit:** Sanctifier/ Comforter/ God who is with us

"Shield of the Trinity," *13th century*

Some references in Scripture

- Old Testament: Genesis 18.1-2; Isaiah 6.3

- Gospels: Matthew 3.16-17; 28.19; Luke 1.35; John 14.11, 25-26

- Epistles: Acts 7.55; 1 Corinthians 12.4-6; 2 Corinthians 13.14;

  Ephesians 3.14-19; Revelation 4.8