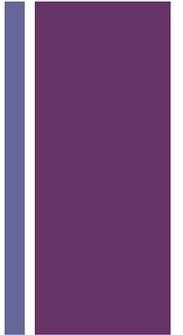


# Lent Catechesis

God, Jesus, The Church, You

# + Topics



Mar 7 – Catholic Vision & “Who is God?”

Mar 14 – “Who am I?”

Mar 21 – “Who is Jesus?”

Mar 28 – “What is the Church?”

Apr 4 – “What is the good life?”

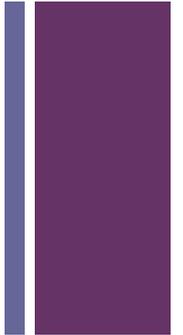
Apr 11- “How do I pray?”

# + Sources

- Natural Reason/ Philosophy / Sciences
- Revelation
  - Sacred Scripture
  - Tradition
    - Church Fathers
    - Saints
    - Church Teaching/ Catechism of the Catholic Church
  - Church Magisterium\*

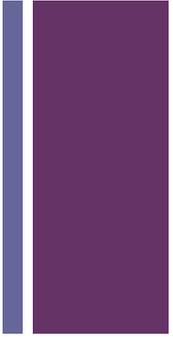


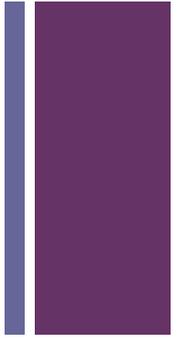
# + The Catholic Vision



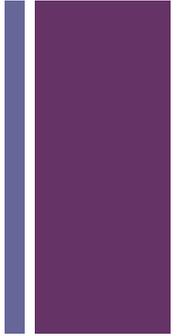
*“Enemy occupied territory – that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say in disguise, and is calling us to take part in a great campaign of sabotage.”*

– C. S. Lewis



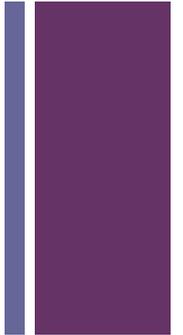


# + The Catholic Vision



- Truth – Faith & Reason
- Realism
- Incarnation
- Sacramentality
- History
- Tradition

# + Who is God?



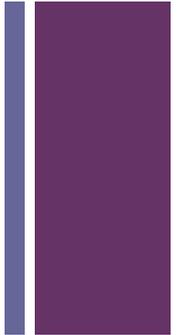
- Natural Theology
- Being
- Creation
  - Visible and Invisible
- Subsistent Existence
- Personal
- Revelatory
- Trinity



# How can we know?

## ■ Natural Reason

- The “idea” of God comes through:
  - A general and confused way expressed in a desire for happiness
  - A perception of order and harmony in creation
- Rational / Philosophical inquiry
  - Based on questions that stem from our experience of the world
  - Related to the desire for scientific knowledge
    - “How” and “why” are distinct but related questions





# Natural Reason – The Five Proofs



1) **Argument from Motion** (Everything in motion was put in motion by something that was in motion before it. But this cannot go back infinitely. There was a First Mover.)

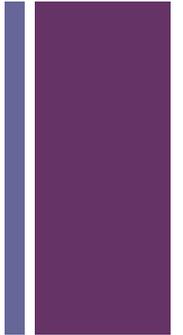
2) **Argument from Causes** (Every thing is an effect of some preceding cause. But this cannot go back infinitely. There is a First Cause.)

3) **Argument from Possibility and Necessity** (Everything in nature is “possible.” It exists because something else existed before it in a certain way. Everything that exists is depending on something that came before it. But this cannot go back infinitely. There is an uncaused-Cause.)

4) **Argument from Degrees of Perfection** (Everything can be said to have a greater or lesser degree of perfection. To speak of degrees of perfection, there must be an exemplar that is perfect according to which things are measured.)

5) **Argument from Governance** (The regularity, pattern, and order of things moving towards their ends manifest an intelligent purpose.)

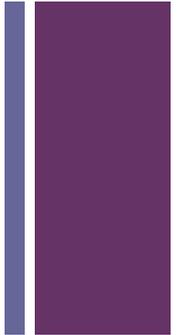
# + Cosmological Argument



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COJ0ED1mV7s>
- Other arguments for Gods existence:
  - <https://strangenotions.com/god-exists/>

# + East vs. West (Absence vs. Presence)

- Eastern Religions (Generally)
  - Brahman – An impersonal force throughout all existence. The ultimate “self” and reality is “Maya” or an illusion. Brahman is present in every thing but is no thing. All is one and what we perceive is a distortion of that one.
  - “The world is illusory. Only Brahman is real. Brahman is the world.” – Ramana Maharshi
  - The goal of life is “moksha” or self-realization through higher consciousness that you are nothing but Brahman.
  - “The happiness of the drop is to die in the river.” – Al-Ghazali



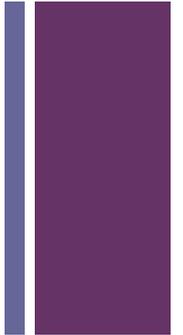


# East vs. West cont.

## ■ Abrahamic Religions

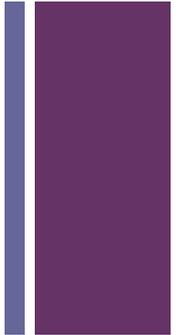
- “I am who am” – God, Exodus 3:14

- *This name HE WHO IS is most properly applied to God ... because of its signification. For it does not signify form, but simply existence itself. Hence since the existence of God is His essence itself, which can be said of no other, it is clear that among other names this one specially denominates God, for everything is denominated by its form. (ST I. Q.13, a.11)*





# God IS the foundation of existence



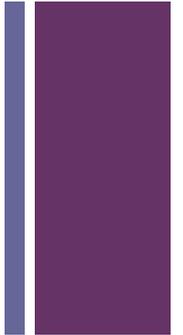
- “Subsistent Existence” (Ipsum Esse Subistens)
  - God enjoys the perfection of his being from and in himself
- Everything we know about God is because of his intentional self-manifestation through creation
  - His goodness is reflected in his work (like an artist through his art)
  - We can reason to God through his effects
  - He wills his creation to share in his goodness and participate in his perfection

# + Some points to remember:

- Reality is really real
- We can actually know things to be true
- Truth is not only in visible things
- Non-material things “exist”, even if they are not measurable
  - Error of *Scientism* – “The only true knowledge is that which can be scientifically proven”
    - Reality is not restricted to scientific explanation
    - Presuppositions and possible questions

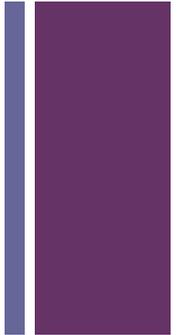


# + Creation



- Different for a reason:
  - *Enuma Elish* –Assyrian creation myth
  - Greek Myths / Philosophies
- Not necessary
- Not eternal
- Not God yet not mediated
- “It was good”
- Rocks are Hard, Water is Wet

# + Visible and Invisible



- Angels
  - Real beings
  - Non-bodily
  - Outside of our time
  - Rational
  - “Angel” is what they do, not “who” they are
  - 9 Choirs – Different functions
  - Fallen Angels

## + **God's Grandeur** BY [GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS](#)

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;

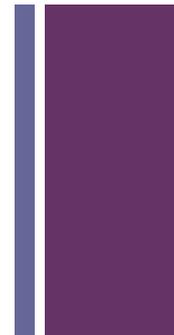
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —

Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

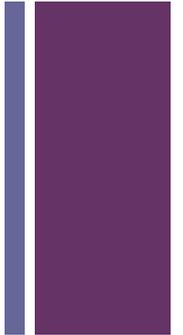
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.





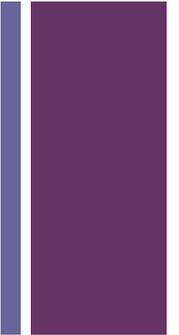
“Question the beauty of the earth, question the beauty of the sea, question the beauty of the air, amply spread around everywhere, question the beauty of the sky, question the serried ranks of the stars, question the sun making the day glorious with its bright beams, question the moon tempering the darkness of the following night with its shining rays, question the animals that move in the waters, that amble about on dry land, that fly in the air; their souls hidden, their bodies evident; the visible bodies needing to be controlled, the invisible souls controlling them; question all these things. They all answer you, 'Here we are, look ; we're beautiful.'

Their beauty is their confession. Who made these beautiful changeable things, if not one who is beautiful and unchangeable? – ST. Augustine

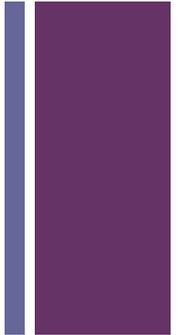


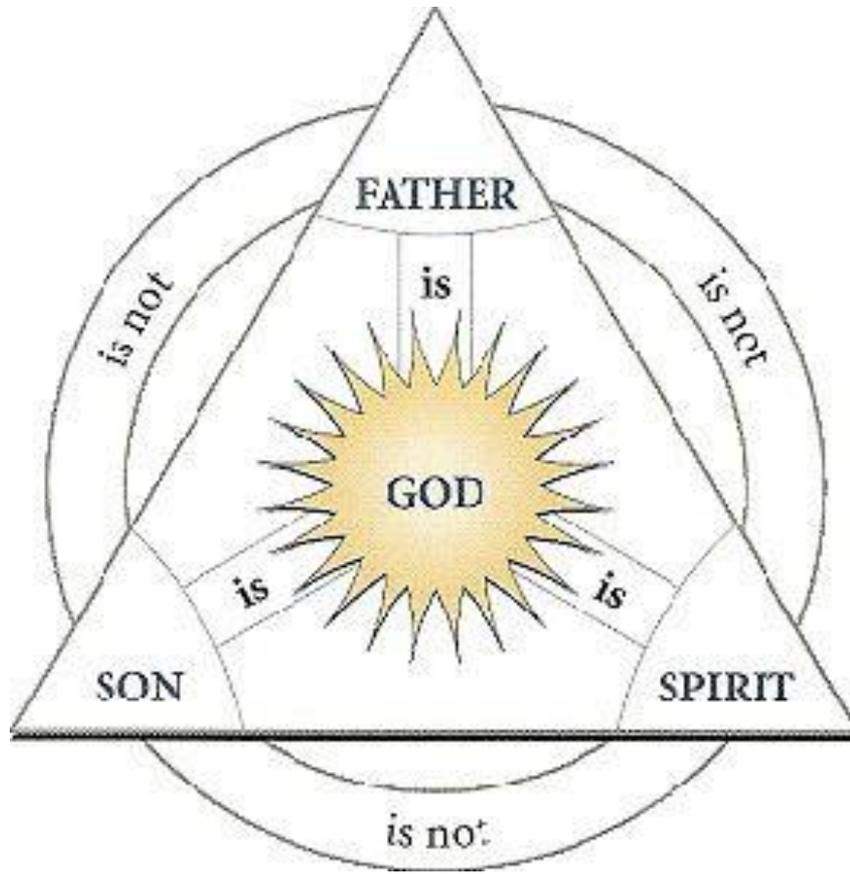
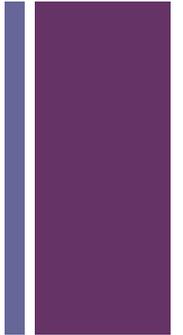
# + God Reveals Himself

- Nature of Revelation
  - Why?
  - How?
- Jesus Christ is the fullness of God's Revelation
  - Words and Gestures
  - What is necessary for salvation

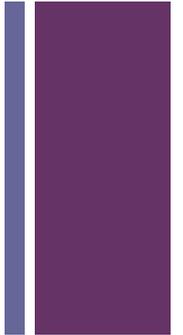


# + God is a Trinity of Persons





# + Definition



We confess and we believe that the holy and indescribable Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one only God in His nature, a single substance, a single nature, a single majesty and power.

We acknowledge Trinity in the distinction of persons; we profess Unity because of the nature or substance. The three are one, as a nature, that is, not as person. Nevertheless, these three persons are not to be considered separable, since we believe that no one of them existed or at any time effected anything before the other, after the other, or without the other.

Council of Toledo -675 AD