

The Existence of God

"I AM who AM"

(Ex. 3:14)

Preparation—Readings from Scripture:

First Reading: Acts 17:22-28

Response: Ps 18:1-2, 6, 16-19, 27, 30-33, 36, 46

Proclamation: We can know that God exists through our ability to reason.

Explanation:

1. God exists

Knowledge of God is possible by reason alone— (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* hereafter, CCC; Paragraphs 31- 36)

~ The existence, order, and beauty of creation tell of its Maker (see Ps 19:1-4)

~ The human heart knows the good and longs for the infinite and for happiness

~ Neither creation nor human beings could have made themselves

We need Divine Revelation because reason is limited in its ability to know God

2. The quest for the one true God (see Exodus 3:1-15)

The desire for God is in every human heart; (CCC 27 – 30)

most societies developed deity worship.

The one true God revealed himself to Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the Israelites (CCC 54 – 65)

God is pure existence and is eternal

God revealed himself in His fullness with the coming of Jesus Christ. (CCC 65-73)

3. What has God revealed about Himself

God is One

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord" Deuteronomy 6:4

"Turn to me and be safe, all you ends of the earth, for I am God;

there is no other!"

Isaiah 45:22

A God merciful and gracious

"Thus the Lord passed before [Moses] and cried out, 'The Lord, the Lord, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity, continuing His kindness for a thousand generations, and forgiving wickedness and crime and sin; yet not declaring the guilty guiltless, but punishing children and grandchildren of the third and fourth generation for their father's wickedness!'" Exodus 34:6-7

God's very being is Truth and Love

"Though the mountains leave their place and the hills be shaken, My love shall never leave you nor my covenant of peace be shaken says the Lord, Who has mercy on you."

Isaiah 54:10

"God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all."

I. John 1:5

4. Attributes (see Ex 34:5-7 and 1 John 4:8)

God is transcendent: He transcends time and space. He is almighty, infinite, and all-knowing

God is truth, wisdom, and beauty

God is goodness and pure love: He is faithful, trustworthy, just, and merciful

God is immanent

The Divine Attributes of God:

- God is infinite lacking limits or bounds
- God is One There can be only 1 God Who is the Supreme Being. You cannot have two supreme beings.
- God is simple There are no parts in God- He is pure spirit
- God is Spiritual He is spirit without body-when He became Man He took on a body
- God is eternal without beginning or end (Psalm 90:1-4)
- God is a personal God God is a Person- not an entity or force; there is equality in the Persons. He has a Divine/Will to relate to us personally.
- God is omnipresent all present-present to each person
- God is omniscient all-knowing-knows each one of us-knew before we were born
- God is omnipotent all-powerful-can do all things, allows us to respond to Him freely
- God is perfect perfectly alive and the source of all perfection
- God is triune 3 Persons/One God
- God is incomprehensible cannot be understood-never understand fully with our human intellect
- God is almighty having unlimited power
- God is ineffable too overwhelming to be described in words

5. Human beings share in, and reflect God's attributes (see Genesis 1:26-27)

God is infinitely perfect, yet we are created in God's image.

God created our intellects to desire truth and our wills to desire what is good and beautiful. God created us to love and be loved; Jesus teaches us to love each other as he has loved us. These desires can be ultimately fulfilled only by God if we freely cooperate with him

6. We owe a response to God (see Ps 116:12-14)

To put Him ahead of all others; to know, love, and serve Him *first* and thereby gain Heaven.

To trust and love Him *willingly*

To express our gratitude to Him;

To acknowledge the dignity of each human person who is made in His image and likeness.

To use all of creation well and not abuse it.

Explain the Sign of the Cross: We as Christians believe we are in the family of the Triune God. We address God, when we pray as triune: we pray in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. We believe that God so loved us that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for us on the cross. We accept the cross of Christ and sign ourselves with a cross when we pray. We say, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." as we make a cross on ourselves.

Application - Questions for Small Group Discussion:

1. Have you experienced a desire for God, or a desire for "something" to fill your heart?
2. In what ways does your heart respond to the knowledge that God exists?
3. Why do you believe in God? Do you know people who do not believe? Why do people not believe in God?
4. What impact do God's attributes have on your life?
5. Do you think it matters whether a person believes in God? How might belief in God affect our view of sin, of cheating, divorce, euthanasia, abortion?

Celebration—Suggestions for Closing Prayer:

1. Pray for the gift of greater faith in the one, true God
2. Hymn or song
3. Pray together Psalm 147

Carlo Acutis demonstrated belief in God by centering his life on faith and the Eucharist, using his talents to spread devotion, and offering his suffering for the Church, all of which are rooted in a profound personal understanding of God's existence and importance. He viewed God's presence as the guiding force for a meaningful life, and believed in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

For Carlo Acutis, the highest good of all was God and His will for his life.

"Happiness is looking towards God," Carlo said.

"Sadness is looking towards yourself."

"Not I, but God"

as Carlo Acutis used to say.

15 year-old Carlo Acutis died of acute leukemia in 2006

Carlo was declared a saint by Pope Leo XIV on September 7, 2025.

St. Carlo is the First Millennial Saint.