

**For The Bulletin of
May 27, 2018**



THREE IN ONE

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY

From Father Robert

Welcome to Summer's Ordinary Time! After our full participation in the forty days of Lent, the Triduum, and the fifty days of the Easter Season, we now return to counting or numbering the weeks, not the days, of the Liturgical Year. Ordinary Time, which will take us through the summer and Fall, comprises the thirty-four weeks that are not marked by major feasts. The longest stretch of Ordinary Time begins after Evening Prayer on Pentecost and continues up to the start of the new Liturgical Year on the First Sunday of Advent. The seasons of the church reflect the rhythms of our lives, with peak moments and times of quiet growth. The liturgical color of Ordinary Time, green, reminds us that this is still a season of growth in our discipleship, a time to continue maturing into the followers of Jesus whom we are meant to be.

Today's feast of the Trinity and next Sunday's Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ are two more "white" Sundays before we see a green environment and green vestments.

We have all heard of the shamrock, which, according to legend, was used by St. Patrick to represent the Holy Trinity to the native Irish in the early fifth century. Three leaves on one sprig, representing three persons in one God. That story has been repeated countless times, and the image of the shamrock has become forever linked with the Trinity, and with the Irish. But, of course, God is more than a sprig, and the relationship between the persons of the Trinity is more complex and subtle than three leaves. Earlier church fathers used the image of the sun to speak of the Trinity, with the sun itself representing the Father, the light representing the Son, and the heat representing the Holy Spirit. This image does more than the shamrock to convey the subtlety at work in such a sophisticated concept of "three persons, one god," but still, the metaphor of the sun with its light and heat is still just that, a metaphor. Though *trinitas* is a Latin word and therefore not found in the New Testament, which was written in Greek, there are many "triadic" texts that speak of Father/God, Son, Spirit. Passages like the one for today would be considered "triadic," and they would give rise to full-blown Trinitarian theology in later centuries.

The gospel scene is after Easter, but in Galilee. According to Matthew, this is the first and only appearance of the risen Jesus to His disciples (only eleven now in a somber reminder of Judas's fate.) Still, the disciples doubt. They receive the command that been referred to as

“The Great Commandment”: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” The Gospel of Matthew, which restricted the use of the term disciple to the Twelve during Jesus’ ministry, now shows that following the resurrection, there will be disciples in all nations. Matthew’s baptismal formula for making a disciple is the same as what Christians use today. Based on this “Great Commandment,” Christianity has become a worldwide religion. From a mountaintop in Galilee, those initial disciples made other disciples by baptism, who made still more disciples by baptism, and so on, until our very day. Discipleship founded on baptism into the life of the Trinity is much more powerful than a shamrock, or even the sun.



Living The Paschal Mystery

When questioned about the Trinity, many catechists or others resort to, “It’s a mystery. We can’t understand it.” While that may be true, it doesn’t mean we don’t think about it. A mystery of faith is in some ways similar to the mystery of the universe. We plumb its depths. We examine it from various angles. We ask questions. We discuss. We debate. And we find that we have not exhausted the topic; rather, it has exhausted us! And we return to it again later, learning more with each

engagement. Dismissing any consideration of the Trinity solely because it is a mystery does us a disservice as rational yet faith-filled Christians. Many theologians have sought to express various aspects of this mystery through the centuries and many more will continue to do so into the future.

Part of our living the mystery is to know that we will never fully comprehend or understand all of what it means for God to be a Trinity. In the same manner, we will never fully comprehend or understand the entirety of the universe. But we can approach each mystery with humility and a sense of wonder and respect. Jesus is the incarnate God. He called God Father, and promised to send the Spirit Who would remind His disciples about Jesus. Each of us has been baptized into the life of the Trinity and will continue to let that meaning unfold each day of our ongoing lives.

What new questions does today’s feast raise for you?

- How have you experienced the presence of God in the ordinary and every day? How would you explain this presence to someone who is a non-believer?
- What are the implications for society if God is not just Creator but “Father?”
- How can we “teach” others about God without the use of theological language or jargon?

***Knights of Columbus Present Plaques
at Annual Awards Ceremony***

Father Robert and several members from the Knights of Columbus attended the Antioch Police Department's annual awards ceremony that was held on May 17, 2018 at the Lone Tree Golf Course. The Knights presented a plaque to the Police Officer and Civilian Employee of the Year in recognition of their service and dedication to the citizens of Antioch. The Knights support our Police Officers and Firefighters as they are our local heroes that protect us and our families.

Pictured from left to right, Police Chief Tammany Brooks, Officer of the Year Detective Rick Hoffman, Father Robert, Civilian Employee of the Year Gabrielle Johnson and Grand Knight Dave Simpson.



Tomorrow, Monday, May 28th, is Memorial Day. We will gather here in our church for the usual Daily Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. Later in the morning, at 11:00 a.m., I will be presiding for Eucharist at Holy Cross Cemetery to mark the observance of this special day. You are invited to either one or both liturgies and I hope I will see some of you at the cemetery.

Also, our parish is sponsoring a Memorial Day Bingo, beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the parish hall. A delicious lunch will be served followed by several Bingo games under the direction of Steve and Frances Rojek. I am grateful to them for providing these special events on holidays and which are appreciated by so many of you. It is a great way to spend a holiday in the company of friends and fellow parishioners.

In observance of the holiday, the Parish and Faith Formation Offices will be closed.



The 39th Anniversary of the founding of the parish will be celebrated at a “Luau” this coming Saturday, June 2nd immediately following the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Eucharist. An authentic luau setting, complete with traditional foods and dance, will be offered. Tickets are available at the table in the Gathering Plaza following each liturgy this weekend as well as from the parish office during the week. This event marks the first in a series of events leading up to the 40th Anniversary of the Founding of the Parish which we will celebrate in June, 2019. I hope you will join us.



Liturgical Environment Change

You are invited to join the members of the Art & Environment Committee in changing the liturgical environment from Pentecost to Summer’s Ordinary Time on Tuesday, June 5th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. We have a great time and if you have never been a part of the transformation of our worship space, I encourage you to join us. You will be a part of experiencing the transition from

one season/feast to the long “green” season of Summer’s Ordinary Time. We take a “union” break around 10:30 for coffee and pastries and depending upon what time we are finished, we often also provide lunch. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Our parish is blessed with many volunteers who participate in a variety of ways to help us maintain our parish office, our building, our programs and ministries. Among them, we thank those who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the sanctuary and parish hall for the weekend: **Crispina Malosonan, Hermie Lucas, Rose Salamanca, Jun Bajet, Al Cosce, and Carole Miller**

...those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Steve Rojek, Virginia Noack, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young.**

...to **Mary Anne Douville and Faultless Cleaners** for all the dry cleaning, sewing and miscellaneous other tasks that are completed by her for the parish.

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

Peter Degl’Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.

...to **our counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week:

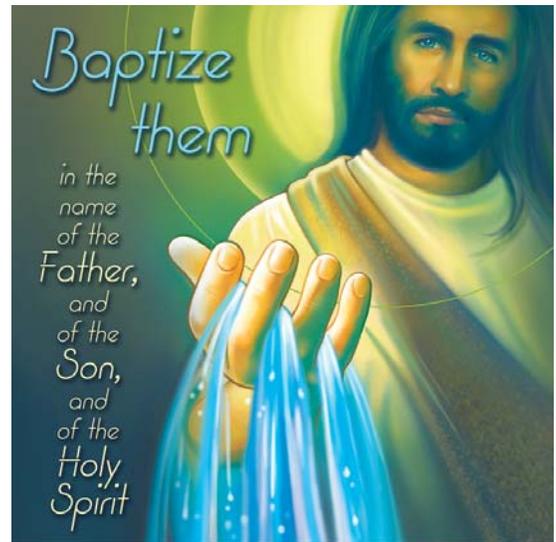
Jeannine Ford, Melodye Costanza, Harlan Young, Sharon Cissell, Yvette Young, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week’s donations: **Frank Zamora and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Carole Miller, Dave Costanza, Vangie Parrilla and Sherry Webb.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during the weekend liturgies: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek and Jose Perez.**

forum followed by a Night Walk Against Violence will take place on June 14th, 6:00 p.m., at Christ Is The Answer Church, 405 School St., Pittsburg. I invite you to join us for this first of what we hope will be a monthly witness against gun violence and senseless killing. “Stop the killing – Start Living!”



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This past Tuesday morning, I met with the clergy and police from both Pittsburg and Antioch PD. We have been working together to start “Ceasefire” once again along with the Night Walks. The first