



The Solemnity OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

“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.” - Mt 28:19

Our Lady of Peace Church May 30, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAN



Holy Trinity: a God of Relationships

Now that we have completed the Easter Season, a fifty-day period culminating last weekend in the celebration of the Solemnity of Pentecost, we have taken a long look at the central teaching of our faith, that Jesus Christ, who was crucified, was raised from the dead, never to die again. Now we turn to other, very basic teachings of our faith—this week, the Trinity, and next week, the Eucharist.

We begin our look at the Trinity with a reading from the Book of Deuteronomy, 4:32-34, 39-40. Here we find a powerful statement in a speech of Moses that there is only one God—unlike the multiple gods of the Greeks and Romans, and other world religions. Moses marvels that this one God has drawn near to a single people, freed them from bondage, and taken them under his protection. “Ask now of the days of old, before your time, ever since God created many upon the earth; ask from one end of the sky to the other: Did anything so great ever happen before? Was it ever heard of? Did a people ever hear the voice of God speaking from the midst of fire, as you did, and live? Or did any god venture to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by testings, by signs and wonders, by war, with strong hand and outstretched arm, and by great terrors, all of which the Lord, your God, did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?”

Then, Moses focuses his teaching on the oneness of this most unique God. “This is why you must now know, and fix in your heart, that the Lord is God in the heavens above and on earth below, and that there is no other. You must keep his statutes and commandments that I enjoin on you today, that you and your children after you may prosper, and that you may have long life on the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you forever.”

Thus, in these few verses we find the teaching of the Bible that there is but one God, awesome, all-powerful, and totally other from earth and humanity, and that this God, nonetheless, chooses to become a part of the lives of the people, leading, loving and protecting them as they journey toward the Promised Land, learning God’s ways as they journey.

Our other readings from the New Testament advance the biblical teaching. This one God is at the same time a Trinity or community of persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. St. Paul in his letter to the Romans 8:14-17, spells out the manner in which these “persons” act, drawing near to human beings and the Church community. “Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons and daughters of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a Spirit of adoption, through whom we cry, ‘Abba, Father!’ the Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs of Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.” Thus, the one God of the Deuteronomy passage continues to draw near to his people through the actions of the Son and the Holy Spirit, making us adopted sons and daughters. We Christians can certainly echo the words of Moses: “Did anything so great ever happen before? Was it ever heard of?”

The doctrine of the Holy Trinity is certainly a very deep mystery, asserting that three equals one, that Father, Son and Holy Spirit, though distinct, are but one God. And while the mystery may be difficult to fathom, it is indeed basic. We begin and end our prayers with the Sign of the Cross, “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Our gospel reading, Matthew 28:16-20, contains Jesus’ parting instructions before his return to the Father in which he maps out the mission that is ours of incorporating disciples into the very life of the Trinity, the very life of God through baptism: “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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” Once again, the God who is wholly other chooses to be immersed in the life of God’s people. Through Jesus’ dying and rising, and through the gift of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, we become God’s children. “Did anything so great ever happen before? Was it ever heard of?”

Who we are called to be flows from our belief in the Holy Trinity. The very nature of God is to be in relationship, first within God’s self, and then with God’s people. And just as the community of persons is so perfect that there is but one God, so we are called to overcome divisions and to live as a community bound together by this divine love. In the early Church people were attracted to the faith because of the authenticity of the lives of the first disciples: See how they love one another! Let us strive to live in such a way that others will want to say the same about us!



MEMORIAL DAY CEMETERY MASSES

are scheduled for Monday, May 31

9:00A *Mater Dolorosa Cemetery, Greenfield*

10:30A *Saint Anne/Saint Mary, Turners Falls*

In the event of inclement weather, there will be one Mass, offered in the church.

Remember to bring a lawn chair!

Please note: there will be no 8:00A Mass on Memorial Day.



Saturday, May 29-Rosary at 3:15P
4:00P *Carol Demers* 3rd anniversary
by Fran & children

Sunday, May 30
8:00A *Deceased members of the Prunier family*
by Paul Prunier
10:00A *Lorraine Boguslawski*
by Mary Routhier

Saturday, June 5-Rosary at 3:15P
4:00P *J. Michael Dunican*
by his sisters

Sunday, June 6
8:00A *John & Marion Bak*
by Paul & Emily
10:00A *Agnes Dobosz*
by the Women's Group

DAILY MASS

Monday, May 31-Memorial Day
9:00A *Pat Caloon*
by John
10:30A *For parishioners & veterans buried in our parish cemeteries*

Tuesday, June 1
8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

Wednesday, June 2
8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

Thursday, June 3
8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

Friday, June 4
8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

Our Lady's Window

May 31 *Lorraine Boguslawski*
by Ron & Connie Sicard

June 2 *Margaret Geraghty*
by Ron & Connie Sicard

RECTORY CLOSED on Monday, May 31 in observance of Memorial Day.

FR. STAN & FR. GONI will both be on retreat, beginning after the Memorial Day Masses, through Friday, **June 4**. Please keep them in your prayers.

WOMEN'S GROUP will meet on Tuesday, **June 8** at 6:00P in the church hall.

WEEKLY COLLECTION	May 23
Regular collection & mail	\$1,207.00
On-line	\$464.00

THANK YOU!



1. Memorial Day was unofficially started by women

Before the Civil War ended, women's groups got together to decorate the graves of soldier. On April 12, 1886, the Columbus Ladies Memorial Association of Georgia announced they would dedicate one day a year to decorating graves as a way to remember fallen soldier. This was one of many events put on by local ladies memorial associations that eventually led to the federal holiday.

2. It was originally called Decoration Day

The very first Decoration Day was celebrated on May 30, 1868, as the future president James A. Garfield gave a remembrance speech to thousands of onlookers at Arlington National Cemetery. Over the years, the day began to be referred to as Memorial Day, and for consistency's sake, it was nationally re-named in 1971.

3. It wasn't a Federal Holiday until 1971

In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act which proclaimed that Memorial Day would be celebrated on the last Monday each May and gave all federal employees the day off. But it was not official federal holiday until 1971, more than 100 years after the end of the Civil War.

4. Newly freed slaves held one of the first Memorial Day Celebrations

One of the very first Memorial Day celebrations on record was held by newly freed slaves in Charleston, South Carolina. On May 1, 1865, freed slaves gathered with members of the U.S. Colored Troops to bury and honor fallen Union soldiers. A crowd of 10,000 people formed a parade around an old race track, where they sang hymns and decorated graves.

5. **National Moment of Remembrance** was signed by President Bill Clinton in 2000. The act asks all Americans to observe a moment of remembrance at 3:00PM local time on the afternoon of Memorial Day.

6. Flags are to be flown at half-mast until 12noon

You might think that the American flag should be flown at half-mast all day, but the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs states that the flag should be flown at half-mast "from sunrise until noon only, then raised briskly to the top of the staff until sunset."

7. Poppies are a symbol of Memorial Day

Poppies began to bloom on World War I battlefields following the end of the war. Originally a symbol used to honor British soldiers who died in World War I, the flower also became associated with Memorial Day in 1915 when Moina Michael, a Georgia teacher and wartime volunteer, penned the poem "We Shall Keep the Faith," as part of a campaign to make poppies a national symbol of remembrance.



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