

“the Spirit of truth”

1. Read — Read the verses slowly and prayerfully several times. Write down any words or phrases that seem to stand out:

2. Meditate — Now begin to reflect on the verses and ask God what it means and how he wants to speak to you through the passage. **God what are you saying to me through this?**

3. Pray — Respond from your heart to what God has been saying to you. **What do you want me to know?** Write down your prayer to him or record whatever he says to you.

4. Contemplate — Be quiet before the Lord enjoying His presence.
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**How is God calling you to act in response to what he has shown you?**

- [1] Father Gabriel, *Divine Intimacy* pg. 585
- [2] Father Gabriel, *Divine Intimacy* pg. 590
- [3] Father Gabriel, *Divine Intimacy* pg. 590
- [4] Luke 23:46 [5] Father Gabriel, *Divine Intimacy* pg. 588
- [6] Hardon, *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, 255
- [7] Goffines, *The Church's Year*, pg. 281
- [8] Goffines, *The Church's Year*, pg. 281
- [9] Goffines, *The Church's Year*, pg. 281

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# Quick Connect

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**What is God saying to you through this passage?** Page 4

## **Gospel Reading – John 16:12-15 –Roman Missal [Cycle C]**

Jesus said to his disciples: “I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.”

## **Spiritual Reading – Office of Readings – Trinity Sunday**

From the first letter to Serapion by Saint Athanasius, bishop  
I will not be out of place to consider the ancient tradition, teaching and faith of the Catholic Church, which was revealed by the Lord, proclaimed by the apostles and guarded by the fathers. For upon this faith the Church is built, and if anyone were to lapse from it, he would no longer be a Christian either in fact or in name. We acknowledge the Trinity, holy and perfect, to consist of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In this Trinity there is no intrusion of any alien element or of anything from outside, nor is the Trinity a blend of creative and created being. It is a wholly creative and energizing reality, self-consistent and undivided in its active power, for the Father makes all things through the Word and in the Holy Spirit, and in this way the unity of the holy Trinity is preserved. Accordingly, in the Church, on God is preaching, on God who is above all things through all things and in all things. God is above all things as Father, for he is principle and source; he is through all things through the Word; and he is in all things in the Holy Spirit. Writing to Corinthians about spiritual matters, Paul traces all reality back to one God, the Father, saying: Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone. Even the gifts that the Spirit dispenses to individuals are given by the Father through the Word. For all that belongs to the Father belongs also to the Son, and so the graces given by the Son in the Spirit are true gifts of the Father. Similarly, when the Spirit dwells in us, the Word who bestows the Spirit is in us too, and the Father is present in the Word. This is the meaning of the text: My Father and I will come to him and make our home with him. For where the light is, there also is the radiance; and where the radiance is, there too are its power and its resplendent grace. This is also Paul’s teaching in his second letter to the Corinthians: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. For grace and the gift of the Trinity are given by the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit. Just as grace is given from the Father through the Son, so there could be no communication of the gift to us except in the Holy Spirit. But when we share in the Spirit, we possess the love of the Father, the grace of the Son and the fellowship of the Spirit himself.

### **Holy Spirit – Lesson and Discussion**

*“the Spirit of truth”*

“From Advent until today, the Church has had us consider the magnificent manifestations of God’s mercy toward men: the Incarnation, the Redemption, Pentecost. Now she directs our attention to the source of these gifts, the most Holy Trinity, from whom everything proceeds.”[1] Many times when we think of the Holy Trinity we can sometimes think of the Holy Spirit as an after thought. We see God the Father as the head; someone who is great and almighty, which He is. We see Jesus as the Son of God. Our perception of Jesus is a bit easier because Jesus dwelt among us; He was flesh and bone. However, the Holy Spirit is not physically seen as the Son, but is just as powerful as the Son. The Holy Spirit is vitally important to everything we do and everything we are. “... In our relations with others, in the performance of our daily duties, in our professional activity, as well as in our apostolic work, we should let ourselves be guided by the Holy Spirit. He should direct all our actions. In order that He may do so, we must first of all maintain a continual contact with Him, even in the midst of activity.”[2] “An interior soul gradually arrives at the point where its whole life – prayer as well as activities – is under the direction of the Holy Spirit.”[3] It was Jesus on the cross that cried out to the Father, “into your hands I commend my Spirit”[4] It is this same Spirit, His Holy Spirit that we receive from the Father and the Son on Pentecost. To be under the direction of the Holy Spirit is to be under the direction of the Father and the Son, thus we are under the direction of the Blessed Trinity, the very dwelling of God within us. “St. Thomas teaches that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to us as a help to the virtues...This is a very meaningful expression: note that we receive the gifts to help the virtues, *not* to substitute for them. If the soul does its best, seriously applying itself to the practice of the virtues, the Holy Spirit, by means of the gifts, will complete the soul’s work.”[5]

**Who is the Holy Spirit?** “The third person of the Holy Trinity, who is distinct from the Father and the Son but one in being, coequal, and coeternal with them, because, like them, he is in the fullest sense God. The Holy Spirit proceeds not only from the Father but also from the Son as from a single principle, through what is called a single spiration. He is the personal infinite term of the eternal act of mutual love of the Father and the Son; hence his name of Spirit, as the issue or term of God’s eternal love or act of will. He is also called the Spirit of Truth, the Creator Spirit, the Sanctifier, as the gifts of revelation, of creation (and re-creation), and of sanctification are the outpourings of God’s love, and therefore appropriated to the Spirit of Love, though whatever God does outside the Trinity (in the world of creatures) belongs to the common or united action of the three divine persons. He is called Dove, because it

was in this form that he descended visibly upon Christ in the Jordan (Mark 1:10).”[6]

**How will the Holy Spirit convince the world of sin, justice, and judgment?** The Holy Spirit was another advocate that helps bring all truth. If Jesus is the truth then He is God. If the Holy Spirit is truth then He is God; not a different God, but one in the same. The Holy Spirit came to help us understand the fullness of truth. By fulfilling the truth, the Holy Spirit comes to cast light on darkness and sin. “He will convince the world, that is, the Jews and Gentiles, of sin, by showing them through the preaching, the sanctity and the miracles of the apostles, as well as by gradual inward enlightenment, the grievous sins which they have committed by their infidelity and their vices; of justice, by unveiling their error, and showing them that Christ whom they unjustly rejected, is the fountain of justice; of judgment, by showing them their condemnation in their prince and head, the devil, whom they served. This prince is now driven from idols and from the bodies of men, and his kingdom is destroyed in the name of Jesus by the apostles”[7]

**Why didn’t Jesus tell His apostles everything that he had to tell them?** “Because they could not yet comprehend and keep it in their memory; because they were still too weak, and too much attached to Jewish customs, and also because they were depressed; He therefore promised them the Holy Ghost, who would fit them for it by His enlightenment, and would teach them all truth.”[8] Jesus loved His apostles to the end. He knew He could only give what they could handle at the time. When we were growing up, if our parents and teachers would have given us college level algebra when we were just six or seven we would not understand, and probably get upset with ourselves. We start simple and grow and push ourselves, but not to the point of breaking us. God loves us very much. He reveals Himself more and more as we grow in maturity with Him. Just like the apostles, we too are not told everything all at once. God helps us grow, and just fall more and more in love with Him. In the story of the road to Emmaus, the disciples who walked with Jesus were still under a veil, they did not see yet. The Christian who walks with Jesus is under a veil many times regarding the truths of liturgy, prayer, doctrine, and morals. They may still be ignorant to many of the truths, which are too be revealed as they continue to walk with Jesus and embrace the sacramental life. Many others will know, believe, and assent to the truths revealed by Christ and His Church but will be yet to fully understand. The dispelling of ignorance and understanding is the great work of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth.

**How does the Holy Spirit teach all truth?** “By guiding the Church, that is, its infallible administration, by His light to the knowledge of the truth necessary for the salvation of souls, preserving it from error; and by advancing those members of the Church who seek His light and place no obstacle in its way, in the necessary knowledge of truth.”[9] We have to remind ourselves that the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit in His very essence is truth. The Holy Spirit always was, is, and ever shall be. We are reminded of one God in three persons each time we pray the Glory Be. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is not, and every shall be. Each person was in the beginning, each person in, and each person every shall be.