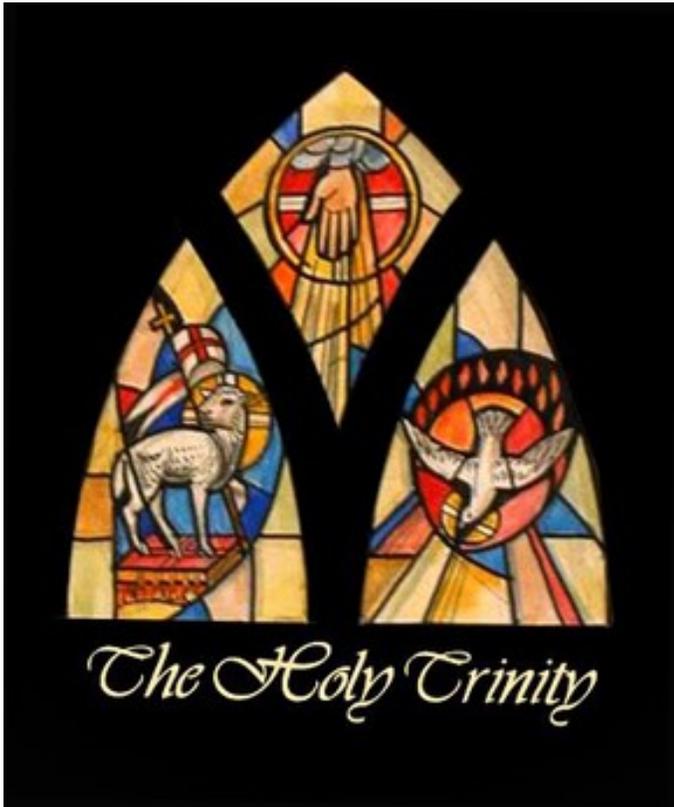


## Homily for Holy Trinity Sunday

June 07, 2020 Year A

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**Readings:** Exodus 34:4b-c, 8-9; 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 13:11-13; Gospel of John 3:16-18...

**Introduction:** If you look for the word "Trinity" in the Bible to describe God, forget about it! It's not in there.....One of the early church fathers, Tertullian was considered the first to use the term to describe God. This was around the year 200 AD. The council of Nicaea, in 325 AD adopted the term officially in creating the Nicene Creed – which we say at every Sunday Mass! Why did it take so long to recognize and use the term "Trinity"? One reason is that the belief in one God was so deeply rooted in the Jewish faith, the faith that gave birth to Christianity. Another reason was that the concept of three persons in one God was an entirely new and difficult way of understanding God. Finally, God is a complete mystery! The mystery of God is so far beyond us that it's difficult to capture on paper, thoughts or concepts.

**Readings:** The first reading is about Moses. He lived 1300 years before Christ. During this time, most nations in that part of the world believed in many gods. The Israelites were different. They believed in only one God. One aspect of their covenant

was that they do not worship the gods of their neighbors. In today's reading, God is revealing His sacred name to Moses. By giving His name, God is entering a relationship with the Israelites and makes Himself accessible to them. The name by God was YHWH. A name spelled but never spoken. Whenever YHWH came up in the text, they always substituted the title "Lord". This is what we also heard in today's reading. Moses learns that God is kind and merciful, gracious, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity. These characteristics of God appear in the Gospel today.

The second reading is the closing verses of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians...The rich portrayal of God makes this passage an appropriate reading for today's celebration of the Holy Trinity....St. Paul's characterization of "the God of love and peace" is given greater strength by God's self-revelation to Moses –which we heard in the first reading....Paul's referring to the "fellowship of the Holy Spirit" gives insight on how God accedes Moses request to "come along in our company"—to be present to God's people....

In the Gospel of John, we learn that the Trinity is a divine relationship.... God "gave his son" usually we hear sent.... but the word "gave" emphasizes that Jesus is a gift. A gift that stems from how much God loves us.....the Father's love for the world leads him to give his only Son, his all, for the world's salvation....Earth is under condemnation and in spiritual darkness because of sin, but the father does not want any to die.....The son is given....the **gift** of salvation, eternal life: a participation in the divine life of the Trinity.....We accept this through faith in Jesus.....Our response stems from our free will.....and it is the most serious of consequences...One either accepts or rejects this witness of God and believes in "the name" meaning the reality of the Son of God.....

**Application:** The doctrine of the Trinity is God's loving revelation to us...perhaps the worst thing we have done is to turn the Blessed Trinity into something foreign and abstract causing us to be distant from God.....We can reverse this with an earnest prayer life, staying close to the sacraments--keeping God in all aspects of our lives---not compartmentalizing our faith to a Saturday or Sunday one hour obligation.....

The Trinity is a mystery for us now. However, the time will come when it will all make sense and the joy it will bring us will be so much more than we could have imagined. Our Mass celebration often begins with the greeting we heard from St. Paul today: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all." At Mass we direct our prayers to the Father through our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. As we enter into this Eucharist, be more aware of the wonder of our life in God.... God's presence in us...Accept God's passionate love for us and live our lives in response to that love.....May God bless you.....Amen...