

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

The readings and gospel calls us to reflect on the interrelationship between the Trinity's love and peace; the sacraments; and Their commandments and the Church's teachings. The readings and gospel remind us of the Trinity's love for us and our need to respond to that love by growing in our ability to love as They love us. We are also reminded that we are called into this loving relationship through the sacraments which make us adopted members of the Trinity's family. While the gospel reminds us the sacraments also help us to maintain our relationship as adopted members of the Trinity's family.

The passage from St John's letter calls us to look at are we growing in our relationship with the Trinity by working on our ability to more faithfully and fully love the Trinity and others, as the Trinity love us, through growing in our ability to be obedient to the Trinity's truths as expressed in the Their commandments and the Church's teachings which more fully express the Trinity's 2 Commandments of love. The gospel passage reminds us that we all fall short, we all sin, and therefore we need the sacraments, especially the sacrament of Penance, to more fully heal and restore our relationship with the Trinity and to grow in our ability to be more lovingly obedient to the Trinity's commandments and the Church's teachings.

The gospel passage also reminds us that one of the benefits from developing a deeper relationship with the Trinity,, through the sacraments, is the strengthening of the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit, especially Christ & the other members of the Trinity's peace. This Fruit of peace comes from frequent participation in the Church's sacramental life, especially from our participation in the sacrament of Penance, as its graces help to restore and maintain our relationship with the Trinity which is damaged, even possibly ruptured, by our sins.

For us today, do we truly appreciation the Trinity's gift of our being adopted members of the Trinity's family? If we do say we appreciate being adopted members of the Trinity's family, do we work on strengthening that familial bond with all our heart, mind and will? Do we work on strengthening that familial bond with all our heart, mind and will using the Trinity's gift of the sacrament of Penance? Or does our lack of use show we are preoccupied with secular, worldly pursuits which allows sin to weaken, rupture, our ability to be adopted daughters and sons of the Father; which weaken our ability to be adopted brothers and sisters of Christ?

For us to enjoy our being adopted members of the Trinity's family, we need to be open to the graces the Trinity desire to gives us through the sacraments, especially Penance, so we can grow in our ability to be more loving obedient adopted daughters and sons of the Father.

Just before and after we receive the Most Holy Body & Blood of our Lord and Savior, will we pray to open our heart, mind, and will to receive the graces given in the Eucharist so as to strengthen the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit and the Theological and Cardinal virtues so we can grow in our desire and use of the sacrament of Penance in order to grow in our desire and ability to be more loving, obedient adopted family members of the Trinity.

Before we continue on with the Mass, let us ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit now, in order to be open to the Trinity's graces; so as to become more intimate, loving, adopted family members, of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by strengthening the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit.