

CELEBRATE SABBATH

The Most Holy Trinity

**When you encounter difficulties and contradictions, do not try to break them,
but bend them with gentleness and time.**

(St. Francis de Sales)

Today, we celebrate one of the most important doctrines of the Church: *Most Holy Trinity* - God as Father, Son and Spirit in one single, indivisible communion of persons. Many have attempted to explain this dogma in a variety of ways. None of them can adequately explain the meaning and the power this doctrine has over our lives. We need to understand and accept this as “The Mystery” which we can only contemplate, before which we stand in awe and wonder and amazement and adoration and admiration.

God is Mystery and the Mystery of God is known only through God’s self-revelation. Mystery does not mean “mysterious”, something that is abstract, out there somewhere or something that cannot be known or understood. Mystery is profound truth - Reality, not facts, not verifiable information but profound truth, eternal truth. The more we come to know truth, the more there is to know. The more we know mystery, the more there is to know. Mystery is revealed and hidden at the same time.

Mystery has to be experienced – we must plunge into mystery. We must experience the mystery of God, be baptized into the mystery of God, be immersed into the mystery of God’s life and love. To know is to become one with that which is known. The more you know, the more there is to know. God is Mystery - known and hidden..... the more you know God, the more there is to know. To know God is to “abide”, “dwell” in God - to be in communion with God.

No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God dwells in us and His love is brought to perfection in us. The way we know that we remain in him and he in us, is that he has given us of his spirit. We have seen for ourselves and can testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. When anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwells in him and him in God. (I John 4:12-15)

Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

We meet our God who chose to speak from the midst of the fire of a burning bush and chose a nation and loved and led that nation into freedom and prosperity. We meet this God as a caring, compassionate and ever-present person, deeply involved in the life of the nation that he chose. This passage from Deuteronomy presents all that God has done for his people as the reason and motivation for keeping his law.

Psalm 33

The Psalmist calls us to sing a new and joyful song because God is always doing new and surprising things and God's word is: faithfulness, loyal love, covenant love, steadfast love, unfailing love and it is everywhere! The Lord's eye rests upon those with whom he has covenanted in love. Such is the wisdom of God. His covenant love is expressed in tender care of all he has created. His word is "Covenant Love", Unfailing, and steadfast love. What else to do but sing a joyful and new song!

**Upright is the word of the Lord
And all his works are trustworthy.
He loves justice and right;
Of the kindness of the Lord, the earth is full.**

Romans 8:14-17

Paul invites his readers to rejoice and be grateful in being called children and heirs of God. We have much to be grateful for because we belong to God in a very unique and special relationship as his children. God's children are blessed and gifted with the Spirit to call God as Jesus did, "Abba", as a sign of intimacy and familial love.

Mathew 28:16-20

Mathew tells us in this passage that Jesus commissioned his disciples to go forth in the power of God their Father, in the name of the Son their redeemer and inflamed by the love of the Spirit to share with the world what they had experienced and to Baptize, to immerse the world into the mystery God's life and love. Jesus claimed that full authority had been given to him in heaven and earth and it is this authority that he shared with his disciples. He commissioned them with his own mission just as his father had commissioned him. We are called to continue and fulfill this mission today.

Saint of the Day, May 26 - St. Philip Neri and 19 other saints are remembered this day.

Philip was born into a noble family in Florence, Italy, on July 21, 1515. He received his early education from the friars at San Marco, the famous Dominican monastery in Florence.

At the age of 18, Philip was sent to his uncle, Romolo, a wealthy merchant at San Germano to assist him in his business, and with the hope that he might inherit his uncle's fortune. He gained Romolo's confidence and affection, but soon after coming to San Germano Philip had a religious conversion. From then onward, he no longer cared for things of the world, and decided to live

in Rome and began to talk to people on the streets about Jesus. For thirteen years Philip ministered on the streets and had a following of many, including the rich and the poor. So great was his ministry that he formed a group of laypersons that would meet for prayer, faith sharing, and service.

Philip had studied philosophy and theology for three years, but he had given up the idea of being a priest. However, at the urging of his confessor, he was ordained in 1551. Some of his followers also became priests, and they lived together in community. This was the beginning of the Oratory, the religious institute he founded. The Oratory was finally approved after suffering through a period of accusations of being an assembly of heretics, where laypersons preached and sang vernacular hymns!

As a priest, Philip was an outstanding confessor, and his advice was sought by many, including royalty and the clergy. He was influential in converting many of the influential people within the Church itself to personal holiness. Philip's advice was sought by many of the prominent figures of his day. He is one of the influential figures of the Counter-Reformation, mainly for converting to personal holiness many of the influential people within the Church itself.

Philip Neri died on May 25, 1595, the Feast of Corpus Christi that year, after having spent the day hearing confessions and receiving visitors. He was canonized by Pope Gregory XV in 1622

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