

FROM THE RECTOR...

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE TRINITY...



Trinity Sunday celebrates the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity. We say in the Nicene Creed we believe in One God who has always existed, exists today, and will exist tomorrow and forever...as Three Persons...and yet he is still One God...not three separate gods.

Trinity Sunday can be perplexing to many priests who find themselves confronted with trying to explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity in a sermon. We call it the *Mystery of the Holy Trinity* for a good reason...we will never fully understand during this lifetime the dynamics of the Three Persons-One God...nor should we try.

Human beings like to have things explained in ways we understand...we like mysteries solved...we don't like books that leave us guessing "who did it." We like nice clear answers to the mysteries of life. Science can help solve some of the mysteries of life...but not the Mystery of the Holy Trinity.

The Holy Trinity has to be experienced...not explained. The moment we try to explain the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity...we lose its mystery. The moment we lose the Mystery of the Holy Trinity...it ceases being the Holy Trinity...it is simply another problem to be solved.

Our experience with the Holy Trinity commences at our baptism, when we ask God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that we may be baptized by Water and the Holy Spirit, and received into Christ's Holy Church, and become living members of the same.

Perhaps the most compelling icon of the Holy Trinity was painted by Andrei Rublev, the preeminent Russian iconographer, in the 15th Century. It is considered the highest achievement of Russian art. The icon depicts the three angels visiting Abraham at the Tree of Mamre (Genesis 18.1-8). It has long been considered an icon of the Holy Trinity, the embodiment of **spiritual unity, peace, harmony, mutual love and humility**.

We have the opportunity during the long Trinity Season to meditate on the qualities the icon expresses define the Trinity, and incorporate those same qualities into our lives.

Father Craig Looney+



CORONATIDE UPDATE

In-person Masses at Saint Joseph Parish resumed on February 14...**Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!**

On Tuesday, April 6, Governor Gavin Newsom announced he plans on ending the State's color-coded tier system and fully reopen for business on June 15. He also said fully vaccinated persons would no longer be required to wear masks, except under certain circumstances.

What does reopening the economy mean for Saint Joseph Parish? We will still have to wear masks while out in public. We should see the Parish return to "normal" normal sooner rather than later. For now, Coronatide protocols remain in place.

The Rector and the Vestry in consultation with Parish Counsel will chart a course for full "reopening" that makes sense for the Parish. We hope to resume regular Sunday Coffee and Fellowship and our hallmark Discussion Group soon.

Please check your e-mail periodically for updates.

CALL Primrose is not accepting donations of non-perishable food or other items until further notice. However, they are accepting cash contributions, which enable them to purchase food and other items for their growing list of clients. If you would like to make a cash contribution to CALL Primrose through Saint Joseph Parish, please note in the Memo block on your check the donation is for CALL.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST



August 6, The Transfiguration of Christ (*Book of Common Prayer, Pages 247-249*), is the “prequel” and directly related to the Ascension of Christ, which we celebrated on May 16.

All three of the Synoptic Gospels record the Transfiguration of Christ. It is a miracle that happened to Jesus; impossible for us to fully understand its mystery.

Witnessed only by Peter, James and John, the Transfiguration concludes Jesus’ Galilean ministry, which by all accounts was a failure. This is one of two occasions God speaks and identifies Jesus as the Son he has chosen and for us to listen to him. The other occasion is Jesus’ Baptism.

According to Father Massey Shepherd, author of the *Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary*, the Transfiguration has to be understood in the light of Jesus’ final obedience of the Cross and his triumphant glory in the Resurrection and Ascension.

Father Massey Shepherd, author of the *Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary*, the “The Transfiguration is the acceptance of perfect Sonship, the readiness of our Lord to fulfill the promise of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah) for the redemption of mankind, whatever the sacrifice and the cost.”

ROGATION SUNDAY GARDEN BLESSING

On Sunday, May 9, Rogation Sunday, the Congregation gathered in the Saint Francis Garden after the Parish Mass, to bless seeds planted by Gazelle Creative Learning School. The School uses organic gardening methods to grow tomatoes, potatoes, squash, corn, sugar peas and giant sunflowers. The Teachers use much of the harvested produce to make healthy snacks for the children. We thank Lindsay Pettit and Jane Anderson for the photos below.



Above left: Father Looney explains the short Liturgy to the Congregation. Father Herbert Plimpton looks on. Above right: Ginger, Jane and Barbara listen.



Above: Marcia, Dawn and Jerry take it all in on a pleasant sunny Spring morning. Above right: New Olive Tree given to the Parish by Gazelle Creative Learning School.



Above left: Ginger says “hello”. Above right: Father Looney blesses the garden.

Vestry Updates

The Vestry met on Sunday, May 16. Prior to the meeting, all enjoyed Gevalia Coffee and delicious biscotti expertly served in the Parish Hall...of course with safety protocols in place.

Under Old Business...

...Marcia Rayher presented the Minutes of the March 7, 2021 Vestry Meeting, which were approved after minor corrections.

...Candyce Francis presented the Financial Report for the period January 1, 2021 – May 15, 2021. Pledge and Plate Income and Gift and Memorials are well above budgeted amounts. Expenses are a bit lower than budgeted amounts. Net Income is \$9,200.00. The Financial Report was approved as presented.

Under New Business...

...The Rector said future editions of *The Parish Times* may include articles from San Mateo Age-Friendly Task Force.

...The Rector said “views” of the Sunday Parish Mass have decreased substantially since the return to in-person Masses. He said the wi-fi has been unreliable.

...The Rector noted attendance during Holy Week was impressive with total attendance of 85 persons from Palm Sunday through Easter Day.

...The Annual Diocesan Synod for the Diocese of the Holy Trinity will be held at Saint Matthew’s Parish, Newport Beach CA, on Friday, May 21. Candyce Francis and Father Looney will be attending the Synod in person.

...Significant progress has been made to address long-deferred maintenance on the building and grounds. Dry rot and damaged wood (inside and outside) in the Northwest corner of the building was removed, new wood installed, and painting accomplished. Additional work will be done during the school shutdown in June and August.

...An unexpected expense was the replacement of our over 20-year-old water heater.

...The thermostats in the Parish Hall and Nave were replaced with simple on/off designs. Both areas now have heat.

...All lighting on the outside of the building has been replaced with new fixtures and LED energy-efficient bulbs. The lighting is substantially brighter than before, enhancing the safety and security of the property. The new lighting operates on a timer or is photosensitive.

...The Rector will be away June 17 through July 3. Father Herbert Plimpton will celebrate Mass on June 20 and 27, and be available for pastoral emergencies.

...It was agreed regular coffee hours and the Sunday Discussion Group will remain on hiatus until further notice. It was also agreed masks will still be required and

protocols will remain in place. The Rector said September might be the appropriate time to resume the Sunday Discussion Group.

...The Next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for July 18.

DIOCESAN SYNOD NEWS

The XLV Synod for the Diocese of the Holy Trinity was held on Friday, May 21, at Saint Matthew’s Parish, Newport Beach CA. Candyce Francis and Father Looney were delegates representing Saint Joseph Parish.

The Day began with Morning Prayer. In his Homily, Bishop Scarlett compared the anxiety many people experienced during the pandemic to the waiting time the Apostles experienced between the Ascension and Pentecost. He emphasized fasting and prayer.



Candyce and John Francis share a Kodak moment with Bishop Scarlett and Father Looney after the Synod Dinner.

During the Morning Business Session, Minutes and Committee Reports and Financial Reports were presented. Elections were held. Father Looney’s term on the Standing Committee continues through 2023. Bishop Scarlett re-appointed Father Looney to a one-year term on the Commission on Ministry. Bishop Scarlett also appointed Rebekah Shapiro to a one-year term on the Marriage Tribunal. Father Looney continues to serve on the Foreign Missions Committee (see separate article).

During the Afternoon Business Session, Bishop Scarlett gave his Report to the Synod. He said he was very happy with the way the parishes and missions continued worship and other activities during the pandemic. Reports from the parishes and missions were also presented. The Diocese of the Holy Trinity consists of four parishes and three mission communities. The Day concluded with a Solemn Pontifical High Mass and Dinner.

A Form of Intercession

Accept, O Lord, our intercessions for all mankind.

Let the light of thy Gospel shine upon all nations.

Be gracious unto thy Church; and grant that every member of the same, in his vocation and ministry, may serve thee faithfully.

Bless all in authority over us (*especially...*) and so rule their hearts and strengthen their hands, that they may punish wickedness and vice, and maintain thy true religion and virtue.

Send down thy blessings, temporal and spiritual, upon all our relations, friends, and neighbors.

Reward all who have done us good, and pardon all those who have done or wish us evil, and give them repentance and better minds.

Be merciful to all who are in any ways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body or estate (*especially...*) Comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities.

Have mercy upon the faithful departed (*especially...*) And grant them an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints.

For his sake who went about doing good, thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

(The above Intercession was said at Morning Prayer at the XLV Diocesan Synod. Adapted from the Intercession in Family Prayer on Page 590 in the Book of Common Prayer. Thank you Bishop Scarlett.)



Parish Directory

Please contact Father Looney if you did not receive your copy of the 2021-2022 Saint Joseph Parish. Every effort has been made to be accurate. Inevitably, mistakes can and will occur, for which apology by the Editor is made in advance.

Your help is needed in keeping the contact information in the Parish Directory up-to-date. Please advise the Rector, in writing, of any corrections, additions, deletions or suggestions.

The next edition of the Saint Joseph Parish Directory will be published in January 2023.



Saint Paul tells us in I Thessalonians 5:15-17 we should rejoice, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, because this is God's will for us through his Son, Jesus Christ. What exactly does it mean to "pray continually"?

There are religious communities of men and women who devote their entire lives to constant prayer and fasting. How do we practice what Saint Paul preaches on a parish level?

Most of us have busy lives and find it difficult to set time aside for prayer and fasting. Prayer and fasting go together and are integral parts of the spiritual life of parish communities.

The Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer form the basis for the spiritual life of a parish. The Family Prayer section on Pages 587-600 in the *Book of Common Prayer* provides shorter versions suitable for family corporate prayer.

Bishop Scarlett has asked us to devote every **Wednesday** to fasting and prayer for spiritual renewal within our parishes and the Diocese. The best way to do this is by setting aside a specific time each day, to "rejoice, pray, and give thanks".

A SURPRISE EASTER VISIT...



Parishioner Carol Schick visited Saint Joseph Parish on Easter Day after the regularly scheduled Parish Mass. She is pictured above (left to right) with daughter-in-law Andrea, sons David and Gary, and grandson Nicholas. Father Looney administered Holy Communion to Carol and her family. Covid regulations prevent him from visiting Carol at her place of residence.



The Diocese of the Holy Trinity Overseas Mission Program was created at Synod in June 2018. The Committee is chaired by Father Neil Edlin, Rector of Saint Mary Magdalene Parish in the City of Orange CA. Father Looney serves on the Committee.

The Committee is currently providing funding for two overseas missions: the construction of a Technical & Vocational Training Center (TVTC) in Narowal, a city Northeast of Lahore, Pakistan; and the establishment of a fully-functional Medical Clinic near Yaounde Nsimalen, Cameroon.

Each of these missions faces challenges unique to the countries in which they are located. Covid-19 has complicated matters. Saint Joseph Parish has surplus vestments it hopes to donate to the Overseas Mission Program.



SAN MATEO AGE-FRIENDLY TASK FORCE...

Saint Joseph Parish was recently asked to share some information from the San Mateo Age-Friendly Task Force. The Task Force's goal is to inform senior residents of the City of San Mateo about age-friendly opportunities available to them.

The article below compliments parishioner Rebekah Shapiro's excellent book reviews. There are web links and phone contact information for those who want to learn more about the Library's e-books and other services.

Future articles from the San Mateo Age-Friendly Task Force will appear in *The Parish Times* on a space-available basis.

Age-Friendly San Mateo News Access the San Mateo Library Without Leaving Home

Did you know that our local library provides services that can make enjoying books so much easier for people that have trouble reading small print or making the trip to the library to pick up new reading materials?

If your eyes hurt after reading a few pages, eBooks and eAudiobooks are for you. You don't have to buy them – the library has a huge selection, ranging from the latest best sellers to old classics, from cookbooks to investment advice to travel guides. If you have a tablet, smartphone or laptop you can borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks by downloading them onto your device. All you need is a library card. For eBooks, you can then make the print size so large you won't need your reading glasses; on eAudiobooks you can turn up the volume to hear everything loud and clear. Visit the library's website at www.smplibrary.org for details.

You may need some instruction on how to use this great service. The library will teach you, in one-on-one sessions. To sign up go to <https://smplibrary.as.me/ebooks> or call (650) 522-7818. Several times a year, librarian Eric Groth, also teaches an e-book class in conjunction with the Senior Center, where you can learn how to get free eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, eMovies, and more, with your library card. Sign up at <https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/4495/Adult-Enrichment>, or check your Parks & Recreation Department Activity Guide.

If you prefer to read traditional books but are homebound and cannot go to the library, the library will come to you. An application for the library's home delivery program for homebound patrons is available at <https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/FormCenter/LibraryForms-10/Home-Delivery-117> or call (650) 522-7849 or (650) 522-7863 for more information.

This information is brought to you by the City of San Mateo Age-Friendly Task Force. Watch this spot for future articles highlighting one of the many valuable services offered to seniors by various organizations and agencies in San Mateo.

THE NEXT ISSUE...

The next issue of *The Parish Times* will be the Late Trinity Edition. The target date for publication and distribution is September 1. If you have an article or announcement you wish published, please submit it via e-mail by August 27. All submissions are subject to space limitations and editing by the Rector. All submissions must be free of partisan politics...whether Church or secular.



Find us on Facebook at: **Saint Joseph Parish – San Mateo CA**

SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS – 9:00 AM PARISH MASS & SERMON

REGULAR COFFEE HOUR & DISCUSSION GROUP
REMAIN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

WEEKDAYS/HOLY DAYS AS ANNOUNCED

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE BY APPOINTMENT

THE REVEREND FATHER CRAIG LOONEY, RECTOR

THE CONTINUATION OF ANGLICANISM: We affirm that the Church of our fathers, sustained by the most Holy Trinity, lives yet...are determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order, Orthodox Worship and Evangelical Witness of the traditional Anglican Church.

www.saintjosephparish.net
650 347 4423

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH
ANGLICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
770 NORTH EL CAMINO REAL
SAN MATEO CA 94401

