

TRINITY SUNDAY 2019
SERMON – SAINT JOSEPH PARISH
FATHER CRAIG LOONEY
REV. 4.1-11 ST. JOHN 3.1-14 THE NICENE CREED

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"I've figured out the TRINITY", said one sheep to another sheep.

"You have? That's one of the great mysteries of the faith", said the second sheep.

"Sure! It's one of those 'three things'---like 'Larry, Curly and Moe', 'Peter, Paul and Mary', 'Earth, Wind and Fire'", said the first sheep.

"Uhh...You might be missing some of the finer points", said the second sheep.

(Source: sheepcomics.com)

At every Mass we profess our belief in one God who we understand is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We profess our belief in ONE God...not three gods. The three persons in the ONE God are made of the same stuff...God stuff.

Trinity Sunday is the day on which we commemorate the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity that talks about Three Persons in One God. Many parish rectors who are fortunate to have a curate...will take the day off...leaving it to the curate to try to explain to the people what can't be explained.

The simplest "explanation" of the Holy Trinity is it is a dynamic and constant love-relationship between the three persons of the Trinity. We get caught up in that love relationship and experience the Holy Trinity every day of our lives. Beyond that...we should leave well enough alone.

A Christian blogger once wrote we create a problem when we over-analyze the Holy Trinity...that's a problem because people want to stop the Trinity and start examining it...the Trinity stops being the Trinity and being one God...it becomes a problem to be solved.

James Warner Wallace is a homicide detective, author and Christian apologist. Like C. S. Lewis, he was an atheist who converted to Christianity after examining case files and concluding atheism made no sense. On the website Cold-Case Christianity...Mr. Wallace states the Trinity isn't the problem...it's the solution.

Grappling with the Mystery of the Holy Trinity isn't anything new. In 325 AD, Emperor Constantine called a council of

bishops to meet in Nicaea. Their job was to solve a major disagreement in the Church about the nature of Jesus. A deacon named Athanasius said that there is ONE God who has always existed in the three Persons of the Trinity...who exists now...and who will exist forever. The three persons of the Trinity are made up of the same stuff...God! Athanasius' chief opponent was a popular and well-educated priest from Alexandria named Arius who taught that Jesus was not God but created like all other humans. Arius lost that argument.

Several years ago my colleague, Father Rick Hobbs, said the person of the Trinity we are mostly likely to relate to and identify with is Jesus. Any decision we make about Jesus ultimately has to do with what we think about him as the Second Person of the Trinity and his relationship to the Father and the Holy Spirit...and to us.

The Sign of the Cross is one of the most powerful manual actions affirming our belief in the Holy Trinity...present and active in every aspect of our lives. We call the Holy Trinity a mystery...and the truth about the mystery of the Holy Trinity we can only know by revelation and will not fully understand during this lifetime.

The Doctrine of the Holy Trinity states what we believe...it's less important we understand the mechanics of the Holy Trinity...the "how" of the Holy Trinity...than it is to just let the Holy Trinity be the Holy Trinity in the positive life changing events in our lives...and in the life and work of Saint Joseph Parish and in the Church throughout the world.

It's impossible for us to have a relationship with the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity any more than we can have a relationship with the Declaration of Independence or the Bill of Rights. But we do experience the love between the three persons of the Trinity because we are caught up in that love...for God and each other.

We believe in ONE God who we understand is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Like a good detective novel...we want the mystery solved. For now...we believe in the Trinity by faith...any other questions we might have...God will answer later.

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