

Trinity Sunday 2021
Sermon-Saint Joseph Parish
Father Craig Looney
Rev. 4.1-11 St. John 3.1-16



Trinity Sunday celebrates the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity...God exists as Three Persons in One God. The Doctrine of the Holy Trinity describes a LOVE relationship...but is it possible to have a relationship with a doctrine?

The great English crime writer and poet, Dorothy L. Sayers (1893-1957), is best known for her mystery novels featuring amateur detective, Lord Peter Wimsey. Mrs. Sayers was the daughter of an Anglican priest. She was once asked what she thought about the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Her response...

...“The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, the Spirit incomprehensible the whole thing incomprehensible. Something put in by theologians to make it more difficult-nothing to do with daily life and ethics.”

We can't have a relationship with the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity...but we can and do have a relationship with the Holy Trinity...Three Persons in One God...and God is perfect LOVE. We get caught up in the LOVE that is God from the moment we are baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Our 1928 *Book of Common Prayer* follows the *Sarum Missal* developed in the 11th Century by Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury, of dating the remaining Sundays of the Church Year Sundays after Trinity. That should give us clue we should be thinking about the Holy Trinity during the long Season of Trinity. This is for us a time of spiritual growth.

The Holy Trinity is acknowledged in every Service in the *Book of Common Prayer*. In the *Te Deum laudamus* in Morning Prayer, for example, we praise “The Father, of an Infinite Majesty; His adorable, true, and only Son; Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.”

In the Nicene Creed, which we say together at every Mass, we state individually and corporately as Catholic Christians, “I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth...And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God...And in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life.”

Many of us make the Sign of the Cross at the end of Nicene Creed and at other places during the Liturgy. Sermons begin and end with the Sign of the Cross and invoking the Name of the Holy Trinity.

Although not required, the Sign of the Cross is an ancient and powerful teaching tool, because it is an outward and visible sign of our belief in the Holy Trinity. It also reminds us that our worship of God is not primarily an intellectual exercise. Our worship of God involves our whole being, mind, body and soul. It is above all, an action!

At our Baptism, the Priest made the Sign of the Cross on our forehead, and prayed, “...we would not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and to fight under his banner, against sin, the world, and the devil; and to continue faithful soldiers and servants until our life's end.”

If Baptism is one bookend in our Christian lives, the Requiem Mass is the other. The Holy Trinity and the Sign of the Cross have been with us all of our lives. In the Absolution of the Dead at the end of a Requiem Mass, we pray that the dead person who was “sealed with the sign of the Trinity” while was alive, will have everlasting rest and be welcomed into heaven by the Angels and Saints.”

Mrs. Sayers said the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity is incomprehensible. That statement is true and it's why we call it the Mystery of the Trinity. The more we try to explain the Holy Trinity...the less it is the Holy Trinity...it is just another mystery we want solved.

The message Mrs. Sayers is really trying to convey is the Holy Trinity...God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit...has everything to do with our daily life and ethics. The Holy Trinity is a dynamic relationship of perfect LOVE, because God is perfect LOVE.

Trinity Sunday and the long Season of Trinity is about letting the perfect love that is God into our lives. When we receive God's love we are enabled to do what Jesus asks us to do...love others as much as he loves us. And Jesus knows perfect love...he is the Second Person of the Trinity...and he is God.

The Holy Trinity is to be experienced in our lives...not explained.

