



May 26, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Dt 4:32-34, 39-40 | Rom 8:14-17 | Mt 28:16-20

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Today is an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity: One God, two natures (Jesus is fully human and fully divine), and three divine persons. Whenever I think about this feast, I am reminded of some wise words I heard once from a professor, although I am paraphrasing: It's not necessary to try to describe in theological terms what God is, for no matter what we say it will be inadequate to the reality of the ultimate grandeur of God. What is important, and what affects people day to day, is talking about *who* God is, and *how* God is. And so this Trinity Sunday is a day to reiterate that which is most fundamental to our understanding and belief: *God is love*. Not just God is loving, or God loves, but *God is love itself*. He is a continual outpouring of selfless love - *agape* is the Greek word - which brought forth creation, and all creatures to share in it. It is a communion of love by which and for which we were created; we are meant to emulate and live that same relational communion of love with one another.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As human beings, we simply do not *have* the ability to live our baptismal call perfectly - to love one another as God loves us. What we do have is our Triune God who gives us the grace to strive for perfection as in Christ, but who, in the end, is the one who perfects us in him. "[We] must keep his statutes and commandments," Moses has said. And Paul gives us hope in doing so as he tells us that "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." The Lord is here with us, helping us and advocating for us. And in our mission of discipleship, we have the promise from Jesus, "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." We give thanks and praise to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for all these gifts and so much more.

PRAY All Christian prayer is Trinitarian in nature: we pray to the Father, through the Son, in/by the power of the Spirit. Some prayers are very specifically written to include the Trinity/Godhead by name. The most recognizable one is this doxology, or the Glory Be: *Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.* Add it to your daily prayers.

Church of the Ascension

Saratoga, California

www.ascensionsaratoga.org

408-725-3939

Mass Schedule

(Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p

(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a

Confessions (Sat) 4:00-4:45pm

The Holy Trinity with Crown by Max Flairist, CCO

Not a Distant God

Today's Bible readings help us understand that God wishes to show us not so much that he exists but rather that he is the 'God with us', close to us, who loves us, who walks with us, is interested in our personal life story and takes care of each one, beginning with the least and the neediest. He "is God in heaven above" but also "on the earth beneath" (cf. Dt 4:39). Therefore, we do not believe in a distant entity, no! In an indifferent entity, no! But, on the contrary, in the Love who created the universe and who engendered a people, became flesh, died and rose for us and, as the Holy Spirit, transforms and leads everything to fulfilment. - *Pope Francis, 2018*

First World Children's Day

May 25-26

Children are "a source of joy for your parents and your families, but also for our human family and for the Church, in which each of us is like a link in a great chain stretching from the past to the future and covering the whole earth"

- *Pope Francis*

Funerals & Memorials

- **Lorelle Maria Edwards:** May 11 (1pm Mass)
- **Gary Francis Auclair:** June 1 (11am Mass)
- **Eleanor Cienna Stafford:** June 15 (11am Mass)
- **Joseph Montanez:** June 28 (3pm Mass)
- **Tony Fadelli:** June 29 (11am Mass)

May they rest in peace. Condolences to their families.

Parish Office Closed - Memorial Day

Our Parish Office will be closed on Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day.

Prayer on Memorial Day

God of power and mercy,

you destroy war and put down earthly pride.

Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears,

that we may all deserve to be called

your sons and daughters.

Keep in your mercy those men and women

who have died in the cause of freedom

and bring them safely

into your kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Upcoming Special Collections

- June 2: Ascension Building Fund

- June 9: Catholic Charities Appeal

Please prayerfully consider what you will contribute. With your support, Catholic Charities changes lives for good – one family at a time.

WEEKLY OFFERING - MAY 19

-**\$5,301** (baskets: \$3,852; online: \$1,449. Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: **\$282,226**. Budget: \$299,000.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

May 26	Sun	09 am	Tony Fadelli +
		11 am	Remedios Doria +
May 28	Tue	08 am	The McKeever Family
May 30	Thu	08 am	Roy Pereira (L)
May 31	Fri	08 am	Frank Rose +
June 01	Sat	09 am	Walter Whelan (L)

A Triple Celebration

On May 18 we marked the closing of our 60th Jubilee year, witnessed the Confirmation of 10 teenagers in three parishes, and honored four ordained ministers.

Bishop Oscar Cantú celebrated the special 5pm Mass with six priests concelebrating: Fr. Bob Leger, Fr. Paul Duong, Fr. Joe Galang (three former pastors), Fr. Hao Dinh (pastor), Fr. Jeff Fernandez (pastor of Queen of Apostles Parish), and Fr. Maurice Igboerika (in residence).

Four jubilarians among them were honored at the end of the liturgy: Fr. Duong (golden jubilee), Bishop Cantú (30 years in the priesthood), Fr. Fernandez (10 years), Fr. Rey Sarmiento (10 years - though he was unable to join us). Collectively they have served the Church for 100 years!

May the Spirit of the Lord continue to guide our parish, strengthen the newly confirmed, and bless our jubilarians.

Acknowledgements

The beautiful liturgy and reception marking the closing of Ascension 60th Jubilee and celebrating Confirmation were possible thanks to many hands. We recognize:

- The liturgical preparation and participation of many ministers and volunteers, overseen by Fr. Hao and Fr. Fernandez, M.C.

- The reception, coordinated by Dan Bryant, Peggy Schoppe, John Sze, with assistance from many volunteers.

- The generous gifts on this occasion.

Thank you all. God bless you for your generosity.

Congratulations...

To our youths who were confirmed in the Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, May 18, at the 5:00 pm Mass:

• *Samantha Aquino* • *Sean Aquino* • *Audrey Cabaltica* • *Adeline Krishna* • *Ellia Sarte* • *Maxwell Tan*.

Eucharistic Procession

You are invited to join our Eucharistic Procession in the parking lot after the 9:00am Mass on Sunday, June 2, Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ.



Adoration & Divine Mercy & Rosary

First Fridays at 3:00pm - starting from June 7

The Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction has been offered every First Friday after the morning Mass at Ascension.

Inspired by the Eucharistic Revival, we invite you to spend more time on First Fridays (starting in June) to worship the Lord through the Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary at 3:00pm (instead of a short Adoration after the 8:00am Mass).

Catechists Are Needed

June 8 at 9:30am

Please consider the catechetical ministry. If not you, then who? Please come and explore the catechetical ministry on Sat, June 8 from 9:30-10:30 am in church.