



The Most Holy Trinity May 30, 2021

Go... and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

— *Matthew 28:19*

THE MYSTERY OF THE BLESSED TRINITY

Today we celebrate the solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. The Church sets aside this Sunday to focus our attention on the mystery of the Blessed Trinity, God who is one, but three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The first reading from Deuteronomy emphasizes both God's awesome greatness and amazing nearness. It might seem beyond belief, but the God of all creation speaks to us, protects us, and guides us. The second reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans describes how we are to relate to the three persons who are one God. We are led by the Spirit to meet God the Father as adopted children. Our adoption is such that we are even heirs with our brother, Christ, the second person of the Trinity, in whose sufferings we must also share. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks with his authority as God and sends us to teach and baptize in the name of the Trinity.

—J. S. Paluch Co.

FEAST OF FAITH

Liturgy and the Holy Trinity

The Trinity is the central mystery of our faith. We believe that God is one, yet three: total unity and rich diversity. God is not a monolith, but a dynamic community of persons, a perfect, loving harmony of three. And the liturgy is the work of the Trinity. We begin all our liturgical celebrations with the sign of the cross, a reminder of our Trinitarian baptism, and the simplest of all professions of our faith. We believe that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and we gather in the name of this triune God. Throughout the Mass, we address our prayers to God the Father, through Christ our Lord, in the Spirit's power. And the Father hears our prayer, transforming bread and wine into the Body and Blood of his Son by the Holy Spirit. The Church is "the sacrament of trinitarian communion" (*Sacramentum Caritatis*, 16). It is the Trinity who holds us together as well. In the words of Saint Cyprian, we are "a people made one by the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" (quoted in *Sacramentum Caritatis*, 16). - *Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Lk 1:39-56
Tues Tb 2:9-14; Ps 112:1-2, 7-9; Mk 12:13-17
Wed.: Tb 3:1-11a, 16-17a; Ps 25:2-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9; Mk 12:18-27
Thur Tb 6:10-11; 7:1bcde, 9-17; 8:4-9a; Ps 128:1-5; Mk 12:28-34
Fri.: Tb 11:5-17; Ps 146:1b-2, 6c-10; Mk 12:35-37
Sat.: Tb 12:1, 5-15, 20; Tb 13:2, 6efgh-8; Mk 12:38-44
Sun.: Ex 24:3-8; Ps 116:12-13, 15-18; Heb 9:11-15; Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary;
Memorial Day
Tuesday: St. Justin
Wednesday: Ss. Marcellinus and Peter
Thursday: St. Charles Lwanga and Companion
Saturday: St. Boniface; First Saturday



WEEKLY



Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated! For the month of **May/June** offerings: PLEASE mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish, P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465. Or donate at our website www.stphilipstteresa.org via Paypal or card. Please include your offering envelope # [if you have one] with your donation. Bless you!

5/30: Rural Food.

6/6: *Diocesan Priest Ben Welfare.* 6/13: *Operating Expenses.*

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: 6/15/21, 4pm in Hall

Finance Council [FC]: 6/15/21, 4pm in Hall

Liturgy Committee: TBA

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044

St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

Email or voicemail the office to request a future Mass Intention. (customary \$10 offering is mailed to Parish Office, PO Box 339, Occidental CA 95465.)

5/30 Sun. 8am Mass for the People

5/30 Sun. 9:30am Mass Andrew Zeller

6/06 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer

6/06 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Brendan Smith

Prayer Requests: Please leave a message at 707-408-2650 to add or remove a name from the next bulletin. Thank you.

Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Fred P., Theresa S., Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave C., Jim P., William, Parson P., Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen, Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H, Steve, Barry, Lorri K., Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Chuck, Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Jim K., Sherry S., Papke family., Gail F., Marie N., Christine, James, Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., Janet K., Norma M., Elaine J., River M.

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for May 2021:

On Tuesday, May 11, 51 families (37 children, 18 seniors, 78 adults) received nutritional support during our drive through distribution at the St Philips Parking lot. Thanks to suggestions from our clients we increased our publicity efforts about our program. Thanks to our parishioners who helped spread the word about our Rural Food program, we saw an increase in our client attendance. Both new clients and former clients returned to receive nutritional support this month.

If you are aware of a family which needs nutritional assistance, please let them know about our program. Leave a message at the parish office, (707) 408-2650 to get a call back with additional information.

This program is funded through monthly Rural Food Collection, private donations and the dedicated, awesome volunteers. **Thank you for your generous donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our food distributions.**

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in the Parish Hall and parking area: Saturday, June 5, 9-10:00 am repackaging; Monday, June 7, 9:00 - 11:00am set up; and Tuesday, June 8, 7:30a - 11:00am to distribute food to clients.

Pastor Speaks...

We ask that you refrain from talking aloud when you enter church prior to Mass and leave church after Mass, out of respect for the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and respect for those who wish to pray. If you must talk, please keep it to a whisper. This will be greatly appreciated.

It has been the tradition at our parish to have a 9am Mass out at our own Bodega Calvary Cemetery on Memorial Day. *This occasion on Monday May 31 will join us in prayer for those who have died in war that we might live in peace, and for all who are interred in our cemetery.*

Starting Tuesday June 01, we resume our tradition of the 5pm Mass on Saturdays, 9 am Masses on Tuesdays and Thursdays at St. Teresa's; and 9am Masses on Wednesdays and Fridays at St. Philip's as well as 8am Mass on Sundays.

Kindly remember the importance and spiritual benefit of offering Mass Intentions for the living and dead in the family and among friends.

Thank you.
Fr. Bala



Painting of Church Fathers in Holy Ascension Orthodox Church (Mount Pleasant, SC) by Dmitri Shkolnik and Alexander Chornii. Photo credit: Andrew Gould on [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Deacon-structing Church Fathers, part 2

by [Deacon Pedro](#)

[Last week](#) we learned that the Church reveres certain ancient theologians and writers as Church Fathers. Their writings helped establish many of the doctrinal foundations of our Faith.

Among the Church Fathers, a group is recognized as **Apostolic Fathers**. These are Ignatius of Antioch, Clement of Rome, Polycarp of Smyrna, and the less known Papias of Hierapolis. We learned about them last week. The Church Fathers are also divided among those we call "Greek (or Eastern) Fathers", "Latin (or Western) Fathers", "Syriac Fathers", and "Desert Fathers".

Today let's look at our **Greek Fathers**. They are so called because that is the language they wrote in.

Justin Martyr (c.100–c.165) was a gentile born in Samaria. After being disappointed with the philosophy he studied, he learned about Christianity and converted. He became a travelling teacher and founded his own school in Rome. He was martyred under the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius. Three of his writings remain: the *Dialogue* and two *Apologies*. The best-known one, his [First Apology](#), provides many philosophical arguments and details of Christian rituals. It is considered one of the earliest works of Christian apologetics

and contains one of the earliest descriptions of the Sunday Mass, detailing the readings, the homily (exhortation), the prayers, the offerings, the distribution of the Eucharist, and even the collection. **Irenaeus of Lyons** (c.120–c.202) was a disciple of Polycarp who was born in Smyrna and became bishop of Lugdunum, which is now Lyons, in present-day France. Irenaeus was born into a Christian family. He wrote many books, but the most important is *Against Heresies*, a series of five books in which he refutes Gnosticism. Irenaeus was also the first to claim that the canonical Gospels were Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and to attest that the Gospel of John was written by John the Apostle and the Gospel of Luke was written by Luke, the companion of St. Paul.

Clement of Alexandria (c.150–c.215) was a Greek convert to Christianity who became a theologian and philosopher and taught at the Catechetical School of Alexandria. He wrote three major works – the *Protrepticus* (Exhortation), the *Paedagogus* (Tutor), and the *Stromata* (Miscellanies) – in which he uses philosophical arguments to refute paganism and instructs the readers to act morally. In them he covers many topics including culture, technology, Judaism, scripture, asceticism, marriage, sexuality, martyrdom, prayer, and salvation.

Origen of Alexandria (c.160–c.225) was an Egyptian scholar and theologian who taught in Alexandria, where he learned from Clement. When he was 17, his father was martyred and his family left in poverty, leaving him as the sole provider for his mother and eight younger siblings. Even though he contributed greatly to the teaching body of the Church, he is one of our Church Fathers who is not considered a saint. Origen was condemned by his bishop for being ordained without his permission and for castrating himself (a claim that has been refuted). After this, he moved to Caesarea, where he founded a Christian school. Later some of his teachings about the Trinity were considered anathema by the Second Council of Constantinople. However, he was a devout follower of Christ and an influential teacher who fought against many heresies of the time. He was a close friend of St. Ambrose and the author of over 2000 treatises.

Maximus the Confessor (580–662) was a monk, theologian, and scholar, whose title "confessor" means that he suffered for the faith, even though he was not martyred. This refers to the fact that he was persecuted and tried for his views on the nature of Christ, having had his right hand and tongue cut off. Maximus claimed that Christ possessed both a human and divine will, refuting the current view of the time that Christ had only one will. Twenty years after his death, the Third Council of Constantinople vindicated him. Within a generation, he was venerated as a saint.

Gregory of Nyssa (332–395), together with Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzus, is known as one of the **Cappadocian Fathers**, named for the region they lived and worked in. He was Basil's younger brother – growing up in a family of saints: Their older sister was St. Macrina, and their brothers were St. Naucratus and St. Peter of Sebaste. Their paternal grandmother was St. Macrina the Elder, and their maternal grandfather was martyred. Gregory studied in Athens and became the bishop of Nyssa. Tradition holds that his wife was Theosebia the Deaconess, who is revered as a saint in the Orthodox Church. Together with the other two Cappadocian Fathers, he made significant contributions to the definition of the Trinity and the Nicene Creed.

St. Basil and **St. Gregory Nazianzus** are also considered "Greek Fathers". You can read about them in [Deacon-structing Doctors of the Church, part 2](#).

The other three Eastern Fathers are **Cyril of Alexandria** (d. 444), **John Damascene** (d. 749), and **John Chrysostom**. They are also considered Doctors of the Church. You can read about them in Deacon-structuring Doctors of the Church, [part 1](#) and [part 4](#). Come back next week and we'll take a look at the **Latin Fathers**: Tertullian, Cyprian of Carthage, Hilary of Poitiers, Pope Damasus I, and Isidore of Seville.



Every week, Deacon Pedro takes a particular topic apart, not so much to explore or explain the subject to its fullness, but rather to provide insights that will deepen our understanding of the subject. Contact: pedro@saltandlighttv.org.



Pause for Prayer: Thursday 5/27

by *Concord Pastor*

(Modeled on the Jewish prayer: Dayenu)

If you had warmed the winter's chill
but hadn't melted all the snow,
it would have been enough...

If you had melted all the snow
but hadn't brought us longer days,
it would have been enough...

If you had lengthened every day
but hadn't called the plants to bud,
it would have been enough...

If you had budded every plant
but hadn't urged them all to blossom,
it would have been enough...

If you had bloomed in every garden
but not brought the trees to greening,
it would have been enough...

If you had releafed every tree
but hadn't coaxed a few to flower,
it would have been enough...

Much more grateful then, am I,

for trees that blossom in the spring:
an extra flourish of your beauty, Lord:
an unexpected joy, a gift you freely offer...

Oh, warmer, longer days,
bless the Lord!
Buds and blossoms everywhere,
bless the Lord!
Green leaves dressing every branch,
bless the Lord!
You flowering trees, spring's promise kept,
now bless the Lord
and praise and praise again
his holy name!

Amen.

Daily Lectio

A spiritual tool of the monastic vocation



[Wednesday of the Eighth Week in Ordinary Time](#)

Saints: Saint Philip Neri (1515-1595)

Readings of the Day. RB: Ch 7:1-4 Humility.
Mass: Sirach 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17; Resp Ps 79; Mk 10:32-45

Deliver us and pardon our sins for your name's sake.

O GOD, SHOW US THE LIGHT OF YOUR MERCIES.
(Sirach 36:1)

Do you wish to be great? Then, as Jesus tells us in today's Gospel, we are to serve (Mk 10:43). So we listen to three great saints for some ways to go about our service. The first quotation is especially fitting as we begin Saint Benedict's chapter on humility. Indeed, *whoever exalts himself shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted* (Lk 14:11; 18:14/RB 7:1).

When we go to confession, we should accuse ourselves of our worst sins first, and of those things which we are ashamed of, because by this means we put the devil to greater confusion and reap more fruit from our confession. One of the very best means of obtaining humility is sincere and frequent confession.
(Saint Philip Neri)

It is an old custom of the servants of God to have some little prayers ready and to be frequently darting them up to heaven during the day, lifting their minds to God out of the mire of this world.
(Saint Philip Neri)

Cast yourself into the arms of God and be very sure if He wants anything of you, He will fit you for the work and give you strength.
(Saint Philip Neri)

Rejoice in the Lord, not in the world. That is, rejoice in the truth, not in wickedness; rejoice in the hope of eternity, not in the fading flower of vanity. That is the way to rejoice. Wherever you are on the earth, however long you remain on earth, the Lord is near, do not be anxious about anything.
(From a sermon by Saint Augustine, bishop, in *Office of Readings*, May 26)

**SAINT PHILIP NERI,
SAINT BENEDICT,
SAINT JOSEPH,
MARY, MOTHER OF MERCY,
PRAY FOR US.**



Today's photo: Hi friends, we're Max (l) and Millie (r), and belong to dear Stephanie and Mike, the former and Sister Gertrude have been friends for not too many years shy of 40. Can you imagine? We look like we've been up to a bit o mischief. And perhaps we have. At the same time, we think Saint Philip would like us, for he had a sense of humor. Although we aren't especially fond of cats, Philip Neri was. It is said that "when some of his more pompous penitents made their confession to him (he was famous as a confessor) he imposed salutary and deflating penances on them, such as walking through the streets of Rome carrying his cats (he was very fond of cats)." And there is more. "When a novice showed signs of excessive seriousness, Philip stood on his head in from of him, to make him laugh"! (Universalis, "About Today", May 26, 2021). 😊

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Catholic Film Retrospective

***The Shoes of the Fisherman* (1968):**

Anthony Quinn, A Russian Pope in defense of World Peace, in a Prophetic and Dated Work



Oskar Werner, a controversial progressive priest, theologian in the manner of Jesuit Teilhard de Chardin



"*The Shoes of the Fisherman*, a super-production by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in 1968, originating from Morris West's famous *Best Seller* (published in 1963) (1916-1999), is in a way a prophetic film. The curious fact is that the writer West had no vague idea that his story, in a way, would come true, as he practically foresaw 15 years before the election of a Pope from a communist country in 1978, with the election of the Polish Karol Wojtyła, Pope John Paul II (1920-2005), the first non-Italian Pope after many years and coming from a communist regime such as Poland. After the Polish Pope, there was still a German (Benedict XVI) and the current one is an Argentine, Pope Francis. ..." [article link](#) [use Google Translate]

Editor Note: This film is a classic in its perennial themes: conflicting views of church members, hierarchical shifts in personnel and statements, status quo versus change, and so on. A current news item of such a church theme can be observed and read in any of the following:

<https://www.ncregister.com/news/german-cardinal-issues-stark-warning-about-synodal-way> OR
<https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2021/02/what-to-know-about-the-synodal-way> OR
<https://www.churchmilitant.com/news/article/german-dissidents-for-synodal-way>