

- Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity—greatest and most profound of the mysteries of our faith.
- From the very beginning the Holy Trinity has been a manifestly-revealed truth at the very root of the Church’s faith in Christ... from Jesus’ baptism, at which the voice of the Father and the Spirit’s descent in the form of a dove...the Transfiguration and the voice of the Father again, the Spirit as the cloud upon the presence of Jesus...to Jesus’ own declaration in our Gospel today about baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
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- We do not confess three Gods, but one God in three persons...the persons not sharing one divinity among themselves, but each being God whole and entire...three persons and one divine essence in a consubstantial unity.
- But the divine persons are distinct from one another in their relation to one another, and not simply “modes” of the divine being.

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- Try as we might, it is impossible to understand the Trinity more than a small bit. Who can understand three persons...each co-equal—making up one divinity...one God?
  - We use analogies such as three candles together making one flame...the orb, heat and light of the one sun... the three-leafed clover of St. Patrick, and other such things.
  - But the more we learn of the Holy Trinity, the more we understand about God and better serve Him...though we’ll never know more than a thimbleful from the ocean of what God is.

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- God hints of the Trinity even from the very first verses of the Bible:

- Genesis 1:2—“...*the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.*” (Genesis 1:2)
- In the account of the creation of Man: “*God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...’*” (Genesis 1:26)
- In the story of the tower of Babel, God muses: “*Come, let us go down, and there confuse their language...*” (Genesis 11:7)
- And many times—especially in the books of Judges and speaking of the prophets, scripture speaks of the Spirit of God animating His servants.

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- How do we know Jesus is part of the Holy Trinity?
  - Well...one of the themes of John’s Gospel is the oneness of the Father and the Son. The first verse, referring to Jesus: “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* (John 1:1-3 )
  - Then Jesus prays in John 17: *Father, glorify me in thy own presence with the glory which I had with thee before the world was made.* (John 17:5 )
  - And “[*Jesus said*]: *‘I and the Father are one.’*” (John 10:30)
  - Then, of course, those physical manifestations at Jesus’ baptism and the Transfiguration: “...*the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon [Jesus] in bodily form, as a dove, and a voice came from heaven, “Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased.”* (Luke 3:21-22).
  - The early Church certainly recognized the Trinity. Paul himself wrote the invocation we use often at Mass: “*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*” (2 Corinthians 13:14)...and the Acts of the Apostles is packed with references to the Holy Spirit.
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- Yet, even now—after two thousand years of the collective thought of our Church—our understanding of the Holy Trinity is minimal at best...and it will always be so...for even the collective knowledge of the saints and angels only scratches the surface of the knowledge and greatness of God.
- So...if you find yourself perplexed while thinking about the Trinity, you're in good company...with all humanity and the heavenly host.
- Yet we have the assurance of Jesus Himself that the Church is to be led into all necessary truth.

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- So, *in fine*...each of the three persons of the Trinity are God, and are *wholly* God—co-equal in greatness, dignity and perfection in all eternity...no one ever existing without the others. And when we praise one, we praise the other two. When we adore one, we adore the entire Trinity, for one Divine Person does not—CANNOT—exist without the others.
  - The Father is called the principle from which proceeds the Son, and from both proceeds the Holy Spirit. But neither are the Son and Spirit created, but exist eternally with the Father...co-equal in all things, and yet the only and eternal One God.
  - In an (unavoidably limping) analogy, think of oneself: You are you, the principle...and yet, because you exist, your intellect exists and your will exists...all essential to you being you.
  - Because the Father exists, the Son exists...and because they exist, the Spirit exists...not coming to being in a sequence in time, but co-eternally and always.
  - What God is now is what He always was and what He always will be.

- The ultimate goal and end of all of salvation history and grace is simply this: our entry into the perfect unity of this Blessed Trinity.
- So remember when praying the sign of the cross: “*In the name [not the names] of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*”...say it with reverence, considering what it means...that we are dedicating this prayer or work or day to the One eternal God in Three Persons...and, therefore, to God for all eternity.

**The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity**

**Reading 1** [DT 4:32-34, 39-40](#)

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Moses said to the people:

"Ask now of the days of old, before your time,  
ever since God created man upon the earth;  
ask from one end of the sky to the other:  
Did anything so great ever happen before?  
Was it ever heard of?  
Did a people ever hear the voice of God  
speaking from the midst of fire, as you did, and live?  
Or did any god venture to go and take a nation for himself  
from the midst of another nation,  
by testings, by signs and wonders, by war,  
with strong hand and outstretched arm, and by great terrors,  
all of which the LORD, your God,  
did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?

This is why you must now know,  
and fix in your heart, that the LORD is God  
in the heavens above and on earth below,  
and that there is no other.

You must keep his statutes and commandments that I enjoin on you today,  
that you and your children after you may prosper,  
and that you may have long life on the land  
which the LORD, your God, is giving you forever."

**Responsorial Psalm** [PS 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22](#)

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R. (12b) **Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

Upright is the word of the LORD,  
and all his works are trustworthy.  
He loves justice and right;  
of the kindness of the Lord the earth is full.

R. **Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made;  
by the breath of his mouth all their host.  
For he spoke, and it was made;  
he commanded, and it stood forth.

R. **Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,  
upon those who hope for his kindness,  
To deliver them from death  
and preserv<sup>1.00</sup> e them in spite of famine.

R. **Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

Our soul waits for the LORD,  
who is our help and our shield.  
May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us  
who have put our hope in you.

R. **Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.**

**Reading 2 ROM 8:14-17**

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Brothers and sisters:

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.  
For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,  
but you received a Spirit of adoption,  
through whom we cry, "Abba, Father!"

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit  
that we are children of God,  
and if children, then heirs,  
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,  
if only we suffer with him  
so that we may also be glorified with him.

**Alleluia RV 1:8**

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R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;  
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Gospel MT 28:16-20**

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The eleven disciples went to Galilee,  
to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them.  
When they all saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.  
Then Jesus approached and said to them,  
"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,  
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.  
And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."