

Week of June 11, 2017

MONDAY

2 Cor 1:1-7 * Ps 34:2-9 * Mt 5:1-12

TUESDAY

2 Cor 1:18-22 * Ps 119:129-133,135 * Mt 5:13-16

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

2 Cor 3:4-11 * Ps 99:5-9 * Mt 5:17-19

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

2 Cor 3:15 - 4:1,3-6 * Ps 85:9-14 * Mt 5:20-26

FRIDAY

2 Cor 4:7-15 * Ps 116:10-11,15-18 * Mt 5:27-32

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

2 Cor 5:14-21 * Ps 103:1-4,8-9,11-12 * Mt 5:33-37

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Nursery until the end of June

Dt 8:2-3,14-16 * Ps 147:12-15,19-20 * 1 Cor 10:16-17 * Jn 6:51-58



Parish Activities

Thurs., June 15 6:00pm PTO Meeting
7:00pm School Committee Meeting

Congratulations to all our Graduates!!

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

May your minds be filled with God's thoughts...
May your bodies be filled with God's strength...
May your hearts be filled with God's dream for you!



Congratulations and Thanks: The Diocesan Office of Christian Service informed us that the following members of our parish completed the Training Workshop for Pastoral Care, providing skills and tools for those visiting the homebound.

Jane Berry, Janet Ernst, Pat Fritz, Pam Graul-Gwizdala, JoAnne Johnston, Angie Rouget, Carol Syring,

Parish Blood Drive: June 19, 3-8pm in the social hall. Please make an appointment by calling the Parish Office or by visiting miblood.org.

Baptism...

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; Before you were born, I dedicated you." Jeremiah 1:5

Zawyer Harold Grzegorzczuk
son of Todd and Nicole Grzegorzczuk

Congratulations!!

Stewardship

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$12,583.50
Annual Target: \$600,000.00 * Current FY thru May: \$528,141.97

8 new pledges: \$870.00

C.S.A. Total pledges: 383 (70% of households)

11th report Total pledged: \$77,444.00 (99.86% of our target).

And we patiently wait for those who will carry us over and above our target.

Fr. Tom

"I tell the kids, somebody's gotta win, somebody's gotta lose. Just don't fight about it. Just try to get better." Yogi Berra

Education/Formation

FAMILY TALK TIME Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee

Today is Trinity Sunday. How would you explain the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit to a friend?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** These Scripture verses relate part of a dialogue that Jesus was having with a Pharisee named Nicodemus. Nicodemus "came at night" (v. 2) and wondered if God was indeed "with" Jesus, based on the signs and miracles that he had heard about. Jesus advises the man that belief in the Son of God is the basis for being saved. Conversely, unbelief in the Son of God results in a judgement against that person. The conversation ends with Jesus' teaching rather than Nicodemus' conversion.

► **Living the Word:** We think of the blessed Trinity as "3" because of the connection of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Trinity Sunday suggests a "trinity day" at home. Engage your children in doing as many things as you can in a series of "3s": eat 3 tacos, say "I love you" to someone 3 times, play 3 card games. As you do this, remember how much God loves us. God sent his Son Jesus, followed by the Holy Spirit for ages unending. Find and show the children a church in your state or city named after the Holy Trinity.

Vacation Bible School: July 31-Aug. 3, 9am-12 noon. Theme will be "Mighty Fortress: In Jesus, the Victory is Won!" Check out the songs at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yP_Rim_3xLk. Information, registration forms & youth volunteer forms are available at the school entrance or on the website www.auburnac.org. **Registrations are due by June 26** – any registrations after that date will NOT receive a t-shirt.

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Thank You!** It's been a wonderful school year. A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered or donated to AACs this year! We appreciate you!!

► **Scrip:** Graduation gifts and everyday shopping are just two good reasons to use scrip cards. During the summer, scrip will be available in the parish office M-Th, 8:30-4:30 and Fri, 8:30-12pm.

► **Parish Fall Raffle Tickets** are being printed. Tickets will be distributed before and after Mass the 1st two weekends in August.

► **School Office Hours** will be 8am-4pm through Thurs., June 15. After that, Mrs. Chris and Mrs. Reder will be in throughout the summer to check messages and return phone calls. The school office number is 662-6431. You may return registration packets to the parish center during office hours. Also check out our website for more information at www.auburnacschool.org.



from Father Tom's Desk

Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

Sr. Mary McGlone, Celebration

Today's Gospel tells us that God does three things: God loves the world, God gives the Son, and God sent the Son into the world. Just to be sure we make no mistake: The Gospel explains that God's purpose in sending the Son was not to condemn but to save.

God's love is no new revelation. Love is the theme that underlies all of the Hebrew as well as the Christian Scriptures. Our reading from Exodus reminds us that God's key self-revelation in ancient times began because God heard the cry of the people and sent Moses to lead them to freedom. In today's reading from Exodus 34, the God whose name is incomprehensible to the human mind and unpronounceable by the human tongue, stands and talks with Moses. God tells Moses that being God means loving with a motherly, generous mercy, exer-

cising long-lasting patience, and demonstrating unshakeable fidelity.

That is like the image of God presented in Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd." The God of Abraham and Moses is the God who continues to beckon humanity toward fullness of life. Then with the Incarnation, Christianity adds the unthinkable to that image. When today's Gospel says, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son," we need to understand that with the backdrop of John 1:14, "The Word became flesh." That means that being our tender, creator-redeemer and shepherd was not enough. God's love is such that all of those roles or images were still too distant, too separate. The God whom Christians know entered into our very condition, not as an alien ambassador, caring but distinct, but as one of us. Christianity knows God not just as the Lord of history, but as Emmanuel, God in our history, John says that the Son became one of us so that everyone might have eternal life.

Our Image of God? (Exodus)

Celebration

When Scripture says that God is merciful, the image is that God's tenderness for creatures is like that of a mother for her little ones. The word for mercy derives from the same word as womb and refers to an almost instinctive response of protective care. It is what God expressed when telling Moses, "I have heard the cry of my people." God's graciousness can be understood as God's favor, as in the way God regarded Mary, adding affection to protection.

The image of being slow to anger literally means long-nosed. That implies that God does not react with a tyrant's flashing fury or sputtering rage, but with a patient long-suffering that reveals divine power as something quite different from what humans might imagine.

Being rich in kindness advanced these descriptions of God from divine feelings to actions. Kindness, more literally loving-kindness, is active, involved love which implies interaction and involvement to being about the good of the beloved. Finally, God is rich in fidelity. That could be the story of the Scriptures summarized in one phrase. God's love is everlasting. No matter what human creatures do, God's faithfulness will not be overcome. This selection from Exodus is no new revelation, but a summary, a list of qualities that can be found throughout Scripture. It depicts God as loving and consistently involved with humanity. We could well imagine Jesus meditating on this reading from Exodus before he came up with the story of the prodigal son.

Signed in the Trinity

Deacon Dick Folger, Celebration

Understanding the significance of Trinity Sunday can be as simple as 1-2-3. It begins with God the Father – who gave us his only begotten Son; then Jesus – who in turn promised that he would send us the Holy Spirit. All of that is declared every time we sign ourselves, saying "In the name of the father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Yet, the mystery of a triune God equally confounds the simple child and the wise old man as the well-known story of St. Augustine teaches us. One day while walking alone along the seashore, pondering the Trinity, Augustine encountered a boy pouring ocean water into a hole in the sand. The boy explained: "I am going to put the entire ocean into this hole." St. Augustine told him that it was impossible. The hole in the sand was too small to contain all of the vast ocean. Surprisingly, the boy replied, "And neither can you fit the Trinity into your little brain." When the boy vanished, St. Augustine realized he had been talking to an angel.

We continue to walk by faith, affirming the Trinity every time we cross ourselves.

"I never blame myself when I'm not hitting. I just blame the bat; and if it keeps up I change bats. After all, if I know it isn't my fault I'm not hitting, how can I get mad at myself?" Yogi Berra

John 3:16

Celebration

The last part of today's reading takes us back to Deuteronomy 30 when Moses invited the people to choose the life God was offering them. John says that those who believe will be saved and those who do not have been condemned. As many other things in the Gospel of John, this can be mistakenly understood in a narrow, almost magical way or, alternatively, as an invitation to ongoing reflection on what we believe about God, God's love and human life.

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity celebrates God revealed simply as "God for us." God gave Moses a limited vision but still so overwhelming that his face, his very soul, would never be the same. In Christ we have received the ultimate image of God's unceasing, invincible and overwhelming love. Paul reminds us that to the extent that we believe in that revelation, God's Spirit can work in and through us, thereby allowing the love of God to be ever more present in our world.

Near/Far Away

David Heimann, Celebration

The mystery of the Trinity is vast, rich, deep and wondrous. Saints, poets and artists have exhausted countless efforts to explain and illustrate this mystery. Each attempt to describe this fundamental tenet within our faith both inches us closer to understanding the nature of God while at the same time pushes our understanding farther away. The Trinity is something to ponder more fully, in the same way we learn to deeply value a favorite movie, a good book or a cherished friendship. The more we explore it, the more we value it.

There are some things we know certainly about God. God is absolute and dependable. God is the expected constant. We can ground ourselves in God. God is also the unexpected, the surprising, and the ever-new. We can rest assured in knowing that God is one, but we should also be astounded by the unexpected twist in knowing that God's oneness is three. This mystery is God's delight and with a smile, we are invited to enter into his ever-unfolding revelation.

Call to Faithfulness

Fr. Richard Gribble, Collegeville, MN

God – as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Trinity that we celebrate today – has always been faithful. As we celebrate the presence of God in our life, as we contemplate the mystery of the Trinity, let us imitate the Trinity's life, as suggested by St. Paul in today's second reading, and live in harmony and peace. Let us be faithful, not only to country and family, but to God, the father who created our world, the Son who died to set us free, and the Holy Spirit who continues to be with us today and to eternal life.

"May I always remember I am signed in the Trinity by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

AMEN CORNER:

Given the response of the Bishop published in the bulletin last week, the Planning Group will begin meeting again (they met this past Wednesday). Initial efforts will be spent selecting firms to be invited to bid on the proposal to build a new church. Actually in the past a lot of effort was spent considering the cost of such a project. There was consultation with an architect and with a construction company that verified current building costs. The best estimate at the time for a new church and remodeling of the current church space into a social hall/gym was 3.2 million dollars. The question the Building Committee and Planning Group will seek to ascertain is whether that figure is still viable. The answer to that question will determine future direction.

Fr. Tom