

During this unprecedented time in our world's history, we offer you the following material for your praying and reflecting on God's Word.

Introduction - June 12, 2022

This week we return to the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. This Sunday and next Sunday, however, are designated as solemnities, special days that call our attention to central mysteries of our faith. Today, on the first Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. This feast invites us to consider what we believe about God, who has revealed himself to us in the Trinity—one God in three persons.

The verses of today's Gospel come near the end of Jesus' long discourse at the Last Supper. In the early part of this discourse, as we saw last week on Pentecost, Jesus offers assurances to the disciples. Even though he must leave the disciples, he tells them that they will have a future because of the help he will send them in the Holy Spirit. In this section, he focuses more on the shape of the future, which will include Jesus' victory over the world that they will share in. The disciples of Jesus cannot know the future. They can only know that, whatever shape the future takes, they will not have to face it alone. They have the Spirit of Truth, who will continue to provide the teaching of Jesus in the future.

Reading this passage on Trinity Sunday reinforces our understanding of the unity shared by the members of the Trinity. Although the idea of one God in three persons remains a mystery, we have the assurance that, as Jesus and the Father share all, Jesus and the Spirit share all.

Lectio Divina with the Sunday Gospel

Lectio Divina means 'divine reading'. It is a way to pray using the holy scriptures in a step-by-step process. Gather the entire family around and make the sign of the Cross. Light a candle.

Leader: "Holy Spirit, you inspired the authors of Sacred Scripture to write what you wanted us to know for the sake of our salvation. Inspire us now to hear those words not only with our ears, but our hearts, so that we might know your saving Word for us today."

- Have one person **read** the scripture slowly, out loud and have a few moments of silence afterwards. (It may be helpful for everyone to have a copy of the reading).
- **Read** the scripture again out loud and choose a single word or short phrase that touches, speaks or surprises you. Share with everyone.
- **Read** the scripture out loud one more time and discuss what is happening directly in the text.
- **Meditate** on what God is doing now in our lives through this text.
- **Respond** to what God is doing through prayer.
- **Contemplate** on what God is asking of me through this text and how to use these words as a gift for others through my actions.
- After a period of silence, end with the Sign of the Cross.

(see over)

The Holy Gospel for June 12, 2022

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I still have many things to say to you,
but you cannot bear them now.

When the Spirit of truth comes,
he will guide you into all the truth;
for he will not speak on his own,
but will speak whatever he hears,
and he will declare to you the things that are to come,

He will glorify me,
because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.
All that the Father has is mine.
For this reason I said that he will take what is mine
and declare it to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Family Activities

- ❖ When you gather as a family, display a compass. If you don't have a compass, display a road map or GPS system. Have each member reflect and share what the purpose of these items are. These are tools that help you to go in the right direction. They guide us when we are lost. That is what the Holy Spirit does for us. The Holy Spirit is our comforter, counsellor, advocate, teacher, witness. In what ways have you sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?
- ❖ Gather all the members of the family in a circle. Each person must tell two truths and one lie about themselves. The goal of the other members of the family is to distinguish what is truth and what is not. Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish the difference, especially if it is a plausible untruth. Jesus tells us that the role of the Spirit is to guide us to 'all the truth'. The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus to us who is truth. What truth has the Holy Spirit revealed to you?

(see over)

(Family Activities continued...)

- ❖ Draw or find a picture of a 3 leafed clover. The clover in many instances illustrates the idea of the Holy Trinity. It is difficult to understand the mystery of the Trinity. That is why it is called a mystery. But instead of trying to understand and explain how three persons can be one God, 'knowing' the relationship between the three persons may be helpful in revealing the mystery. The essence of God is LOVE. A love so great, exists between the Father and the Son. That love between the Father and the Son is revealed in the Holy Spirit. In turn, that love spills out to us and all of creation. We are the product of that love. That means that we who are created in the image of God, are created to find our greatest fulfillment as in the Trinity - enjoying a relationship with God, with one another and with all of creation. Reflect on how your family reveals the relationship of the Trinity.

Prayer:

**Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given to us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity,
and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity,
may we, through the steadfastness of this faith,
evermore be defended from all adversities;
through Jesus Christ who is alive with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.**

Amen