

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK...

THE HOLY TRINITY...

TO BE EXPERIENCED...NOT EXPLAINED!



Trinity Sunday is the First Sunday after Pentecost...which is the 50<sup>th</sup> Day after Easter. This year Trinity Sunday falls on June 4. Trinity Sunday is the festival celebrating the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity...God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit...Three Persons in One God.

The early church had no special days or seasons devoted to the Holy Trinity. Bishops often permitted local liturgical observances dedicated to the Holy Trinity. Pope John XXII (1316-1334) ordered the feast be celebrated throughout the church on the First Sunday after Pentecost.

Easter Orthodox Christians do not set aside a special day to honor the Holy Trinity. They argue every Sunday should be a celebration of the Holy Trinity. Anglican Catholic Christians do, in fact, celebrate the Holy Trinity at every Sunday Mass, and in the Daily Offices. Think about how many times during our liturgies we mention the Holy Trinity...Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Trinity Sunday is different from the three major festivals of the Church Year that celebrate events in the life of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is also different from the Prayer Book Holy Days on which we commemorate the lives of the Saints. Trinity Sunday celebrates a doctrine.

The Doctrine of the Holy Trinity is not found in the Scriptures. It also cannot be explained. It is a mystery. Therein lies a problem...human beings don't much like mysteries. We like things explained in ways we can understand...we want to say, "Oh, yes! I get it now!"

The Holy Trinity defies explanation. Attempts to explain the Holy Trinity always fall short. They reduce the Holy Trinity to a mathematical formula that can be solved through ongoing study and discovering empirical evidence. Our belief God exists as Holy Trinity...Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is a matter of complete faith and trust.

With some exceptions...the Sundays for the rest of the Church Year are dated Sundays "after Trinity". This numbering scheme follows that of the *Sarum Missal* (1078), which became the standard liturgy used throughout most of England, and was the basis for the first *Book of Common Prayer* (1549).

The Collect for Trinity Sunday sets the tone for what we should be thinking about during the long Trinity Season:

*ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity; We beseech thee that thou wouldest keep us steadfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.*

God has given us his special help...the gift of faith...to acknowledge the power of the Holy Trinity in our lives. We're asking him to keep our faith strong and unwavering. And we will experience the power and mystery of the Holy Trinity every day of our lives.

The Holy Trinity...to be experienced...not explained! No explanation is possible. We are only called to believe by that faith, which sustains us.

Father Craig Looney+

## Diocesan Synod

The Diocese of the Holy Trinity will hold its Annual Synod at Saint Matthew's Parish, Newport Beach CA, on June 8-9. The Clericus (Clergy Gathering) and a separate Women's Dinner will be held on Thursday June 8. The General Synod will meet on Friday, June 9. Father Herb and Father Craig will be attending as Clergy Delegates and Candyce Francis is the Parish Lay Delegate. God willing, Andrew Benjamin Harrah will be ordained to the Diaconate at the Synod Mass.



The Vestry will meet in the Library following Coffee Hour on Sunday, June 25. Regular Vestry meetings are open to all interested parishioners.

## Librarian's Corner

by Rebekah Shapiro...



When we dedicated the library to Father John Altberg in June 2022, I couldn't help but think of another wise Priest named John, St. John Chrysostom. At the same time, in my private devotions, I was enjoying images depicting the Blessed Virgin Mary as a girl. Eventually, I realized that these two ideas were appropriate for the Parish Library because, together, they express all of Christian learning.

First, you do not need to know anything about Church history, or theology, or even art to see the basic dichotomy: male and female. On the one side, we have a man, the bearded and balding St. John Chrysostom. On the other, we have two women with soft features, long hair and flowing dresses, St. Anne teaching her daughter. The paintings thus teach us that all Christians, men and women, are obligated to grow our faith by study of sacred doctrine.

Next, even someone with little knowledge of art, and no serious knowledge of Church history, will recognize that the images are from different regions. The image of St. John Chrysostom is from the Church of Our Lady in Nikitari, Cyprus. It dates from 1106, and the painter is thought to have come from the eastern capital of Christianity, Constantinople (now Istanbul). The painting of St. Anne and Our Lady is by the Spanish Baroque painter Bartolome Esteban Murillo, who lived from 1617 to 1682. I chose a Spanish painting because, for much of Church history, Spain was about as far west as the Church got. The geography is symbolically important because Church scholarship is historically divided between the Eastern stream, which includes St. John Chrysostom himself and many of the men who were personally responsible for the development of the Creeds we use in church; and the Western stream, of which Anglicanism is a tributary. In modern times, Anglicans learn from the best writings of the East and the West.

Now we begin to consider the paintings as Christian artworks. St. John Chrysostom is the only individual called "saint" in the 1928 *Book of Common Prayer* who is not mentioned in the Bible. St. John Chrysostom lived from 347 to 407 and was Archbishop of Constantinople for a

short time towards the end of his life. The epithet "Chrysostom" means "golden mouthed," and he was a celebrated preacher even as a Deacon. Many Eastern churches still incorporate his short catechetical homily for Easter into their services every year. He also had a significant role in the development of the Eastern Eucharistic liturgy, which is still called the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. The Parish actually has several books by St. John Chrysostom, though most are part of a valuable set kept in the Rector's office. (I am working on another piece for the Parish *Times* about how churches have historically kept their books safe and what that teaches us about how to grow in our spiritual lives.) But *The Divine Liturgy* and *On Wealth and Poverty* are available to check out. The picture of St. John Chrysostom therefore symbolizes preaching and other forms of public Christian learning.

In contrast to the great preacher, we have St. Anne and St. Mary at home. They read the Holy Scriptures quietly together. All literate Christians are obligated to grow our faith by study of sacred doctrine not just publicly in church, but privately at home as well.

Finally, the paintings tell us what we should study. Though the painting is an early modern style, the painting of St. Anne and the Blessed Virgin actually depicts the earlier period of history. That period is literally "before Christ." In the painting, the Blessed Virgin Mary is a little girl. The painting brings to mind a time before the Annunciation and before the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. It shows a time years before Christ instituted the new covenant of His blood and gave us a new commandment to love one another as He loved us. The painting of St. Anne and the Blessed Virgin, therefore, reminds us that as Christians, we also study the Old Testament.

If the painting of St. Anne and the Blessed Virgin represents the Old Testament, then of course the image of St. John Chrysostom represents the New Testament. St. John Chrysostom's sermons and writings demonstrate deep understanding of the Old Testament and the New Testament. As modern Christians, we are blessed to have the Old Testament and the New Testament. The first Christians did not have the New Testament to study, because the first Christians wrote the New Testament. Imagine how hard it would be to learn about Jesus Christ without the New Testament! But we have the whole Bible, as well as all the Christians who have come before us, including St. John Chrysostom, the anonymous painter from Constantinople, and Bartolome Esteban Murillo, to teach us about Jesus Christ. I include the painters in the list of teachers because we do not learn just from words, but from images as well.

I wish to extend my thanks to my colleague Fulton Smith for his help in selecting an image of St. John Chrysostom.

## **Summer Prayer Book Holy Days**

### **Saint Barnabas the Apostle, June 11 Book of Common Prayer, Pages 240-242**



Barnabas was born in Cypress of Hellenic Jewish parents, who named him Joseph. According to tradition, he was an early Christian who was prominent in the Jerusalem Church.

He is called an Apostle in Acts 14.14. He and Paul undertook missionary journeys together to evangelize Gentiles, until a disagreement over including Mark in their travels caused them to go their separate ways. This dispute apparently did not affect their friendship; in I Corinthians 9.5-6, Paul writes he and Barnabas both earn their own living.

Barnabas is mostly present in Acts of the Apostles. He sold the land he owned and gave the proceeds to the Jerusalem Church. He is thought to be the cousin of Saint Mark the Evangelist. Little is known about his later travels. The name Barnabas is a patronymic from the Aramaic, meaning “son of consolation” or “son of encouragement”.

Barnabas is the Patron Saint of Cypress, the Cypriot Orthodox Church, Antioch, and is invoked as a peacemaker. We are blessed in being able to celebrate his feast day on a Sunday this year.

### **Saint John Baptist, June 24 Book of Common Prayer, Page 242-244**

John the Baptist was the son of Elizabeth and Zacharias and a cousin to Jesus. Although the Scriptures are silent in the matter...Jesus and John likely knew each other during their childhood.

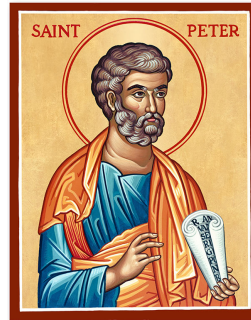
When Gabriel announced John's birth to Zacharias, who was performing his duties as a priest in the Temple (Luke 1.11-20), he did not believe the angel's message. Zacharias was unable to speak again until John was born (Elizabeth might have considered that a blessing ☺).

The Gospel give John the Baptist a place of honor; Jesus praises his character and ministry when he said, “no one born of a woman is greater than John” (Matthew 11.11). John identifies himself as the “voice crying in the wilderness” of Isaiah. He is the precursor or forerunner announcing the arrival of the Christ.



His feast day, June 24, commemorates his Nativity rather than his death. He did not die as a martyr for our Lord.

### **Saint Peter the Apostle, June 29 Book of Common Prayer, Page 244-246**



There is no question Peter had an important role in the early Church. He was born in Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee, c. 1 AD. He and his younger brother, Andrew, were fishermen. According to John 1.40-42, it was Andrew who introduced Peter to Jesus and they, along with James and John, were the first disciples of Jesus.

Peter was originally named Simon bar Jonas (Simon, Son of John). In the Gospel appointed for the day (Matthew 16.13-19), Jesus asks the disciples who they think he is. Peter declares Jesus to be the Messiah; Jesus calls him Cephas, Aramaic meaning “stone” or “rock” and tells Peter he is the rock foundation on which he will build his church. It is the faith of Peter and the other disciples upon which the church is built.

Peter's remarkable conversion at Pentecost, from the coward who said he didn't know Jesus and ran off the night our Lord was arrested, to a brave and courageous preacher who would not back down when he was laughed at, set the tone for his ministry. He became the leader of the Christian Community in Jerusalem.

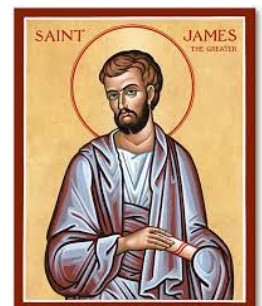
Tradition and recent archeological evidence places Peter in Rome, where he was martyred c. 64 AD. According to tradition, Peter asked to be crucified upside down.

### **Saint James the Apostle, July 25 Book of Common Prayer, Page 244-247**

This James is called “the Great” to distinguish him from the other Apostle named James and called “the Less”. “Greater” likely means “older”.

He was the son of Zebedee and Salome, the brother of John and partners with Simon Peter and Andrew in the Zebedee Family fishing business. The date and place of his birth are not documented.

James belonged to the inner circle of Jesus' closest friends, which included his brother, John, and Peter. He witnessed key events in the life and ministry of Christ.

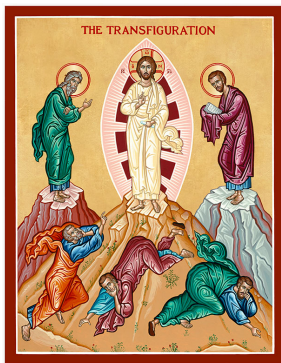




They were present when Jesus raised Jairus's daughter from the dead, an event recorded in all three of the Synoptic Gospels. They were witnesses to the Transfiguration. They were present with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane the night Jesus was arrested.

Herod Agrippa had James arrested and put to death in 44 AD. According to tradition, James preached in Spain. His remains are interred at Santiago de Compostela, Galicia. His shrine has become a major pilgrimage site.

## **The Transfiguration of Christ, August 6 Book of Common Prayer, Page 247-249**



The Transfiguration of Christ is unique among all of the miracles of Jesus, in that the miracle happens to Jesus himself. The Synoptic Gospels describe the event. Jesus and three of his Apostles, Peter, James and John go up into a mountain to pray. Mountains figure prominently in the Bible as places where people went to be closer to God, away from

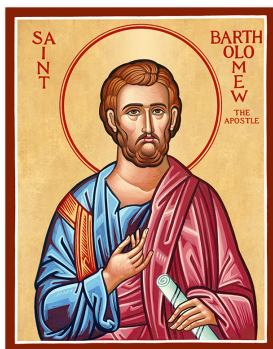
their busy daily lives.

While on the mountaintop, Jesus' appearances changes and he begins to shine with bright white light (his glory). Then the Old Testament prophets, Moses and Elijah, appear and speak directly to Jesus about his impending Passion. This miracle is for the benefit of Jesus. The appearance of Moses and Elijah symbolize everything the Law and the Prophets talk about the Messiah comes true in Jesus.

The Transfiguration is a pivotal moment in the life of Christ and mankind; the point in time human nature meets God; the temporal meets eternal; and Jesus is the link. It is one of two events in the New Testament the voice of God is heard and identifies Jesus as his "dear Son"; and for us to listen to him. This year the Transfiguration of Christ falls on the first Sunday in August.

## **Saint Bartholomew the Apostle, August 24 Book of Common Prayer, Page 249-250**

We know very little about Bartholomew. He is mentioned in the List of Apostles in the Synoptic Gospels, always linked to Philip. John mentions Philip introducing Nathanael to Jesus. It is thought Bartholomew and Nathanael are one in the same person.



Bartholomew (Bar Talmi in Aramaic) is a patronymic meaning "son of the furrows". This suggests he worked plowing the land, possibly in the family business. He was born in Cana, Galilee, c. 1 AD.

According to Eusebius of Caesarea's *Ecclesiastical History* (4th Century AD), Bartholomew undertook a missionary journey to India, where he left behind a copy of Matthew's Gospel. Tradition records he later traveled to Armenia with fellow Apostle Jude (Thaddeus) and where both men were martyred c. 69 AD.

Bartholomew and Jude are considered the Patron Saints of Armenia, the Armenian Apostolic Church, leather workers, dermatologist and those with skin conditions, bookbinders and others. Armenia is the first country to have formally adopted Christianity as the state religion.

## **Provincial Synod**



The XXV Provincial Synod of the Original Province of the Anglican Catholic Church (ACC), will be held in Orland FL, October 11-13, 2023. The ACC Provincial Synod will meet in conjunction with the jurisdictions of the Anglican Province in America (APA) and the

Anglican Church in America (ACA). In addition, the Diocese of the Holy Cross will hold their Diocesan Synod in the same location. Please see Father Looney for more information about the Provincial Synod.

## **New Hymns CD**

We have been given two additional copies of *New Hymns for an Ancient Tradition* by Father Neil Edlin, Rector of Saint Mary Magdalene Parish in Orange, CA. This is an inspiring selection of hymns from a live performance by the Saint Mary Magdalene Parish Choir at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, located in Yorba Linda CA. The CDs are available for check out in the Parish Library. Thank you Father Neil.

## **Discussion Group**

Our hallmark Sunday Discussion Group has been filled with lively discussion, learning and laughter. We have discovered the joy of "reading, marking, learning and inwardly digesting" Holy Scripture in an environment free of partisan politics...Church or secular. We will meet on June 4, 11 and 18 and then break for the summer. Classes will resume on Sunday, September 3.

# Holy Trinity, Whom I Adore

## A prayer by Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity...

Elizabeth of the Trinity (1880–1906) was a French Discalced Carmelite nun. *Discalced* refers to the practice of certain religious orders of men and women who go barefoot or only wear sandals. Saint Francis of Assisi introduced the practice into the Western Church.



Elizabeth was a mystic and spiritual writer known for her devotion The Holy Trinity. She wrote many letters expressing her happiness in finding God everywhere, whether she was at prayer or doing the laundry. She died at the age of 26 of Addison's disease. She was canonized by Pope Francis I on October 16, 2016.

Her most famous prayer is devoted to adoration of the Holy Trinity...

*"O my God, Trinity whom I adore, let me entirely forget myself that I may abide in you, still and peaceful as if my soul were already in eternity; let nothing disturb my peace nor separate me from you, O my unchanging God, but that each moment may take me further into the depths of your mystery! Pacify my soul! Make it your heaven, your beloved home and place of your repose; let me never leave you there alone, but may I be ever attentive, ever alert in my faith, ever adoring and all given up to your creative action.*

*O my beloved Christ, crucified for love, would that I might be for you a spouse of your heart! I would anoint you with glory, I would love you - even unto death! Yet I sense my frailty and ask you to adorn me with yourself; identify my soul with all the movements of your soul, submerge me, overwhelm me, substitute yourself in me that my life may become but a reflection of your life. Come into me as Adorer, Redeemer and Savior.*

*O Eternal Word, Word of my God, would that I might spend my life listening to you, would that I might be fully receptive to learn all from you; in all darkness, all loneliness, all weakness, may I ever keep my eyes fixed on you and abide under your great light; O my Beloved Star, fascinate me so that I may never be able to leave your radiance.*

*O Consuming Fire, Spirit of Love, descend into my soul and make all in me as an incarnation of the Word, that I may be to him a super-added humanity wherein he renews his mystery; and you O Father, bestow yourself and bend down to your little creature, seeing in her only your beloved Son in whom you are well pleased.*

*O my 'Three', my All, my Beatitude, infinite Solitude, Immensity in whom I lose myself, I give myself to you as a prey to be consumed; enclose yourself in me that I may be absorbed in you so as to contemplate in your light the abyss of your Splendor!"*

## The Hospitality of Abraham

The Trinity, also called the Hospitality of Abraham is an icon created by Andrei Rublev in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. It is considered his most famous work and the highest achievement of Russian art.



The icon is based on the story in Genesis 18.1-8. Three men, later identified as angels, visit Abraham and Sarah at the Tree of Mamre, to announce they will have a child. Abraham wouldn't let the three strangers pass by without offering them food and drink. Hospitality was highly regarded in ancient times. In the New Testament, Paul commands Christians to continue the practice of showing hospitality to strangers (I Corinthians 13).

In Rublev's time, the Holy Trinity was considered the embodiment of **spiritual unity, peace, harmony, mutual love and humility**. Modern scholars agree the three angels in the icon represent the Holy Trinity, "one God in three persons"---"the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ) and the Holy Spirit"---from left to right. Rublev's icon is profoundly instructive and a powerful source for meditation on the Trinity.

## August Repair Work



Gazelle Creative Learning School is closed during August. While the school is shut down, broken tiles in the Parish Hall will be replaced and floors will be waxed. We also hope to repair water-damaged ceilings and walls in the Parish Hall, Library and the School Classroom.

## Traveling This Summer?



Now that the “new normal” seems to be a reality...people are beginning to travel again. If your summer plans call for travel by plane, train or automobile...make Sunday church attendance part of your travel plans. The Provincial newspaper *The Trinitarian* has a listing of parishes and missions in the ACC, ACA and APA. Also, check out the Provincial website for more information: [www.anglican catholic.org](http://www.anglican catholic.org).

## Rector's Great Australian Adventure



*The Ghan*

Father Craig will be away from the Parish July 1-28 on his Great Australian Adventure. The highlight of the trip will be two nights and three days on board *The Ghan*, an “experiential” passenger train operating from Adelaide, South Australia to Darwin, Northern Territory, a distance of 1,846 miles (or 2,797 kilometers in Australianese ☺).

The Rector's travels will take him to Perth, Western Australia. On Sunday, July 16, he plans to attend Mass at Saint Peter's Parish -Traditional Anglican Church in Australia. Father Craig and Father Brian Tee, Rector of Saint Peter's, have traded several e-mails. Father Brian has provided Father Craig with several links to interesting and touristy things to do while in Perth.

During the Rector's absence, Senior Warden, Lindsay Pettit, and the Vestry are in charge of the day-to-day operations of the parish. Father Herb will celebrate Mass and provide pastoral care. The Rector will include photos and a “trip report” of his Great Australian Adventure in the September issue of *The Parish Times*.

### THE NEXT ISSUE...

The next issue of *The Parish Times* will be the Late Trinity edition. The target date for publication and distribution is September 4. If you have an article or announcement you wish published, please submit it via e-mail or in writing by August 28. All submissions are subject to space limitations and editing by the Rector. All submissions must be free of partisan politics...whether Church or secular.



Find us on Facebook at: **Saint Joseph Parish – San Mateo CA**

### Schedule

Sundays – 9:00 AM Parish Mass & Sermon  
Coffee Hour and Discussion Group  
Weekdays/Holy Days as announced  
Sacrament of Penance by Appointment

The Reverend Father Craig Looney, Rector  
The Reverend Father Herbert Plimpton, MD, Assisting

*THE CONTINUATION OF ANGLICANISM: We affirm that the Church of our fathers, sustained by the most Holy Trinity, lives yet...are determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order, Orthodox Worship and Evangelical Witness of the traditional Anglican Church.*

[www.saintjosephparish.net](http://www.saintjosephparish.net)  
650 347 4423

# SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

ANGLICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

770 NORTH EL CAMINO REAL

SAN MATEO CA 94401

