

From the Rector's Desk...

Embracing the Mystery of the Trinity...



We're now in the second half of the Church Year called Trinitytide. The length of the Trinity Season is determined by the date of Easter. This year we have twenty-four numbered Sundays after Trinity. The Sunday Next Before Advent..."Stir-up Sunday"...is the last Sunday in the Trinity Season. The liturgical color for Trinitytide is green...which suggests renewal and growth. The Trinity Season is about our spiritual growth.

Dorothy L. Sayers is the author of the Lord Peter Wimsey detective novels. Mrs Sayers was a devout Anglo-Catholic and the daughter of an Anglican priest. She was also a prominent lay theologian of the 1940s-1950s. Her detective novels and those of her contemporary, Agatha Christie, draw us into the drama. A crime has been committed, there is an investigation, the culprit is caught, and the mystery is solved.

In her book *Mind of the Maker*, she explores the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity not as a problem to solve but as a revelation of God's handiwork which we experience in a wonderful and mysterious way throughout our lives. For Sayers, the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity isn't the story of a "who-did-it"...it's the story of "who-is-it".

The "who-is-it" is the dynamic and creative power of the Holy Trinity reflected in our own creative work. She expressed it this way:

- **The Creative Idea:** The complete, timeless, vision of a work as it first exists passionless in the author's mind. This represents the **Father**.
- **The Creative Energy:** The active, often painful process of bringing that vision into reality over time and in matter. This represents the **Word (Son)**.
- **The Creative Power:** The final impact or meaning of the work as it is received and experienced by the audience. This represents the **Holy Spirit**.

What Sayers is saying makes sense when we consider the Liturgies for the first half of the Church Year teach us about God's creative action to redeem mankind, through the

birth, life, passion, death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus, and in the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is the watershed moment in our lives. The Holy Spirit empowers us and makes all things clear to us. We now "own the mystery" of the Trinity, as the great hymn "Holy God, we praise thy Name" (#273, *Hymnal 1940*) so eloquently teaches us. That means the creative power of the Trinity is at work in our own lives.

It is no accident the remaining Sundays of the Church Year are called Sundays after Trinity. We learn from this just how important and active the Trinity is in our lives, in our prayers and in the work we do.

We cannot fully understand the dynamic relationship the Three Persons-One God have with each other. We only get a glimpse of how we get caught up in that relationship. We do after all, "see through a glass darkly" (1 Cor 13.12). We have an obscure, imperfect and incomplete understanding of things. The full power of the Holy Trinity will be revealed to us when we see God face-to-face, and we will see ourselves as he sees us...and as we want to be seen.

Dorothy Sayers's fictional detective Lord Peter Wimsey solves mysteries. We like it when mysteries get solved in real life. We like it when we have control over our lives and mysteries complicate things. But if we pay attention to Sayers's compelling message in *Mind of the Maker*...we can understand the Trinity brings order and spiritual growth to our lives.

The Trinity isn't a mystery we should try to solve. The Trinity is a mystery we experience...and should embrace.

Father Craig Looney+

Trinity Sunday Collect

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who has 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.

Profiles in Sainthood

Saint Ephrem Syrus

Deacon, Confessor, Doctor

Ephrem Syrus, also known as Ephrem the Syrian, was a prominent Christian theologian and the most notable hymnographer of Eastern Christianity. He was born in Nisibis (modern Turkish Kurdistan).



Ephrem was baptized as a youth and became a “son of the covenant”...an early monastic group within Syriac Christianity. They were men and women committed to celibacy and service of the Church. Unlike modern monasticism, “sons of the covenant” lived among the people.

Over 400 of Ephrem’s hymns still exist. He wrote exclusively in his native Aramaic. He described his hymns as “teaching hymns”...referring to himself as “herdsman”, to his bishop as “shepherd” and to the community as a “fold”. His writings were inspired by Biblical passages of God as the Shepherd who lovingly watches over his sheep, and Jesus who is the Good Shepherd who goes out seeking the lost sheep.

Ephrem was martyred in 373 in Edessa (modern day Urfa in southeast Turkey).

Many of his hymns and prayers form part of the Syriac Liturgy of the Hours (Morning and Evening Prayer). Below is his “Night Prayer”:

*Lord have mercy upon us, kindly accept our service;
 Sending from Thy treasury, kindness, mercy and pardon.
 Grant me Oh Lord, while I stand, keeping vigil before Thee
 Should I fall to slumber’s hand, guard thou me from sinful sleep.
 If I trespass while awake, by thy grace absolve me Lord
 If I transgress in my sleep, pardon with Thy compassion
 By the Cross (+) of Thy meekness, grant me, Lord, a restful sleep
 Deliver me from evil dreams, and from sinful thoughts, Oh Lord!
 Through the night govern me, Lord Grant to me a peaceful sleep;
 Let not Evil and his thoughts, should have domain over me.
 Grant to me Thy bright Angel, that he may guard all my limbs;*

*Save me from un-holy lust, by Thy Body that I ate.
 While I lie and sleep in calm, may Thy blood be my guardian;
 Granting freedom to my soul, which is but Thy own image.
 Thy hand shaped me, Oh my Lord, shadow me with Thy right hand,
 Thy mercy be a fortress, shielding me Lord all around.
 While my body rests and sleeps, may Thy power keep vigil;
 Let my sleep in Thy presence, pleasing like a sweet incense.
 Let not evil touch my bed, by Thy mother’s prayer for me;
 By Thy pleasing sacrifice, keep Satan from hurting me.
 Fulfill Thy word with me, Lord, and guard my life by Thy Cross (+);
 Waking I shall praise Thy name, for Thou loved me in weakness.
 Grant Oh Lord, by Thy mercy, that I hear and do Thy will;
 Grant me an eve full of peace, and a night of righteousness.
 Oh our Savior, Jesus Christ, who is indeed the true light;
 Thy honor stays in the light, worshipped by all sons of light.
 Jesus, Savior of the world, who stays and lives in the light;
 to Thee praise, on us mercy, in this world and that to come.
 Praise to Thee Lord, praise to Thee, praise a thousand thousand fold;
 Tens of thousands we praise Thee, to Thee praise on us mercy.
 Praise to whom Watchers adore; and heavenly Angels serve
 Lord of Watchers and Angels; accept our supplications
 Praise to the One who is three; and to the three who are One. Father, Son and Holy Ghost; who is the One and true God*

50th DHT Synod Report



Saint Matthew’s Church, Newport Beach CA

The 50th Annual Synod for the Diocese of the Holy Trinity was held on Friday, June 5, at Saint Matthew's Church, Newport Beach CA. Father Craig and Candyce Francis represented Saint Joseph Parish at the Synod. Evensong and the Clericus (Clergy Gathering) and separate Women's Dinner took place the previous evening.

The Synod commenced with Sung Mass. Bishop Scarlett celebrated and preached. The Bishop's sermon focused on the Diocesan commitment to Mission based on the Benedictine model of contemplative prayer.



High Altar – Saint Matthew's Church, Newport Beach CA

Lunch and the Synod Business Meeting followed the Sung Mass. Minutes of the 2025 DHT Synod and Financial Reports were presented. A budget for 2026-2027 was approved.

The Rectors and Priests-in-Charge of the Diocesan parishes and missions gave their reports. The Diocese of the Holy Trinity consists of 4 parishes, 1 mission, and 3 mission communities:

- Saint Joseph Parish, San Mateo CA
- Saint Mary Magdalene Church, Orange CA
- Saint Mary's Cathedral, Denver CO
- Saint Matthew's Church, Newport Beach CA
- Saint Thomas Mission, Fullerton CA
- Colorado Mission Community
- Missouri Mission Community
- Washington Mission Community

A Mission Community is defined as a community of believers who gather together for prayer and fellowship and a period of discernment in the hope of organizing a mission.

Bishop Scarlett noted Saint Mary's Cathedral, Denver, is the Mother Church for the Diocese. Since Bishop Scarlett's *cathedra* or "seat" is in Newport Beach, Saint Matthew's will share Co-Cathedral status with Saint Mary's.

Father Craig continues to serve on the Commission on Ministry, Board of Examining Chaplains, and Overseas Mission Committee. He also serves as Associate Member of the Standing Committee. Candy Francis was elected to serve on the Standing Committee through 2027.

Overseas Mission Report Democratic Republic of the Congo



Father Neil Edlin, Rector of Saint Mary Magdalene, Orange CA, gave the Overseas Mission Report at the DHT Synod. He noted the violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has forced Bishop M'mokywa Mtundu Lameck and his cohorts to flee and seek refuge in Northern Burundi.

The photo above from Father Neil's report of the refugee camp gives stark testimony to the horrid living conditions Bishop Lameck and others face. Cholera and other illnesses, poor sanitation, hunger and lack of safe drinking water, and limited access to healthcare are the harsh reality the refugees face every day.

Please pray for Bishop Lameck, his parishioners, and others who have been forced to live in these conditions, that they may have hope and experience the "Peace of God which passes all human understanding" in their hearts.

"Beating the Bounds"



In the photo on the previous page, Father Herb blesses seeds while Father Craig stands ready to “beat the bounds” with a cane during our Annual Blessing of the Garden on Rogation Sunday.

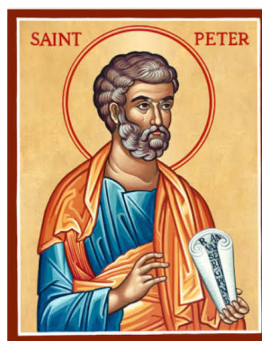
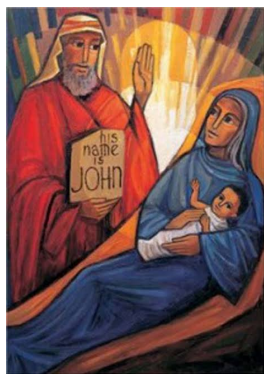
The custom of “Beating the Bounds” is ancient and can be traced to Anglo-Saxon England as early as the 5th Century. A parish in the English Church included the church building and a geographical area. The clergy and parishioners walked the parish borders to collectively remember its geographical boundaries. The processions were often associated with Rogationtide and included blessing the land and prayers for a healthy harvest.



No Parish event would be complete without a group photo and our Annual “Beating the Bounds” is no exception. The weather cooperated and the smiles tell the story.

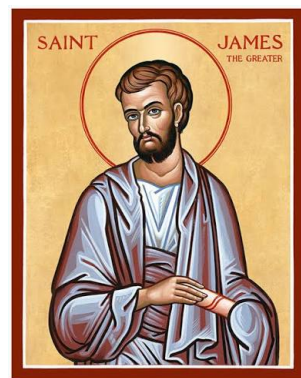
Summer 2026 Prayer Book Holy Days

June 24...Nativity of Saint John Baptist...*Book of Common Prayer, Pages 242-244*. John the Baptist holds a special place of honor because of our Lord's high testimony of his character and ministry. He is the last of the Old Testament line of prophets...the precursor and forerunner of Christ. He is the “voice of one calling in the desert...make a straight path for the coming of our God”...fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah 40.1-11. John was the son of Zechariah, a priest of the Jerusalem Temple, and of Elizabeth, a cousin of the Blessed Virgin Mary. His birth was foretold by an angel (St. Luke 1.13-20), who instructed Zechariah he should be called John. When it came time to name him, Zechariah called him John, and gave praise to God in the words of the *Benedictus* (St. Luke 1.68ff), one of the canticles appointed for Morning Prayer.



June 29...Saint Peter the Apostle...*Book of Common Prayer, Pages 244-246*. Saint Peter was without question a leader in the Jerusalem Church. He was a key player in the debate with Saint Paul over the need to have Gentiles circumcised and keep Jewish dietary laws before they could become full members of the Church. Peter lost the argument and later apologized to the people. Almost everything we know about Peter's life and personality is derived chiefly from the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, Paul's Letter to the Galatians, and tradition. He was born Simon Bar-Jonah in Bethsaida and was the brother of Andrew and a partner with James and John in the Zebedee Family Fishing Business. In the Gospel appointed for his Feast Day (St. Matthew 16.13-19), Peter declares Jesus to be “...the Messiah, the Son of the living God”. This prompts Jesus to tell Peter he couldn't have figured this out on his own...it was revealed to him. Jesus gives him the nickname “Rock” (i.e. Cephas or Peter). Jesus had insight into this lovable and very human Apostle who had his faith tested and persevered. Fourth century Church Historian Eusebius places Peter in Rome during the reign of Nero, where he was martyred in 64 AD. According to tradition, Peter was crucified head down.

July 25...Saint James the Apostle...*Book of Common Prayer, Pages 246-247*. Saint James is called “The Great” or “The Elder” to distinguish him from the other Apostle James called “The Less” or “The Younger”. The James whose Feast Day we celebrate this day was a son of Zebedee and the elder brother of John the Evangelist. He was the first of the Apostles to win the crown of martyrdom and the only Apostle whose death is recorded in the New Testament (Acts 12.1-2). Since the 7th Century he was reported to have undertaken a missionary journey to Spain. His body was supposedly translated to Santiago de Compostela, the popular site of pilgrimages to this day. However, it is unlikely he ever traveled far from Jerusalem, since according to Acts, his death occurred during the reign of Herod Agrippa I (43-44 AD).



The Transfiguration of Christ



**Thursday, August 6, 2026
12:15 PM Low Mass & Homily**



August 24...Saint Bartholomew the Apostle...*Book of Common Prayer, Pages 249-250*. Nothing is known about the early life of the man whose name is even something of a mystery. Bartholomew is a patronymic meaning "Son of Tolmai. He may have had another personal name. He is mentioned only in the Synoptic Gospels (Mark 3.18; Luke 6.14; Matthew 10.3) always in the company of

Philip, and in Acts (1.13). He is often identified with Nathanael (John 1. 45-51; 21.2) who is also shown in the company of Philip. According to 4th Century Church historian Eusebius, he visited India and left a copy of the Gospel according to Matthew in Hebrew. According to tradition, he was a missionary to Armenia and was martyred there along with Saint Jude Thaddeus. Armenia was the first country to officially embrace Christianity as a "State" religion. Bartholomew and Jude are the Patron Saints of Armenia and of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Rector's Vacation

Father Looney will be away from the Parish from July 1-23. Father Herb will officiate at services of Morning Prayer on July 5, 12 and 19. We will return to celebrating our regular Parish Mass on Sunday, July 26.

Discussion Group

The Sunday Discussion Group is on hiatus during July and August. We will resume meeting on Sunday, September 13, following the Coffee Hour.

Barbara's 90th Birthday



Barbara and Father Herb

Long-time parishioner, Barbara W, recently celebrated her 90th birthday with friends and family at a local Chinese restaurant in San Mateo. Barbara has always said how much she likes Chinese food and this was a special treat for her. She has been unable to attend Mass for several years. Father Herb and Father Craig see her on a regular basis to give her Holy Communion. She would love to have parishioners come and visit her.

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

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