

Trinity Sunday 2025
Sermon - Saint Joseph Parish
Father Craig Looney
Rev. 4.1-11 St. John 3.1-15

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Dorothy L. Sayers is considered one of the greatest and most influential crime novelists and lay Christian apologists of the 20th Century. She is best known for her fictional character, Lord Peter Wimsey, the aristocratic amateur sleuth with a knack for solving mysteries.

Mrs. Sayers was a devout Anglo-Catholic with strong views on the Sacraments, tradition, and the three-fold ministry. She was once asked what she thought about the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Her response is compelling...

...“The doctrine of the Trinity is not a problem to be solved. Rather, the Trinity remains a mystery that the Scriptures reveal, doctrine teaches, and the Christian confesses and praises. The doctrine of the Trinity is not so much the story of a “who-dunnit” as it is the story of the “who-is-it.” The doctrine of the Trinity is not so much a problem to solve as it is a revelation of the handiwork of an artist.”

Trinity Sunday commemorates a central tenant of the Christian Faith: God exists as one being in three distinct persons...the Father, the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit. Priests sometimes feel they should try to explain the dynamics of the Holy Trinity in a way we can grasp. I once described the Trinity as a relationship of love: The Father loves the Son, the Son loves the Father, and the love that flows between them is the Holy Spirit. A parishioner came up to me after Mass and said, “Well, Father, that’s all very fine. But I still don’t get it”.

The Doctrine of the Holy Trinity is important because it defines what we believe about the three persons of the Trinity. The Trinity is a dynamic love relationship we experience in our own lives in a mysterious and wonderful way. We should not try to lessen the mystery of the Holy Trinity by trying to explain what ultimately cannot be explained or fully understood during our lifetime. We should just let the Trinity be the Trinity.

The Holy Trinity enters our lives when we are baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is present in the Sacramental Life of the Church, through the Mass, the Daily Offices. In the Collect for Purity at the beginning of every Mass, we

acknowledge our hearts are an open book to God, and pray they will be made clean by the inspiration of his Holy Spirit, so we may perfectly glorify his Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. We're asking the Holy Trinity to transform our lives now and always.

In the Nicene Creed we confess our belief in ONE God the Father who created everything, in Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God, Incarnate (made flesh) by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, who suffered, died was buried, rose again and ascended to heaven, and in the Holy Ghost who proceeds from the Father and the Son. At the end of the Mass, the Celebrant gives the Blessing in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, now and always. And in the Commendation Prayer at the conclusion of a Requiem Mass, when the Celebrant asks God to give eternal rest to the dead person, who while he was alive was sealed with the sign of the Holy Trinity.

Theologians over the centuries have come up with complex formulas that try to explain the Trinity in ways we can understand. If we think about what Dorothy Sayers said, we shouldn't try to figure out the "how" of the Holy Trinity, we should be focusing our attention on the "Who" of the Holy Trinity. We do see the Holy Trinity at work in and through us...in the positive life changing events we experience in our own lives and the lives of those around us...and especially in the life and the work of Saint Joseph Parish and the Church around the World.

Mrs. Sayers said the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity is the handiwork of an artist. That artist is God, who has revealed himself to us as Trinity... three persons in One God...One God in three persons...the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit...who as the great hymn *The God of Abraham Praise* teaches us...was, and is, the same, now and forever.

Trinity Sunday commences the second half of the Church year. What we are called to do today is believe and let our faith grow in the mysterious love relationship we have with the Trinity and with each other. Any other questions we might have about the Holy Trinity...God will answer them later!

