

What is Trinity Sunday?



Trinity Sunday, officially called "The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity," is one of the few celebrations of the Christian Year that commemorates a reality and doctrine rather than a person or event. On Trinity Sunday, Christians remember and honor the eternal God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Trinity Sunday is celebrated the Sunday after Pentecost, and lasts only one day, which is symbolic of the unity of the Trinity. Eastern Churches have no tradition of Trinity Sunday, arguing that they celebrate the Trinity every Sunday. Westerners also commemorate the Trinity at every Eucharist, although they set aside a special feast day for the purpose as well.

The Nicene definition of the Trinity developed over time, based on Scripture and Tradition. The Scriptures call the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit "God," yet the three are also clearly distinct. For instance, St. John gives Jesus the titles *theos* and *monogenes theos* (God and Only-Begotten God) and has Jesus saying that the Father and Son are one. These references are in John 1:1, 18; 8:17-18; 10:30. It is scriptures such as these that led to the development of the Trinity doctrine. The Church had to reconcile the Divinity of Christ and the Holy Spirit with Jewish monotheism.

Over time, and with the aid of the Holy Spirit, the Church reflected on the implications of God's nature, and even began using the word Trinity by the middle of the 2nd century to describe the relationship between the Father, Son, and Spirit. When in the 4th century a presbyter named Arius denied the Father and Son were both true God and co-eternal, his bishop Alexander of Alexandria challenged him and deposed him. Eventually the Arian controversy spread, and the emperor Constantine, newly fascinated with Christianity, convened a council of bishops in AD 325 in Nicaea to deal with Arianism. It is there that the Church drew up the beginnings of the current Nicene Creed. In the latter half of the 4th century the Church clarified the doctrine of the divinity of the Holy Spirit by adding more text to the Creed.

Ultimately, Trinitarianism posits a dynamic God, whose ultimate nature is beyond human conception, yet who voluntarily operates within the created world. Trinitarianism also shows a loving God that is willing to become as we are so that we may become like Him. The implications of believing in Arius' God, a God unwilling to involve himself in our redemption, but who instead sent an angel of the highest order, did not escape the earliest Christians. As St. Athanasius was fond of saying "that which has not been assumed has not been redeemed," meaning that unless God truly became completely human, we could not be fully redeemed, because only God Himself is capable of truly redeeming humanity; an angel does not have this ability. Thus, the Trinity is not about Greek philosophy or pointless metaphysical speculation but about the heart of our salvation.

www.churchyear.net

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REDEMPTORISTS

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ESTABLISHED 1923

MASSES & SERVICES

Saturday: 5pm
(Anticipated Mass)
Sunday: 9am, 11am & 5pm
Monday – Wednesday 8am
Thursday Mass/Novena:
8am & 7pm
Friday, Saturday, Holidays: 9am
(Fridays in July & August: 8am)
Reconciliation
Saturday: 4-4:45pm
Adoration
Saturday 9:30-10am
Library Hours
Sunday: 10-10:45am, 4:30-5pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm

STAFF

Pastor
Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R.
Associate Pastor
Joseph Horo, C.Ss.R.
Office Manager
Virginia Fong
Pastoral Coordinator
Bertilla Watanabe
Bookkeeper
Corinna Siy
Youth Ministry Coordinator
Theresa Barao

OLPH School Principal

Lora Clarke

IN RESIDENCE.

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 olphchurchvancouver



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH

June 11, 2017

Trinity Sunday

Celebrate the Season of Great Feasts

Dear Friends & Parishioners,

Summer brings us one glorious feast after another. Last week we celebrated Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Trinity, next week we will celebrate, Corpus Christi, the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ.

The definition of Trinity is among the most difficult concepts to grasp in our faith because of our uni-dimensional approach to matters. The mystery is summed up thus: God is Three Persons in One. Each Person is distinct from the other but identical in Divine Substance. It was Jesus who revealed the Father and the Holy Spirit and thus Christians have always clung to this essence of the Triune Divinity.

This quote from Pope Benedict XVI perhaps sums up this relational concept of Trinity in a way which we can understand more easily. He was speaking in 2009 to a crowd gathered at St Peter's Square to pray the Angelus.

The "name" of the Most Holy Trinity is in a certain way impressed upon everything that exists, because everything that exists, down to the least particle, is a being in relation, and thus God-relation shines forth, ultimately creative Love shines forth. All comes from love, tends toward love, and is moved by love, naturally, according to different grades of consciousness and freedom... The strongest proof that we are made in the image of the Trinity is this: only love makes us happy, because we live in relation, and we live to love and be loved.

Read it again, slower this time! It is profoundly beautiful. Let us take some time this summer to meditate on the wonders of our Faith. May Mary our Mother who understands these matters in the depths of her being, guide us in living our lives in the Trinity.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Babu Mathew, C.Ss.R



NEWS & NOTICES

2016 Financial Report: A copy of the parish financial report is available for pick-up at the front of the church.

Food Bank Appeal: Our next Food Bank Appeal is on June 17th & 18th. Donations will go toward the Kitsilano Shower Program. Cash donations will go to their breakfast and bagged lunch to-go programs. The Shower Program is also requesting donations of specific men's clothing items - jeans, pants size 30-32, small t-shirts and runners/hiking boots. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Project Advance: Our Project Advance Appeal for this year has been launched. Please check your mail for a pledge form. There are also brochures at the church which you can use to make your donations. Our target for this year's appeal is \$102,000 to be used for the seismic upgrade. You can also make donations at www.rcav.org.

School Play: On Wednesday, June 14th at 12:30pm in the school gym, the students of OLPH will be staging a production of *The Fantastic Mr. Fox* by Roald Dahl. This much-loved story follows the vain attempts of three greedy farmers, Boggis, Bunce and Bean, to get rid of the fox who regularly steals food from their farms to feed his family. We invite one and all to come support our students and enjoy the hilarious performance! Doors open at noon.

OLPH Jr K Summer Camp: The Junior Kindergarten Program of OLPH Parish is excited to be offering a 2017 Summer Camp. This is a half-day program for children from 3-6 years old. Come join us for some Summer fun with fieldtrips to our local parks, the beach, clay-making, yoga and so much more. Camp Dates: Week 1 July 3-7 | Week 2 July 10-14 | Week 3 July 17-21. For further information please email jrkindergarten@olphbc.ca. Registration forms are available from the JrK classroom. Cost: \$175 per week (Snacks included).

Celebrate Life on Father's Day: June 18 is Father's Day, and also Pro-life Sunday! This is a day to honour the giving of life to others. Last year, we raised \$160,000 through your donations on Pro-Life Sunday, which was given to 22 local Pro-Life groups to support their life-affirming work. This year, there will be a second collection on Sunday, June 18, Father's Day, to help local pro-life groups in our Archdiocese. Your dollars will be spent to strengthen and uphold the value of human life from conception to its natural end. Envelopes will be available at your parish or you can give online today at rcav.org/prolife Please give generously.

Pro-D Day: There will be no school on Monday June 19 for OLPH students.

PEC Meeting: The next meeting is on Tuesday June 20 at 7pm in the Madonna Room.

PREP Pre-Registration: The Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) is for elementary school aged children who are not attending Catholic school. Pre-registration for the 2017/2018 school year is now being accepted. Please contact Elizabeth Towers at 604-440-8809 or email prep@olphbc.ca for information. Pre-registrations continue till the end of June.

PREP Teachers & Teaching Assistants Needed: Would you like to share your talents by helping out as a teacher or teaching assistant? PREP is for children Grades 1-7 who do not go to Catholic school but need to be educated in the Faith. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Towers at 604-440-8809 or email prep@olphbc.ca.

National Liturgical Conference: This Conference takes place on Monday, Nov. 6, from 7-9pm and Tuesday, Nov. 7 from 8:30am to 4:30pm at the Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel. There is a special rate of \$159 which will end on Oct. 6, 2017. Guest speaker is Father Michael McGourty, a liturgist from the Archdiocese of Toronto. Registration for both days, without lunch, is \$73 and \$105, if lunch is included. Registration for the Closing Banquet on Tuesday evening is \$35. For more info, please contact 613-241-9461 ext. 154 or visit <http://nlo.cccb.ca/index.php/announcements>

Men's Hostel in need of Mugs: If you have old mugs you're wanting to empty out of your cupboard, please consider passing them along to our guests. We always need more mugs because we encourage our guests to choose a mug for themselves to claim as their own and keep with them when they stay with us and to take when they leave as well. To donate, please drop-off items to Men's Hostel at 828 Cambie Street, Vancouver; John Paul II Pastoral Centre, 4885 Saint John Paul II Way or your parish office. Thank you for your simple and generous gift.

Stewardship Reflection

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..." -- JOHN 3:16

Is your love conditional? Is there a price others have to pay to receive your love? Are you generous with your time, money and possessions? If you give someone something, do you expect something in return? Do you give your time freely or do you "fit it in" when it's convenient for you? Pray for a grateful and generous heart.

Stewardship Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis

CALENDAR

JUNE

Children's Mass

There will be a Children's Mass today Sunday June 11 at 9am, the last one before the summer. All are welcome. If you would like to bring a plate of cookies or treats to share, please feel free to do so.

Worship in the Park



Join us for "Worship in the Park" on Sunday, June 18 at 10am at Trimble Park (West 8th and Trimble). The theme is "Welcoming the Stranger. The churches of West Point Grey jointly extend a warm invitation to all to attend this annual event. For info online "Point Grey Fiesta.

OLPH Triduum Mission & Feast

Archbishop Gerard Pettipas CSsR is our guest speaker at this year's Triduum Novena & Talks. This will climax with a special Mass to celebrate our feast day at 4pm on Sunday June 25 to be followed by a reception.

All are invited. Bring a large dessert to share at the Sunday reception.

-Thurs Novena & Talk June 22: 6:45pm

-Fri Novena & Talk June 23: 6:45pm

-Sat Novena & Talk June 24: 6pm (After the 5pm Mass)

-Sun June 25: Mass at 4pm (No Mass at 11am and 5pm)

No OLPH gathering is complete without great food and an opportunity to meet fellow parishioners, so join us for dinner after Mass. **Please bring a platter of dessert to share with others. Thank you!**

The Mission of Mary Today

Our Feast Day is coming up! On the Feast of the Visitation of Mary in May, Redemptorist Superior General Fr. Mark Brehl sent this message to all Redemptorists and Redemptorist Associates referring to the ongoing Jubilee celebrations.

During this Jubilee year of Pilgrimage of the Missionary Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, this Feast of the Visitation of Mary has special significance for us. The Missionary Icons blessed by Pope Francis are continuing to visit the Provinces, Vice-Provinces, Regions and Communities of the Congregation as we continue our Jubilee celebrations. Every week in Rome, we receive news about this extraordinary pilgrimage, and I am sure that you have followed many of these events in Scala News. Mary, Our Mother of Perpetual Help, continues to visit her people today, just as she visited and served Elizabeth so many years ago. As we prepare for the Novena and the Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, I would like to reflect with you on the meaning and purpose of this Pilgrimage of the Missionary Icon. This visitation of the Icon is truly a moment of grace and jubilation, 'the year of the Lord's favour'. I invite you to reflect together on our mission with Mary to be prophetic Witnesses of the Redeemer today.

On November 24, 2013, Pope Francis gave us the Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*. In this wonderful pragmatic document, the Holy Father calls all of us to be missionary-disciples and spirit-filled evangelizers in a 'Church which goes forth' (EG 20). In this context, he concludes his Apostolic Exhortation by presenting the Mission of Mary, the Mother of Evangelization in the Church today (EG 284 – 288).

In these wonderful paragraphs, which echo the Mariology of St. Alphonsus Liguori in a remarkable way, the Holy Father presents us with a new missionary mandate: Accompany Mary in her Mission today! I believe that this mandate must find resonance in the heart of every Redemptorist missionary and every one of our communities. In fact, the gospel with which Pope Francis begins his reflection on Mary is the gospel passage for the Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help (John 19:26-30).

The Holy Father writes that from the Cross, Jesus entrusted Mary with a 'special saving mission', to accompany us as a mother. "Only after doing so did Jesus now recognize that 'all was now finished'" (EG 285). Mary journeys with us as a mother, so that we might read in this maternal image all the mysteries of the Gospel, all the mysteries of Redemption.

Then Pope Francis offers us six very important dimensions of the mission of Mary in the world today:

1. She teaches us how to transform the world into 'our common home' (*Laudato Si'*) with tenderness and maternal love.

Our Pentecost Potluck Celebration after last week's Sunday Mass brought together a lovely mélange of colours and flavours from our parish.

Although there was no cultural presentation, the Renaissance Fencing Club which has been using the school for the last 15 years for their classes did a cool demo of classical fencing... the first time for the parish! As usual there was an awesome selection of food from North and South America as well as Europe and Asia. There were also performances by Abigail Henick, Elizabeth Towers and some very inspired children!

A Lively Pentecost Celebration



OLPH: MISSION AND FEAST DAY



2. Mary embraces in friendship and brings joy to all those in need, sensitive to their human situation. This missionary accompaniment is a theme developed further in *Amoris Laetitia*.
3. Like her Son, Mary has compassion and mercy for all those who suffer, understanding their pain from her own experience. In *Misericordiae Vultus*, Francis invites us to make this mission our own, in union with Jesus the Redeemer.
4. Mary is a sign of hope in the struggle for justice. She knows the sorrow of the 'birth pangs'. In her *Magnificat*, she speaks of justice with the 'homely warmth' of tenderness. She teaches us the 'revolutionary nature of love and tenderness' (EG 288) to transform and heal the world.
5. As a missionary-disciple, Mary 'draws near' to God's people and 'accompanies them through life'. Mary shows us the meaning of solidarity! She walks by our side. She is faithful and constant.
6. In the Acts of the Apostles, and in her shrines, Mary creates spaces for gathering 'pilgrims' together, especially the poor and suffering. She prays with them as together these pilgrims await the outpouring of the Spirit.

