

St. Peter, Holy Guardian Angels, and St. John the Baptist Parishes
(902) 535-2053

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June 4, 2023

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

The fundamental dogma, on which everything in Christianity is based, is that of the Blessed Trinity in whose name all Christians are baptized. The feast of the Blessed Trinity needs to be understood and celebrated as a prolongation of the mysteries of Christ and as the solemn expression of our faith in this triune life of the Divine Persons, to which we have been given access by Baptism and by the Redemption won for us by Christ. Only in heaven shall we properly understand what it means, in union with Christ, to share as sons in the very life of God.

The **Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity** was introduced in the ninth century and was only inserted in the General Roman Calendar of the Church in the fourteenth century by Pope John XXII. But the cultus of the Trinity is, of course, to be found throughout the liturgy. Constantly the Church causes us to praise and adore the thrice-holy God who has so shown His mercy towards us and has given us to share in His life.

The **First Reading** is from *Exodus 34:4-6; 8-9*. Exodus, the second book in the Old Testament, describes the exit of the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt under the leadership of Moses whom God appointed as their deliverer. The verses read today describe Moses's second meeting with the LORD on Mount Sinai. The LORD had told him to come there again so that he would rewrite the ten commandments on two new tables of stone. The mystery of the Blessed Trinity—was not revealed to the Jews of the Old Testament. They were not yet fit to accept this truth. Surrounded as they were by nations that practiced polytheism (many gods) there would be danger that the Jews would see three Gods in the Trinity—it would look like polytheism to them. Hence it was not revealed to them and therefore we have no Trinitarian text in the Old Testament which could be read on this feast of the Blessed Trinity.

The text chosen gives the basis for its eventual revelation. The LORD made a covenant with the Israelites. He made them his Chosen People, through whom he

would eventually send his divine Son and the Holy Spirit to give man—the whole chosen human race—the possibility and the means of reaching the destination that he had planned for them from all eternity. The covenant made by God with Moses on Mount Sinai was the preparation for the revelation of the dogma of the Blessed Trinity and its relationship with our salvation.

The **Second Reading** is from *2 Cor. 13:11-13*. These three verses are the conclusion of St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. The letter was written during his third missionary journey, 53-58, and probably from Ephesus where he was from 54-57. Paul had much advice and correction to give them and he also praises them. In these last verses he repeats his appeal for unity and fraternal charity and wishes the blessings of the Holy Trinity upon them.

By celebrating the feast of the three divine Persons today, we too are invoking on ourselves the blessings St. Paul invoked on the Corinthians. We need the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ if we are to reach heaven. He has already put us on the right road by baptism, and has made us receptacles of grace, but that is only the first step although a supernatural one. Every human act we perform in the state of grace—even our eating and drinking, and our daily tasks—is moving us along the road to heaven. But if we lose the divine grace through mortal sin, all our actions, even holy actions, are useless as regards our heavenward journey.

The **Gospel** is from *John 3:16-18*. We have in these verses a part of the conversation that Jesus had with Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a rich Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin, the supreme ecclesiastical court of the Jews. He came to Jesus at night for fear of his fellow Pharisees. Although the Holy Spirit is not mentioned in this text from St. John's gospel, the text is included in the readings for the feast of the Blessed Trinity because two of the Persons are mentioned. They are clearly distinguished one from the other, yet both are the one God. God the Father sent God the Son into the world (in human nature) in order to bring eternal life within the reach of all men.

While we must admit from the evidence so clearly given in the story of our redemption and elevation to adopted divine sonship, that the three Persons of the Trinity cooperated in that work, we cannot claim we understand the mystery of three Persons in one God. We can and must admit the fact on the evidence presented to us, but we must also admit that our human intellects are too finite to grasp the essence, the nature of that fact.

How could it be otherwise? If our limited minds could grasp the divine nature and all its qualities it would no longer be divine—it would be limited like ourselves. There are many finite created things in our world which we cannot fully understand. How then could we claim that we should be able to understand the infinite? Of infinity itself we have only a negative description—something that has no beginning or an end. When we get to heaven our minds will be illuminated with greater grace but even then there will always be something new in God for us to see and admire. In the meantime our attitude toward the Trinity should be one of sincere gratitude for having placed us on the road to heaven.

Trinity Sunday

The dogma of faith which forms the object of the feast is this: There is one God and in this one God there are three Divine Persons; the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God. Yet there are not three Gods, but one, eternal, incomprehensible God! The Father is not more God than the Son, neither is the Son more God than the Holy Spirit. The Father is the first Divine Person; the Son is the second Divine Person, begotten from the nature of the Father from eternity; the Holy Spirit is the third Divine Person, proceeding from the Father and the Son. No mortal can fully fathom this sublime truth. But I submit humbly and say: *Lord, I believe, help my weak faith.*

Why is this feast celebrated at this particular time? It may be interpreted as a finale to all the preceding feasts. All three Persons contributed to and shared in the work of redemption. The Father sent His Son to earth, for "God so loved the world as to give His only-begotten Son." The Father called us to the faith. The Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, became man and died for us. He redeemed us and made us children of God. He ever remains the liturgist *par excellence* to whom we are united in all sacred functions. After Christ's ascension the Holy Spirit, however, became our Teacher, our Leader, our Guide, our Consoler. On solemn occasions a thanksgiving *Te Deum* rises spontaneously from Christian hearts.



The feast of the Most Holy Trinity may well be regarded as the Church's *Te Deum* of gratitude over all the blessings of the Christmas and Easter seasons; for this mystery is a synthesis of Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. This feast, which falls

on the first Sunday after Pentecost, should make us mindful that actually every Sunday is devoted to the honor of the Most Holy Trinity, that every Sunday is sanctified and consecrated to the triune God. Sunday after Sunday we should recall in a spirit of gratitude the gifts which the Blessed Trinity is bestowing upon us. The Father created and predestined us; on the first day of the week He began the work of creation. The Son redeemed us; Sunday is the "Day of the Lord," the day of His resurrection. The Holy Spirit sanctified us, made us His temple; on Sunday the Holy Spirit descended upon the infant Church. Sunday, therefore, is *the* day of the Most Holy Trinity.

—Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony

Please call the office:

902-535-2053

Rev. John Yake, I.V. Dei

Instructors for Baptism:

Mary Fougere, SJB (902) 535-2699

Vera Doucette, HGA (902) 785-4018

Weekday Masses

Are again cancelled until further notice.

Saturday, June 10, 2023

SJB 4:00 PM

+ *Kenny Cosman, Jr.*

SP 5:30 PM

+ *John (Jackie) Pottie*

Rev. Angus MacDougall has agreed to celebrate Saturday Masses for as long as it takes. Many thanks are owed to him for his generosity.

Receipts

St. John the Baptist

May 27, 2023

Envelopes & Loose \$ 810.00

Total \$ 810.00

**St. Peter's
May 27, 2023**

Envelopes & Loose \$ 1,000.00

Candles 8.00

Papal Charities 50.00

Parish Dues 100.00

Building Fund 40.00

Total \$ 1,198.00

Holy Guardian Angels

May 28, 2023

(Mass Cancelled)

Envelopes & Loose \$ 518.00

Candles 22.00

Missals 5.00

Total \$ 545.00

COMMUNITY NEWS

Friday, June 16, 2023 is the Feast of the Sacred Heart Day of Global Rosary Relay to pray for priests. The Cure of Ars (St. John Vianney) taught that the priesthood was the love of the Sacred Heart. We are asked to say a rosary on that day for priests. Please call Joan Rogers (902) 535-3321 (SP), Maureen Sampson (902) 587-2517 (HGA) and Valerie Cunningham (902) (302)-2655 (SJB) by June 4, 2023, to enter your name.

MEMORIAL MASS FOR FR. ART MACKINNON

Fr. Art MacKinnon, a young man from New Victoria, Cape Breton, was a Scarborough Missionary. He was murdered on June 22, 1965 in the Dominican Republic where he was ministering as Pastor. Fr. Art was opposed to the military junta running the

Dominican Republic that was in power. Seeing the injustices being carried out; he successfully organized a strong populist opposition to the dictatorship. One evening, Fr. Art got a sick call and was being escorted by two locals to answer the purported call. He was found later, shot dead on the side of the road. In his efforts to relieve the suffering of the people, he sacrificed his life. Please join us for a Mass in honour of Fr. MacKinnon at Parish of Saint Leonard, New Waterford on June 22, 7:00 PM. Members of the K.O.C. will also be in attendance to celebrate Fr. MacKinnon's heroic life.

Tea & Talk: An invitation to join with other women to share TEA & TALK at Holy Redeemer Convent, 24 Neville Street, Whitney Pier, situated behind the Pier Post Office. Tuesday, June 13th at 1:30 pm till 3:30 pm.

This invitation is open to women of all ages. This is an attempt to provide an opportunity for women to join with others to simply share a cup of tea and experience the joy of being together.

For further information phone 902-270-4840 or 902-539-6331.

Who: United Way Cape Breton

What: Seeking temporary accommodations in CBRM for those who have been displaced for emergency home repairs due to Hurricane Fiona damage.

When: Between now and the end of August 2023

Where: Cape Breton Regional Municipality

If you're able to help with this, please reach out to Bailey at bailey@unitedwaycapebreton.com or 902-562-5226. Thanks so much!

The Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine in Mabou has been open and very much visited during the winter months.

The gift shop at the Shrine is now open for the season. The hours for the gift shop are 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, everyday including Sundays and Holidays.

The Shrine is always open.

We are looking forward to seeing you all again.

Call 902-945-2221 if you have any questions.”

Correction Knights' Fundraiser: Your Knights of Columbus Council 14280 are conducting a fundraiser over the next few weeks. The draw is scheduled for **June 15th and not 10th**

First Prize: 10 pounds of lobster and 10 pounds of crab.

Second Prize: 10 pounds of crab.

Third Prize: 10 pounds of crab.

Contact Knights; Rene Samson (HGA) (902) 587-2426, George Landry (SJB) (902) 535-3248 or Danny Madden (SP) (902) 535-3366.

All proceeds are donated to local charities.

A 200th Anniversary Commemorative Souvenir Booklet and Vintage Calendar are now available for sale. An e-transfer account has also been setup and we can arrange to mail out a package to anyone. For more information on these great souvenir items, contact Steve (902-631-4460) or Blair (902-535-4107). Books and Calendars are \$20.00 each.

Father's Day Buffet Dinner

Complete with Dessert, Coffee & Tea

Sunday, June 18th. L'Ardoise Community Centre

11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Admission:

Adults \$15.00

Children (11yrs.& Under) \$8.00

*Sponsored by: L'Ardoise 200th
Anniversary Committee.*

Come join us for the movie night at [Our Lady of Fatima Parish](#) Hall on June 11, 4:30 PM. We will be featuring the movie *-The Letter*. This documentary follows their journey to Rome and the extraordinary experiences that took place there, and is packed with powerfully moving personal stories alongside the latest information about the planetary crisis and the toll it's taking on nature and people.

We can't wait to have you enjoying the movie with some crispy popcorn.