

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2009

TRINITY SUNDAY

"The feast of the Holy Trinity"



Today we celebrate one of our core beliefs: The Holy Trinity: **1** God---**3** Divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Our Readings reflect our belief.

In the 1st reading we heard about God, our Creator. Our 2nd Reading and Gospel mention all 3 Divine Persons...the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

It's amazing how frequently we refer to the Trinity; often without being aware of doing so.

We come into Church, dip our hand in the Holy Water at the entrances and make the sign of the Cross... While doing so, we say the short prayer from the words in the Gospel: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

We then may kneel down in our pew to say a few prayers. Usually, we begin again with the sign of the cross.

After our Gathering Song at the start of Mass, we continue with what? The sign of the cross. Throughout the Mass, there is reference to the **TRINITY**. In addition to the Creed which we will pray shortly, I'll share just 3 examples:

First, after the Glory to God, the priest says, "Let Us Pray". We then have a prayer addressed to God the Father... The prayer concludes with: "We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ... in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever".

A second instance is at the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer. The priest sings: "Through Him (referring to Christ, the Son of God), with Him, in Him... in the unity of the Holy Spirit... all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, forever and ever." Then all sing: "Amen". This is our YES and affirmation of belief in the Trinity.

The third example is before the Dismissal, the priest blesses all present with the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

One other common use of a prayer to the Trinity is what is called the *Glory Be*. Sometimes this is prayed following an *Our Father*, then a *Hail Mary*. Also, it is prayed at the end of each decade of the rosary, following 10 *Hail Mary*'s. We all know it so let's say it together: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen."

Our belief in the Trinity is referring to an invisible reality. Here is an Icon portraying one person's image of the Trinity. An Icon is like our statues. It points beyond itself to a mystery greater than us. After Mass I invite you to come up and join the Trinity. They are at a table waiting for us. They are awaiting us in love and deep desire. The Father is on the left. The Son is in the middle. The Holy Spirit is on the right. Come and be moved within your heart and soul as you enter into the representation of the mystery we celebrate today... the **HOLY TRINITY**.

Icon of the Holy Trinity, written by St. Andrei Rublev for the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Trinity Monastery, Sergiev Posad, Russia, c. 1410.

(Currently held at the Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow)

