THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

June 7, 2020

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God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

John 3:16

Treasures From Our Tradition

The liturgy seems reluctant to return to Ordinary Time from the joys of Easter, and so the festivities extend to today's celebration of the mystery of God's relationship to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Gospel today centers the question of our relationship with God in the struggle of Nathaniel to believe that it is possible to experience "rebirth" in the Spirit. The answer of Jesus is that God's response to the messes of this world is the mystery of saving love in Jesus Christ and the outpouring of an empowering Spirit.

Western church architecture often tops a church building with a spire, indicating humanity's reach to a transcendent God. The Eastern Church responds with onion-shaped domes, indicating the Spirit's being poured down upon humanity precisely at this locale, the gathering of the faithful for the Divine Liturgy. This familiar design encodes a great mystery: here, at the Lord's table, we experience the outpouring of the Spirit for the life of the world. Nathaniel came to Jesus by night, since he was still working out the meaning of his life. A life attuned to the inner life of the Trinity must always be given to the light of day.

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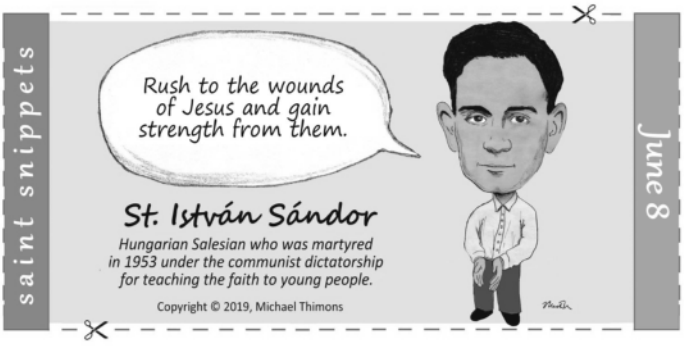

Grace And Eternal Life

Moses is a man after our own hearts, for haven't we all dealt with more than our share of stiff-necked people? Indeed, haven't we all gotten a little stiff-necked ourselves at times? Complaining . . . impatient . . . quick to anger. How lucky for Moses—how lucky for all of us—that God is exactly the opposite! And we don't even have to guess about it. The Lord tells us so directly. Accordingly, Moses does what we all need to do. Even with the tablets in hand, he bows down and asks for God's forgiveness and grace.

Encouraging us to live together in peace—and in God's favor—the Apostle Paul knows all about this grace, joyfully invoking Christ's grace on us along with God's love and the Holy Spirit's. "Rejoice," he says. And when it comes to rejoicing, John offers us the gladdest words of all: the assurance of eternal life through Jesus.

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Readings for the Week

Monday:	1 Kgs 17:1-6; Ps 121:1bc-8; Mt 5:1-12
Tuesday:	1 Kgs 17:7-16; Ps 4:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 5:13-16
Wednesday:	1 Kgs 18:20-39; Ps 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab, 8, 11; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3; Ps 65:10-13; Mt 5:20-26
Friday:	1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-16; Ps 27:7-9abc, 13-14; Mt 5:27-32
Saturday:	1 Kgs 19:19-21; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-10; Mt 5:33-37
Sunday:	Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; 1 Cor 10:16-17; Jn 6:51-58

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday:	The Most Holy Trinity; Julian Calendar Pentecost
Monday:	Tenth Week in Ordinary Time
Tuesday:	St. Ephrem
Thursday:	St. Barnabas
Saturday:	St. Anthony of Padua

Today's Readings

First Reading — The LORD, merciful and gracious, rich in kindness and faithfulness (Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9).

Psalm — Glory and praise for ever! (Daniel 3).

Second Reading — Brothers and sisters, rejoice. Live with one another in peace, and the God of peace will be with you (2 Corinthians 13:11-13).

Gospel — God did not send the Son to condemn the world, but to give it abundant life (John 3:16-18).

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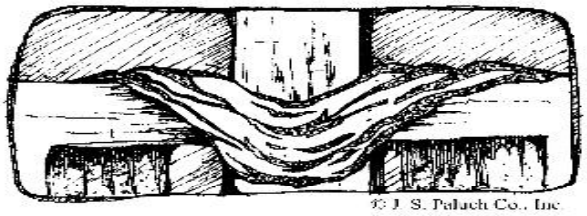

The Most Holy Trinity
June 7, 2020

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.

— *John 3:16a*

Saint Bernadette Soubirous 1844-1879)

April 16

With Immaculate Mary's "Ave Maria" for its refrain, Andy Williams' "Village of Saint Bernadette" peaked at #7 on Billboard's Top 40 at Christmas 1959, airing on radio stations all over America. Imagine! April 16 marks the feast of Bernardette Soubirous, the teenager who, combing a refuse heap for firewood, saw a "beautiful lady" who identified herself in words Bernadette faithfully reported to the bishop, though she did not understand their meaning: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Relentlessly interrogated, she never wavered in her story or sweetness. Chronically ill all her life and dead at thirty-five, Bernadette left behind the shrine at Lourdes where healing waters still flow from the spring that her "beautiful lady" pointed out to her.
—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

The Most Holy Trinity

Throughout the liturgical cycle of Sundays and seasons, there are certain days that invite us to focus on particular aspects of our faith. Today is such a day, when we celebrate the solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. On this Sunday after Pentecost, we reflect on the mystery of our Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. From the moment of creation, through the encounter of Moses with God on the mountain, through Christ's life, death, and resurrection, with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, our understanding and appreciation of God's very life has unfolded and deepened. Jesus came into the world to make God's life and love known, the love of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the love of God that brings us peace.

God Is Merciful And Gracious

At moments in our lives we may wonder how we know who God is or what God is like. Today's readings help us to feel secure in placing our faith in God and being assured of God's unfailing love. When Moses went up the mountain as the Lord had commanded him, God powerfully described himself, "The Lord, the Lord, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity." Jesus shows us the depths of this life of God. He came not to condemn the world but to save it. As people in relationship with God, we often fail. We walk away from God's ways, fall into sinfulness, and then, with the Lord's grace, come to our senses and return. God's words to Moses and the very life of Jesus show us that when we do so, we can still rely on God's mercy and kindness, because love is God's very nature.

Called To Be Like God

We might consider this testimony to the life and love of God and think to ourselves, so what? Knowing that God loves us is reassuring, and may help us place our faith and trust in the Lord, but something more naturally follows—as followers of Jesus, we are called to become more like him. When others look at us, they should be able to say that we are "merciful and gracious, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity." This gets at the heart of what it means to be a Christian. Our daily decisions, words, and actions are to reflect the merciful graciousness of God. We are able to do this through the indwelling power and presence of the Holy Spirit. In what ways are you becoming more Christ-like? May the grace of the Lord, love of God, and fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you as you renew your commitment to show and share God's kindness to others!

Today's Readings: Ex 34:4b–6, 8–9; Dn 3:52, 54, 55; 2 Cor 13:11–13; Jn 3:16–18

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