



June 4, 2017 Pentecost Sunday Mass during the Day Lectionary: 63 Gospel JN 20:19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Spiritual Reflection: St. Ambrose wrote the following about a person who receives the Holy Spirit: "Remember, then, that you received a spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear. Keep safe what you received. God the Father sealed you, Christ the Lord strengthened you and sent the Spirit into your hearts as the pledge of what is to come."

Spiritual Questions:

1. Which gift of the Holy Spirit do you rely upon the most?
2. Which gift of the Holy Spirit do you lack or wish you had more of?
3. What does it mean "to be sealed"?
4. Compare the above passage with John 14:27?
5. How can you grow in knowledge or appreciation of the Holy Spirit?



June 11, 2017 The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity Lectionary: 164 Gospel JN 3:16-18

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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Spiritual Reflection: From Scott Hahn: “Of course, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not “gender” terms, but relational terms. The language of the divine family is theological, not biological. The terms, rather, describe the eternal relations of the divine Persons who dwell in communion.

Those terms are not arbitrary. God Himself has revealed them, and they most perfectly express Who God eternally is. The Trinity is God’s personal identity, which does not depend upon creation. Other titles—such as Architect, Shepherd, and Physician—are metaphorical terms that describe His relationship to creature in creaturely terms. God is “architect” only after fashioning the universe. He is “Physician” only when He has imperfect creatures who need healing. He is “Shepherd” only when He has creatures to guide and protect. Yet, before creation, from all eternity, He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is His proper name. Only “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,” the divine name, reveals God’s essential identity in terms that do not depend upon creation.”

Spiritual Questions:

1. How would you explain the Blessed Trinity to someone?
2. Which person of the Blessed Trinity do you feel closest too?
3. Can you think of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in relational terms and not gender?
4. Why do you think God chose to reveal himself in this manner?
5. What are other terms that you might use to describe God?



June 18, 2017 Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ Lectionary: 167 Gospel JN 6:51-58

Jesus said to the Jewish crowds: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

Spiritual Reflection: A reflection on the Eucharist by Fr. Ronald Rolheiser: "We sometimes forget that Jesus was born in a barn not a church and that the God of the Incarnation is as much about kitchen tables as ecclesial altars. God is as much domestic as monastic. This important to keep in mind as we try to understand the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the body of Christ, a continuation of the Incarnation, and, like Jesus' birth, is meant to bring the divine into concrete everyday life."

Spiritual Questions:

1. What can you do in your home to make you appreciate the Eucharist more?
2. What does it mean to live a Eucharistic life?
3. Does the Mass change you? If so how?
4. How can you make Christ present in the lives of others?
5. How do you prepare to receive the Eucharist?



June 25, 2017 Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 94 Gospel MT 10:26-33

Jesus said to the Twelve: "Fear no one. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So, do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father."

Spiritual Reflection: The value of a human person does not fluctuate with the market like the value of a house or depreciate the more it is used like a car.

Spiritual Questions:

1. What are some ways in which you place a value on others?
2. How do others judge your worth?
3. How do you judge your worth?
4. How does God judge your worth?
5. How can you show others what they are worth?