



Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

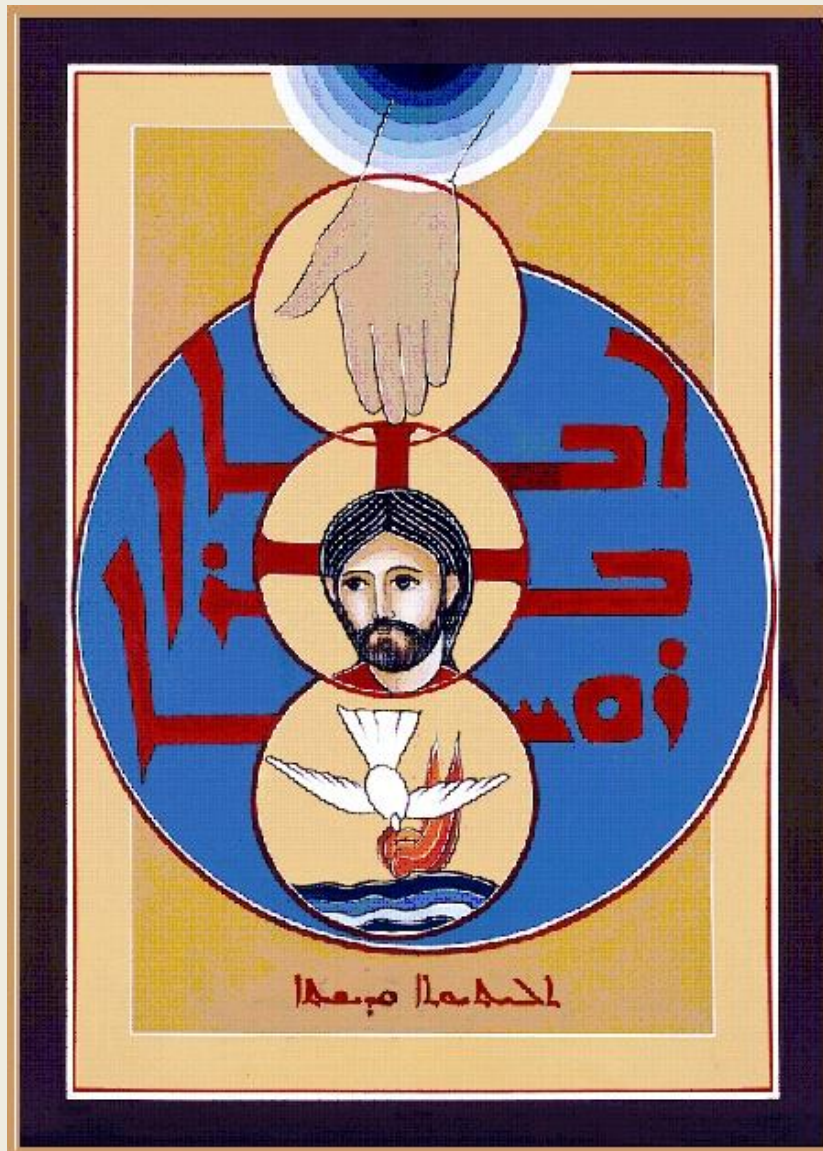
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Holy Trinity Sunday May 22, 2016



From the Letter of Saint Paul to Romans 11-25-36

Brothers and Sisters,

I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers,
So that you will not become wise in your own estimation:
A hardening has come upon Israel in part, until the full number of the Gentiles comes in,
And thus all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

“The deliverer will come out of Zion, he will turn away godlessness from Jacob;
And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”

In respect to the gospel, they are enemies on your account;
But in respect to election, they are beloved because of the patriarchs.
For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable.

Just as you once disobeyed God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience,
So they have now disobeyed in order that,
By virtue of the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy.
For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all.

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways!

“For who has known the mind of the Lord
Or who has been his counselor?”

“Or who has given him anything that he may be repaid?”
For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be glory forever. Amen.

Praise be to God always!

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them.
When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.
Then Jesus approached and said to them:

“All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,
Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

This is The Truth, Peace be with you.

The Mystery of the Holy Trinity

The first Sunday after Pentecost is the feast of the Most Holy Trinity! The Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith, the mystery of God's inner life. The sacred liturgy begins and ends with the sign of the cross made in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But how often do we think of ourselves as deeply and intimately related to each of the divine Persons, as adopted children of God?

God's inner life is love, a union of giving among three Persons. God puts relationship and community first. One of the important dimensions of our Trinitarian God is the community of love in the mystery of the Holy Trinity. For Christians, the Trinity is the primary symbol of a community that is held together by containing diversity within itself.

If our faith is based in this Trinitarian mystery that is fundamentally a mystery of community, then all of our earthly efforts and activities must work toward building up the human community that is a reflection of God's rich, Trinitarian life.

But without Christ, we could never know God as Trinity, which is to say, we could never know God as love. We know the Trinity, not because we have reasoned our way to it, but because we have been touched by the Trinity's entry into history."

The Christian life is essentially a Trinitarian life. In baptism, that sacrament of faith which incorporates us into the mystical body of Christ and so into the new relationships to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Christian is privileged to know God because the Word was made flesh. Christ is above all the revelation of the Father.

The Father has created us to be his children; and we are his children because of Christ's life, death, resurrection and ascension. And through the power of the Holy Spirit, man is adopted as son; his new life of grace will be a journey to the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit.

It is the Mystery of love that begins with baptism. We are called to the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit. It's all about Love—the Love who created us (the Father), who destroyed death's power over us (the Son), and who calls us to an eternity of love (The Holy Spirit).

REMEMBER IT

**Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,
Baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

Matthew 28:19

Deacon's Corner

Today I invite you to look with me more closely at the words of a prayer that goes back all the way to my childhood as one of the primary prayers that I recite numerous times each day. This prayer is the Act of Love:

O my God, I love you above all things, for you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of Thee and I forgive all who have injured me and ask pardon from all whom I have injured.

Sometime I say the words but perhaps, don't necessarily look deeply into each word's meaning. And in looking closely at the words written above, it is easy to see that the Act of Love is a compilation of the two most important commandments: "Love the Lord, thy God, and love your neighbor as yourself".

So the question presented by today's Deacon's Corner is this: Do we really love God above all things and do we love our neighbor as ourselves? The easy answer is: of course I do. After all, I go to Church every Sunday (or more often), put a few dollars in the offering basket, say hello to my neighbor when I see him (or her) etc. And while this constitutes love on an outward social level, can we even fathom the extent of God's love for us as we have seen over the past 2,000 years? Would we be willing to give up what God, our Father, has given us to show His love for us. For me, therein lies the question. What are we willing to give up to show our love of God?

Are we willing to go way past the idea of the social norms we follow in order to show God how much we love Him? Would we be willing to actually give up our lives to show how much we love Him? Well, He did for us. God, our Father, sent His only Son to walk with us only to be persecuted and die a horrific death on the Cross. All so that our sins can be forgiven, all so that we can have eternal life. NOW THAT IS WHAT I CALL TRUE LOVE AND FORGIVENESS. Remember what Jesus said to the Father while on the Cross; "Father forgive them for they know not what they do".

So the next time we get angry, or when someone does something that we feel is wrong, stop for a moment and ask for God's help. Remember that the Holy Spirit dwells within each of us.

Mass Intentions for Next Sunday May 29, 2016

**09:30 Mass: Betty Shaker and Frances Zamito *(Req. by the Shaker Family)*
Fred Guttas *(Req. by Sara Guttas)***

11:30 Mass: Alice Balesh Rogers *(Req. by Salem Rogers)*

Mass Celebration



Holy Trinity Sunday: P. 416
Anaphora of the Twelve Apostles: P. 745

Sunday Readings



Reading: Romans 11:25-36
Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Mass Intentions



9:30 AM

The deceased of the Shaker Family *(Req. by the Breit Family)*
Fred Guttas *(Req. by Sara Guttas)*

11:30 Mass:

Rev. father Boutros Khoury and Shamel Khoury
(Req. by The Khoury Family)

Schedules	9:30 A.M. Mass	11:30 A.M. Mass
Altar Servers	Joseph and George Estephan Andres Ballines, Leila Nehra	Youssif and Reem Hattar, Estifan Azzo, Cassandra chahoud, Ramez Sayegh
Readers	Rima Antoon	Julie Akouri (English) Nabil Sayegh (Arabic)
Ushers	Nabil Zahra Frank Kermend	Ellie Masud, John Albani, Albert Dakhoul, Marc Cortbawi

Announcements

* Graduation Mass

To all who have graduated this year or are about to graduate from high school, or college, we would like to invite you to a celebration on May 29th at 11:30 Mass. After Mass, we will cut the cake, and enjoy some refreshments in the Shaker Hall (a small gift from the church to congratulate all the newly graduated.) Please contact the office to let us know if you are graduating this year, or fill out the sign-up sheet outside in the foyer, after church. Names must be listed by no later than May 22.

* Christians in Syria

In help of the Christians in Syria, a fundraising event will be held in Alhambra Palace Restaurant, on Friday June 10 at 8:30 Pm. For more information please Call Mr. Pierre Azar (224-402-2000) or Dr. Renati Abboud (773-895-9202).

Let us remember

And pray for our Beloved Ones who died during the month of May

† Sophie Nahra	† Barcha E. Lebbos	† Agnes Dumit	† Alexander Rash
† John Bomrad	† Rocco Pietrandoomo	† Fouad Amawis	† Eli Joe Jage
† Amelia Lutfy	† J. Herbert Flagh, Sr.	† Fred Guttas	† John Jage
† Naseem Fahel	† Fred A. Malouf	† Reine Charto	† Colette Woods
† Dixie Haddad	† Frances Zamito		

COLLECTION

Sunday May 15, 2016: \$ 1,884.00

“Generosity is giving more than you can,
and pride is taking less than you need.”

(Kahlil Gibran, Sand and Foam)