



SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017 SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY
Circling in on the Trinity

Dante, the writer of *The Divine Comedy*, created images of eternity more enduring than most theology. His description of the Trinity is curious: “In the profound and clear substance of the supreme light, three circles appeared to me; of three different colors and one single dimension.” In our Creed, we affirm the relationship of Jesus to God as “light from light.” Circles represent infinity, and one dimension absolute unity. But the colors? Dante isn’t telling. He does call this unity Knower, Known, and Knowing, as well as Lover, Loved, and Loving. By any other name, our God is One.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; John 3:16-18 (164).* “The Lord, the Lord, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity.”

MONDAY, JUNE 12
Fear not, Jesus is near

Pope John Paul II called Jesus the “Good Samaritan of the human family.” Jesus comes among us as a stranger yet proves himself to be our best friend in time of need. He dares to come close to us in situations where even those around us draw away in dread and fear. His presence heals the wounds life inflicts, and when he finds us in a fatal hour, he brings us back to his Father’s house. For this reason we are deeply blessed in times of loss and sorrow, persecution and lowliness. There is nothing to fear, because Jesus is with us.

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 1:1-7; Matthew 5:1-12 (359).* “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

TUESDAY, JUNE 13
MEMORIAL OF ANTHONY OF PADUA, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
Get to it!

You never see a statue of Saint Anthony that’s short and fat, but he was. Perhaps we can all expect a makeover with canonization! But when folks looked at Anthony, they saw a radiant holiness that made some drop to their knees. His magnetic personality attracted criminals and heretics alike to conversion. His preaching was greatly in demand, and at the age of 36 he basically died of exhaustion. He was canonized within a year. Anthony wasted no time in giving his gift, and it didn’t take the church long to decide what a gift he was to us. What you have to give, offer it today.



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

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TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 1:18-22; Matthew 5:13-16 (360).* “You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?”

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14
Heavenly news

The passing away of heaven and earth is not necessarily the literal end of the universe. Rather, heaven and earth were radically changed with Jesus’ death and Resurrection. Anyone who hears the Good News of Jesus lives in a new age with a new understanding of universal truths. So for us Christians that means not only must we respect others, we must love them, even our enemies. This is undoubtedly a new concept of heaven and earth.

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 3:4-11; Matthew 5:17-19 (361).* “Until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law.”

THURSDAY, JUNE 15
Be a generous giver

Catholic Relief Services, founded in 1943 by the U.S. Catholic bishops, offers emergency assistance where it’s most needed around the world. CRS reaches more than 60 million people in 94 countries and territories in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. One way we can atone for some of the missteps we’ve made along the way is to give generously to those in need—that is, after we’ve reconciled with those we have hurt, whenever possible. So make your amends, and then consider supporting CRS, the second largest distributor of U.S. government relief food in the world (www.crs.org).

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 3:15—4:1, 3-6; Matthew 5:20-26 (362).* “Go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

FRIDAY, JUNE 16
God’s mercy keeps us from the cutting edge

Imagine if every time we do something wrong, we have to cut off parts of our bodies in order to get to heaven. That’s what Jesus suggests to those who think that the only way to avoid hell is to eliminate all sin from their lives. Virtue is good, but it won’t get you to heaven. Only God’s forgiveness opens those pearly gates for us. Better to depend on God’s faithful love than the shaky prospect that we might be successful in the quest for perfection.

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 5:27-32 (363).* “It is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.”

SATURDAY, JUNE 17 MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Yes, we can write salvation history

Was there ever a *yes* surrendered to God as graciously and completely as the fiat of Mary of Nazareth? “Let it be done to me,” this sturdy teenager agreed, to the outrageous proposal of an unexpected angel caller. This was a *yes* shouted into the darkness of history, reverberating into an unknown and possibly perilous future. This was a *yes* that affected everyone who ever lived and ever would live. Did Mary know on that ordinary day that salvation history was being made? Or was it that she was always keenly aware—as perhaps we are not—that salvation history is made in every hour, with every human decision?

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Matthew 5:33-37 (364).* “Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’ Anything more is from the Evil One.”