

Our Lady, Help of Christians

Parish Newsletter & Announcements

O Mary, powerful virgin, thou art the mighty and glorious protector of the Church; thou art the marvelous help of Christians; thou art terrible as an army in battle array; thou alone hast destroyed every heresy in the whole world. In the midst of our anguish, our struggles and our distress defend us from the power of the enemy, and at the hour of our death receive our souls in paradise. Amen.

(Prayer to Our Lady, Help of Christians composed by St. John Bosco)

– The Most Holy Trinity –

We, the faithful, are instructed in so many truths simply through following along and living out the liturgical year. Holy Mother Church, in Her wisdom, presents to us through the liturgy a rhythmical progression of Salvation History - from the Jewish people in the Old Testament chosen by the Father to prepare for the salvation of the world (the season of Advent), to the Word made flesh who took our human nature so that it could become the instrument of our salvation (Christmas to Easter), and finally the Holy Ghost who animates the Church (from Pentecost through the last half of the year). In the six months from Trinity Sunday to Advent the Holy Ghost (whose reign begins at Pentecost), comes to repeat what Our Lord taught in the first six months of the year. St. Augustine says, "The Holy Ghost does in the Church what the soul does in all the members of the body."

The Church is persistent in finding ways to express the dogma of the Blessed Trinity to the faithful through the repetition of three in art and architecture - and we still see these expressions in the divisions of choir, nave, and sanctuary; in the three steps to the altar; and in looking at historic Church architecture we can often find three doors, three gables, three towers, and on many decorations on sacred vessels the number three is often expressed - from the triangle borrowed from geometry, interwoven circles, and the humble clover - all denote and express a profound faith in the Holy Trinity.

The special Feast of Trinity Sunday has its origins in the seventh century, but was fixed on the universal Church Calendar by Pope John XXII in 1334. The Athanasian Creed, probably written in the sixth century in response to the heresy of Arianism, is prayed following the Mass for Trinity Sunday since it was the first Creed explicitly stating the equality of the three Divine Persons.

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, and undivided unity: we will give glory to Him, because He hath shown His mercy to us.

(Introit, Tobias 12:6)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 3 - The Confraternity of Christian Mothers. Mary Jo Fernandes will offer an informational meeting on Saturday June 3rd, following the First Saturday Mass. Fr Mackey has graciously agreed to start this group at our parish and serve as our Father Director. Our monthly meetings will consist of Mass, Confession, Adoration, Benediction, and then our prayers that the Confraternity pray as a group and as we progress, speakers. Many of you have the Mother Love prayer book which is the prayer book of the confraternity. Copies of the Mother Love prayer book can be obtained through Angelus Press: <https://angeluspress.org/products/mother-love>

June 4 - Graduation Blessing - Father Mackey will give a special graduation blessing to all high school and college graduates on June 4, immediately following the 10:00 am Mass.

June 7, 9, 10 - Ember Days - the summer Ember Days always fall during the Octave of Pentecost. Each Embertide is characterized by a seasonal emphasis. For the summer Ember Days we offer to God the first-fruits of the new season, and pray for priests who, on Ember Saturday, will receive Holy Orders.

June 10 - Teen Hike - There is a teen hike scheduled for teens of the parish; teens will depart the church following the 8:00 am Mass. The hike will take place on Monte Sano. Rain dates will be announced via email if necessary. For further information, or if you have a teen and would like to be included on the teen email list, please contact Mary Hand (mandmhand@yahoo.com)

June 11 - Trinity Sunday - The Athanasian Creed is traditionally recited following Mass on Trinity Sunday (see note above). The Creed will be provided in the pews and Father Mackey will lead the profession of the Athanasian Creed following both Masses.

June 18 - Eucharistic Procession - In honor of Corpus Christi (which falls on June 15 this year), Father Mackey will lead the parish in a Eucharistic Procession following the 10:00 am Mass. The procession reminds us of how the Israelites followed the Ark of the Covenant, the presence of God before them. We follow a treasure far more precious in processing behind Our Lord Himself, present in the Eucharist. It is right to feel a holy pride in forming His escort while He is in our midst. *(Source: The St. Andrew Daily Missal)*

OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH INFORMATION

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