



St. Olaf Catholic Church ■ Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402 ■ 612-332-7471 ■ www.SaintOlaf.org

Thinking About The Trinity

By Father David Haschka, SJ

Here I sit, on the day after Pentecost, facing the annual preacher's nightmare: Trinity Sunday. So, why is Trinity Sunday a preacher's nightmare, you ask. Because it seems impossible to say something new and inspiring about this impenetrable doctrine without the risk of heresy. (For a clever portrayal of this challenge as faced by Saint Patrick in Ireland, watch this 3-minute video from our Lutheran fellow Christians: <https://youtu.be/KQLfgaUoQCw>.) Clearly the doctrine of the Trinity is mostly defined by what the Trinity is not. The classical teaching derives from various councils of the Church declaring various interpretations of the doctrine as heresy. So perhaps prudence lies in sticking to the traditional formulations. Here is one of the more ancient, taken from a 5th century credal statement attributed to the patriarch Saint Athanasius.

And the catholic faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; neither confounding the Persons; nor dividing the Essence. For there is one Person of the Father; another of the Son; and another of the Holy Spirit. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is all one; the Glory equal, the Majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is; such is the Son;

and such is the Holy Spirit. The Father uncreated; the Son uncreated; and the Holy Spirit uncreated. The Father unlimited; the Son unlimited; and the Holy Spirit unlimited. The Father eternal; the Son eternal; and the Holy Spirit eternal. And yet they are not three eternals; but one eternal. As also there are not three uncreated; nor three infinites, but one uncreated; and one infinite. So likewise the Father is Almighty; the Son Almighty; and the Holy Spirit Almighty. And yet they are not three Almighties; but one Almighty. So the Father is God; the Son is God; and the Holy Spirit is God. And yet they are not three Gods; but one God. So likewise the Father is Lord; the Son Lord; and the Holy Spirit Lord. And yet not three Lords; but one Lord. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity; to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord; so are we forbidden by the catholic religion; to say, there are three Gods, or three Lords. The Father is neither created nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone; not made, nor created; but begotten. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son; neither made, nor created, nor begotten; but proceeding. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits. And in this Trinity none is before, or after another; none is greater, or less than

another. But the whole three Persons are coeternal, and coequal. So that in all things, as aforesaid; the Unity in Trinity, and the Trinity in Unity, is to be worshipped. He therefore that will be saved, let him thus think of the Trinity.

Concise perhaps, but still not very inspiring. Last week, I attended a brief symposium on the Trinity presented by one of the professors from the Saint Paul Seminary who succinctly summarized the development and articulation of the doctrine of the Trinity from Athanasius through Augustine and Thomas Aquinas. Alas, I found more concision but still not much inspiration. So, what to do?

I am convinced that God reveals God's self as Trinity precisely because Trinity is (how, who, what) God is. We are not expected to comprehend Trinity since we surely cannot comprehend God's self. Yet God wills to enter into a deep, personal, and intimate relationship with each of us. We are invited to hold God in our minds, our hearts and our imaginations. Let's work on that while allowing the traditional formulations to correct and guide our images and understanding.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Additional info at: SaintOlaf.org/events

On **Memorial Day** (Monday, May 28th) we will have a special Mass at 10:00 a.m. There will be no Mass at 7:00 a.m. or 12:00 noon and no confessions. The parish office will be closed that day.

Archdiocesan Marriage Day Celebration: Saturday, June 2 at the Cathedral of St Paul, at 10:00 a.m. there will be Mass, renewal of vows, and a short reception to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony. Couples married one or more years may request a commemorative certificate signed by Archbishop Bernard Hebda. To request a certificate, please contact Sonya Flomo at the Archdiocese, 651-291-4488 or flomos@archspm.org.

The **Book Club** next meets Sunday, June 3, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. *"The Shepherd Who Didn't Run"* by Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda.

This **Father's Day** remember fathers, living or deceased, with a gift toward church flowers and environment. Suggested offering of \$5.00 or more per remembrance. Name of honorees and donors will be posted. Forms can be found in the pamphlet racks. Make checks payable to St. Olaf Church and write "Father's Day Flowers" on the memo line. Place form and donation in the collection or bring to the parish reception desk by June 4.

Emmet Cahill Live in Minneapolis on Tuesday, June 12, 7:30 p.m.: Emmet Cahill, internationally acclaimed Irish tenor and lead singer with Celtic Thunder, will give a concert at St. Olaf, with the participation of the choir communities here. A portion of the proceeds will support St. Olaf ministries. You may purchase tickets at the door or online at www.emmetcahill.com. The St. Olaf concert is listed under "Tour Dates" at June 12, Minneapolis, MN.

Mark the Date: Fr. David Haschka's last weekend at St Olaf will be June 23 and 24. On Sunday, June 24 he will preside at the 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon liturgies. He will attend hospitality after the 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 12 noon Masses to say good bye and receive well wishes. Thank you, Fr. Haschka, for three years of priestly ministry at St. Olaf!

Who Are You? If you have been coming to St. Olaf but have not yet signed up as a parishioner, we wholeheartedly encourage you to consider becoming a member. We would love to welcome you into this unique and diverse Downtown Minneapolis faith community. Membership ensures you receive informative material on events at St. Olaf, financial topics and on educational and faith formation classes. Let us know who you are. For more information, please contact Fran Rusciano Murnane at 612-767-7635 or FRMurnane@saintolaf.org.



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Additional info at: SaintOlaf.org/events

Saturday, May 26

9:00 a.m. Centering Prayer
12:00 p.m. **Mass/Confessions**
4:00 p.m. **Mass**

Most Holy Trinity, May 27

6:00 a.m. **Mass**
8:00 a.m. **Mass**
9:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
10:00 a.m. **Mass**
12:00 p.m. **Mass**
4:00 p.m. **Mass**

Monday, May 28 — Memorial Day

Offices Closed
10:00 a.m. **Mass**

Tuesday, May 29

7:00 a.m. **Mass/Confessions**
12:00 p.m. **Mass/Confessions**

Wednesday, May 30

7:00 a.m. **Mass/Confessions**
7:00 a.m. AA
12:00 p.m. **Mass**
12:00 p.m. AA
7:30 p.m. Alanon

Thursday, May 31

7:00 a.m. **Mass/Confessions**
12:00 p.m. **Mass/Confessions**

Friday, June 1

7:00 a.m. **Mass/Confessions**
12:00 p.m. **Mass**
12:30 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, June 2

9:00 a.m. Centering Prayer
12:00 p.m. **Mass/Confessions**
2:00 p.m. African Choir Rehearsal
4:00 p.m. **Mass**

Pastoral Care Visits: If a parishioner becomes hospitalized, homebound or enters a health care facility, and would like to be visited by someone on the Pastoral Care Team, please call the parish office, 612-332-7471, and our receptionist will take the necessary information.