



Which One is the Holy Spirit?

Entering into the Sundays after Pentecost, or Ordinary Time

We will celebrate Pentecost on May 31; and then Trinity Sunday the following Sunday, followed by twenty Sundays after Pentecost, then All Saints on Nov. 1, and back to three more "Sundays after Pentecost," the last one being the Feast of Christ

Mark Your Calendars

Sundays, in June, 9:00 a.m. Service ~ Zoomed from St. Paul's.



the King (Nov. 22). These "Sundays after Pentecost" are also traditionally known as "Ordinary Time" in our liturgical (church) calendar, sharing this title with the Sundays after Epiphany.

The icon above is that written/painted by St. Andrei Rublev (d. c. 1430). It is sometimes called the icon of the Hospitality of Abraham, as it is a representation of what is traditionally believed to be a "prefiguration" of the Trinity in the story, in Genesis 18:1-8, of the three visitors (angels) to Abraham and Sarah, three visitors who were greeted as one ("My Lord") and offered hospitality in their travels.

This icon has come to be known as the "Troitsa" (Russian for Trinity), and it is now a very popular icon among Episcopalians, who with other Christians are experiencing something of a rebirth of interest in the Trinity and in a trinitarian form of spirituality. If you google "Rublev's Trinity icon," many

helpful interpretations of this beautiful icon will become available to you.

But before you google, please try to settle back for about five minutes, and let yourself be carried into the icon. And as you do this, **allow yourself to be taught by the icon itself**, rather than trying to impose a particular interpretation upon it. Part of the holy energy of an icon is its ability to bring us into the experience of grace, in this case the grace of the Trinity. And even though there are "common graces or gifts" which the triune God wants to share with all of us -- such as, getting to know Jesus better and living out our baptismal covenant -- there are also

special graces or favors which are directed just at each of us in a very personal way. And hopefully your meditative gaze into this icon will enable you to sense that as you enter anew into your “ordinary time.”

St. Andrei’s painting of this icon is a special grace which he received. What special grace is our triune God offering you? Especially in this challenging time of the COVID-19 virus.

In this way, your “ordinary time” will also become the “extraordinary time” of grace for you.

Five minutes, then, of allowing this icon to lead you further into your spiritual journey ... Try to stop everything and do this before going further.

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Which figure is the Holy Spirit? I asked that question as a way of helping us to celebrate the mystery of Pentecost, which is the feast of the Holy Spirit in a very special way. Perhaps this icon may help us grow in our appreciation and even savoring of the Holy Spirit?

It is never good to start with the assumption that WE know how to interpret the icon. Every icon is a response to grace, and sometimes even the icon writer/painter may not know beforehand what the Spirit is prompting. And in fact the painter may be led under the impulse of the Spirit to “see” and “experience” ever new and deeper realities of the Holy God. All we can do is to be open, allowing ourselves to be carried by grace.

So which one is the Spirit? The tradition tends to favor the figure on the viewer’s right. Whom might the Spirit be facing? Can you hazard a thought about which one may be the Father, and which the Son? Can the posture of the Spirit teach us anything? And the colors? The eyes, and the hands? Where are they pointing?

Do you see the platform (dais) at the bottom? Why is it open? What might that suggest? Is that opening the way in which we can enter into the mystery of the Trinity? So does this icon portray us somehow? Does it take up our “ordinary time” into its “extraordinary” mystery?

I hope you long for more. If so, you can begin with google, Wikipedia, etc. A beautiful little book you may enjoy is Ann Persson’s *The Circle of Love: Praying with Rublev’s Icon of the Trinity*.

“There exists the icon of the Trinity by St. Andrei Rublev; therefore, God exists.” – St. Pavel Florensky

Blessed + be,
Father Bill

Truisms: For a time such as this.

- After witnessing Jesus’ ascension, the disciples returned to Jerusalem. As firsthand witnesses, they prayerfully waited for the Holy Spirit. Interim time is important.
The Rev. Canon Angela F. Shepherd, former Canon for Mission, Diocese of Maryland



- "The work of the church is essential.
The work of caring for the lonely, the marginalized, and the oppressed is essential.
The work of speaking truth to power and seeking justice is essential.
The work of being a loving, liberating, and life giving presence in the world is essential.
The work of welcoming the stranger, the refugee and the undocumented is essential.
The work of reconciliation and healing and caring is essential.
The church does not need to "open" because the church never "closed". We who make up the Body of Christ, the church, love God and our neighbors and ourselves so much that we will stay away from our buildings until it is safe. We are the church."
The Rev. Deon K. Johnson, Bishop Elect, Diocese of Missouri.

- Today, we pray... for all who have contracted coronavirus,
We pray for care and healing.
For those who are particularly vulnerable,
We pray for safety and protection.
For all who experience fear or anxiety.
We pray for peace of mind and spirit.
For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table for public safety,
We pray for policies that recognize their plight.
For those who do not have adequate health insurance,
We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.
For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status,
We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.
For our brothers and sisters around the world,
We pray for shared solidarity.
For public officials and decision makers,
We pray for wisdom and guidance.
Dear God, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.
Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen
Dianne A. Smith, St. Andrews Church, Cleveland, Diocese of Ohio



"Story time: my mom is funny- she's kinda surprised at all of the neat places she's been and cool things she's accomplished. Any one that knows her is not. She's always been that amazing. But sometimes we don't realize how beautiful we really are. One of the things that I think is very typical of my mom is the types of relationships she cultivates. Since her involvement in the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE), she's extended our family far across state lines. For many years, mom has chauffeured here and there so she and the other ladies can participate in various and sundry events. (She's actually one of the youngest of her group). Petersburg,

Virginia has always been her home, (she has lived in Maryland for 42 years) which is probably part of the reason she bonded almost immediately with the UBE members in the Diocese of Virginia, who live in Richmond. Over time, she became very close with Ms. Anna (she's seated in the first picture with my brother and mother), and Ms. Gladys. Now Ms.

Anna and Ms. Gladys are old enough to be my grandmothers. The entire time I've known them, neither one of them drove. So that fell to my mom. One of my favorite mom stories is years ago, there was a Transformation and Renewal Conference at Kanuga in Hendersonville, NC. Many retreats have been held there, and it's a favorite place of my mother's. I understand the views are just breathtaking- high, high in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Fun fact- my mom is afraid of heights. This particular retreat, only my mom, Ms. Gladys and Ms. Anna could go. So my mom has to drive. It's just the 3 of them, so they take my mom's car. Back then, it was the little old silver Elantra, 5 speed. Another fun fact- my mother has never like driving manual transmissions. The event at Kanuga went well, and once it was over, they got back on the road to make their way home. Mountains can be tricky, and, as mountains are prone to do, there was a rock slide on the planned route. So now what? They stop at a hotel and the nice person at the front desk gives my mom directions. Later on, they stop for lunch. They are approached by this big, burly trucker. (And by my mom's standards, anyone taller than her 5' 2" is big). He must have overheard these 3 little ladies (as Ms. Anna and Ms. Gladys are shorter than my mom) discuss the directions. To their delight, this trucker says "you don't want to take that road," there is a better way. (Good) "This route's going to take you up in the mountains, but you'll get around faster". As you can imagine, the idea of going even higher into the mountains, in her not favorite car, with two non-drivers, is not my mom's idea of fun. Nevertheless, she persisted. Following the trucker's advice (trucker/angel) they made it around with no further issues. And it actually didn't take that much more time. So yeah, my mom's pretty darn cool. Highly accomplished. And just the best mom ever. I dedicate this to her, to my adopted grandma Ms. Anna, and to the memory of Ms. Gladys, who passed away yesterday at somewhere close to 100, because we're really not sure. May light perpetual shine upon her."

Ama Brown Fenton



Stewardship

Thank you for your continuing financial support during this period of uncertainty due to COVID-19. The Sunday service (via Zoom) and church work and bills are still on their usual schedule. It is very important for all of us to keep our pledges up to date. Even though we are not physically meeting, other donations you may wish to make, in thanksgiving, memory, or other designations will be listed in the appropriate bulletin. We know that it is the occasion, not the flowers, you want to acknowledge. We appreciate those of you who have been giving faithfully.

Pledge Payment Options

- 1 Mail checks to St. Paul's. Please remember to including any special offerings building fund, and flower/altar/other donations, in addition to your pledge or regular contribution.
- 2 Payments can be made through the Diocese.

Directions: go to www.episcopalmaryland.org

On home page - click on "Give to My Congregation"

Scroll down to St. Paul's, Mt. Airy. Put in pledge/donation amount

Fill in bottom of the form. Click on submit payment.

Your name/pledge/donation will be sent to St. Paul's. As usual, St. Paul's will properly record your financial gift.

Linda S. Sharp

Stewardship and Scrip: "For a time such as this," when we all have to buy groceries, get gas, go to the pharmacy etc., wearing our face mask, for your convenience **Scrip is available.** This is an important way to help St. Paul's financially. Contact Pete McIntosh by phone, 410-984-3363 or email, pjmacin@aol.com, to place an order. The challenge to buy at least \$100 worth of gift cards each month is still on. So during this troublesome time perhaps you can double this amount. Thanking you in advance for your support.

Peter McIntosh, Chair.



YOU ARE THE VITALITY OF ST. PAUL'S:

NOW, more than before, we ask you **to review and meditate on the vitality of our parish.** The members of your Long-Term Planning Committee for St. Paul's have come to understand that God is resurrecting the church community into new life. We see this as part of the life-cycle of this living organization. The committee members have discovered this through prayer, reflection, personal stories and discussion. On December 8th, during coffee hour, Fr. Bill facilitated the discussion as to where St. Paul's is, right now, on the Life Cycle Chart. At the Annual Meeting a written report of this committee was presented. Please re-read it. Then, with fresh eyes, answer the following questions again.

Where/how are you finding joy at St. Paul's? Where/how are you finding purpose here?
Where/how are you finding your connection to God at St. Paul's? Are your answers the same as they were before when you were asked these questions; or are they different? **Perhaps, now, having more time at home, you can jot down your answers and revisit them with new lenses as we move through unsettle and yet hopeful times.**

May those of our parish who have entered into eternal life now know the full empowerment of the Spirit, especially Patricia Marquis and Landon Reeve, and may their families and loved ones know your consolation. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Cards may be sent to:

Patricia Marquis c/o Steve Marquis - 1 Summit Ridge Ct, Germantown, MD 20874

Landon Reeve c/o James Reeve, - 3275 Jennings Chapel Rd., Woodbine, MD 21797

For those who live alone or know others that do, the Maryland Department of Aging provides a free service, "Senior Call Check." The purpose of this service is to give "peace of mind for those home alone." It will place an automated daily call (land line or cell) to the individual at a regularly scheduled time. If the call is not picked up after three attempts, the service will call the individual's designated person, on their behalf, to check on him/her. All details, including how to sign up for this service, can be found at <http://www.aging.maryland.gov> or by calling, 1-866-502-0560. Lee Hajek, Pastoral Care

Congratulations to:

Max Tuel, grandson to John and Helen Tuel, for his graduation from University of West Florida in Logistics and Management. As you can imagine, the ceremony was virtual. The Tuel Family is planning a graduation ceremony at Thanksgiving time, if possible. Helen Tuel

Ceili Horrigan, our granddaughter, graduated with an AA degree from Carroll Community College. She has worked full time as HR Manager at BJ's in Westminster and part time as PT assistant throughout her schooling. We are so proud of her. She has been accepted at Stevenson University but is uncertain how she will proceed due to Covid19. Ceili is the oldest of five girls in a single parent home. She amazes me everyday. Kathleen & Ron Alexander

Happy Father's Day to all our dad's and those that have been Dads to us. God Bless you and keep you.

Upcoming Events

Sundays in June:

Church Service, 9:00am, via Zoom

St. Paul's Nearly New Thrift Shop:

Thrift Shop closed till further notice due to COVID-19

Please hold on to your donations till we are back in business. Thank you.

Happy Birthday to:

Linda Barnes	June 05
Ginny Chandler	June 18
Becky Wilcher	June 21
Pete McIntosh	June 25
Ron Alexander	June 26



Happy Anniversary to:

Dick & Doris Wilcher June 16
John & Helen Tuel June 27

Lord, Hear Our Prayers.

Especially now, we need to pray for All. Please call or send a note to those who are shut-in. For May we are focusing on Trudi Lawson. Trudi's address is: Angel's Touch, 12799 Buttercup Ct., West Friendship 21794. If you have additions/deletions to the prayer list please call or email the Parish Office.

Prayer List

Nancy McIntosh; Sandra & Stanley Napier; Gerlinde Phlaumer-Yeater; Natalie Gahm; Trudi & Dave Lawson; Bryan Landry; Terri Coates; Susan; Pam; Trish; Ruth; Joe; Sandra; Bill; Phyllis Heffner, Susan Kelley, Jaxon & Nathan Buckley, the Fentons; Erin, Shawn, Peyton, Maddy, Doris Sharp; Jean Ellen



Prayer for Healing

Dear Jesus

*Divine Physician and Healer of the Sick,
we turn to You in this time of illness.
O dearest Comforter of the troubled,
alleviate our worry and sorrow with
Your gentle love,
and grant us the grace and strength to accept
this burden.
Amen*

Pastoral Concerns

Pastoral issues and concerns are important to us. Please contact the church office, (410) 489-4411, email: stpaulschurch-mtairy@verizon.net

Vestry Officers & Members

Jeff Spaulding: Senior Warden
Pete McIntosh: Junior Warden
Treasurer: Linda Sharp
Registrar: Nancy McIntosh
Wendy Gahm William Toole
Kathleen Alexander Stephen Jones
Suzanne Bourg Phyllis Weston



St. Paul's "A Shining Light in the Community"

Prayer List Request Form

Please help us to refresh our prayer list! Take a minute to list those people that you want included on the list and mail to the parish office.

For 3 months _____ Prayers requested for: _____
Long-term _____ Submitted by: _____
Date Submitted _____



MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission

is: To carry the good news of Jesus Christ into the community by word and deed and to help all people experience God's presence in their daily lives.

Fathers in Our Lives

We give our thanks, Creator God, for the fathers in our lives.

Fatherhood does not come with a manual, and reality teaches us that some fathers excel while others fail.

We ask for Your blessings for them all and forgiveness where it is needed.

This Father's Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways--both big and small--they lift children to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers pass early or are absent; grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, teachers, pastors and coaches and the women of our families.

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You. In Your Holy name, O God, we pray. Amen.

- Rev. Chuck Currie

*Any Man Can be a Father
But it takes a SPECIAL
Person to be a
DAD*

