

# MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

JUNE 11, 2017 – HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

## SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

### Sacred Scripture Part II

St. Augustine wrote the following about Sacred Scripture: “If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don’t like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself”

### 3. Bible is actually a Library of Books

When I was growing up Buffy the Vampire Slayer was a really big phenomenon. The show focused on a young girl who was chosen to be the “Slayer” (a super hero with a special talent for killing vampires). The vampires in the stories were horrible blood sucking soulless demons than when exposed to sunlight would turn to ashes. Fast forward about twenty years a series of books and movies came out called “Twilight.” These books were about a young girl who fell in love with a vampire. The author of the “Twilight” series changed two important characteristics about vampires in her book. She made a group of them good (which is impossible because they are traditionally soulless) and she declared that vampires sparkled when they encountered sunlight instead of bursting into flames.

I soon discover that when I was talking to people about vampires, that I could no longer assume that they meant the same thing I did

when I used the word “vampire.” Context became very important.

In much the same way, we Catholics feel that context is the key when understanding the Bible. The Bible is in many ways not one book but seventy-three books and these books are not at all from the same genre. Some of the books are historical and others are law book. The book of Psalm is a Jewish hymnal and many of the New Testament writings are letters meant to be read out loud in community. Any one of the books of the Bible may be made up of more than one style of literature. For example, we do not read the passion accounts within the Gospel the same way we read a parable from the Gospel.

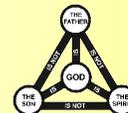
### Lectionary: 164 Gospel JN 3:16-18

**Spiritual Reflection:** From Scott Hahn: “Of course, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not “gender” terms, but relational terms. The language of the divine family is theological, not biological. The terms, rather, describe the eternal relations of the divine Persons who dwell in communion.

Those terms are not arbitrary. God Himself has revealed them, and they most perfectly express Who God eternally is. The Trinity is God’s personal identity, which does not depend upon creation. Other titles—such as Architect, Shepherd, and Physician—are metaphorical terms that describe His relationship to creature in creaturely terms. God is “architect” only after fashioning the universe. He is “Physician” only when He has imperfect creatures who need healing. He is “Shepherd” only when He has creatures to guide and protect. Yet, before creation, from all eternity, He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is His proper name. Only “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,” the divine name, reveals God’s essential identity in terms that do not depend upon creation.”

### Spiritual Questions:

1. How would you explain the Blessed Trinity to someone?
2. Which person of the Blessed Trinity do you feel closest too?
3. Can you think of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in relational terms and not gender?
4. Why do you think God chose to reveal himself in this manner?
5. What are other terms that you might use to describe God?



The Bible is in many ways more complicated and dynamic that we will ever know or be able to grasp and this is another reason why we should have a sense of awe when we approach it.

#### 4. Translation

At the end of my sophomore year, I was told by my high school French teacher that I spoke French like a Spanish speaking cow and that she would give me a "C" for French II if I agreed not to take French III my junior year. I quickly agreed and that pretty much ended my foreign language studies. Most of you reading this book are probably like me and read your Bible in English. This is fine but we must remember that doing this means we are reading from a translation. The original writing of the book in the Bible that you are reading from probably was Greek or Hebrew. This is important because sometimes there are words that

do not translate neatly from one language to another. For example I have been told over and over again in my studies that the word we read as "repent" in our English Bibles comes from the Greek Word "Metanoia" which would more accurately mean "to put on a new mind or change one's way of thinking. This is why reading the footnotes in one's Bible and commentaries about the Sacred Scriptures can do a lot to enhance a person's understanding of the Word of God.

#### 5. Reader Response

Another important thing to remember about the Bible is that the human authors had a particular audience in mind when they wrote their book of the Bible. Knowing this can help us gain more information behind the symbolism used in the stories. For example the story of the Good Samaritan becomes all the more shocking when you realize just

how hated Samaritans were by the Jewish people of Christ time. The author hints at this by concluding his story with the God-fearing Jew who followed the Commandments refusing even to use the word Samaritan (Luke XX). The fact that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey has deeper meaning when you learn that a Jewish King only rode a donkey during a time of peace. Otherwise He would have ridden in on his war horse. God literally was coming to his people in peace and what did we do to Him? If nothing else try imagine what it was like to be a first century Jew or Gentile hearing these stories for the first time. You will see that Jesus was a very controversial person and He was definitely anything but boring.

## PRAYER(S) OF THE WEEK

### Prayers to the Holy Spirit

Here are some unique prayers to the Blessed Trinity

#### PRAYER TO THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

O God, Thou who art one in nature and three in persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, first cause and last end of all creatures, the infinite Good, incomprehensible and ineffable, my Creator, my Redeemer, and my Sanctifier, I believe in Thee, I hope in Thee, and I love Thee with all my heart.

In the midst of Thine infinite happiness, Thou didst choose me, through no merits

of mine, in preference to countless other creatures, who would doubtless have corresponded with Thy blessings better than I have done; Thou didst love me from eternity; and when my hour in time had come, Thou didst draw me from nothingness into earthly existence and didst bestow upon me Thy grace, as a pledge of everlasting life. From the depths of my misery, I adore Thee and I give Thee thanks. Thy holy Name was invoked over my cradle to be

my profession of faith, my plan of action, and the only goal of my earthly pilgrimage; grant, O most Holy Trinity, that I may ever be inspired by this faith, and may carry out this plan with perseverance, so that, when I have reached the end of my journey upon earth, I may be able to fix my gaze upon the blessed splendors of Thy glory. Amen.

#### PRAYER TO THE HOLY TRINITY

Glory be to the Father,  
Who by His almighty power and

love created me, making me in the image and likeness of God.

Glory be to the Son, Who by His Precious Blood delivered me from hell, and opened for me the gates of heaven.

Glory be to the Holy Spirit, Who has sanctified me in the sacrament of Baptism, and continues to sanctify me by the

graces I receive daily from His bounty.

Glory be to the Three adorable Persons of the Holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY TRINITY**

Dear Holy Trinity, united in perfect love, All Three of You co-existed in one Being. Oh, Holy Trinity, come down upon me for I, Your poor miserable

servant call upon You. Oh Father, You are mighty and have done great things for me. I am Your servant. Use me as You wish. O, loving, caring, Jesus, You have saved me from total damnation. How shall I repay Thee? Love, Peace and Joy? Dearest Holy Spirit, without You I would be lost. You give me the strength I need. Holy Trinity, I submit myself to You. Amen.

**Catholic Quiz**



**Last Week's Answers:** Which of the following does not belong?

1. Lilly Hammer Keys Christ Child  
St. Joseph is never depicted with Keys

2. Lourdes Moscow Knox Tepeyac  
Mary never appeared in Moscow

3. Messiah Christ Son of Man Anointed  
Messiah, Christ, & Anointed all refer to the fact that Jesus was anointed by God

4. Peter Bartholomew Andrew Thomas  
Andrew did not have a second name Peter=Simon Bartholomew=Nathaniel Thomas=Didymus

This week's questions: Identify the following Objects

- 1. 
- 2. 
- 3. 
- 4. 



**CATHOLIC HUMOR**

Catholic Laughs

**Ten More Catholic Pickup Lines**

- 11. How about you and me get some fish this Friday?
- 12. I like the black spot on your forehead.
- 13. God has used you to teach me what true love really is
- 14. Are you Saint Anthony, because you found my heart?
- 15. If I had a bead for every time I thought of you I would have a joyful mystery.
- 16. What are your plans for tonight? Feel like a Bible study?

- 17. The word says "Give drink to those who are thirsty, and feed the hungry", how about dinner?
- 18. How about a hug, sister?
- 19. God has used you to teach me what true love really is
- 20. ...So do you wanna like go to mass sometime?

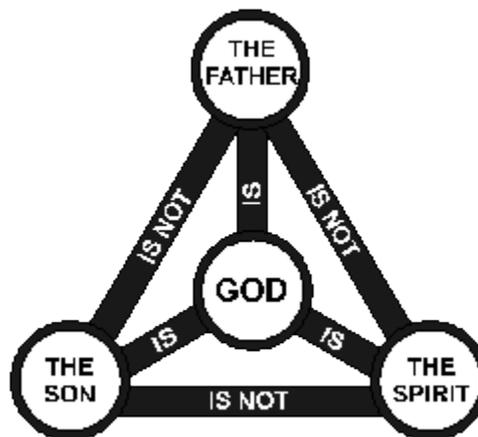


## CATHOLIC QUOTES

For, in the name of God, the Father and Lord of the universe, and of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, they then receive the washing with water.  
- St. Justin the Martyr

The Church, though dispersed through our the whole world, even to the ends of the earth, has received from the apostles and their disciples this faith: [She believes] in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are in them; and in one Christ Jesus, the Son of God, who became incarnate for our salvation; and in the Holy Spirit, who proclaimed through the prophets the dispensations of God, and the advents, and the birth from a virgin, and the passion, and the resurrection from the dead, and the ascension into heaven in the flesh of the beloved Christ Jesus, our Lord, and His [future] manifestation from heaven in the glory of the Father "to gather all things in one," – St. Irenaeus of Lyon

O mystic marvel! The universal Father is one, and one the universal Word; and the Holy Spirit is one and the same everywhere, . . . Clement of Alexandria



Athanasius Creed

### Spiritual Adoption Prayer



"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of [baby's name] the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion." - Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

### MONTH 5 – Developing Baby – “Mommy felt me kick today!” Spiritual Adoption Program

Your spiritually adopted baby weighs over one pound now, and his mother can feel his movement. Before this time, he was too small for her to feel. Although he swam with ease in his watery world, he needed to be big and strong enough to kick hard against the outside wall and dent it - - the inside wall of the uterus has little feeling. We are mid-way through the pregnancy now. Your prayers have helped your baby's mother continue with her pregnancy and seek the help she needs.



### PRAYER OF POPE JOHN XXIII For Fathers

Saint Joseph, guardian of Jesus and chaste husband of Mary, you passed your life in loving fulfillment of duty. You supported the holy family of Nazareth with the work of your hands. Kindly protect those who trustingly come to you. You know their aspirations, their hardships, their hopes. They look to you because they know you will understand and protect them. You too knew trial, labor and weariness. But amid the worries of material life, your soul was full of deep peace and sang out in true joy through intimacy with God's Son entrusted to you and with Mary, his tender Mother. Assure those you protect that they do not labor alone. Teach them

to find Jesus near them and to watch over Him faithfully as you have done. Amen.

**FATHER'S DAY PRAYER**

Father, it is Your Commandment that we should honor our fathers; hear the prayers we offer You for them. Grant them many years on earth and keep them in health of mind and body. Bless their word and all they do. Give them back a hundred-fold whatever they have done for us. Inspire them with Your love and help them to fulfill Your holy law. One day, may we be their comfort and support, so that having enjoyed their affection on earth we may have the joy of being with them forever in Your home in Heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**PRAYER FOR FATHER'S DAY # 3**

Lord, please bless our fathers, these men who mean so much to us, who are greatly responsible for who we are and who we are becoming. Bless them for having the courage to do what's necessary to keep us out of

trouble, for making us do the right thing, for helping us build our character, even when it makes us angry; and bless them for pushing us to do our best, even when they just want to love us. Bless our fathers for being our protectors, for leading us through stormy times to safety, for making us believe that everything will be all right and for making it so. Bless our fathers for quietly making a living to provide for those they love most, for giving us food, clothing, shelter and the other material things that really matter, for unselfishly investing time and money in us that they could have spent on themselves.

Bless our father, Lord, for saving some energy for fun, for leading us on adventures to explore the outer reaches of ourselves, for making us laugh, for being our playmates and our friends. Bless them for being our secure foundation, our rock, for holding on tight to us... until it's time to let us go. Lord, bless these men we look up to, our role models, our heroes, our fathers. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

