

## **A Reflection by Fr. Jon**

### **Trinity Sunday**

This Sunday we are celebrating Trinity Sunday. The Trinity is one of those core concepts of Christian faith that isn't explicitly stated in Scripture but strongly implied by the Bible witness and the experience of the faithful. Humans have encountered the divine in multiple ways, and in the gospels makes clear to us that what we think of as "God" is really the combination of three distinct but clearly related persons, himself and the Father, who are one as Jesus says, as well as the Advocate or Spirit, who is of the Father but whom Jesus promises to send to accompany and guide His followers.

This relationship is captured in all three of the historical and ancient creeds that we encounter in church, the Apostles, Nicene, and Athanasian creeds. Though theologians have labored to define the Trinity for centuries, at its heart, the true and full nature of God is beyond our capability to understand. The Trinity is a matter firmly rooted in faith, a mystery that is hard for us to grasp.

But what's important for us is that the nature of God is relational. In some manner, God is a relationship and not merely a being. The fullness of God incorporates three, so closely bound, so loving of one another, so deeply connected that we cannot truly tell the difference.

Therefore, if we are truly made in God's image, then we too must be relational. And I think most of us understand this. Everyone seeks connection, everyone wants to be loved, and to love in return. We all desire to know and to feel the closeness of others. I would even say that we cannot fully be ourselves when we are all alone, but only when we are with others. We certainly see this in our lives of faith. We cannot be truly Christian all by ourselves, but only alongside others in Christian fellowship and community.

For me, the Trinity says more about us than it does about God. It reminds me of how much I need and thrive within my relationships with others. It reminds me, as well, that the nurturing of my relationships is at the heart of God's desire for me. It reminds me that we are never more fully living the life God wants for us than when we are lovingly engaged in relationship with our fellow children of God.