

Understanding the Holy Trinity

One of the foundational verses on the Holy Trinity is Matthew 11:27. There, Jesus said, “No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.” (Matthew 11:27) In this Gospel verse, Jesus revealed the extraordinary and exclusive relationship between the Father and the Son in the divine Godhead; it is a relationship that is so intimate, such that no one can truly know the Father except through His Son, Jesus Christ. Elsewhere in the Gospels, Jesus said to the apostle Thomas at the Last Supper, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6) Philip said to Jesus, “Master, show us the Father.” Jesus replied, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” (John 14:8-9)

We all know that Jesus is the Son of God, but what does it mean when we profess in the Creed that the Son is eternally begotten of the Father? It means two things: (1) that Jesus Christ, the Son, has always existed with the Father; that He is not a created being but is co-eternal with the Father. (2) that the Son is of the same substance or nature as the Father. The Son is the second Person of the Trinity, but He is not second in time, nor is He second in nature. He is not second in time because He is eternal; He is not second in substance or nature because He is God.

The Holy Trinity acts as one Principle: for example, the world did not have three Creators, but only one. For although there are three Persons in the Godhead, they act as one Principle. When Jesus was talking about the coming of the Holy Spirit, He said to His disciples, “When He comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what He hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because He will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that He will take from what is mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:13-15)



There is a “priority of order” in the Holy Trinity: the Father is Himself the source and wellspring of the Godhead; He has no origin of any kind. The Son is begotten of the Father, and the Holy Spirit proceeds from both the Father and Son. Therefore, in terms of “order,” it is first the Father, second the Son and third the Holy Spirit. However, this “priority of order” doesn’t imply a hierarchy or subordination in terms of nature or being. In addition, this “priority of order” cannot be understood in terms of time, whereby the Father came into being before the Son, and both the Father and the Son came into being before the Holy Spirit. All three Persons are co-eternal; one did not exist in time before the others. They all existed eternally – no beginning and no end.

What does it mean that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son? The Council of Florence defines that the Holy Spirit proceeds “as from one principle and by one spiration.” This means that although the Father and Son are two different Persons, there are not two distinct acts by which the Holy Spirit is generated, but rather one single, infinite, eternal act common to both the Father and the Son.

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每周公告 Weekly Bulletin

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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

In preparation for our Eucharistic Revival week from June 18-23, please check if your name is already on the Eucharistic Revival poster board. If not, please write your name on one of the paper flames so we can attach it for you.

We also have available Eucharistic Revival lapel pins which you can wear during our Eucharistic Revival week, or you can keep as a souvenir. The pins are beautiful and of high quality. We ask for an offering of \$5/pin. If you would like to get one, please see Michelle Puk.



June 22 is potluck Sunday! This is a great activity for everyone to foster fellowship in our church community. Lunch begins after the 10:30am Mass. Please bring your favorite dish to share. If you are celebrating your birthday in the month of June, we have ordered a birthday cake for you.

Those who wish to join the bishop and priests for lunch after the pilgrimage on Friday, June 20, and dinner on the 21st and 22nd, please register with Long Che so that we can have a head count.

Prayer List: Chen Shupeng, Chu Waitat, Liu Kejiu, Ni Yufang, Lydia Chen, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	Sundays 9:00-9:30 AM	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)	Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM	Mondays 6:00 PM (English)
	By Appointment	
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)		Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	Anointing of the Sick	Sundays 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Tuesdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 7:00 PM (English)		
First Saturday 10:00 AM (Chinese)		