

# Fr. Simon Sez

This Most Holy Trinity Sunday we celebrate the central mystery of our Christian faith and life. The mystery of the Trinity, One God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is not just a matter of doctrine which can become abstract but also a matter of life. God not only transcends the world as its Creator, but also is immanent in the world, immanently active in our lives. He has a personal love for each one of us. The personal love of the One God in three Persons has been revealed to us through salvation history.



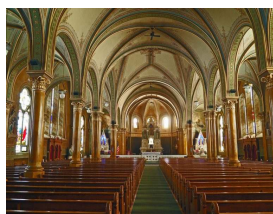
God the Father's creative love is presented to us in the account of creation in the Book of Genesis. God even created us in His Image unlike all of the rest of creation. God the Son's redemptive and forgiving love has been revealed to us in the life of Jesus, especially in his Passion, Death, and Resurrection. This is the summit of salvation history. God the Holy Spirit's sanctifying love was revealed to us at Pentecost, which we celebrated last Sunday. What is our response to God's Trinitarian love for us?

The goal of love is union with the beloved. The good news is that God loves us so much that he wants us to be united with Him. He reveals His personal love for us through creation. In His mercy He united Himself with creation to bring His redemptive love to us, making it possible for us to be reconciled with Him. If we respond to the mercy of God's love and let God open up our hearts, we will experience God's sanctifying love that makes us holy and brings us joy and peace.

*Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. . . Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:7-11)*

**Welcome Fr. Axtmann:** We are pleased to welcome Fr. David Axtmann as our celebrant this weekend while I am away. He is a senior priest from Highmore.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Anthony of Padua Church:** St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Hoven is celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of their church building "Cathedral of the Prairie." Bishop DeGrood and priests formerly assigned to that parish will assist their celebration by celebrating Mass at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, June 9, 2023. Come celebrate this regional icon of our faith!



## How God Loves: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Most Holy Trinity Sunday

Exodus 34:4–6, 8–9; Daniel 3:52–56; 2 Corinthians 13:11–13; John 3:16–18

We often begin Mass with the prayer from today's Epistle: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." We praise the God who has revealed Himself as a Trinity, a communion of persons.

Communion with the Trinity is the goal of our worship—and the purpose of the salvation history that begins in the Bible and continues in the Eucharist and sacraments of the Church.

We see the beginnings of God's self-revelation in today's First Reading, as He passes before Moses and cries out His holy name.

Israel had sinned in worshipping the golden calf (see Exodus 32). But God does not condemn them to perish. Instead He proclaims His mercy and faithfulness to His covenant.

God loved Israel as His firstborn son among the nations (see Exodus 4:22). Through Israel—heirs of His covenant with Abraham—God planned to reveal Himself as the Father of all nations (see Genesis 22:18).

The memory of God's covenant testing of Abraham—and Abraham's faithful obedience—lies behind today's Gospel.

In commanding Abraham to offer his only beloved son (see Genesis 22:2, 12, 16), God was preparing us for the fullest possible revelation of His love for the world.

As Abraham was willing to offer Isaac, God did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for us all (see Romans 8:32).

In this, He revealed what was only disclosed partially to Moses—that His kindness continues for a thousand generations, that He forgives our sin and takes us back as His very own people (see Deuteronomy 4:20; 9:29).

Jesus humbled Himself to die in obedience to God's will. And for this, the Spirit of God raised Him from the dead (see Romans 8:11), and gave Him a name above every name (see Philippians 2:8–10).

This is the name we glorify in today's Responsorial: the name of our Lord, the God who is Love (see 1 John 4, 8, 16). ([www.stpaulcenter.com](http://www.stpaulcenter.com))