

Today is Trinity Sunday. I have much more to tell you but you cannot bear it now." God had big plans for the disciples, just like he has for us, but Jesus knows when his followers need some time to get up to speed. Today's readings emphasize wisdom, especially the wisdom of God's will for our lives. Let's look at how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit work to deliver us into our full potential as we ponder the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

In the first reading, we learn about God the Father and his relationship with wisdom. Wisdom speaks in the first person and says, "The Lord possessed me" and "I was his delight day-by-day." God is the architect of the universe, and his wisdom goes beyond science, beyond human understanding, even beyond Google. God, in his wisdom, created order in the universe, and established truth, love and goodness. We are told that wisdom, "found delight in the human race" a hint that we are destined to seek God's wisdom. With God the Father holding the answers to all of life's mysteries, what is His plan for sharing the gift of this wisdom with us? The answer includes the other two "persons" of the Trinity.

The Holy Trinity is like a candle it has three parts. The solid wax of the candle is God the Father, the source of wisdom and everything that is good. When the wax melts the liquid represents Christ. He flows forth from the Father and carries with him his Father's wisdom. Jesus is like the leaky Easter candle we had last year that would pour wax down the sides so much that it would pile up on the floor. This is a clearly a sign of the abundance of Christ's presence here at Saint James. The Holy Spirit is the wax as it evaporates and fuels the burning flame. He is often pictured in tongues of fire, a fire that kindles our hearts and animates us in God's work. As one candle has wax in the solid, liquid and gas state yet it's still one candle, we have one God in three persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit that make up the Holy Trinity.

We've talked about God the Father, so let's look at today's gospel to see how the Son and Holy Spirit help us tap into the wisdom of God. Jesus is our deliverer, and he delivers in two ways. He delivers the gospel to us, the wisdom and truth on how to live Christian lives. Jesus also delivers himself as a sacrifice to wash away our sins. His act of redemption forgives our sins and frees our hearts to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. You may be thinking, why do we need the Holy Spirit when we have Jesus?

Let's use the apostles as an example. They LIVED the gospel with Jesus, they witnessed his sacrifice for their sins, but still after the resurrection they locked themselves behind

closed doors in fear. You can imagine them huddled in the dark, overcome by their circumstances, trying to logically discern what to do next.

Jesus told them, "When the spirit of truth comes he will guide you into all the truth." This is the truth from the Father being passed to the Son and onto us through the Holy Spirit. He goes on to say, "All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you." All the Father has is ours, we just can't handle it all at once, we need the Holy Spirit, like training wheels or a tutor, to learn how to assimilate all the gifts coming our way.

Saint Paul in our second reading says the Holy Spirit is "poured into our hearts". He's not poured into our heads, but into our hearts, the place of love, mercy, and compassion. And look how the disciples, who were trying to figure things out on their own, respond to the Holy Spirit. In last week's Pentecost gospel, "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages." The apostles are no longer locked in and afraid, they are preaching in the synagogues, healing the crippled, and forming Christ's new Church. The Holy Spirit has changed everything and they have a deep trust in God as seen through their actions in challenging situations. Bishop Baron, in the Word on Fire Bible says, "The Holy Spirit is the fuel of the Church, the energy and the life force of the Body of Christ."

So, how do we apply the fuel of the Holy Spirit in our everyday lives? In short, through our decisions. Decisions, small and large, determine our path in life. How do you go about making decisions? This is one of the questions I ask engaged couples as they prepare for marriage. One bride told me she immediately gets on the phone with her mom to discuss big decisions. Her fiancé, on the other hand, said he works alone and logically discerns his options. These are reasonable approaches, but given we are children of an all-knowing God and creator, we should also call on the Holy Spirit to help with decision making. Through this practice, the apostles were filled with answers from the Holy Spirit and came out of their hiding to successfully spread the message of Christ throughout the world.

We live in a world that wants to reinvent the meaning of wisdom and truth, a world that prefers to be spiritual, but not religious. We need to take time to develop our prayer life both individually and as families and communities so we can remain grounded in the wisdom that preceded all creation. A wisdom that is carefully shared with us through the Holy Trinity, a wisdom that leads us to the gift of eternal life.