

St. Cornelius Parish



June 15, 2025

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

160 Ridge Rd, Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Phone: (610) 459-2502 • Fax: (610) 459-3942

Web: www.saintcornelius.org

Email: stcorn1@comcast.net • Facebook: Like us on Facebook

Msgr. David Diamond, Pastor

Deacons: Harry Morris • John Todor (Ret.)

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Franca Felcher

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John Guest

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Office Manager: Douglas Kitson

Parish Religious Education Program: Abbie McCusker

Director of Music: Margie Melchiorre

Directors of Parish Services: Thomas Bosch & Kelly Limmina

St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

Abbie McCusker, Director

Phone: (610) 459-8663

Website: www.scornelius.org

St. Cornelius Parish Summer Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm Noon

closed for Lunch 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Saturday: Confessions 2:30 - 3:30 Vigil Mass 4:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 4:00 pm **Weekday Mass: 7:30 am**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Will return after Labor Day

LiveStream <https://vimeo.com/user123448673>

Thoughts from the Second Floor Front The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

June 15, 2025

As Catholics, just about every prayer we offer begins with it and concludes with it. Today we celebrate that essential mystery of our Faith – The Most Holy Trinity. Saints and theologians with great minds have wrestled with the effort to articulate its meaning and in so doing have come to a deeper understanding of this deepest article of faith. The Most Holy Trinity as an intellectual entity has not put us off coming to understand our relationship with Father, Son and Holy, Spirit as a disciple and entering into that Divine community.

In a sermon on the Feast of the Holy Trinity St. John Henry Newman addressed a phenomenon that was evident to him in the nineteenth century. Addressing the complex theological issues, Newman decried attempts to take theological issues and “compare them together, to weigh and measure them, to analyze, simplify, refashion them; to reduce them to system, to arrange them into primary and secondary, to harmonize them into intelligible dependence upon each other.” He protests the efforts to engage in a sort of reductionism that falsely seems to attempt to make these challenging aspects of our faith more approachable and helpful to us in a simple manner. We should not avoid thinking about or meditating and reflecting on the Trinity because it is a mystery and apparently beyond our intellectual comprehension. We are called to embrace the Trinity and enter into the Mystery, not avoid it.

The reading from Psalm VIII addresses the mystery of our existence that calls on us to reflect this Sunday on the greatest mystery of our faith – The Most Holy Trinity.

When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you set in place — What is man that you should be mindful of him, or the son of man that you should care for him?

This is expressed clearly in the beautiful hymn, often sung at funerals “How Great thou Art”

*Oh Lord, my God
When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.*

We live in an age that is marked by terrific advancements in technology. However with that progress there is a trap in which, if we are not careful, we can easily fall. The trap is to fail and recognize what glory is around us. Years ago I was taking the Cape May Lewes Ferry from Lewes to Cape May. It is a beautiful ninety-minute ride from Lewes to Cape May. I was living in the Washington DC area, in school at Catholic University, and was – as we say in Philadelphia going down the shore for weekend. While out in the shipping lanes on the Delaware Bay you can see dolphins leaping out of the water, gulls swooping down and up looking for a handout, on any beautiful sun drenched day. I walked the ferry and saw many people sitting inside. Wondering what the attraction was I noticed a number of huge televisions sets playing a prerecorded version of the TV Game show Jeopardy.

Surrounded by beauty of the created world, sadly people chose to ignore it and watch reruns. Today's feast calls us into the mystery. When we make the sign of the cross and invoke that most deeply spiritual mystery, which is our faith, may we have the ability to more deeply appreciate the ineffable beauty of the world as well as the amazing merciful and gracious God. Call on Him in prayer. Call on Him in need. Call on Him in praise for the gift which is ours. Call on Him - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Faithfully,

Msgr. Diamond

**JULY**

St. Cornelius

31**Pig Roast**

Welcome to the Matthew XXV Garden Season 5

Matthew XXV

A FEW GOOD MEN NEEDED:

We would like to form a small group of volunteers who would take turns mowing the grass in the Matthew XXV Garden.

If interested please TEXT Steve Muntz at 610-454-8937 and he will be happy to fill you in with what needs to be done.

Again, thank you,

Matthew XXV Committee
Laurie, JoEllen, Steve, & Regina



Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament flows from the sacrifice of the Mass and serves to deepen our hunger for Communion with Christ and the rest of the Church.



Join us for Adoration on Friday mornings after Mass in the chapel. You are welcome to visit anytime during the day until we repose the Blessed Sacrament at 4:00 PM.

**Adoration will return after Labor Day,
September 5, 2025**



When's the last time you gave your marriage a tune-up? Keep your engines running by getting away together on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! Let the light of your marriage sacrament shine for all. Make your light bright by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. The next in-person experience will be **June 20-22** at St. Mary of Providence Center, Elverson.

For more info visit: www.wwme-philly.org.

Did you realize St. Cornelius has a Facebook page?



Like us on Facebook to stay up to date with information about upcoming events, how you can become active on committees, and other parish news.



An Invitation from Archbishop Pérez

On January 5, the Feast of St. John Neumann, Fourth Bishop of Philadelphia, Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez released a pastoral letter, at the core of which is a call to a *pastoral change of heart, a conversion to the life-style and mindset of a missionary disciple*. The letter also shares with us the Archbishop's vision for the future of the Church of Philadelphia and invitation to all Catholics to be a part of the conversation about what that will look like.

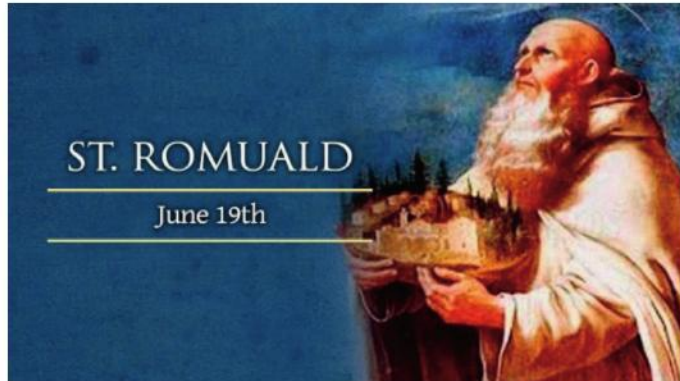
To read the letter, watch the Archbishop's video and sign up for a consultation session, visit trustandhope.org or scan the QR code with your smart phone.



IN COMMUNION WITH OUR SAINTS

SAINT ROMUALD

Abbot
June 19



In the midst of a wasted youth, Romuald watched his father kill a relative in a duel over property. In horror he fled to a monastery near Ravenna. After three years, some of the monks found him to be uncomfortably holy and eased him out.

Romuald spent the next 30 years going about Italy, founding monasteries and hermitages. He longed to give his life to Christ in martyrdom, and got the pope's permission to preach the gospel in Hungary. But he was struck with illness as soon as he arrived, and the illness recurred as often as he tried to proceed.

During another period of his life, Romuald suffered great "spiritual dryness". One day as he was praying Psalm 31 ("I will give you understanding and I will instruct you"), he was given an extraordinary light and spirit which never left him.

At the next monastery where he stayed, Romuald was accused of a scandalous crime by a young nobleman he had rebuked for a dissolute life. Amazingly, his fellow monks believed the accusation. He was given a severe penance, forbidden from offering Mass, and excommunicated—an unjust sentence that he endured in silence for six months.

The most famous of the monasteries Romuald founded was that of the Camaldoli in Tuscany. Here began the Order of the Camaldolese Benedictines, uniting the monastic and eremitical lives. In later life Romuald's own father became a monk, wavered, and was kept faithful by the encouragement of his son.

Romuald died around 1027.

www.franciscanmedia.org

THE PARISH CHURCH AND ITS FURNISHINGS Church Interior

On the inside, Catholic church buildings look different from one another, but they have many common features. Upon walking through the doorway of a church, you should be able to notice several things.

- **Narthex:** Many churches bring you first into a narthex or gathering area. There you can meet other people or view bulletins and posters.
- **Nave:** The body of the church is the nave. The word is related to "navy" because a church interior somewhat resembles a ship. The congregation assembles in the nave.
- **Sanctuary:** The place where most of the action takes place is the sanctuary. It is set apart from the nave by its height and spaciousness. The three principal furnishings of the sanctuary are the chair, where the priest stands to begin the service; the ambo, where the Liturgy of Word unfolds; and the altar, the center of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.



- **Choir:** There may be another area designated for musicians. In older churches, musicians entered a loft behind the congregation, because they created music to be heard, not shared. Today a choir area is more commonly visible to the entire assembly, where the musicians can better lead everyone in singing.
- **Sacristy:** The vessels, vestments, and other items needed for Mass are stored in one or more sacristies. These are not readily visible upon entering a church, but they are essential for the smooth flow of worship.
- **Other items:** Statues, Stations of the Cross, votive candles, the tabernacle, and other items may be seen in the church. These occupy devotional areas that are not essential for the celebration of the Mass, but they are part of the environment one customarily sees on entering a Catholic church.



Baptisms

Baptized in Christ

Cole Matthew Seal

Son of Tyler and Megan Seal

Let us pray for our newly baptized Christian.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



When: Saturday, June 14 at the 4:00 pm Mass and Sunday, June 15 at the 11:00 am Mass.

Where: Please sit in the 6 front pews all around the front of the church. You may have one other person with you if you wish.

Who: Please let us know if you wish to receive this Sacrament by emailing the PLC at stcorn1@comcast.net or by calling the PLC at 610-459-2502. This will give us an idea of how many people wish to participate and help us to record who has received the Sacrament.

Why: When the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is given, the hoped-for effect is that, if it be God's will, the person be physically healed of illness. But even if there is no physical healing, the primary effect of the Sacrament is a spiritual healing by which the sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gift of peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany serious illness or the frailty of old age. A person should not wait until they are at the point of death to receive this Sacrament.

HEED THE CALL



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DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD

Visit our website
WWW.HeedTheCall.org

33 DAYS OF EUCHARISTIC GLORY

Are you called to make a **bold and unwavering** commitment to Jesus on the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ?**

On June 22, we will gather together in church to make a Consecration to Our Eucharistic Lord. Many of us have been preparing together for this special day by using Matthew Kelly's videos and/or book, 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory. However, all are welcome to make this sacred commitment to Jesus.



To join us, come to St. Cornelius on June 22 by 12:15. Please consider joining us for the whole trifecta of events, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 11, the Rosary for Life directly after Mass, and the Eucharistic Consecration after the Rosary.

Please email Michelle at virginmaryfiat@gmail.com with any *questions* about the plan for June 22. All are welcome to participate. Isn't it time to fully dedicate your whole existence to Jesus in the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Catholic faith. **Now is the time!**

**Sunday
June 15
11:45 AM**



Join our Parish Pro-Life Group in the church on Sunday, June 15, at 11:45 AM, as we pray a Rosary and the Litany of Loreto for the unborn and an end to abortion. It is a perfect way to perform a spiritual work of mercy for the most vulnerable.

This event is scheduled every 3rd Sunday so please mark your calendar now. Bring a friend.

LENDING LIBRARY

You may not be aware of the Lending Library that exists in our ambulatory, near the large stain glass windows overlooking the family portico. The cart pictured to the right contains a variety of reading material that you are welcome to take with you. You may also find a variety of holy cards, prayer pamphlets and novenas. Please feel free to take what you like.





St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

At our Early Learning Center's annual bike-a-thon, our little friends proudly strapped on their helmets and hopped onto their bikes and scooters, ready to ride for a cause close to their hearts. With big smiles and even bigger determination, they pedaled and scooted their way around the course, raising funds to support our sweet little school. The event was filled with joy, laughter, and the contagious spirit of teamwork, as each child played a special part in helping our community grow stronger.



Assisted Hearing Devices

We have assisted hearing devices, which connect directly to the sound system. They are located inside the church, along side the wall to your left as you view the altar.

Easy to operate: the ear pieces are already attached. Just turn it on, a green light will blink and then remain on, adjust the volume.

Comments from satisfied users:

Wow - That is the first time in a long Time that I have heard everything at Mass.



**YOUNG CATHOLIC
PROFESSIONALS**
Working in Witness for Christ™

In a world that can be void of meaning and leave young adults restless and dissatisfied, Young Catholic Professionals Philadelphia brings together young professionals in their 20s and 30s into a community of belonging, support, and encouragement at all stages of your faith journey. Young Catholic Professionals empowers and equips you to live your Catholic faith through everyday work and to perform all work with excellence for the glory of God.

Our patron saint is Saint Joseph the Worker. Our mission calls upon the intercession of Saint Joseph the Worker, a simple carpenter who reminds us of the importance of stillness, reflection, and prayer.

Young Catholic Professionals mission is to challenge, train, and inspire young adults working in various professional careers to work in witness for Christ. For more information go to our local Philadelphia website at www.ycpphiladelphia.org/cpages/home



**Caring
for Friends™**

Help provide home cooked meals to neighbors in need! Caring for Friends (formerly Aid for Friends) is collecting frozen meals and soups for homebound seniors and food insecure individuals. Meal trays and soup containers can be found in the utility closet on the right of the side door of the narthex. Consider putting aside an extra dinner or soup portion, freeze it and then bring it to the freezer also located in the utility closet. PLEASE sign the meals and soup in on the list attached to the shelves next to the freezer. The food is distributed all over the Greater Philadelphia Area. This effort is ongoing at our parish. We invite you to contribute what you can. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Todor 609-234-1193

CRS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Cuts to international assistance have devastated millions of vulnerable people worldwide, especially women and children. Now, the White House has proposed additional cuts, and the situation continues to worsen. International assistance upholds the sacredness and dignity of children, families and entire communities. Slashing funding and programs is causing unnecessary suffering and undoing decades of progress in addressing global poverty.

Congress has the power to oppose funding cuts and to maintain funding for lifesaving programs in the upcoming federal budget. Your representatives need to hear that you care deeply about your global family. As the U.S. realigns its spending around the broad objectives of making America safer, stronger and more prosperous, we must ensure that lifesaving and life-affirming aid remains a central and vital part of this strategy. Tell Congress that we have a moral duty to alleviate poverty and ease human suffering. Visit www.crs.org for more information!



PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AND THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Luzmarina Lalli, Regina Smith, Marianne Leader, Sandy Fecondo, Dominique Copper, Brian Walheim, Bob McKinney, Mindy Tumolo, Angelo Tiberi, Dorothy Brady, James Egner, Joan Carrington, River Agren, Rosemarie Tangi, Kathryn Howland, John Faulkner, Sr., Janice Letourneau, Lorraine Farrugia, Amy Hartranft, Patricia Ackerman, Doris Wysocki, Peyton Lott, Brittany Lott, Ed Lovell, Lillian Corbett, Eileen Kane, David III, C. McCollum, Joshua Gidlewski, Denise Banta, Patty Burke, Tom Eno, Diana Duffy, Isaac Burks, Nancy Cunningham, Jay Holland, Thomas Drane, Kara Ulatowski, Harold Von Brockdorff, Mary Helen Arthur, Anne Spetzer, Carolyn Duffy, Carleen Peters, Marian Short, Matthew Hess, Bryan Thompson, Paul Lucas, Carla Santoleri, Richard Meccarrielli, Edward Field, Judy Field, Joyce Monaco, Matthew Hurst, Leonard Smith, Jr., Jim Waters, Kathie Buckley, Bernice & Arthur Hindle, Sean Mulvey, Patricia Wells, Kathy Williams, Michael Gibbons, Shirley Masse, Ellen Brisgone, Laura O'Brien-Black, Elizabeth Kephart, Tina Landis, Bill & Theresa Sherwin, Michelle Dillione, Chris Roe, Frank Kuders, Dave and Ronnie Pryce, Rosemary Brennan, Ellie May McGrath, Vicki Wojdak, Andrea Bateman, Brandon Heacock, Nancy Young, Billy Lott, Nanci Ehmer, Ken Rudert, Ed Shell, Ellie McCreight, Ellie Griem, Gregory Varacchi, Michael McKinnen, Connie Carney, Luke Post, Jim Buckley, Jerome Lienhard

*Let us pray for our Men and Women
serving in the Armed Forces. Especially for:*

SSG Ana Brunal	2nd Lt. Kevin Malone
SPC Mike Canfield	Sgt Alexander Marlow
Cpl Michael Castle	PFC Zachary Marlow
Lt. Connor Cleary	CPT. Travis Mauer
Fr. Joseph Coffey (Chaplain)	Lt. Cmdr Daniel McCadden
Maj Robert B. Cusick, Jr.	Capt Jonathan McGrath
Capt Joshua deFreitas	LT Molly K. McGuckin
SSGT Michael DiVernieri	LCDR Ryan A. McGuckin
Cadet Emily Fanning	Maj. Sean P. Noll
Lt. Ryan Gallagher	Lt. Col Brian J. O'Shea
SSG. Eric Gardner	Lt. Cmdr Inga O'Shea
Capt Matthew Gibbons	Maj James O'Shea
Ens Patrick Gibbons	Sgt. Maj. Justin Rogowski
Ens John Paul Gibbons	PFC L Roland
Maj Rachel Gonzalez	LTJG Christian Samulewicz
SPC Logan Hannum	1st Lt. Olivia Samulewicz
Sgt Andrew Hart	Capt. Neal F. Schubert
Devin J. Hunt	Ens Nicholas Spadaccini
PO1 Nathan R. Keller	MSG Thomas Stone
1st Lt Lauren Kinnee	Cpl Mark Truex
Spc. Andrew Koehler	Lt. Christopher Vish
Capt Daniel Kohli	Capt. Aidan Walsh
Maj. Chris Love	PFC Ellianna Welsh
Maj. Megan Love	Capt Jennifer Wynn
Sgt Jason Lyons	



The Ministry of Consolation

A St. Cornelius community response to the needs of people grieving the death of a significant person/persons in their lives, the ministry honors the words and example of the Lord Jesus:

"Blessed are they who mourn; they shall be consoled"
(Matthew 5:4).

A team of four St. Cornelius church members have been trained to set up and facilitate a Support Group for the Consolation Ministry.

On **June 21, 2025**, the Consolation Group will meet at the **Parish Life Center, Fr. Simon Room** from **2:30pm to 3:30pm**.

Contact Joan Holliday for any questions
dochollisv@aol.com or call (610) 717-2180.



SAINT CORNELIUS

Early Learning Center

ENROLLMENT OPEN FOR THE

2025 - 2026

SCHOOL YEAR!

At Saint Cornelius Early Learning Center we are dedicated to educating each child to learn academic and social skills for success in their future. Our energetic teachers and staff create a nurturing, creative and exciting environment for children to learn, grow, and thrive!

Now enrolling PreK 3, PreK4 and Kindergarten!

CONTACT US

For more information or to schedule a tour, please email Abigail McCusker at

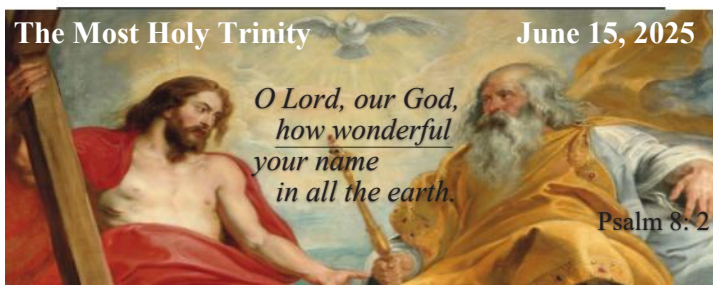
akohlbrener@scornelius.org

or call the Early Learning Center office at (610) 459 - 8663.



Monsignor's Thursday Email

Msgr. Diamond's weekly Thursday Email is a popular weekly newsletter for our parishioners. Currently there are **over 1,148** people who receive his email each Thursday afternoon. If you would like to be on our distribution list, please call the office at (610) 459-2502 or send your request to be added to our distribution at Stcorn1@comcast.net.



*O Lord, our God,
how wonderful
your name
in all the earth.*

Psalm 8: 2



The Sunday collection is very important for us to maintain our fiscal responsibilities. So, if you are away on a Sunday, *ENJOY*; but remember *YOUR* church.

June 8, 2025

WeShare eGiving	\$7,584.40
Envelope Offering	<u>\$12,403.50</u>
	\$19,987.90



*"For where your treasure is,
there also will your heart be."*

Luke 12:34



Helping Hands and Hearts

This ministry offers temporary help (meals, errands, etc.) to individuals and families in need! If you are aware of someone in need or would like to be a volunteer helper, please contact Marilyn Gustin at mgustin05@gmail.com (484) 947-7295.

Prayer Shawl Ministry... Come, Join US!



Did you know that each baby baptized at St. Cornelius receives a hand-made blanket made by our Prayer Shawl Ministry? You are welcome to join us in this rewarding ministry. We also make shawls, blankets, scarves, hats, mittens etc. for elderly homes, the Giving Tree and anyone looking for a comforting gift.

**Every 4th Monday of each month
1:30pm to 3:00pm, Parish Life Center**

We find ourselves in need of white acrylic yarn or funding to help continue this wonderful ministry. Please prayerfully consider donating to our ministry or purchasing a "Pound of Love" or "Caron Pound" of white acrylic yarn. We have a basket set up in the narthex, below the large TV monitor, to offer our works and for your donations. Also, you are welcome to drop off any yarn donations to the Parish Life Center. Donations are greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact

Valerie Childs (610) 213-0515
and Vickie Gambino (317) 440-5210



CAMP CORNELIUS

Location: Saint Cornelius Early Learning Center
160 Ridge Road
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Cooking
Art

STEM

Sports



*This summer we are excited to bring
four weeks of summer fun!*

Half day: 9:00 am- 12:00 pm

Full day: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

PreK3 to 2nd grade
Week of June 16th
Week of June 23rd
Week of July 7th
Week of July 14th



A summer camp experience for children
ages PreK3 through 2nd grade.
Volunteer opportunities available for older
students.

Half Day Camp (9am-12pm)
\$225 per week

Full Day Camp (9am-3pm)
\$365 per week

Before care (8 AM) and After care (until 5 PM)
are available

Questions? Contact:

Director: Debbie Anderson

danderson@scornelius.org / 610-459-8663

Sunday Mass Intentions

7:30 AM Larry Doyle
9:00 AM Stan Hulkewicz
11:00 AM Frank DiJoseph
4:00 PM Eugene & Doris Blystone

Weekly Mass Schedule (Week of June 15 - June 20)

Saturday Vigil / Sunday Morning

Intention: *Missa pro populo (Mass for the people)*
Reading: Prov 8:22-31; Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 5:
1-5; Jn 16:12-15

Monday 7:30 AM

Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

Intention: Joseph Wurm
Reading: 2 Cor 6:1-10; Ps 98:1, 2b, 3ab, 3cd-4;
Mt 5:38-42

Tuesday 7:30 AM

Intention: Thomas Less
Reading: 2 Cor 8:1-9; Ps 146:2, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a;
Mt 5:43-48

Wednesday 7:30 AM

Intention: Jeff Behm
Reading: 2 Cor 9:6-11, Ps 112:1bc-2, 3-4, 9; Mt 6:
1-6, 16-18

Thursday 7:30 AM

St. Romuald

Intention: Thomas Winkelspecht
Reading: 2 Cor 11:1-11; Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 7-8;
Mt 6:7-15

Friday 7:30 AM

Summer Begins

Intention: Eric Clawges
Reading: 2 Cor 11:18, 21-30; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7;
Mt 6:19-23

PILGRIM STATUE

06 - 15 - 2025 Stephanie Fuss
06 - 22 - 2025 Carla Santoleri
06 - 29 - 2025 Lisa Daughen

The dates for July 6 to December 28 are
now available on the sign-up.

Call Carla Santoleri at (610) 361-8447
for more information.



THIS IS THE HOLY TRINITY

Today we celebrate the Holy Trinity, one of the most confounding mysteries of our faith. Through this mystery we experience our relationship to God: Creator, Savior, and Holy Spirit. This relationship is not easy to understand or to describe. It does not become clearer through analysis. Its complexity mirrors the complexity of all our relationships. We understand our relationships with our spouses, our children, our parents, and our friends only through daily give-and-take, annual rituals, and the life-changing moments we share. We understand our relationships only as we live them. The relationships we have with those we love, and who love us, sustain us through an uncertain and difficult life. This is the Holy Trinity.

What is striking about today's readings is that each is incomplete. What they do offer is a description of a moment in our relationship, a memory of a time and an event when our relationship made sense even though that sense may be beyond our ability to describe fully. Often that is all that our faith offers, that is, a memory of what is possible, what is promised, what has been given. A memory of eternity, of love beyond understanding is to be cherished and nurtured even if not fully understood. This is the Holy Trinity.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today's feast, extending a dimension of Easter joy into Ordinary Time, reminds us that every aspect of worship centers on the mystery of God in three persons. At baptism,

we are initiated into Christ *and* the Spirit. The Creed we recite at Mass every Sunday has its roots in the ancient celebration of baptism, when a new believer was questioned at the edge of the waters of the font with three questions: Do you believe in God, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit? Three questions, three affirmations, three immersions into the saving waters. Because every liturgy abounds with references to the Trinity, not only in words but in blessings by the sign of the cross, this feast was not easily accepted into the calendar. Pope Alexander in the eleventh century remarked that the liturgy is so laden with praise of the Trinity that there was no need for a special feast. Two hundred years later, while in exile in France, Pope John XXII proclaimed the feast, but it was not until 1911 that Pope St. Pius X gave it status as a solemnity.

A favorite image in art for today is the Icon of the Trinity, showing three glorious winged men seated at a table laden with bread and a cup of wine. It recalls Abraham's hospitality to angels and gives expression to the inner life of God, a life lived in relationship, a life poured out in abundance whenever Christians gather at the table of the Eucharist to give praise to the Father, in Christ, in the embrace of the Spirit.

James Field



#ThankYouForYourPriesthood

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RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEK

Witnesses to Hope

Religious freedom allows the Church, and all religious communities, to live out their faith in public and to serve the good of all. Beginning June 22, the feast of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, the USCCB invites Catholics to **pray, reflect, and act** to promote religious freedom.



June 22 Political Polarization

***Pray** that Catholics will have the courage to put the truth of the gospel and fidelity to the Church above partisan politics.*



June 23 IVF Madness

***Pray** for couples who suffer fertility challenges, and that political leaders would promote therapies that respect the dignity of all human persons.*



June 24 Catholic Healthcare

***Pray** that governments will respect the consciences of all people who care for the sick and vulnerable.*



June 25 Nicaragua

***Pray** for Christians in Nicaragua, where the Catholic Church faces brutal government persecution.*



June 26 Parental Choice in Education

***Pray** that governments would strengthen the ability for parents to direct the education of their children.*



June 27 Immigration Services

***Pray** that the Lord would protect vulnerable migrants and refugees, and that the Church enjoy the freedom to carry out the ministries that Christ has handed to her.*



June 28 Freedom to Serve the Common Good

***Pray** that government leaders would recognize the contributions that religious charities make to the common good.*



June 29 Nigeria

***Pray** for our brothers and sisters in Nigeria who are suffering violent religious conflict.*

More information can be found at www.usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty/religious-freedom-week or by using the QR Code with your smart phone

