

Our retired bishop, Raymond Boland, will be here a week from Tuesday to dedicate the new altar in our church. Next weekend will be our last [here] in St. Rita's. Thank you all for your patience and support during this time. We moved into St. Rita's after the masses this past Labor Day weekend, and we'll move back into St. Munchin's after the masses on Memorial Day weekend. Most of us were pleasantly surprised at how great the gym has looked and how well we have been able to pray here. I believe you're going to be even more pleased with the results across the street. Our committee has worked hard, and the God of love and peace has been with us to guide us.

Saint Paul says at the end of his second letter to the Corinthians that the God of love and peace will be with us if we rejoice, mend our ways, encourage one another, agree with one another and live in peace. We hear that passage today on Trinity Sunday, as we look back over the seasons we have celebrated in such a short span of time: Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. We behold the mystery of our faith, that God sent the Son into the world for our salvation, and that the Son sent the Spirit to help us bear witness. Trinity Sunday sums up our belief that God is Three and God is One.

St. Paul names the Persons of the Trinity in the very last line of this epistle. You are familiar with this verse because the priest often uses it at the beginning of mass, right after the sign of the cross: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." Whenever you hear those words at mass, you are hearing a greeting first sent by Saint Paul almost 20 centuries ago. Christians have been using it ever since.

One of the striking features of this greeting is the order in which the Trinity is named. We usually go Father, Son and Spirit, as we do when we make the sign of the cross. But Paul starts this greeting with Christ – most likely because it is through Christ that we come to know the Father, and through them both that we experience the Holy Spirit. So this greeting is not just an affirmation of the Trinity, but also an expression of how we come to know the Trinity: first through the preaching, life and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Paul's greeting also highlights these words: grace, love and fellowship. Through Christ we have grace; God the Father is the source of all love; and our fellowship with God is possible through the Holy Spirit.

On Trinity Sunday we confess how mysterious God is, yet that God has come to us with grace, God loves us and desires communion with us, just as we desire communion with God. Let us take Paul's advice: "Rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you."