

Nowhere in the Scriptures will you find the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity. It is a doctrine, a truth, which is made known through the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit through Sacred Tradition.

As we have been talking about the last couple of weeks, the Holy Spirit leads the Church in to all truth. And the Holy Spirit has led the Church into the full truth of God as Trinity. But this does not mean that the presence of the Holy Trinity cannot be found in the Scriptures.

And this is one of the central tenets of our Catholic faith, that Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture are in perfect harmony with each other. Not every teaching known by Sacred Tradition alone is explicitly found in the Sacred Scriptures and yet nothing in Sacred Tradition conflicts whatsoever with what is found in Sacred Scripture. Indeed, everything in Sacred Scripture reflects all the truths given to us through Sacred Tradition.

So, for example, the teaching of Mary's Immaculate Conception comes to us through Sacred Tradition and is not found in the Sacred Scriptures, and yet, there is much in Sacred Scripture which nonetheless points to this truth. This is important to understand because starting with Martin Luther, Protestantism rejected Sacred Tradition as a source of truth and said that it was Sacred Scripture only. And this false teaching has led to all manner of distortion of the Christian faith by the many, many factions and fractures of Christian denominations.

Returning to the feast at hand, we see how this plays out regarding the Trinity. There are many places in the Scripture where the Trinity is reflected:

Jesus' baptism in the Jordan by John – Son – the Holy Spirit coming upon Him and the Father's voice being heard

Transfiguration

Promise of the Holy Spirit by Jesus at the Last Supper, as we have been talking about
The Father will send the Holy Spirit – the Son saying this

So then, even though the presence of the Trinity can be seen in the Scriptures, it is the lived faith of the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit that comes to understand the full truth of the Trinity:

One God in three persons

Co-equal in majesty

An eternal and infinite community of life and love.

These are the truths of the Trinity revealed by the Holy Spirit and passed on in the Church by Sacred Tradition.

Ironically, all Protestants and Evangelicals believe these truths about the Holy Trinity even though they cannot be found in the Sacred Scriptures explicitly. Thank God we all do – Catholics, Protestants, Evangelicals – we all believe the full Truth of the central mystery of our faith, that God is one God in three persons, the eternal perfect communion of life and love. A communion of life and love that we poor sinners are invited to share in Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Given by Father Mark Gurtner at Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana, on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, 2016.