

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity welcomes you!
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**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. JULY 14, 2024**

**A Reading from *The Power and Meaning of Love***

by Thomas Merton

Those of us today who seek to be Christians, and who have not yet risen to the level of full maturity in Christ, tend unfortunately to take one or other of the debased forms of love for the action of the spirit of God and the love of Christ. It is this failure to attain to full maturity in love which keeps divisions alive in the world.

There is a 'romantic' tendency in some Christians - a tendency which seeks Christ not in love of those flesh-and-blood brothers and sisters with whom we live and work, but in some as yet unrealized ideal of 'brotherhood'. It is always a romantic evasion to turn from the love of people to the love of love itself: to love people in general more than individual persons, to love 'brotherhood' and 'unity' more than other's brothers, sisters, neighbors and associates.

This corruption of love can be romantic also in its love of God. It is no longer Christ himself that is loved and sought, but perhaps an objectivised 'experience' of Christ, a degree of prayer, a mystical state. What is loved then ceases to be Christ, but the subjective reactions which are aroused in me by the supposed presence of Christ in thought or love or prayer.

The romantic tendency leads to a substitution of aestheticism, or false mysticism, or quietism, for genuine faith and love, and what it seeks in the Church is not so much reality as a protection against responsibility. Failing to establish a true dialogue with our brother or sister in Christ, this fallacy thwarts all efforts at real unity and cooperation among Christians.

[Source: Celebrating the Seasons]

**MORNING PRAYER:** 8:00a.m.,Chapel.  
(Tuesday-Wednesday; Friday & Saturday)

**AUGUST:**  
♦ Aug. 24, Saturday, ECW meeting, 2:00p.m

**JULY:**

- ♦ Today. Wedding, 2:00p.m.
- ♦ July 21, Sunday, Vestry meeting, 11:00a.m.
- ♦ July 27, Saturday, ECW meeting, 2:00p.m.
- ♦ July 28, Sunday, Wedding, 3:00p.m.

**SEPTEMBER:**

- ♦ Sept. 14, Saturday, Wedding, 3:00p.m.
- ♦ Sept. 15, Sunday, Wedding, 2:00p.m.
- ♦ Sept. 22, Sunday, Wedding, 2:00p.m.
- ♦ Sept. 28, Saturday, ECW meeting, 2:00p.m.; Wedding, 2:30p.m.

**BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE.** The youth of Holy Trinity is collecting school supplies for the students (pre-school to elementary) of the Church of the Holy Spirit Christian Learning Center, Signal Village, Taguig. You may drop your donations at the Parish Office. Your support on this project is greatly appreciated.

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**SAINTS:**

**Gregory & Macrina, Teachers of the Faith, 19 July.** Gregory of Nyssa was born at Caesarea in what is now Turkey around the year 330, the child of an aristocratic Christian family. Unlike his elder brother Basil, he was academically undistinguished, but ultimately proved to be the most original of the group of the theologians known as the Cappadocian Fathers. He was introduced to the spiritual life by his elder sister Macrina who exercised a formative influence upon him, and with whom he maintained close bonds of friendship throughout his life. It was she who, after the death of their father, converted the household into a sort of monastery on one of the family estates. Gregory married a deeply spiritual woman, Theosebia, and at first refused ordination, choosing to pursue a secular career. He was ordained only later in life, and in 372 was chosen to be bishop of Nyssa. In the year 379 both his brother Basil and his sister Macrina died, and this deeply affected him; but out of this darkness emerged a profound spirituality. For Gregory, God is met not as an object to be understood, but as a mystery to be loved. He died in the year 394.

**Bartolomé de las Casas, Apostle to the Indies, 20 July.** Bartolomé de las Casas was the sixteenth-century Dominican priest who became known as 'the defender of the Indians' in 'the new world' of America. Born in 1484 at Las Casas in Seville, Bartolomé arrived in Haiti in 1502 and underwent a conversion after witnessing the injustices inflicted on the Indians. Proclaiming that Jesus Christ was being crucified in the poor, he went on to spend a lifetime challenging the Church and the Empire of his day. He was consecrated Bishop of Chiapa in Mexico in 1543 where he continued his prophetic rôle and emerges as a man of unquestioned courage and a theologian of remarkable depth, whose vision continues to set in relief the challenge of the gospel in a world of injustice. He died on 18 July 1566.