

# Week 7 - November 4, 2020

Today's reflection looks at what Jesus tells us about the Holy Spirit. In this exchange between Jesus and his Apostles he speaks of the Holy Spirit as "the Spirit of truth" and "the Advocate." An Advocate is someone who stands up for another person. Jesus speaks about himself, the Holy Spirit, and the Father. This is what we call the Trinity, the three persons of God. We believe in one God who mysteriously is three divine persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. They are totally united as one divine being but relate to each other and us as three. If you are confused by that, it's okay! It's probably the most confusing mystery the Church teaches us, but you can see in the scripture reading today, it comes from Jesus' own teachings.

## The Gospel of John 14, Verses 15 - 31

[Jesus said] **"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.**

**In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."**

[St. Jude] said to him, *"Master, [then] what happened that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?"*

Jesus answered and said to him, **"Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.**

**I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.**

**You heard me tell you, 'I am going away and I will come back to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe. I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over me, but the world must know that I love the Father and that I do just as the Father has commanded me. Get up, let us go.**

# Reflection

Jesus tells his Apostles that he will never leave them, or let them be “orphans.” Even if we can’t see Jesus with us he sends his Spirit. **What does it mean to have God always with us? Have you ever felt like God was with you?**

Jesus calls the Spirit an Advocate, which is someone who stands up for someone else. **Have you ever been an advocate for someone else? Has someone ever been an advocate for you?** What were those experiences like? How did they make you feel?

Jesus says that one day people won’t be able to see him anymore, but that if we love Him, then he will always love us. **How do we show that we love Jesus? How does he show us love even when we cannot see him?**

Jesus says the Holy Spirit will teach his Apostles and bring them peace. He tells them not to be worried or afraid. What is peace? **When you are worried or afraid what are ways you can find peace?**

Jesus contrasts himself and the Holy Spirit with “the world” he says that he gives us peace and love but the world does not. **He says people can see “the world” but they can’t always see Him. What do you think he means by that?** What do you think the difference is between Jesus and “the world?”

Re-read the gospel story and reflect on Jesus’ words about the Holy Spirit and God’s love for us. As you read it again, think about how you can be more aware of the Holy Spirit in your life. How can we keep Jesus’ commandments? What are some ways we can feel Jesus’ love for us? Finally, pray the Holy Spirit Prayer together.

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.*

*O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.*