

West Wagga Wagga Catholic Parish
Ashmont, Collingullie, Glenfield, Lloyd, San Isidore

The West Wagga Wag

Issue 148

June 2015

Coming Events

Monthly Cuppa, after 9am Mass on last Sunday of the month

Corpus Christi Sun 7

Feast of the Sacred Heart Fri 12

Immaculate Heart of Mary Sat 13

Confraternity of Christ the Priest 60th anniversary Fri 26

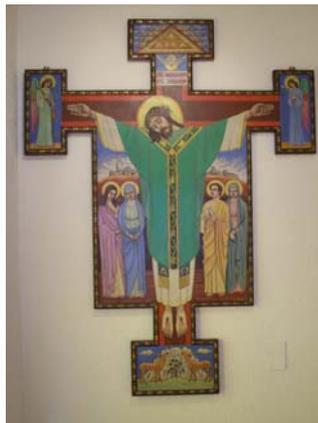
Our prayer cannot be reduced to an hour on Sundays. It is important to have a daily relationship with the Lord.

Pope Francis



Happy Feast Days!

Being a Catholic means some fasting, its true, but s0 much more feasting, as we prepare for the eternal Feast, the Supper of the Lamb!



Happy Feast of Christ the Priest!

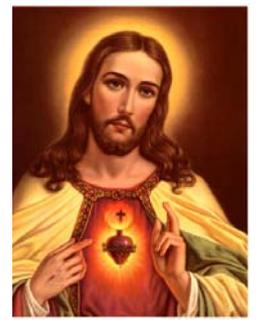
Happy Feast of the Holy Trinity

Happy Feast of Corpus Christi



Happy Feast of the Sacred Heart

Happy Feast of Immaculate Heart



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The date for submissions for the next Wag is: **Sunday May 31st.**

Fatima, Judaism & Islam

Silent Spiritual Retreat, June 19, 20, 21

Topics:

*Red & White Suffering The Fatima Story
Esther's Intercession Fatima's Prayers
Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Q & A*

Hail "Our Sweetness and Our Hope" Our Lady Heals

Info:

<http://www.westwaggaparish.com>

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pastor's page

Dear parishioners of West Wagga Parish,

Happy Feast Day of the Holy Trinity!

On Sunday May 31st we celebrated the Patron of our main parish Church, the Most Blessed Trinity. It was great to see extra members of our faith family present as children preparing for their First Holy Communion came with their

parents. They are very welcome; let's all help them to feel welcome, and the same with any people who come to Mass whom we haven't met before. Our effort to smile and say hello may make a big difference, and is very pleasing to God.

The Mystery of the Trinity is reflected in the reality of family life, and also in Marriage. As we celebrated this Mystery, the media was full of news about attempts to

redefine marriage. As Catholics, it is important that we be informed about this issue from a Gospel and truly human understanding, and that we be ready to help others to understand the true nature of marriage.

A good place to start is with these words of Archbishop Anthony Fisher.

Fr Thomas Casanova CCS

Don't Mess with Marriage

...Some say marriage should now be redefined as a public commitment by people to love each other – and so any two people should be allowed to marry. Anything else would be unfair, discriminatory, 'unequal'.

But hold on: what if marriage is essentially heterosexual? No one thinks it's wrong to restrict primary schools to children, women's hospitals to women, Aboriginal land rights to indigenous Australians... some things are precisely for them and exist because of them. The question is: is marriage precisely for "man and wife" and if so, why? ...why not morph marriage into a new institution for anyone who wants publicly to commit to loving each other?

For starters, marriage doesn't just harmonise two people's emotional

lives. Marriage has always been valued for holding together things which otherwise tend to pull apart: sex and love, love and babies, men and women, babies and parents. Not every marriage successfully unites all these things, but only the union of a man and woman can possibly do so.

Not every marriage ends up having kids, but every kid has a mum and dad. Marriage exists to bring a man and woman together so that, in the normal course of things, they become father and mother to any kids their love creates, and then to hold that man and woman together so those kids have parents for the long haul.

Reducing marriage to whatever gives adults emotional satisfaction leaves us with no real reason why such a union should be "for life" (as feelings aren't), why it should be between only two people (three or more might love each other too), or why government should regulate it

at all (we don't need a registrar to tell us who to love or for how long).

To claim that there are differences between men and women, mothers and fathers, parents and children, and to support an institution built around those distinctions, need not be unjustly discriminatory. What is unjust is to pretend these differences are irrelevant to the lives of all those already married, those who might in future want real marriage, or those whose families are founded on this relationship.

Many people today find it hard to commit to marriage and stay married. There are lots of reasons for that. But adding to the confusion about what marriage is and is for, and further deconstructing this institution, will only weaken it further. ...Don't mess with marriage.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher O.P.



"There is no such thing as 'parenting,' there is only mothering and fathering."

Senator Bob Day



Not all relationships are equal

June Jokes



WARNING TO ALL LORRY DRIVERS

Researchers for the Swansea Authority found over 200 dead crows near M4 recently, and there was concern that they may have died from Avian Flu. A Bird Pathologist examined the remains of all the crows, and, to everyone's relief, confirmed the problem was definitely NOT Avian Flu. The cause of death appeared to be vehicular impacts. However, during the detailed analysis it was noted that varying colours of paints appeared on the bird's beaks and claws. By analyzing these paint residues it was determined that 98% of the crows had been killed by impact with trucks, while only 2% were killed by an impact with a car. An Ornithological Behaviorist was consulted to determine if there was a cause for the disproportionate percentages of truck kills versus car kills.

The Ornithological Behaviorist very quickly concluded the cause: when crows eat road kill, they always have a look-out crow in a nearby tree to warn of impending danger. The scientific conclusion was that while all the lookout crows could say "Cah", none could say "Truck."

"I hope you didn't take it personally, Father," an embarrassed woman said after church service, "when my husband walked out during your sermon."

"I did find it rather disconcerting," the preacher replied.

"It's not a reflection on you, Fr.," insisted the churchgoer. "Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

One Sunday morning Father Bob advised his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. In preparation for my message, I want you all to read Mark chapter 17."

The following Sunday the priest asked for a show of hands from those who had read Mark chapter 17. Every hand went up. Fr Bob smiled and announced, "Well, Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

I recently watched an episode of Crimewatch and the presenter said: "If you know anything, anything at all, please call us." So I rang them up and said, "The square of the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares of the 2 shorter sides"

The politician stepped up to the microphone with a patch on his chin: "I'm sorry about the bandage, but I cut my chin shaving thinking about my speech." A voice from the back called out, "Next time, why not think about your chin and cut the speech?"

One day a mailman was greeted by a boy and a huge dog.

The mailman said to the boy, "does your dog bite?"

"No," replied the boy. Just then the huge dog bit the mailman.

The man yelled, "I thought your dog doesn't bite!"

"He doesn't," replied the boy, "that's not my dog!"

What's another word for synonym?

What do little birdies see, when they get knocked unconscious?

When a three-year-old opened a birthday gift from his grandmother, he discovered a water pistol.

He squealed with delight and headed for the nearest sink.

His mother was not so pleased. She turned to Grandma and said, "I'm surprised at you.

Don't you remember how we used to drive you crazy with water guns?"

Grandma smiled and then replied, "I remember."

One night a man was having a dream. He dreamt that he was a tee-pee. The next night he had the same dream, except he was a wigwam. He keeps having the dreams over and over so he goes to his therapist. He tells the doctor about his dreams and asks what they mean. The doctor replied, "Oh, that's easy. You're just too tense!" Get it? Two tents - too tense?

When you open a bag of cotton balls, is the top one meant to be thrown away?

Would a fly that loses its wings be called a walk?

YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT

The secretary said to her boss.

"You have an appointment at 12"

The boss said who is it with

She said, "its the invisinble man"

The boss said, "Tell him I can't see him"

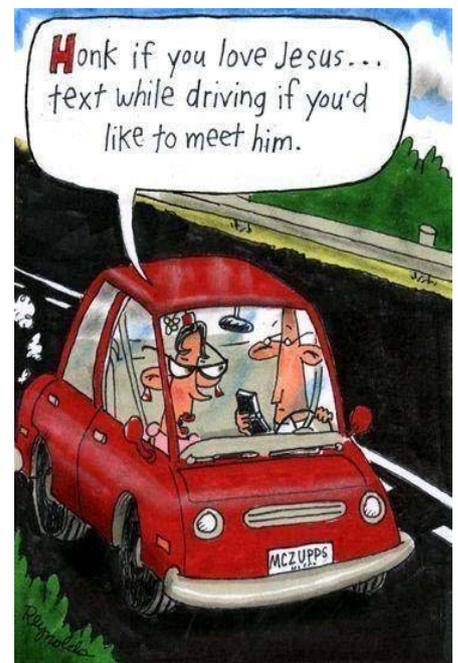
I can almost always tell when a movie doesn't use real dinosaurs.

HYGIENIC WAITER

A waiter brings the customer the steak he ordered with his thumb over the meat.

"Are you crazy" yelled the customer, "sticking your thumb in my steak?!"

"What" answers the waiter, "You prefer it fell on the floor again?"



Why Atheists Change Their Mind: 8 Common Factors

by Matt Nelson

Conversions from atheism are often gradual and complex, no doubt. For many converts the road is slow and tedious, tiring and trying. But in the end unbelievers who find God can enjoy an inner peace that comes from a clear conscience in knowing they held to truth and followed the arguments faithfully.

Here are eight common factors that lead atheists to change their minds about God:

1. Good literature and reasonable writing.

Reasonable atheists eventually become theists because they are reasonable; and furthermore, because they are honest.

Author Karen Edmisten admits on her blog:

"I once thought I'd be a lifelong atheist. Then I became desperately unhappy, read up on philosophy and various religions (while assiduously

avoiding Christianity), and waited for something to make sense. I was initially appalled when Christianity began to look like the sensible thing, surprised when I wanted to be baptized, and stunned that I ended up a Catholic."

2. "Experimentation" with prayer and the word of God.

Renowned sci-fi author John C. Wright distinctly recalls a prayer he said as an adamant atheist:

"I prayed. 'Dear God, I know... that you do not exist. Nonetheless, as a scholar, I am forced to entertain the hypothetical possibility that I am mistaken. So just in case I am mistaken, please reveal yourself to me in some fashion that will prove your case. If you do not answer, I can safely assume that either you do not care whether I believe in you, or that you have no power to produce evidence to persuade me... If you do not exist, this prayer is merely

words in the air, and I lose nothing but a bit of my dignity. Thanking you in advance for your kind cooperation in this matter, John Wright."

Wright soon received the answer (and effect) he did not expect: "Something from beyond the reach of time and space, more fundamental than reality, reached across the universe and broke into my soul and changed me... I was altered down to the root of my being... It was like falling in love." Wright was welcomed into the Catholic Church at Easter in 2008.

3. Historical study of the Gospels.

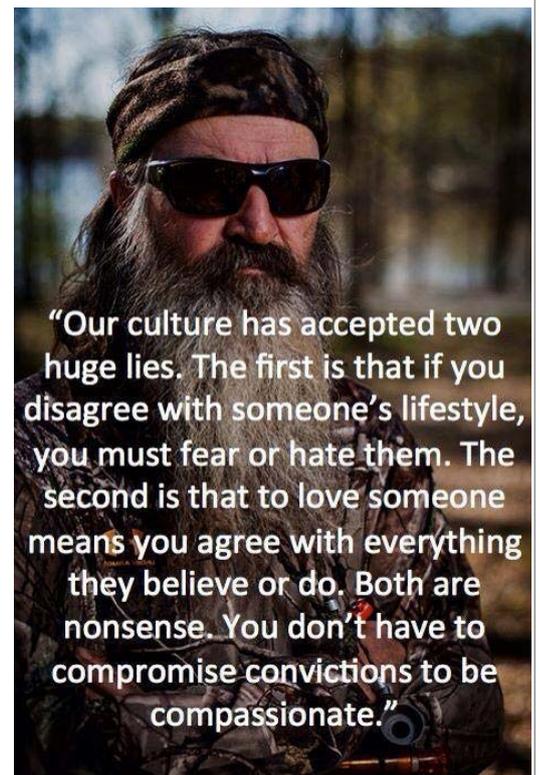
Lee Strobel, the former legal editor of the Chicago Tribune and author of the influential work, *The Case For Christ*, is a prime example of what happens when an honest atheist sets out to establish once and for all whether the claims of the

"The most important thing parents can do for their kids is to love each other; and the most important thing parents can do for each other is to love God."

7 CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY	7 SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY
1. FEED THE HUNGRY	1. ADMONISH THE SINNER
2. GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY	2. INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT
3. CLOTHE THE NAKED	3. COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL
4. SHELTER THE HOMELESS	4. COMFORT THE SORROWFUL
5. VISIT THE SICK	5. BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY
6. VISIT THE IMPRISONED	6. FORGIVE ALL INJURIES
7. BURY THE DEAD	7. PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND DEAD

#YEAROFMERCY

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"Our culture has accepted two huge lies. The first is that if you disagree with someone's lifestyle, you must fear or hate them. The second is that to love someone means you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense. You don't have to compromise convictions to be compassionate."

Why Atheists Change Their Mind continued ...

Gospels are reliable or not. Strobel writes at the end of his investigation in *The Case For Christ*:

“I’ll admit it: I was ambushed by the amount and quality of the evidence that Jesus is the unique Son of God... I shook my head in amazement. I had seen defendants carted off to the death chamber on much less convincing proof! The cumulative facts and data pointed unmistakably towards a conclusion that I wasn’t entirely comfortable in reaching.” (p. 264)

4. Honest philosophical reasoning.

Psychologist Dr. Kevin Vost recalls his discovery of the arguments of St. Thomas Aquinas:

“Pope Leo XIII had written in the 1879 encyclical *Aeterni Patris* that for scientific types who follow only reason, after the grace of God, nothing is as likely to win them back to the faith as the wisdom of St. Thomas, and this was the case for me. He showed me how true Christian faith complements and perfects reason; it doesn’t contradict or belittle it. He solved all the logical dilemmas.”

5. Reasonable believers.

Leah Libresco—an atheist blogger turned Catholic, recalls the challenging impact of reasonable Christians in her academic circle: “When I went to college... I met smart Christians for the first time, and it was a real shock.”

That initial “shock” stirred her curiosity and propelled her in the direction of Christianity. Leah is now an active Catholic.

6. Modern advances and limitations in science.

Antony Flew was one of the world’s most famous atheists of the 20th century. He debated William Lane Craig and others on the existence of God. But eventually his recognition of the profound order and complexity of the universe, and its apparent fine-tuning, was a decisive reason for the renowned atheist to change his mind about God’s existence.

In a fascinating interview with Dr.

Ben Wiker, Flew explains:

“There were two factors in particular that were decisive. One was my growing empathy with the insight of Einstein and other noted scientists that there had to be an Intelligence behind the integrated complexity of the physical Universe.”

He concluded that it was reasonable to believe that the organization of space, time, matter and energy throughout the universe is far from random.

As Dr. Peter Kreeft has pointed out, no person would see a hut on a beach and conclude that it must have randomly assembled itself by some random natural process, void of an intelligent designer. Its order necessitates a designer. Thus if this “beach hut analogy” is true, how much more should we believe in an Intelligent Designer behind the vastly more complex and ordered universe and the precise physical laws that govern it (click here for William Lane Craig’s argument for the fine-tuning of the universe).

Flew continues in his exposition on why he changed his mind about God:

“The second was my own insight that the integrated complexity of life itself—which is far more complex than the physical Universe—can only be explained in terms of an Intelligent Source. I believe that the origin of life and reproduction simply cannot be explained from a biological standpoint... The difference between life and non-life, it became apparent to me, was ontological and not chemical. The best confirmation of this radical gulf is Richard Dawkins’ comical effort to argue in *The God Delusion* that the origin of life can be attributed to a “lucky chance.” If that’s the best argument you have, then the game is over. No, I did not hear a Voice. It was the evidence itself that led me to this conclusion.”

7. Evidence for the Resurrection.

Thanks to the phenomenal work of leading New Testament scholars, including Gary Habermas, William Lane Craig, and N.T. Wright, the



case for Christ’s resurrection has become more airtight than ever. The case for the resurrection of Jesus had a significant impact on the former atheist, now Christian apologist, Alister McGrath. He recalls in one of his articles: “My early concern was to get straight what Christians believed, and why they believed it. How does the Resurrection fit into the web of Christian beliefs? How does it fit into the overall scheme of the Christian faith? After several years of wrestling with these issues, I came down firmly on the side of Christian orthodoxy.”

8. Beauty.

The great theologian, Hans Urs von Balthasar, wrote:

“Beauty is the word that shall be our first. Beauty is the last thing which the thinking intellect dares to approach, since only it dances as an uncontained splendour around the double constellation of the true and the good and their inseparable relation to one another.”

Father von Balthasar held strong to the notion that to lead non-believers to belief in God we must begin with the beautiful.

Dr. Peter Kreeft calls this the Argument from Aesthetic Experience. The Boston College philosopher testifies that he knows of several former atheists who came to a belief in God based on this argument (for more from Dr. Kreeft, see his *Twenty Arguments For The Existence Of God*). In classic Kreeftian fashion, he puts forward the argument in the following way:

“There is the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. Therefore there must be a God. You either see this one or you don’t.”

Entire Hindu Village in Nepal Spared by the 'Miracle of the Ordination'

Residents avoided major casualties in the April 25 earthquake by attending the priestly ordination Mass of Jesuit Father Tek Raj Paudel, the village's only Christian. by ANTO AKKARA 05/14/2015

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Even though additional tremors continue to rock the Himalayan nation of Nepal, the thousand-odd Hindus of Tarkerabari village in the nation's Okhaldunga district are rejoicing over the April 25 ordination of Jesuit Deacon Tek Raj Paudel from their village.

The ordination is credited with sparing the village from calamitous casualties from the massive quake that struck immediately after the ordination ceremony.

"They are still excited with what had happened. They continue to share their joy with me," the newly ordained Father Paudel told the Register on May 8 from his village of Tarkerabari. The village is 125 miles northeast of Kathmandu, near the epicenter of the earthquake that rocked the Himalayan country on April 25.

The disaster that claimed more than 8,000 lives occurred around noon, 30 minutes after the two-hour ordination ceremony, which was led by Bishop Paul Simick of Nepal and attended by hundreds of the Hindu villagers.

Had they not been there, loss of life would have been steep amid the quake: Even though 93 houses in the village collapsed and 359 others



suffered severe damage in the 7.8-magnitude temblor, the 42-year-old Jesuit priest — the only Christian from the village — pointed out, "Nobody [except one girl] was injured, as almost all of them were out to attend my ordination and the celebrations."

While dozens of people died in the neighboring villages, he said that the escape of the entire village is hailed by the Hindu community as "a blessing due to the ordination." "I heard even the MP, Ram Hari Khathiwoda [the Nepalese member of parliament from the area], thanking the Christians for holding the ordination in the village," Augustine Lepcha told the Register. Lepcha is a Catholic relief worker who returned to Kathmandu on May 6 after taking relief supplies to the village, where most families are living under tents.

"All the people there are only speaking of the miracle," added Lepcha.

'God Has Protected Us'

St. Joseph of Cluny Sister Angelica reached the village two days before the ordination, along with a dozen other Catholics, to prepare the altar decorations for the ordination.

"The soil under my feet was throwing up. Only when people started screaming and running, I realized it was an earthquake," recalled Sister Angelica, who was packing altar decorations when the quake struck.

"But it was surprising that the temporary hall [built with iron rods] did not fall on the people. We had to redo the decorations, as the hall and stage had been damaged during a hailstorm on the eve [of the quake]. It was incredible that no harm happened after such a powerful earthquake," the nun said. The nun and many of the 150 Catholics from Kathmandu, including several Jesuits who had gone to the remote village for the ordination, were rushing back to reach their vehicles to return to Kathmandu. The villagers were

saying, "Because of the ordination here, we were saved," Sister Angelica said. "A miracle has happened here."

Similarly, Jesuit Father Casper "Cap" Miller, who hails from Ohio but has been based in Nepal for 57 years, told the Register that he heard local women saying, "Because of the [ordination] ceremony here, we were saved. God has protected us."

Father Paudel's Conversion

Father Paudel, the ninth of 10 children in a Hindu family, came to Kathmandu in 1988 for his college studies.

"Curiosity to read the Bible changed my life," the Jesuit priest said during an interview with the Register on April 30, after returning to Kathmandu. "After I heard about the Bible during English classes in the government college, I went to find out more about the Bible."

"I visited several churches and finally landed at St. Xavier's School (of Jesuits) in 1990," he added.

After four years of catechism, he was baptized in 1994.

Though he wanted to join the Jesuits immediately, they told him to wait for six years — the mandatory norm for a convert to join the order. Meanwhile, Paudel graduated and enrolled for a degree in law.

"After my [law degree] in 2002, I joined the congregation. I am happy to be a priest now," said the newly minted priest, standing at Assumption Church in Kathmandu, the largest Catholic church in Nepal, where Catholics account for less than 10,000 in a nation of more than 28 million people.

"I was keen to have my ordination in the village, as the entire village belongs to my clan. I am happy that the superiors obliged my request," Father Paudel said. "Now it has become a blessing to my whole village."

He added, "Many of them are now very eager to know about the Church and are planning to visit Kathmandu and the churches."

When I'm an old lady, I'll live with each kid,

When I'm an old lady, I'll live with each kid,
And bring so much happiness just as they did.
I want to pay back all the joy they've provided.
Returning each deed! Oh, they'll be so excited!
When I'm an old lady and live with my kids.

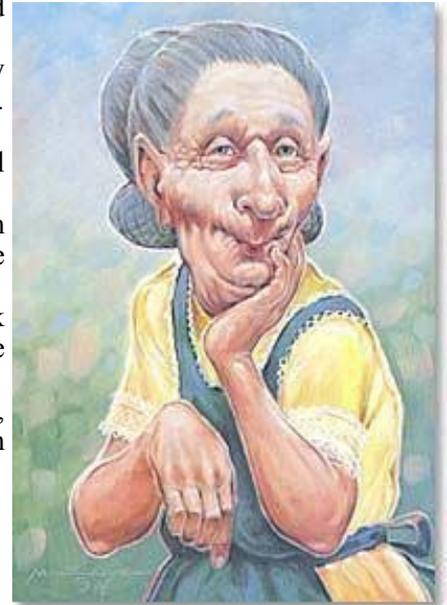
I'll write on the walls with reds, whites and blues,
And I'll bounce on the furniture wearing my shoes.
I'll drink from the carton and then leave it out.
I'll stuff all the toilets and oh, how they'll shout!
When I'm an old lady and live with my kids.

When they're on the phone and just out of reach,
I'll get into things like sugar and bleach.
Oh, they'll snap their fingers and then shake their head,
When I'm an old lady and live with my kids.

When they cook dinner and call me to eat,
I'll not eat my green beans or salad or meat,
I'll gag on my okra, spill milk on the table,
And when they get angry I'll run if I'm able!
When I'm an old lady and live with my kids.

I'll sit close to the TV, through channels I'll click,
I'll cross both eyes just to see if they stick.
I'll take off my socks and throw one away,
And play in the mud 'til the end of the day!
When I'm an old lady and live with my kids.

And later in bed, I'll lay back and sigh,
I'll thank God in prayer and then close my eyes.
My kids will look down with a smile slowly creeping,
And say with a groan, "She's so sweet when she's sleeping!"



5 Things Every Christian Needs to Know about the Holy Spirit

Pentecost is the day Christians remember when Jesus, after His ascension into heaven, sent the Holy Spirit to His disciples. The Apostles went out to the streets in Jerusalem and began preaching the Gospel, and "about three thousand were added to their number that day." (Acts 2.41)

Here are 5 important things to know about the Holy Spirit:

1) He is a person

The Holy Spirit is not an "it" or a "what," the Holy Spirit is a "he" and a "who." He is the third person of the Trinity, and even though He might seem more mysterious than the Father and the Son, He is just as much a person as they are.

2) He is fully God

The Holy Spirit may be the "third Person of the Trinity," but this doesn't mean that He is in anyway less than the Father or the Son. All three persons, including the Holy Spirit, and fully God and are "equal in glory," as the Athanasian Creed

says.

3) He has always existed, even in Old Testament times

Although we learn most of what we know about God the Holy Spirit (as well as God the Son) in the New Testament, the Holy Spirit has always existed. God eternally exists as three persons – this has always been true. So when you read about God in the Old Testament, remember that the God you are reading about is all three persons of the Trinity, including the Holy Spirit.

4) You receive the Holy Spirit at Baptism and Confirmation

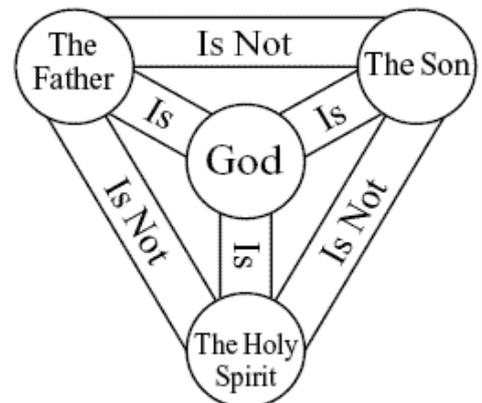
The Holy Spirit may be active in the world in mysterious ways we can't always know. But a person receives the Holy Spirit in a special way first in Baptism (Acts 2.38), and then is strengthened in the gifts of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation.

5) Christians are temples of the Holy Spirit, so live accordingly

Christians have the Holy Spirit indwelling in them in a special way,

and this has serious moral consequences, as St. Paul explains: Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. (1 Cor 6.18-20)

by ChurchPOP Editor -



The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



Serving: Ashmont,
Collingullie,
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and San Isidore



FAMILY	DISCIPLES
CROWD	KINGDOM
CIRCLE	HOUSE
JESUS	BROTHER
DIVIDED	SEATED
LAW	TEACHERS
EAT	GOD
MOTHER	

"Whoever does God's will is My brother and sister and mother."



N	C	M	V	F	E	D	Y	O	Z	R	S	L	W	W
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R	N	C	C	S	H	N	F	W	Z	D	P	E	J	F