

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Epiphany at Holy Trinity

Interim Rector's Message:

2017: Asking New Questions For Our Future

Christian Churches have been asking the same painful questions for way too long. We have all heard the questions: “Why don’t we have younger families?” “Why is Church School attendance slipping?” “Why do we always seem to be struggling financially?” “Why are the same few people doing all of the hard work?”

While these are all valid questions which express our deep concerns and frustrations, these questions don’t seem to have any helpful answers. In order to move forward into the abundant life Christ has in mind for Holy Trinity and to find the leadership appropriate to move us into that future, we need to change the questions we ask. Early this winter, we will do precisely that.

In the next few weeks, we will be embarking upon a series of Appreciative Inquiry Summits. In other words, we will meet as a congregation and begin asking for your input to a series of positive questions, such as:

- » . Let’s imagine that we are together for about two years. What does successful ministry look like at the end of that time? What will we have accomplished together that we can embrace as “successful?”
- » . Why are YOU coming to church?
- » . What is Holy Trinity good at?
- » . What does Holy Trinity have to offer to this community and the world?
- » . What is your best experience of worship here (a mountaintop experience)?
- » . What is something we can do together that EVERYONE will be energized by and get behind?
- » . What would an engaging Church School program look like that kids would want to come to every week?

Hopefully, these questions will move us into the future Christ is already visioning for us in 2017 and beyond.

Blessings R. +

Epiphany Celebration

The Feast of the Epiphany, celebrating Jesus being made manifest or appearing as Christ was observed on Sunday January 15th. As part of the service the Three Kings visited the Holy Family. Elizabeth and Matthew MacDonald played Mary and Joseph, Dennis Sheridan and Juliet and Tyler Rutt represented the Three Kings and Julie Ann Donovan appeared as the protecting angel.

NOTE THE DATES

1/27 & 1/28: Diocesan Convention.

1/29: Epiphany 4: Eucharist with Choir. Vestry Commissioning

2/5 **Celtic Mass for St. Brigid's Day**

2/9 Vestry Meeting

2/12 Epiphany 5; Eucharist with choir

2/19 Epiphany 6 Eucharist with choir – Youth Sunday

2/16 Last Epiphany; Eucharist with choir

3/1 **ASH WEDNESDAY - 6:30 am**
Ashes to Go - Train Station
8 am Eucharist & ashes - Church
7 pm Eucharist & ashes- Church followed by pizza dinner

3/5 First Sunday in Lent

3/9 Vestry Meeting

3/12 Lent 2
Daylight Savings Time starts

3/19 Lent 3 -Youth Sunday
Devils Game: carpool from church

3/26 Lent 4

3/31- 4/1 **Confirmation Retreat**

Coffee Hour Coordinator
Wanted. Talk to Annette,
Patty or Ronnie.

HOLY TRINITY'S CHRISTMAS



Thanks to the efforts of many hands, Christmas at Holy Trinity was special. The Alter Guild and extra volunteers transformed the sanctuary. We had an excellent turn out for the early service. The children's bell choir of Juliet Rutt, Elizabeth and William MacDonald, and Dennis Sheridan did a beautiful job. The choir and congregation celebrated with a selection of carols and Pastor Ronnie's sermon was inspiring.

The late service was introduced by a performance of the adult bell choir of Tyler and Debra Rutt and Patty Bradley, assisted by Sarah and Bobby Arlin. Rebecca Braverman our soloist gave us all goose bumps.

Sunday morning's attendance was a bit slim but those who were present appreciated the service. If you missed out come next Sunday and every one after – the minister, choir and supporting characters will be there to welcome you.

CAPITAL FUND

The siding project is finished!! The buildings look great; several neighbors have commented on the improvement. Congratulations and thanks are extended to all who contributed and/or worked on this project. There are still building needs to be addressed, including air conditioners for Behringer Hall, refinishing the Hall floor and repairs at the Rectory.

Anyone with an outstanding pledge balance is encouraged to make the remaining contribution. Also, the fund is open for any contribution beyond the pledges so we can address the continuing physical needs of the church parish hall and rectory.



Shop with Scrip

Think Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, graduation, birthday. Order your gift cards through Shop with Scrip & help Holy Trinity. To order online, you will need to create an account. Go to www.shopwithscrip.com and click on the 'Register' button at the top of the page. Next, click 'Join a Scrip Program.' You will then need to enter Holy Trinity's unique enrollment code: **5C326E6A41788**. With this code your account activity at ShopWithScrip is linked with Holy Trinity so we get the %. Next, fill in all the required information and click 'Register.' You will be asked to select two challenge questions and provide answers, which will be required if you forget your password; Answers are case-sensitive. You can pick up the cards from Joe Morley. Look for the Merchant List as an attachment in this email.

FAREWELL TO THE LANES

We bid farewell to John & Cheryl with a lovely special coffee hour on Sunday January 15th. Special thanks to Nancy DeNoble, Bonnie Fitzpatrick, Liz DeLaura, Grace Behringer, Pattie Bradley and Annette Ferrara and for their efforts in making a sad occasion physically and emotionally fulfilling.

Come enjoy the Celtic Mass to commemorate St. Brigid's Day on 2/5/2017. This mass reflects the beauty and rhythms of the ancient Celtic Church and recalls the sacredness of all creation.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2/5 Bobby Braverman
- 2/8 Jean Looes & Caroline Wates
- 2/11 Abbie Tekirian
- 2/12 Jeff Kay
- 2/13 Sam Braverman
- 2/14 Ernest Wigfield, Allison Bell & Jaxon Presti
- 2/18 Annette Loblanco
- 2/21 Suzanne Rocos, Sydney Ayer & Greg Stalb

HELPING HAND FOOD PANTRY

As a 1/23/2017 article in The Record noted North Jersey food pantries are seeing an increased need. Helping Hand is no different. To learn more about the Pantry, we regularly support visit their new website helpinghandfoodpantry.com.

Please consider donating from the list below:

- ✚ Canned Meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- ✚ Canned Hearty Soup
- ✚ Pancake Mix and Syrup
- ✚ Canned Fruit
- ✚ 100% juice
- ✚ Peanut Butter & Jelly
- ✚ Cold Cereal (low sugar) and Oatmeal
- ✚ Boxed Milk, such as Parmalat
- ✚ Instant Potatoes
- ✚ Canned Vegetables
- ✚ Macaroni & Cheese
- ✚ Coffee
- ✚ Baby Formula & Diapers all sizes
- ✚ Staples: flour, sugar, oil, condiments
- ✚ Shop Rite Gift cards



CHILI COOKOFF April 8th, 2017

The Annual Holy Trinity Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday evening, April 8th, beginning at 6:00 pm in Behringer Hall. This is one of Holy Trinity's most consistent and successful fundraisers, and we are seeking to increase that level of success yet again. To do so we need a team effort – especially with my impending Fatherhood. Here are a few ways I am seeking people to help with this event:

- Procure items for the Silent Auction - donations from local businesses, gift baskets, donations from sports teams, etc. Items must be new.
- Invite friends to the event to drive attendance. The more the merrier, let's aim for capacity! Tickets will be sold in advance and on line.
- Dedicated set-up and clean-up crews. Set-up will begin around 3:00 pm and usually goes right up to the start time. Clean-up begins after the announcement of the winners, usually between 9:15 pm and 9:30 pm. Also needed will be bakers to provide corn-bread and desserts to go along with all the chili.

If you are able to help in any way, please call or e-mail Chris Fitzpatrick at (973) 271-9849, on Facebook or at fitzpatrick1@optimum.net.

CONFIRMATION CLASS BICYCLE COLLECTION.



Together with St. John's, Ramsey and a former parishioner, Tom Tarbutton, the confirmands will be coordinating a collection of used but fully usable two wheeled bicycles. These bicycles will go to a non-profit organization "Pedals for Progress," <http://www.p4p.org/>. They are reconditioned, and then shipped and distributed to individuals third-world countries who need a practical means of transportation but cannot afford a car. This is something the entire parish can participate in but the point people will be the Confirmation Class.

Each Confirmand will be required to collect a minimum of two USED bicycles. Help them put feelers out with friends, relatives, neighbors. P4p's motto is "**putting used bikes to good use.**" Almost everyone has at least one old bicycle hanging around the garage collecting dust. Only 2 wheel bicycles (training wheels are ok). No tricycles, scooters, etc. no new bicycles.

We will collect the bicycles at Holy Trinity in early April. If you wish to drop them off sooner, call the church office and arrange for reception on Sunday mornings or any Tuesday or Thursday from 9-2 when the office is open. We plan that the confirmands will remove the pedals and loosen and turn the handlebars for easier transportation, and coordinate delivery or pick up with Mr. Tarbutton.

Holy Trinity has committed to covering some of the handling costs and anticipate the confirmands will set up a bake sale this spring to raise the needed funds. Watch for more information.

Please help our Confirmands complete this important aspect of their Confirmation requirements as we teach them the Christian values of social awareness and responsibility.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

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The Steadfast Love of the Lord is not Seasonal; His Mercies do not have winter or summer days.

They are new every now and then.” — Israelmore Ayivor