



The Vine...

Connecting the Body of Christ one to another

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Essex, 1131 Mace Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21221
(410) 687-5531 www.holytrinityessex.org December 2019



FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

Advent is a season of preparation: we are preparing for the coming of Our Lord as a little child at Christmas. The society around us seems to think preparing for Christmas means non-stop shopping, but we know that preparing our hearts and souls is best done in the company of other committed Christians. So as part of our Advent this year, we will have a Soup and Study at noon on the three Thursdays in Advent (Dec. 5, 12, and 19). This gives us an opportunity to focus on our spiritual lives as we approach Christmas. Each session consists of eating together (a simple meal of soup and bread), followed by 30-45 minutes of study and discussion. The topic will be “Exploring the Sacraments.”

An Advent tradition at Holy Trinity is the annual children’s Christmas Pageant. This year it will happen at the 10:00 service on Sunday, December 15.

Our Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00 on December 24, with full festivities. On Christmas day, December 25, we will have a quiet service of Holy Eucharist at 10:00. On January 1, we will have a noon service of Holy Eucharist to celebrate the feast of the Holy Name.

We are also continuing our congregational conversations between the services each week. Those who are unable to be present are welcome to contribute to the dialogue by email or text.

Advent is a good time to focus our spiritual lives, so I hope you will be able to participate in the Soup and Study. And in this holy season, I look forward to seeing you in church!

Faithfully,

Mother Annette



FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH

Dear Friends in Christ,

There were two main religious groups during the time of Jesus; these were the Sadducees and the Pharisees.

The Sadducees were members of the high-priestly family and tended to be wealthy and politically well-connected. They accepted only the Torah as authoritative scripture, giving writings of the prophets a lower place, and they rejected oral tradition altogether. They also rejected the idea of resurrection because it is not found in the Torah.

Now, the Pharisees, on the other hand, they were more religious and less political. They accepted both the Torah and the writings of the prophets as authoritative scripture. And they relied heavily on oral tradition to understand scriptures. They believed in resurrection but didn't fully understand the concept-- probably because it was not a well-developed topic in the Old Testament.

Now, we understand that the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection. We know they worshipped the Torah, the first 5 books of the Bible, which are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Jesus spent His last years with these two groups trying to trick Him or refute His

words. They did not believe or understand the concept of resurrection and were not open to the appearance of a new King, especially one who proved on numerous occasions to be more knowledgeable than themselves. Their only out was to get rid of Jesus and of course, to their dismay, Jesus triumphed even over death.

In a few weeks, we will celebrate the birth of our Savior. We learned that His birth narrative is only recorded in Luke. Perhaps this Christmas Eve as you ready for Santa, you might start a tradition of reading Luke 2:1-7 to yourself and your family.

Yours in Christ,

Cindy+

Church News

INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX PRESENTS

A huge thank you to all who brought in items or provided cash in order to fill the 20 shoebox presents from Holy Trinity this year. Each box contained soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, a comb, toothpaste and a toothbrush, mouthwash or dental floss, Chapstick, hand cream, a pack of playing cards, a New Testament, and either a warm pair of socks, gloves or a hat. Imagine being at sea for months, not able to get off the work ship, and being given a shoebox filled with these necessities. Your generosity is truly priceless.

In gratitude, wishing you all a very Merry Christmas,

Denise Thatcher

Please see below the letter Denise Thatcher received in response to our gifts:

Dear Denise,

Holy Trinity's 20 beautiful gifts arrived at BISC yesterday, delivered by Allene's friend Lynn Calvarese, who does our occasional large mailings, makes our misbehaving office machines behave again, etc. So the gifts have already had quite a journey. And depending on which crew receives them, they may travel half-way around the world before they are opened, typically on Christmas Eve.

We know that every Christmas box represents a significant gift of time and resources, and we are very grateful. And we also know how lonely this time of year can be for seafarers. They will be even more grateful.

Please share my thanks with the congregation, and give my very best to Mother Annette. I loved working with her!

Blessings,
Mary

The Rev. Mary Davisson, Director
Baltimore International Seafarers' Center

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT UPDATE

Asa Seay and his team of volunteers have completed the majority of the work for his Eagle Scout Project. They worked on the Prayer Path for most of the day on Saturday, November 9. They removed the old wooden border and cleared the path of old mulch and leaves. Then, they replaced the border with new wood and put down new mulch. Thanks to all who helped him, especially those from our congregation: Wes Thatcher, John Morris, and Boe Krenzer. Asa will still be replacing the angel statue as part of his project. We will provide an update once that is complete. Thank you to all who donated to this project!



It's pledge time!

It's the time when we make a commitment to support the mission and ministry of the church to the best of our ability in the year ahead.

Holy Trinity is a place of joyful worship, exuberant fellowship, and vigorous outreach. And we are blessed, at Holy Trinity, in being a congregation that gives in many ways – by pledging, by giving time and effort to fund raisers, and by contributing both money and time to outreach projects.

I urge you to be as generous as you can in your pledging. Our pledge is our commitment to the furtherance of God's kingdom.

Faithfully,
Mtr. Annette



The **ANNUAL CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PAGEANT** will be held during the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 15. Please plan to attend to see the children's program! If you have any questions, please see Christina Florentine between the 8:00 and 10:00 services.



CHURCH CLEANING DAY!

Come one, come all! In anticipation of Christmas, we will have a church (and parish hall) cleaning day on Saturday, December 21, from 9:00 a.m. – noon (or earlier if we get finished!). We are all busy but please join us even if you are only able to stay for one hour. If you have any questions, contact Teresa Schutte-Register or Leah Seay.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING

We will be visiting our homebound to sing Christmas carols to them after the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 22. All are welcome! If you are interested, please see Deacon Cindy.



Are you looking for an easy and rewarding way to serve your community? Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland is seeking caring, reliable people to help deliver meals to your homebound neighbors. Give us about 1 hour of your time to deliver nutritious meals on any weekday (Monday-Friday) beginning at 11am. Volunteers are needed right here to deliver in Essex and Dundalk around Holy Trinity! In sharing a smile along with a little of your time you will make a lasting difference in the life of a homebound senior. To get started please call Volunteer Services at 443-573-0925, email us at volunteer@mowcm.org, or visit our website at www.mealsonwheelsmd.org

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

Did you know that by collecting the pull tabs from canned beverages you can help a sick child? The simple act of collecting the pull tabs and donating them to The Ronald McDonald House here in Baltimore will help to provide fuel for the shuttles that take those who are staying at the house to area hospitals for treatment or take families to visit a hospitalized child. There is a collection container in the Parish Hall. Lynn French will periodically take the donated pull tags to the Ronald McDonald House. If you have any questions and/or would like more information about the Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore, please speak with Lynn French.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Heather Jackson – 12/2
Betty Ann Metz – 12/6
Joanne Piper – 12/9
Earl Peters – 12/11
Chris Acly – 12/13
Jackie Spence – 12/14
Mary Wise – 12/15
Frank Preston – 12/17
Laura Nielson – 12/20
Sam Seay – 12/23
Ellen Wallace – 12/27
Sharon Goslin – 12/28
Mikey Pomraning – 12/29
Susan Huber – 12/30
Alexis Balderson – 12/31
Alyssa Balderson – 12/31



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dan and Janice Barber – 12/1
Bob and Betty Metz – 12/17

ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS, SEE LEAH



PRAYER LIST

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servants, that their weaknesses may be banished and their strength restored; and that, their health being renewed, they may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mary Bogert
 Melody Magin (Mary Bogert's Daughter)
 Charlotte Nicholson (Janice's Sister)
 Bill & Angie Martin (Janice's son & daughter-in-law)
 Jim Wilson (friend of Wes and Denise)
 Alice Martin
 James Florentine (Dave's brother)
 Elizabeth Shifflett (Ron's aunt)
 Jack Acly
 Ellen Wallace
 Danny Mitchell
 Connie Waldron Careel
 Marie-Elena Riggio (Frank's cousin)
 Connie Bitetto (Frank's cousin)
 Wayne Preston (Gary's brother)
 Bill & Di Anderson (Joan's son and daughter-in-law)
 Chris Anderson, Sr. (Joan's son)
 Joan Anderson
 Elizabeth Patterson (Millie's sister)
 Ryan Perry (Helen's grandson)
 Debbie McCall (Helen's daughter)
 Ruth Anthony
 Cynthia Brown
 Joanne Piper
 Tina Barberia (Teresa's family friend)
 Jennifer Burlock (Sue's daughter)

James Baker (Millie's brother)
 Margaret Oduor
 Heather Hildebrand (friend of John and Jeannie)
 Tina Goins (niece of John and Jeannie)
 Kathleen Monroe (friend of John and Jeannie)
 Dewald Family
 Jason Reynolds
 Janice Reynolds
 Valerie Mehl
 Dottie Robinson
 Rachel Nealis
 Jack Taylor (Leah's cousin)
 Madi Novak (Anne's great niece)
 Gossman family (Anne's friends)
 Kaitlyn Alves
 Kayla Sheridan
 Kenneth Harle
 John Morris
 Jeannie Morris
 Linda Duty
 Tony Geiger
 Todd Metz (Bob's son)
 Brenda, Dwayne, Stanley
 Brian Osborne
 Larry Kinard
 Bill Hightower
 Linda Quinn (Mary Anne's sister-in-law)
 Jane V. Quinn (Mary Anne's mother)
 Kely Puig
 George Burlock
 Chris Ratajczak (Darlene's son)
 Phyllis Thomas (Denise's aunt)
 Nick Heuchan and family
 Frank Riggio-Preston
 Joyce Sullivan
 Mildred Hessie
 Nancy Taylor
 Pat McGee
 Richard Chin (friend of Lynn French)
 Kurt and Molly Stoltz

Please advise Leah of any additions or deletions.



The 2019 forms are on the table in the narthex. Memorials are on a per Sunday basis, not per name. More than one person may donate on any given Sunday. The following Sundays are still open for Flower Memorials in 2019: December 8 and 22.

COFFEE HOUR

Please sign up on the chart on the wall in the hall to host a Sunday coffee hour. If you want to know what this entails, please see Millie Reichert.

PARISH HALL RENTAL

The parish hall is rented on a strictly first come, first serve basis. If you would like to rent the hall, you must speak with Leah Seay, Parish Secretary. All events are to end at or before 11:00 pm, and the hall is to be cleaned and ready for use the next morning.



FLOWER MEMORIALS/ THANKSGIVINGS

If you would like to offer flower memorials or thanksgivings, please complete a form with your instructions, along with a check for \$30.00, and return them to Teresa Schutte-Regester.



A LITTLE CHURCH HUMOR!

If the widow's mite had been invested 2,000 years ago in the First National Bank of Jerusalem, at 4 percent interest, compounded semi-annually, the \$4,800,000,000,000,000,000,000 now in the account could pay off several notional debts.

-Rev. Felix A. Lorenz Jr., Northville, Michigan

One Sunday, in church a little boy took off his tie and put it into the offering plate. "What are you doing?" asked his mother. "What the minister said," answered the little boy. "He told us to give our ties and offerings."

-Timothy Roland, Gillette, New Jersey

A pastor asked a youngster: "Johnny, do you know where little boys go if they don't put their money in the collection plate?" "Yes, pastor," the boy answered. "They go to the movies."

-George Goldtrap, Madison, Tennessee

A young girl wrote in her church grade school: "Syntax is all the money collected at church from sinners."

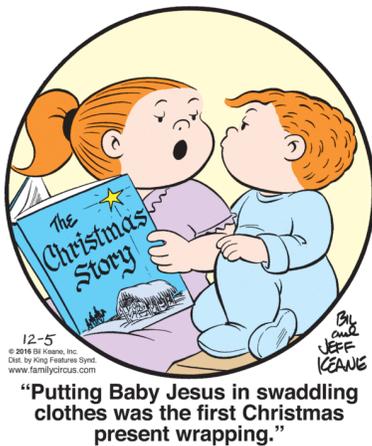
-Catherine Hall, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas when its mighty Founder was a child Himself.

-Charles Dickens

Sign seen in a department store: "Make This a Christmas Your Spouse Won't Forget. Charge Everything."

Blooper in a church Christmas bulletin: "The choir will sing 'I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day.'"



HOUSEKEEPING NOTES

Since we do not have a paid cleaning service for the church, please remember to clean up any trash or spills during or after Coffee Hour. The mop handles are labeled for use specifically in Kitchen, Hall or Bathroom to avoid cross contamination. If you need to use a mop for a bigger spill, please use the correct one. If you have questions, please ask John Morris, Wes Thatcher, or Asa Seay. Thank you.



MESSAGES

Anne Knott maintains the primary list of e-mail information. However, if you change your email address and you don't give the change to Anne, it is not possible for her to notify you of situations impacting the parish. Anne can be reached at anneews@verizon.net or see her on Sunday's after the 10:00 service.

MAILING LIST UPDATES:

For changes to your home address or phone number, call the parish office at 410-687-5531 or see Leah Seay or Jeannie Morris after the 10:00 service on Sunday.

THE HISTORY OF OUR COFFEE HOUR

Up until the late 1950s, when we went to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on Sunday, we greeted those who sat next to us in the pews. Then, after church, we proceeded to the church door, shook hands with the Vicar, said a few words about the service, and went home.

When Father Holland B. Clark, a southern priest, arrived at Holy Trinity, he suggested having a coffee hour after church, so the parishioners could mingle and get to know one another. (This is how they did it in the South.)

At that time, Amy Joy Donut Shops were big, and we learned that the little insignificant donut hole was available, for free! So, each Sunday, on our way to church, we would stop and pick up Holy Trinity's free donut holes. There we had it! Coffee, conversation in the church basement, with juice for the children. Nothing fancy! Later, when Amy Joy and other donut shops realized they could make money from the donut holes, they became available for a small fee.

Over the years, our Coffee Hour has evolved into quite an elaborate repast. For old times' sake, why not have a Coffee Hour of just donut holes? They're really good!

--submitted by Teresa Schutte-Regester

I think that I shall never see
A church that's all it ought to be.
A church whose members never stray
Beyond the straight and narrow way.
A church that has no empty pews,
Whose people all pay their dues.
A church whose members always sing,
And flock to church when bells ring.
Such perfect churches there may be,
But none of them are known to me.
But still we'll work and pray and plan
To make our own the best we can.

*-Msgr. Joseph P. Dooley, St. Rocco's Church,
Martins Creek, Pennsylvania*



For your convenience, we follow the lead of Baltimore County Public Schools:

If schools are closed, so are we.

If schools start late, so do we.

If schools close early, so do we, and there will be no evening events even if the weather clears.

On Sundays, we will strive to be open. However, there will be an announcement on the answering machine by 6:00 a.m. that Sunday morning if we are not able to have our regularly scheduled services.



HOLIDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Christmas Eve at 8:00 p.m.

Verger – Kaitlyn Alves

Crucifer – Asa

Server – Daniel

Gospeler – Daniel

Chalicer – Kaitlyn Ross

Chalicer – Tyler

Intercessor – Chris K.

Reader – Ron Ross

Reader – John Morris

Usher – Wayne

Usher – Barb

Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m.

Ron Mardaga

New Year's Day at 12:00 noon

Ron Mardaga



FINAL WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Items for the January Newsletter are due by December 15.

THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who donated groceries, toiletries, canned goods, and other items for the Thanksgiving Basket project. With your help, we were able to distribute items to 24 families in our neighborhood. Volunteers packed the donated items on Friday evening. Turkeys, fruit, rolls, and the rest of the “fixings” were added on Saturday morning and delivered.

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who made this project possible, including Ron Mardaga, Millie Reichert, Nancy McDougall, Sam, Leah, and Asa Seay, Lynn French and Richard, Rob and Pam Gatchell, Sherry and Mike Pomraning, Stevie Zeller, Chris Kinard, Loretta Gischel, John Morris, Ellen Reilley, Deacon Cindy Christopher, Helen Perry, Pat Morgan and Rich Glendenning, Theresa Ridgeway, Dan Gorny, and Charles Keller.

Thank you to Food Lion and Weis for their generous donations which went towards purchasing turkeys and fresh foods. May everyone have a blessed holiday season!

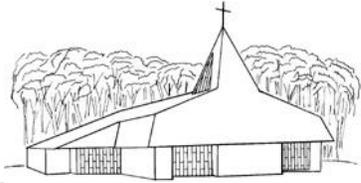


MINISTRY SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 2019

	1	8	15	22	29
Chalicerist	D&A Sample	K&R Ross	Chris A. Sylvia	Sylvia J Huber	Chris A. Sylvia
Lay Reader	Anne M.	R.Ross	Chris N.	Theresa	Anne M.
Intercessor	J.Huber	Chris N.	Theresa	J Huber	R Ross
10:00 A.M.					
Verger					
Thurifer					
Server	Kane	Daniel	Lily H.	Wesley	Kane
Crucifer	Kaitlyn	Asa	Asa	Kaitlyn	Asa
Torch					
Torch					
Gospeler	Kane	Daniel	Lily H.	Wesley	Kane
Chalicerist	Teresa	Chris K.	John M.	Chris K.	John M.
Chalicerist	Janice	Teresa	Teresa	Jean B.	Tyler
Intercessor	Mary Anne	Richard G.	Richard G.	Denise	Michele
Reader (OT)	Michele	Denise	Susan	Mary L.	Jason
Reader (NT)	Teresa	Mary Anne	Maggie	Gary L.	Richard G.
Usher	Joe	Jean B.	Chris K.	Leah	Barbara
Usher	Millie	Mary D.	Gloria	Asa	Wayne
Teller	Jean B.	Don A.	Anne K.	Chris K.	Jean B.
Teller	Millie	Scott	Michele	Ellen R.	Anne K.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SERVE ON ANY OF THESE DATES, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND AN AUTHORIZED REPLACEMENT.



December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Sunday School 7:00 PM AA	2 12:00 PM Al-anon	3 9:30 AM Leah in the Office 7:30 PM AA	4 6:30 PM Al-anon	5 9:30 AM Leah in the Office	6	7
8 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Sunday School 7:00 PM AA	9 12:00 PM Al-anon	10 9:30 AM Leah in the Office 7:30 PM AA	11 6:30 PM Al-anon	12 9:30 AM Leah in the Office 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	13	14 11:00 AM Marge Sichette Memorial Service and Luncheon
15 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Sunday School 7:00 PM AA	16 12:00 PM Al-anon	17 9:30 AM Leah in the Office 7:30 PM AA	18 6:30 PM Al-anon	19 9:30 AM Leah in the Office	20	21 9:00 AM Church and Hall Cleaning
22 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Sunday School 7:00 PM AA	23 12:00 PM Al-anon	24 9:30 AM Leah in the Office 7:30 PM AA 7:30 PM AA-Canceled for this date 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service 6:30 PM Al-anon	26 Office Closed	27	28
29 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Sunday School 12:00 PM Hall Rental - Edwards 7:00 PM AA	30 12:00 PM Al-anon	31 9:30 AM Leah in the Office 7:30 PM AA	1 12:00 PM New Year's Day Church Service 6:30 PM Al-anon	2 9:30 AM Leah in the Office	3	4

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