



Tidings of Holy Trinity Church

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*Holy Trinity is called to recognize, communicate and celebrate
God's presence within, among and around us.*

A MESSAGE FROM FR. RICHARD

Dear Friends,

March covers a multitude of sins this year; quite literally! The whole drama plays out; Jesus moves in the midst of the religious community and calls us to mercy and extends his ministry to the folks who never dared darken the aisles of the Holy places. He seeks out the blind until they see his divinity. Jesus encounters the condemned caught in adultery but with a "I do not condemn you, only go and sin no more." Jesus encounters the condemned for crime, fixed to the adjacent cross, only with "today you shall be with me in paradise!" Jesus encounters the condemned, so entrenched in their religiosity, but only with a "go, sell what possesses you, and come and follow me!"

The institution of the Church learned well how to catalogue the moral indiscretions of members, and take power to itself with the accretions of centuries of moralism. Too bad! They should have looked at Jesus' deeds and words which were never about judgment, but rather about calling people to larger, happier, more graceful forgiving, and "larger welcoming living."

Consider well this Holy season what you believe lies at the heart of the cross and the empty tomb, and find the balm for your soul in the man of sorrows, triumphantly reigning!!

*I remain,
Your friend and Rector,
(The Reverend) Richard S. Signore*

Family Worship News!

In order to complete our new bible stories curriculum, Family Worship will now be held the first 3 weeks of the month! Each week will consist of a bible story in chronological order followed by a short activity which reinforces the main idea of the story. Children are encouraged to bring a one-subject notebook or journal each week (or keep them at church). On each page we will have pictures and words to attach so at the end of the year each child will have a record of learning as a keepsake!

If you are willing to take a week, please contact Cat Reith-Lowery. She has printed the complete set of lessons which is kept on the children's altar. The lessons really are straight forward! Please consider sharing a Sunday with the children. We promise to make joyful noise each week.

Family Worship Dates: March 4, 11, 18



Bishop Douglas Fisher to visit with Holy Trinity Church 11 March 2018

Please plan on celebrating with Bishop Doug on Sunday, March 11, as he comes to spend the day with the Parish family. We look forward to his sharing the insights gleaned from his leadership in the larger Church and through community witness. Let us welcome him with Godly affection!



**Mark Your
Calendar**

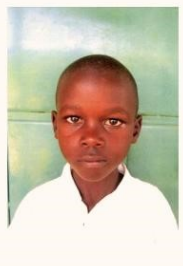
ALTAR FLOWERS DURING LENT

Please remember that there are no flowers on the altar during Lent. If you would like to place a Vigil Light dedication, please complete the flower donation form on the table at the back of the church.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial reports will now be quarterly. Monthly statements will be sent as attachments, as usual, and will be available on the website.

CHILDREACH SPONSOR CHILD



The sign-up sheet has been placed on the back table of the church to help support Nicholas Onyango Okondo. Please consider supporting this important ministry by signing up to sponsor Nicholas for a month (or two) in 2018. The sponsorship is \$33.00 per month.



There will be Lenten Soup Suppers on Wednesdays during Lent at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 6:00 pm. The topic of study is based on the book, Half Truths, and will start with a light soup and bread supper. For more information or to make a soup/stew, please speak with our secretary, Chris.

**Join us for Family Worship
in Blakely Hall
March 4, 11 & 18**



**When families come
together to worship with kids in mind.**

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1–John Grant 2–Susan Grant 7–Laura Gervais 9 – Bridgette Bachand 9 – Jack Burns
10 – Benjamin Normandin 12–Abigail Bullard 13–Sof Kollios 31–Christopher Ballou

If you have a birthday this month and are not listed but would like your name to be included in our monthly Tidings for birthdays, please contact the office. Thank you!

THE MISSION PLATE

In twenty countries around the world and serving about two million clients, FINCA is a non-profit organization that provides microfinance loans to persons who do not have access to banks and their services. So many people struggling to support their families are unable to grow their businesses, send their children to school, and have clean water and a safe home.

But with a microfinance loan of \$25.00, entrepreneurs are able to achieve their goals, improve the lives of their children and strengthen their community. Many of these clients are mothers supporting their families! It could be that the mother sells nuts, but does not make enough to grow her enterprise. But a small loan can make all the difference. Please go online to read about FINCA and its mission.

If we can donate \$100.00 to FINCA, we could support four microloans! Or maybe even more!

Thank you again for your thankful hearts and generosity. I have been helped so much in my life by others who gave me loans of time, money, caring and support. I know we can all relate to the impact of these "loans" and what they have meant to us. Let us "Pay It Forward." Thanks be to God.

Suzy Sharp, your member in Arizona!

[774-230-3426](tel:774-230-3426)

Sunday Services Inclement Weather Closure Plan for Winter 2018

Every Sunday in March, weather permitting, there will be a service of Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m. Please know that if, due to inclement weather, it is deemed necessary to cancel the service or hold Morning Prayer instead, and the means to do so is in place, an announcement will be posted on the Holy Trinity Web page, Facebook, and an all parish email sent out.

Please consider the road conditions and parking availability when making your decision to attend the service. If you are in any doubt please contact:

Senior Warden—John Grant 860-923-9691 or
860-576-2148.

or

Jr. Warden—Diane Nichols 508-885-2934 or
774-230-0113

BIBLE AND WINE: A BIBLE BOOK STUDY An Introduction to the Gospel of John Wednesdays from 7:30-9 PM

March 7 @ BLC—Read John 31:1-35

March 21 @ HTC—Read John 17:1-26



YOU ARE INVITED!!

Tamsin Lucey and Susan Grant are turning 60!

The parish is invited to an Irish/English birthday dinner on **March 3 @ 5:00 pm!** Wine will be served with dinner, Irish Cream with dessert. Nonalcoholic beverages available. Please RSVP by 2/26. In lieu of gifts, please make a donation to the Holy Trinity Building Fund. Thank you!

Children's Good Friday Service

Friday, March 30

10:30 am-Gather in Parish Hall

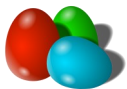
10:45 am-Prepare to enter sanctuary

11:00 am-Begin the service

After the service, we will gather back in the Parish Hall for reflections and a Good Friday themed snack. ALL are welcome. This event is sponsored by Family Worship and is geared toward children and families, but we encourage anyone to attend for a meaningful and spiritual activity.

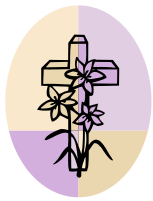
Questions or to volunteer to help, please see
Fr. Richard.

EASTER EGGS



Easter morning, at 8:30 am, we will be filling plastic Easter Eggs. All materials provided.

Eggs will be ready for children to hand out after the service! All children are invited to help with this project.



EASTER MEMORIALS

This Easter, you may wish to have a loved one remembered or to express special thanks to God for His blessings in your life. To do so, please complete this form and return it with your donation to the Church office by **Sunday, March 25**. The donations collected for these memorials are used to purchase the flowers that decorate the sanctuary on Easter Day.

Exact wording of memorial will be:

Easter gifts for flowers are given to the Glory of God...

_____ in Thanksgiving for the life of _____

(Name of your loved one or ones)

OR

_____ in Loving Memory of _____

(Name of your loved one or ones)

OR

If this gift is in Thanksgiving of a person who is living, choose the following:

_____ in Thanksgiving for the Blessing of _____

(Name of person or blessing)

given by _____

[Your name(s) – please use exact wording you would like to have published. You may, for example, say something like “by his family” or “by her husband” followed by your name or you may simply use your name(s).]

Please return this information sheet, along with your donation, to the church office or drop it in the offering plate by **Sunday, March 25**. Donations of any amount are appreciated and will offset the cost of the flowers for decorating the church on Easter Day. Please make checks payable to Holy Trinity Church with the notation “Easter Flowers” on the memo line.

Do you know someone who would appreciate Easter flowers from the church? Please write their name and address here so arrangements can be made to bring them flowers:

SR. WARDEN NEWS

Dear Parishioners;

As we enter into the Lenten Season we have many reasons to be thankful. Our Mardi Gras Pancake Supper was a joyful success. Like many of our previous Mardi Gras events, the attendance has been variable. But we have always had a tangible community spirit, with all attendees pitching in and assisting in preparation, cooking, and cleaning up afterward. Since my initial introduction to Holy Trinity Church, I was always impressed with the community spirit, the feeling of fellowship, comradery, and love that I have experienced.

Lent presages the coming of Easter, the most holy day in Christendom. The Lenten season gives us the opportunity to prepare ourselves for the sacrifice made by our Lord Jesus Christ as His sacrifice, in body and spirit, has given us redemption, forgiveness, and everlasting life. As we are in this season of preparation, we also prepare for the coming of Bishop Douglas Fisher on March 11 as he makes his annual visit to Holy Trinity.

We also have Parish Leadership day on March 17 at American International College in Springfield. Parishioners are welcome to attend as the Parish pays the cost of attendance. Every year that I have attended I have learned something new and have met interesting people from many parishes across the Diocese. If anyone is interested, see me and I can provide the internet link to sign up.

Yours Faithfully, John Grant – Senior Warden

OVERNIGHT PRAYER VIGIL AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Can you spare just 1 hour of your time for prayer this Lenten season? We will start our prayer vigil immediately following the Maundy Thursday service on March 29 and will continue in 1 hour increments into Good Friday. We need all slots to be filled and you can feel free to come alone or bring a friend, spouse, other family-member etc. The church is kept securely locked throughout the vigil with the person in the church only opening the door to a successor. This can be a very powerful moment of prayer, reflection and meditation and an integral part of the Easter experience for you individually, and for Holy Trinity as a church body.

Devotional materials, prayer booklets, and other helpful meditational reading will be left in the sanctuary for your use, and each prayer volunteer is encouraged to leave prayer requests that others, who follow, will pray for. Look for the sign-up sheet at the back of the church!

-Lana Pieczynski

GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

The Good Friday Offering will support the work of the Bishops, Priests and people of the Province of Jerusalem.



FLOWERING THE EASTER CROSS

If you have any artificial flowers that you would like to donate to flower the Easter Cross with, please bring them to church by Sunday, March 25.

Thank you!



PALM SUNDAY CROSSES

This year on Palm Sunday – March 25 - after the service, during hospitality hour, in the parish hall you can make Palm Crosses. All materials and instructions provided. Make a Palm Cross for yourself, make extras to give to others – a wonderful way to share the Love of God. Give homemade Palm Crosses to all your family and friends!

Easter Sunrise Service at OSV

The annual Easter Sunrise Service will be held at the Meetinghouse in Old Sturbridge Village on Sunday, April 1 at 6:00 AM. This beautiful setting and joyous service is a wonderful way to celebrate the Risen Christ on Easter morning! A free will offering will be taken to benefit those in need through St. Vincent de Paul Emergency Assistance, with locations in Southbridge and Sturbridge. The Sunrise Service is an ecumenical effort sponsored by local churches from Charlton, Southbridge, and Sturbridge. Please enter through the main gate and proceed to the rear of the parking lot near the security office, where we will gather and proceed in together. All are welcome! For more information, call Chris McTigue at 508-248-4726.

JOIN US DURING LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Sunday, March 25 @ 9:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday: The Sunday of the Passion: Liturgy of the Palms & Reading of the Passion narrative, with Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Thursday, March 29 @ 6:00 p.m.

Seder Supper and Holy Eucharist: The congregation will first join in a communal meal and then go into the church for the stripping of the altar and Holy Eucharist, Rite II.

Thursday, March 29 @ 9:00 p.m. through Friday, March 30 @ 11:00 a.m.

Overnight Prayer Vigil at Holy Trinity Church: Sign up to serve a one-hour shift, keeping watch with Christ on His last night on earth.

Friday, March 30

A Children's Good Friday Service @ 10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist from the Reserve Sacrament @ 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 1: Easter: the Sunday of the Resurrection

9:30 a.m. - Festival Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with music

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
446 Hamilton Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

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Web site: holytrinitysouthbridge.org

Office Hours:

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

unless otherwise noted

The Episcopal Diocese of Western
Massachusetts

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

Sunday Services

9:30 a.m. Rite II Choral Holy Eucharist

Celebrant and Preacher
The Rev. Richard Signore

Tidings of Holy Trinity- March 2018

Save These Dates

Holy Trinity Church

Saturday, March 3—5:00 p.m.—Grant/Lucey birthday party

Sunday, March 4—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship

11:00 a.m.—Confirmation Class

Wednesday, March 7—6:00 p.m.—Lenten Soup Supper—BLC

7:30 p.m.—Bible & Wine—BLC

Sunday, March 11—9:30 a.m.—Family Worship & Bishop Doug Visit

11:00 a.m.—Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 14—6:00 p.m.—Lenten Soup Supper—BLC

Sunday, March 18—9:30 a.m.—Healing Service & Family Worship

Sunday, March 21—4:00 p.m.—Daughters of the King

6:00 p.m.—Lenten Soup Supper—BLC

7:30 p.m.—Bible & Wine—HTC

Sunday, March 25—11:00 a.m.—Making of Palm Crosses

Thursday, March 29—6:00 p.m.—Seder Supper & Holy Eucharist

9:00 p.m.—Overnight Prayer Vigil begins

Friday, March 30—10:30 a.m.—Children's Good Friday Service

7:30 p.m.—Good Friday Holy Eucharist

VESTRY MINUTES ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR
WEBSITE WWW.HOLYTRINITYSOUTHBRIDGE.ORG
/HOLY TRINITY NEWS/VESTRY NEWS