



Welcome

to Trinity Church

The Second Sunday after
Christmas

January 5, 2025

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." (Matthew 2:1-2)

This Sunday marks the Twelfth Day of Christmas. The twelfth day is always January 5, while the next day, January 6, is the Feast of the Epiphany. The Epiphany is often seen as a continuation of the Christmas season, although it is also the start of its own cycle of Sundays, the season after the Epiphany. In church this Sunday, we bring together these two seasons as we conclude our Christmas festivities and celebrate the visit of the Magi to the newborn King.

We sing "We three kings of Orient are," but nowhere in Matthew's gospel, which contains the only story in the Bible of the visit of the Magi, does it say that there were three or that they were kings. It seems that the tradition of there being three wise men arose because of the three types of gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The custom of referring to them as kings is influenced by Isaiah 60's vision of a restored Israel after being conquered and its people dispersed in exile: "Arise, shine, for your light has come... Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn." The prophet indicates that these kings would bring gold and frankincense as tributes to the newly empowered people of Israel. Note that this text referred to events hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus. Biblical prophecy is not necessarily about predictions of the future, but sharing a word from the divine for the people. Matthew then applies this word from the Lord in constructing his narrative of the birth of a new kind of king and a new kind of kingdom.

The Greek word translated as wise men in Matthew's story of the Epiphany is also sometimes left untranslated as magi. But in other places where this word is used in scripture, it is translated as magician or sorcerer. Matthew's magi were not kings, but these scholars of esoteric wisdom very likely could have been advisors in royal courts. As powerful imperial advisors, they represent the rulers of the nations, who come to honor a poor, newborn baby in a colonized land. The story of Epiphany reminds us that the birth of Christ was not just a mystical experience restricted to one time, one place, and one people. It was an embodied, physical event with social and political implications. The true King of the Jews was not Herod, a tyrant imposed on the people of Israel by a foreign empire, but a baby born in a stable. And because the magi represent the nations, this will be a King of Love and Peace who offers himself in service for the whole world.

Peace,
Chase

Providing **healing**, proclaiming **hope** & practicing **God's unconditional love.**

Worship at Trinity

Powerful, joyful and Spirit-filled worship that is reverent, warm and inviting, with uplifting music and preaching!

Sundays:

8 AM Holy Eucharist in the Church
A gentle, said service (no music)

10 AM Holy Eucharist in the Church
Joyous, sung music

Monday-Friday:

7:30 AM Morning Prayer said in the home M - F
Resources available at www.TrinityNJ.com/Worship

7:30 AM Friday - Morning Prayer in the Chapel

Wednesdays:

6:30 PM Holy Eucharist in the Chapel
Healing Service first Wednesday of the month

Connect with Us

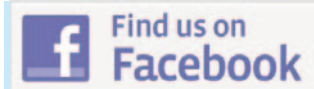
CONTACT US

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Tel: 732-775-5084 • Fax: 732-775-3865

Email: office@trinitynj.com • Web: trinitynj.com

In the case of an emergency, death or serious illness, contact the church office. There is a pastoral emergency option on the phone if no one is available to answer.



[Facebook.com/TrinityAP](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityAP)



[Instagram.com/TrinityChurchAP](https://www.instagram.com/TrinityChurchAP)
(#TrinityChurchAP)



Venmo
(@TrinityChurch)

Trinity Basics

PASTORAL SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS: Contact Jill Osis in the parish office for all non-emergency pastoral needs: Baptisms, the rite of Reconciliation of a Penitent (personal confession & counsel), Blessing of Marriage & Unions, communion for the sick and homebound, or visits to the hospital.

PANTRY & COMMUNITY SOUP KITCHEN: The Trinity Food Pantry is open Tuesdays from 10:30AM-1PM and on Saturday, a hot, sit-down meal is served from 11:30AM-12:30PM.

Questions? Contact Derek at Derek@TrinityNJ.com.

CHOIRS: Find out about our dynamic and growing choirs, contact Dr. Deborah Simpkin King at Deborah@TrinityNJ.com for information!

PARISH LEADERSHIP (*Vestry*):

Lesley Castellini (warden) Carol Scollay (warden)
Gregory Curatolo, Donna Griffin, Wendy Jaghab, Mary Perez, James Pillar, Andy Place, Bill Presutti, Maria Tassiello, and Adrienne Wert You may contact the vestry at: vestrywardens@trinitynj.com

Parish Staff

The Rev. Chase Danford, Rector
FrChase@trinitynj.com

The Rev. Tom Conway, Assisting Priest
Tom@trinitynj.com

The Rev. Geoffrey Curtiss, Assisting Priest
geoffcurtiss@gmail.com

The Rev. Gail Bennett, Deacon
Associate for Pastoral Care and Bereavement Ministry
Deacongail@trinitynj.com

The Rev. Katherine Cunningham, Assisting Ecumenical Pastor
Katherine@trinitynj.com

The Rev. Lucille Donahue, Assisting Ecumenical Pastor
Revolu@trinitynj.com

The Rev. Tom Pivinski, Assisting Ecumenical Pastor
TomP@trinitynj.com

Jennifer Berger Brown, Development Manager for Donor Relations
Jennifer@Trinitynj.com

Kris Hlatky, Casework Manager
Kris@Trinitynj.com

Deborah Simpkin King, Director of Music and Arts
Deborah@trinitynj.com

Derek Bloom, Director of Community Engagement & Organizing
Derek@trinitynj.com

Kenny Miller, Property Assistant

Siobhan Noland, Development Manager for Grants
Siobhan@Trinitynj.com

Jill Osis, Director of Operations
Jill@trinitynj.com

Courtney Pearson, Operations Manager
Courtney@trinitynj.com

Tim Sexsmith, Property Supervisor
Tim@trinitynj.com

Parish Prayers

Please keep the following people in your prayers this week:

Faye Hudson	Steve Mandeville	Laura Connelly
Kevin McDonald	Margaret Jones	Baby Theodore
Jerry Fargo	Jeanine Kenny	Manal Miller
Jackie Campanelli	Mary Perez	
Gene Perfetto	Agnes Hulse	
Angie Jonas	Patricia Tier	
Frank Mertz	Tom Dempsey	

If you would like to be added to the prayer list or would like to add someone else (*please get their permission first*), please email prayer@trinitynj.com or call Wendy Jaghab at 732-616-8568 by the Tuesday before you would like the name to appear in the bulletin. Names will remain on the prayer list for 4 weeks, and can be readded upon request.

Prayer Team Ministry. During communion, those who would like someone to pray with them are invited to come to one of the prayer stations located in the back of the church. A member of the Trinity Prayer Team will say a prayer with you for yourself or someone else. You are welcome to sit or stand during the prayer. What is said at the prayer station is held in confidence by the person who prays with you. They cannot talk with you or anyone else about your requested prayer without your permission. The only exception is a person intending to harm themselves or someone else. Questions about this ministry? Contact Joanie McCoy, leader of the Prayer Team at 908-216-5529 or 732-780-3111 or PrayerTeam@TrinityNJ.com.



Trinity Cycle of Prayer During Morning Prayer this week, we will be praying for the following Trinity Parishioners and Friends:

1/6	1/7	1/8 Jessica, John,	1/9	1/10
Bill & Denise Pearson	Danielle & Samantha Pellechio	Callan, Mia, & Marisela Pelter	Mary Perez	James Pillar & John Wuesthoff

News & Notes

January Festive Ministry Coffee Hour Today Hosted by the Children, Youth & Families of Trinity!

Our January Festive Coffee Hour is sponsored by the Children, Youth, and Families of Trinity! Come join us after one of our services and meet the Kids and the team. We are excited to have a Learn about their ministries, ask questions, and enjoy the yummy treats provided!

Take a Poinsettia Home!

Many thanks to all who gave toward our Christmas flowers and music this year. Wow! What beautiful music and lovely flower decorations we had this year! Please feel free to take a poinsettia or two home with you today!



Trinity's Window Tour: Sunday, January 5 after the 8 & 10am Services!
Curious about Trinity's beautiful stained glass windows? Take a guided TOUR!
Today Following the 8 & 10am services
Celebrate our 150th anniversary!

Giving Envelopes Available

If you requested 2025 Giving Envelopes, they are located, alphabetically, in a basket at the back of the church. If you did not request them and would like a set, please put your name on the sign up sheet on the basket and we'll get you a set the following week!

Wednesday Bible Sharing Restarts This Wednesday ~ Wednesdays at 5pm

Bible Sharing will commence this Wednesday January 8th! Everyone is welcome from 5 to 6:15pm. Wednesday night mass follows for those who choose. Join us!

News & Notes

Trinity Church's Annual Parish Meeting ~ Sunday, January 19 at 11:30am

Join us for Trinity's Annual Parish Meeting! We'll gather for coffee and small bites after the 10am service and the meeting will begin at 11:30am. Every year, in compliance with our parish by-laws, Trinity holds a parish meeting. At this meeting, the election of vestry members, warden, and convocation/convention delegates takes place. A review of the parish's ministry is provided in written form. The vestry will share the 2025 budget. The meeting will be in-person in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting. In order to vote, you must be a Qualified Voter. Absentee ballots are also available for qualified voters who, due to special circumstances, can not attend the annual meeting. These ballots will contain only the formal nominations and not nominations made from the floor. **PLEASE NOTE** when considering requesting an absentee ballot this year that there are currently NO contested elections. Persons requiring an absentee ballot must request same from the Wardens no later than ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting date. No absentee ballot received after the annual meeting will be counted. If you have any questions about whether or not you are enrolled in Trinity as a member or if you are a Qualified voter, or if you would like to request an absentee ballot, please speak to Jill Osis in the parish office.

Those putting their names forward for election this year are: Warden (1 position for a 2-year term): William Presutti; Vestrymember (3 positions for a 3-year term): Brice Byham, James Pillar, and Andy Place; Convention/Convocation Delegates (3 positions for a 1-year term): Eva Sipos, James Moseman, and Alan Woodruff ; Alternate Convention/Convocation Delegates (3 positions for a 1-year term): Polli Schildge, Elizabeth Meehan, Lyndell O'Hara

Rooted in Abundance, Growing Abundantly! Join in our 2025 Stewardship Campaign!

Our 2025 Stewardship Campaign is focusing on both our roots and our growth! Last week was our pledge in-gathering and we had a wonderful response! So far we have collected 94 pledge cards for a total of \$309,600. 14 of those pledges are new or returning pledgers! We are thrilled to have so many commit to supporting Trinity Church and the work we do in the community! Please join us by filling out a pledge card. They can be found on the information table at the back of the church or electronically in our email blast. Thank you for your support of our parish!

Children and Youth at Trinity ~ Join Us!

Sunday School - Join us each week as we explore God's presence in ourselves, our community, and our world! We will gather in the Sunday School room each week at 9:45am for fun and spiritual exploration and then rejoin our families after The Peace. For questions, contact Jill Osis at Jill@trinitynj.com.

Nursery - Our Nursery is open every Sunday from 9:45am until the end of the service. The nursery will accept children aged 6 months through 4 years. The nursery is located at the end of the hallway in the office wing.

The Civics 101 Pre-Inauguration Symposium- Saturday, January 18, 2025 10am - 2pm

On Sat, January 18th from 10am-2pm, the League of Women Voters will host a Civics 101 Pre-Inauguration Symposium at Trinity to serve as a platform for dialogue, reflection, and preparation. Through panel discussions and interactive sessions, they seek to educate the community on the anticipated impacts of the new administration while empowering attendees to engage actively in shaping their future. There will be a wide-range of professionals and community members to lead us in discussions and provide information. Don't miss this chance to be part of the conversation!

Bible Study with Fr. Geoff on Zoom ~ Mondays at 5pm

We are continuing to work on the Book of Revelation. John, the Seer, has been moved by the Spirit to write seven unique letters to seven different congregations in seven different cities that he is very familiar with. He has been placed in exile and no longer can travel to be with them. His concern is how are these communities being faithful to Jesus and how are they adapting to, resisting the influence of or challenging the Empire. We have been exploring the worship material that John uses to talk about how congregations can resist the influence of the pagan world we live in. If you are interested in joining the Bible Study or receive the recorded sessions please email lindacurtiss@gmail.com