



Welcome

to Trinity Church

The Fifth Sunday
after the Epiphany

February 8, 2026

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. (Matthew 5:13)

Last week 154 Episcopal bishops, including Bishop Sally French of the Diocese of New Jersey, published a letter responding to the tragic deaths of civilians in Minnesota. The full text is below. We will have a chance to discuss the principles the bishops' articulate in the Migration with Dignity Bible study sessions on 2/8 and 2/15.

Peace,
Chase

A message to our fellow Americans

We, the undersigned bishops of The Episcopal Church, write today out of grief, righteous anger, and steadfast hope. What happened a week ago in Minnesota and is happening in communities across the country runs counter to God's vision of justice and peace. This crisis is about more than one city or state—it's about who we are as a nation. The question before us is simple and urgent: Whose dignity matters?

In the wake of the tragic deaths of two U.S. citizens, Alex Pretti and Renee Good, we join Minnesotans and people across the nation in mourning two precious lives lost to state-sanctioned violence. We grieve with their families, their friends, and everyone harmed by the government's policies. When fear becomes policy, everyone suffers. We call on Americans to trust their moral compass—and to question rhetoric that trades in fear rather than the truth. As Episcopalians, our moral compass is rooted firmly in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This is what we know. Women were shoved to the ground, children torn from their families, and citizens silenced and demeaned for exercising their constitutional rights. These actions sow fear, cast doubt, and wear us down with endless noise. We cannot presume to speak for everyone or prescribe only one way to respond. For our part, we can only do as Jesus' teaching shows us.

A Call for Action

This is a moment for action. We call on people of faith to stand by your values and act as your conscience demands. We urge the immediate suspension of ICE and Border Patrol operations in Minnesota and in any community where enforcement has eroded public trust. Because the rule of law is weakened, not strengthened, when power is exercised without restraint. We also call for transparent, independent investigations of the people killed—investigations centered on truth, not politics. Justice cannot wait, and accountability is essential to healing. We call on the elected officials of our nation to remember the values that we share, including the rule of law. Rooted in our Constitution, it ensures that law—not the arbitrary will of individuals—governs us all, protecting individual rights, ensuring fairness, and maintaining stability.

A Shared Commitment

Every act of courage matters. We must keep showing up for one another. We are bound together because we are all made in the image of God. This begins with small, faithful steps. As bishops in the Episcopal Church, we promise to

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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

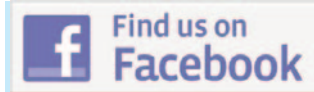
CONTACT US

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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*):

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

Parish Staff

Clergy 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. Lucille Donahue, Assisting Ecumenical Pastor
Revolu@trinitynj.com

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

Lay Staff:

Ayanna Adams, Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries
Ayanna@Trinitynj.com

Casandra Arroyo, Office Assistant
Casandra@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:

Jackie Campanelli	Denzel Donaldson	Tina S
Manal Miller	Gregory Curatolo	Tom
Stephanie	Denise & Bill Pearson	Tom S
Margaret Jones	Michael Isaccson	Sophia
Miles	Stacey	DJ

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

2/9	2/10	2/11	2/12	2/13
Gregory Curatolo	Geoff & Linda Curtiss	Corrie Dangler, Dawn Campagnola, & Lexie Dangler-Gallo	Carol Dangler	Ginny Delino

Fr. Chase's reflection continued from page 1

keep showing up—to pray, to speak, and to stand with every person working to make our communities just, safe, and whole. We are committed to making our communities safer and more compassionate:

- So children can walk to school without fear.
- So families can shop, work, and worship freely.
- So we recognize the dignity of every neighbor—immigrant communities, military families, law enforcement officers, nurses, teachers, and essential workers alike.

You may feel powerless, angry, or heartbroken right now. Know that you're not alone. Each of us has real power: community power, financial power, political power, and knowledge power. We can show up for our neighbors, support small businesses and food banks, contact elected officials and vote, and learn our rights so we can speak up peacefully without fear.

Choosing Hope

The question before us is simple and urgent: Whose dignity matters? Our faith gives a clear answer: everyone's. Safety built on fear is an illusion. True safety comes when we replace fear with compassion, violence with justice, and unchecked power with accountability. That's the vision our faith calls us to live out—and the promise our country is meant to uphold. In the face of fear, we choose hope. By the grace of God, may this season of grief become a season of renewal. May courage rise from lament, and love take root in every heart.

News & Notes

Shrove Pancake Breakfast ~ Next Sunday, February 15 after the 10am Service

Please join us on February 15 after the 10am Mass for our Annual "Mardi Gras" themed Parish Breakfast! It's our Last Hurrah before the Lenten Season fasting practice. Sweet pancake toppings and our famous sausages will be available. Come join us for fun, fellowship, and lots of food!

Migration with Dignity Bible Study with Fr. Chase Today and 2/15

The Episcopal Church's General Convention and the Diocese of New Jersey's Diocesan Convention have affirmed the principles of Migration with Dignity movement, which addresses the challenges of global migration while aligning with the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international laws and agreements. Learn more and reflect on scripture with the Rev. Chase Danford, Rector, today, February 8, and next Sunday, February 15, in the multipurpose classroom.

Bring in your Palms

Please bring in your palms from last year's Palm Sunday and we will burn them for use in our Ash Wednesday service. Please place them in the basket at the back of the church by Sunday, February 15th.

Ash Wednesday Services ~ Wednesday, February 18

On Wednesday, February 18th, we will gather together for Ash Wednesday services. Please join us as we begin our journey through Lent. Services are as follows:

7:30am - Said service with Imposition of Ashes

12:00pm - Said service with Imposition of Ashes

7pm - Choral service featuring the Trinity Choir with Imposition of Ashes



Be A Superstar at our Theatre Night Fundraiser for Trinity Center for Community Thursday, March 19 ~ Jesus Christ Superstar



Do you love musicals? Do you have dreams of being a superstar? The Spring Lake Community House & Theatre has generously donated all their tickets for opening night of their production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* to Trinity Center for Community and we want you to join us! The evening begins with an Opening Act Reception at 6:30 PM and follows with the performance at 7:30 PM at Spring Lake Theatre. 100% of the ticket price goes to support the programs of the Trinity Center for Community. Guests are encouraged to dress like a rock star! Tickets can be purchased by scanning the QR Code to the left or at the back of the church after service on Sundays. Tickets prices are as follows:
\$125 Superstar (includes reception, show, and program recognition; \$80 tax-deductible)
\$45 Patron (includes reception and show)

February Episcopal Peace Fellowship Meeting ~ Sunday, February 22 at 9am

Trinity's EPF chapter will meet on Sunday, February 22nd at 9am in the conference room. The theme for our monthly meeting will be The Affordable Housing Crisis in Monmouth County and Trinity's involvement through PRAYER-LEARNING-ACTION.

Bible Study with Fr. Geoff on Zoom ~ On Hiatus, Restarts February 23rd

Watch this space for information on next session's topic!

Weekly Bible Sharing ~ Wednesdays at 5pm

Please join us at Bible Sharing Wednesdays at 5pm! We know "Bread" in the Eucharist. Come out to Bible Sharing for the next weeks as we follow the trail of of Bread crumbs through the Bible. Newcomers always welcome. Questions call Joanie 908-216-5529

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 Ayanna Adams at Ayanna@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.