



Trinity Topics

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Phone = (217) 245-5901

info@trinitychurchjax.org

Website = www.trinitychurchjax.org



“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’”

—*Psalm 122:1*

The great gift of Trinity Church and the whole Anglican tradition is our liturgy—few other communities emphasize as we do the solemn dignity and the beauty of holiness of the worship of God. Discipline, faithfulness and purity in our worship, according to the *Book of Common Prayer*, has been our great preoccupation since the Reformation. In it, we believe, we encounter Jesus Christ again and again who is alive for us and offers in this worship the eternal life of the Kingdom of God. In it, we believe, we rehearse week by week God’s work for us and are shaped by that story into God’s New Creation.

This worship is not a show put on by the worship leaders. The priest and choir are not the only participants, with the people of the congregation being mere passive recipients of God’s work. Worship is a conversation between God and humankind, in which the priest only has one small part. “And with your spirit” is just as important as “The Lord be with you.” The “Amen” said by the congregation is just as important as the Words of Institution I say over the bread and wine. When I approach the altar to celebrate the Holy Mysteries, it is as a representative of you, the congregation, and I hope every heart in the pews is praying for me as I do this.

In this spirit, I hope every one of us can look into our hearts and consider volunteering for one of the lay ministries of worship. Our worship is beautiful, but making it happen demands many hands. We’ve long had a desperate shortage in every lay role in worship, including acolytes, lectors, ushers, cup-bearers, Sunday School attendants, and Altar Guild members. All of these roles are open to everyone, male or female, young or old, (We can have lady ushers and gentleman altar guild members!) and you would be free to dictate when and how often you serve.

St. Paul compared Christians to athletes training for a race, and like cardio or weight training, the greatest benefit is found in doing it regularly. One of the great tragedies of our age is the decline of any sense of Sunday being a Holy Day set aside of God. We can by no means expect to have it off from our jobs, and when we do, there are often many other things that must be done on this day. Yet how can we be formed as Christians if we do not intentionally set aside time to pray and reflect on God’s work for us? “Wherever your treasure is,” including your effort, your time, and your thoughts, “there your heart is also.” What you prioritize shows what you actually value. “Hallowing your Sabbaths,” as much as possible, is a sign that your heart truly belongs to God. This is not always easy. Many of us are not at points in our lives where it is possible, but weekly attendance at worship is something every one of us must strive for.

Finally, the ultimate end of our worship is the transformation of the rest of our week. The word “Mass” comes from the Latin word for “Dismissal,” the conclusion of the service when the congregation, newly inspired and empowered by the grace of God, is dismissed to go to the work of God throughout the week. Throughout Lent I hope all of us can keep this in mind: Our whole week must be an act of worship of God—indeed our whole lives become an act of worship when we have heard God’s Word on Sunday!

Father Zachary Brooks +

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Lenten Confession

Lent is a time to reflect on one's life and consider how it might be better conformed in the image of God. A profound, powerful, and time-honored way of doing this is to discuss one's sins with a priest and receive absolution. Fr. Zach will be available throughout Lent, in his office, after the daily 10 am worship service to hear confessions.

Receiving Communion

In the midst of a particularly vigorous flu season, I would like to issue the gentle reminder that the safest way to receive Holy Communion is, believe it or not, to drink directly from the common cup, since cold and flu are not transmitted through saliva. The most common mode of transmission is via contaminated hands, which is why we discourage the practice of dipping the Host into the cup oneself. If you would rather not drink from the common cup, please hold the Host out in your hands and let the cup bearer dip it for you and place it directly on your tongue. Please stick out your tongue if you prefer this method, or the cup bearer has to put his or her fingers in your mouth. If you would like a blessing instead of receiving communion, indicate this to the ministers by crossing your arms over your chest.

Confirmation and Receptions

The next opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation or to be received into the Episcopal Church will be Trinity Sunday on **May 27th**, when the bishop will visit our parish.

Confirmation is an opportunity to make a mature commitment to Christ. It is a welcoming celebration of people entering into the work of Christ as they publicly accept for themselves the promises made at their baptisms. It can be celebrated at any age, though it is traditionally celebrated around 13 years of age, when young persons approach adulthood and begin making their own decisions. Reception is a rite welcoming into the Episcopal Church those who have been baptized and confirmed in another denomination. It is also a welcoming celebration of new lives coming into our Episcopal family. Both rites culminate in the bishop laying his hands on the person's head and offering anew the Holy Spirit that unites Christians to God and to one another.

To undergo either Confirmation or reception into the Episcopal Church, please contact Fr. Zach or the parish office. Either rite requires instruction in the Christian faith as it is expressed in the Episcopal tradition, which will involve 3 or 4 conversations with Fr. Zach and other inquirers. In fact, these conversations will be open to anyone who would like a refresher course on the fundamentals of Christian faith! Email: brooksz@gmail.com for more information.

Ash Wednesday Services

The 10 am Ash Wednesday service will be celebrated at Illinois College in Rammelkamp Chapel and will be open to the community. Parking will be available in the lot next to the Octagon House on Park Street. Handicapped parking is also available directly behind the chapel. The morning and evening services will be celebrated at Trinity church as usual.

News & Announcements

Annual Parish Meeting – January 21

Four new Vestry Members were elected: Nancy Forsberg, Donna Metcalf, Mickey Quinones, and Ginda Woodruff. They join continuing members: Bruce Evans, Melissa Evans, Michele Quinones, Dana Ryan, Sarah Van Aken, Mary Watts, and Paula Woods.

The following elections also took place: Paula Woods & Nancy Forsberg, Synod Delegates; David Mumford, Synod Alternate Delegate; and Paula Woods & Nancy Forsberg, Deanery Delegates.

Vestry Meeting – January 23

The following officers of the 2016 Vestry were elected and appointed:

Rector's Warden – Dana Ryan; Parish Warden – Mary Watts; Clerk of the Vestry – Donna Metcalf;
Parish Treasurer / Asst. Endowment Treasurer / Worthington Funds Treasurer – Cathy Nelson;
Endowment Treasurer / Chancellor - Forrest Keaton.

Clarification: Deanna Tavender will now be the bookkeeper. Diocesan Canons have put a term limit on the office of Treasurer, which is now a volunteer position at Trinity Church.

Doorbell Dinners

Trinity Church delivered Doorbell Dinners the week of January 22 to 26. Adah Mitchell organized it and thanks the following who helped:

K-Lou Ashmore, Chuck Crim, Bruce & Melissa Evans, Paula Herget, Newton Mitchell, Gayle Pollock, Hilda Radcliffe, Dana Ryan, Ginda Woodruff, and Ryan Worrall.

We will deliver Doorbell Dinners again in May.

Special Offerings

The total for Church World Service on Blanket Sunday, January 28, was \$305.

Forward Day by Day

The February / March / April edition of *Forward Day by Day* is now available.

Pick up your copy on the table in the lobby. If you would like us to mail you one, call the Parish Office.

Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches

In cooperation with Salem Lutheran Church, the Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is still collecting new and used shoes through the end of March for the Shoeman Water Projects. If you have shoes that still have a lot of good wear to them, you can tie or rubber band them together and place them in a box in upper hallway. These shoes are then exported to street vendors in places like Kenya, Haiti, and South America. The street vendors receive valuable shoes, and people without shoes can purchase them for pennies on the dollar. The funds generated are then used to provide well drilling rigs, water purification systems, repairs for handpumps, and health and hygiene training. Communities around the world receive the life-saving gift of clean water.

Outreach

Don't forget to bring nonperishable food items so that we can continue to support the Jacksonville Food Center throughout the entire year.

****If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.***

Fr. Zach will be on the
Diocesan Clergy Retreat
from Monday, February 5
to Wednesday, February 7.

ECW

Build your own salad. Bring a salad ingredient.
Lettuce and beverages are provided.

Monday, February 12
5:30 – 7:00 pm

Trinity Fellowship **Tuesday, February 13, 7 pm**

We will continue to discuss
Adam Hamilton's book,
Moses:
In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet

Please note the change of date –
Fr. Zach will be on retreat.

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, February 20
7:00 pm

February 14 is Ash Wednesday



SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2018

Friday, February 2:
THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD
6:00 pm = Holy Eucharist
at St. Luke's in Springfield

Sunday, February 4:
5th SUNDAY after THE EPIPHANY
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist
Wednesday, February 7:
10:00 am = Morning Prayer

Sunday, February 11:
LAST SUNDAY after THE EPIPHANY
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist
Wednesday, February 14:
ASH WEDNESDAY
7:00 am = Liturgy of Ashes
10:00 am = Liturgy of Ashes
at Illinois College
6:00 pm = Liturgy of Ashes
& Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 18:
1st SUNDAY in LENT
8:00 am = Great Litany & Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Great Litany & Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, February 21:
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist
Saturday, February 24:
St. Matthias
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 25:
2nd SUNDAY in LENT
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist
Wednesday, February 28:
10:00 am = Morning Prayer

***Morning Prayer is said at 10 o'clock
on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.***