



Trinity Topics

January 2020

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**“If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.”—*Romans 10:9***

Several members of our parish are preparing to undergo the rite of Confirmation when the bishop visits at the end of the month. The meaning of Confirmation has shifted over the centuries, though it has come to be an opportunity for those who were baptized as infants to make their adult profession of faith, and for others to be brought through public profession of faith into the fellowship of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. Like all sacraments, the grace of Confirmation is an expression of all of Christian life. Profession of faith should be the concern of all Christians in all parts of our lives. One of our most essential tasks as Christians is to tell the world about the work of God in our lives, that is, profession of faith.

It's important for us to express our faith in works of charity, of course. We always need to be “walking the walk” as we talk that talk, but nothing can replace a readiness to testify to the faith that is in us. When our hearts are full of the love of Jesus, we can't help telling the world about it. This is true about anything that is in our hearts. We human beings are communal creatures that build our identities in community, so we struggle to show the world who we are in our speech and actions, in the clothes to wear, to the food we eat, to the sports teams dear to our hearts, to the politics on our bumpers. Our faith in God is no different, if it is real faith. Many of us wear crosses around our necks to show the world that Jesus is our savior. We sing out in church, join others in prayer, and recite the creed, not because God needs our praise, but as an expression of what God has done for us in the company of other people.

This proclamation cannot happen only in church. We are called to preach the Gospel to all nations, not only to the already converted. Countless people today sleep walk through life without knowing the good news of Jesus, and it could well be that God has appointed you to bring the light of the Gospel to these souls. It falls to us, the Church of God, to teach brotherhood, forgiveness and peace to a world torn by division and prejudice. Not all of us are called to go door to door spreading the good news (let me know if you feel called to his ministry), though all of us should be able to explain in our own terms what Christianity is about and why we are Christians. All of us should be inviting our friends to church so that they can see what is happening for themselves. I know from my own experience that when you know why you believe in Jesus, other people can tell and want to know what the Church is about. It will be welcomed when it begins with an authentic connection to others and you speak with sincerity and humility.

This task is difficult in this secularized age of ours. We no longer have a Christian society around us that is familiar with the Christian story and the worship of the Church. We leave church and go to workplaces where few people attend worship regularly, and schools where no one prays or knows much of anything about the Bible. This puts a lot of pressure on us as individuals and on family life. It makes it more important than ever to know why we have come to believe in Jesus, and to continually look in our lives for God's grace. Coming to church out of habit is not enough because few people have the habit nowadays. We must find ways that church has changed our lives. That grace is there if we look for it. The comfort of the Gospel is there if we pray for it. It starts with hearing the word of God and being reconciled to him in the worship of the Church. This is hard work, but it is the only way we can find our true selves. As we make our resolutions for the coming year, let this be the year when we find our voice in the world as Christians. The world does need to hear you.

Fr. Zachary Brooks

Annual Parish Meeting

Please make every effort to attend our Parish Meeting, on Sunday, January 19. It gives us an opportunity to review all the activities of our parish during 2019.

We will also elect up to four new Vestry Members and two Synod & Deanery Delegates. These persons must be confirmed Communicants in Good Standing, at least eighteen years of age.

Parish Meeting Reports

It is essential that we have written reports turned into the Parish Office by Wednesday, **January 15**. Although brief oral comments are welcomed at the meeting, the printed reports are attached to the minutes and filed for posterity. Without written reports, our history does not reflect an accurate picture of the life and times of Trinity Church.



☉ Come Let Us Adore Him!

The Readings for the Sundays in January

	<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>Psalm</i>	<i>New Testament</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
January 5	Jeremiah 31:7-14	84	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a	Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
January 12	Isaiah 42:1-9	29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
January 19	Isaiah 49:1-7	40: 1-12	I Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
January 26	Isaiah 9:1-4	27: 1, 5-13	I Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23

News & Announcements

Rites of Initiation

There is still time to begin preparation for Confirmation and Reception in the Episcopal Church, which will take place on **January 26**. Please contact Fr. Zach as soon as possible to schedule instruction in the Christian faith.

Christmas Pageant

This year we will revive our venerable tradition of performing a children's Christmas pageant on the Sunday before Epiphany. The pageant will take place on **January 5** at the **10 o'clock service**. There will be no rehearsals, though children should arrive at 9:30 in order to give time to prepare. Please let Fr. Zach or the parish office know if your children would like to participate as soon as possible. Contact: brooksz@gmail.com

Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon

Due to the hard work and generosity of many Parish Members, the Episcopal Church Women are pleased to report a profit of over **\$5000** from the bazaar and luncheon. Thank you to all who attended, worked and contributed.

Outreach

The Church School sponsored a **food drive** for the needy on Sunday, December 8.

The less fortunate need food throughout the year. Therefore, the special green container is in the upper hallway so that you can donate food at any time. Dana Ryan will transport it to the Food Center. During 2019, she delivered over 600 pounds of items to the Center.

Trinity Church is one of the founding members of the **Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches**, and we are happy to announce that Jo Ann Nelson has been elected its vice-president for 2019-2020. We will partner with them again for a special collection during the months of January and February. This is our **Teacher Appreciation Supply Collection**. Most teachers spend their own money for classroom supplies. This time of year is when supplies start to run low. You can help show our area educators appreciation by donating: colored pens, sharpies, post-it notes, markers, jumbo glue sticks, Expo markers, Clorox wipes, and crayons.

Doorbell Dinners

Trinity Church will be delivering Doorbell Dinners the week of January 20-24. Please contact K-Lou Ashmore if you can help.

Special Offerings

The Thanksgiving Offering was \$160; the Christmas Offering was \$544. Please remember that all money from special offerings goes to **Outreach**.

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

**Trinity Fellowship will meet on
Tuesday, January 7**
to continue their Bible study.

All are welcome.

ECW

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

Monday, January 13
5:30 – 7:00 pm

Annual Parish Meeting
will be
on **Sunday, January 19.**

**The Vestry will meet on
Tuesday, January 21**
at **7:00 pm**

Sunday, January 26

Bishop's Visit

A special offering for the Bishop's
Discretionary Fund will be received.

Pledge / Contribution Statements
will be mailed the first week of January.

LITURGY FOR JANUARY 2020

Wednesday, January 1:
THE HOLY NAME
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 5:
The 2nd Sunday of Christmas:
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist
4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

Monday, January 6:
EPIPHANY:
6:00 pm = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 8:
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 12:
EPIPHANY I

The Baptism of our Lord
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist
4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

Wednesday, January 15:
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Saturday, January 18:
The Confession of St. Peter
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 19:
EPIPHANY II
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist
4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

Wednesday, January 23:
Vincent of Saragossa
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Saturday, January 25:
The Conversion of St. Paul
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 26:
EPIPHANY III
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Confirmation & Holy Eucharist
4:00 pm = Evening Prayer

Wednesday, January 29:
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist