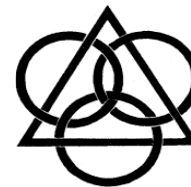




# Trinity Topics

MAY 2025

Phone = (217) 245-5901  
info@trinitychurchjax.org  
Website = www.trinitychurchjax.org



**“The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,  
and his ears are open unto their cry.”** *Psalms 34:15*

The key to any relationship is communication. I don't think this is a controversial concept. I doubt few would disagree that communication is essential for marriages, families, and friendships. It is also true of our relationship with God. Naturally, we maintain our relationship to God through prayer, and God maintains his communication with us in the Bible. Yet, just the busyness of life can make us forget to call our parents or friends. It is all too easy to neglect our community with God. I can hardly hold myself guiltless in this regard. Very often, I will be so exhausted at the end of the day that I will fall asleep instantly at bedtime rather than taking just a few moments to pray and listen for God's voice. Just like this failure can make friendships grow more distant over time, this can make our spiritual lives arid, and we can find it difficult to keep our spiritual center in times of stress and anxiety.

If you find yourself needing to renew your discipline of prayer, now is the time! Like any good habit, this will take some intentionality. It rarely works to resolve to simply pray more. Prayer is likely to remain a vague goal or desire than a concrete activity where we speak to God. One is far more likely to succeed with a specific goal like “Pray every morning.” Then, take concrete steps to meet this goal like setting your alarm 15 minutes earlier to allow enough time for prayer. Prayer takes consistency and practice. If you miss scheduled prayer, you can make up the time, or simply try again the next day. Fortunately, God is always ready to take our calls. In the Parable of the Prodigal Son, God is depicted as a Father waiting on his porch night and day for a visit from his son. This is perhaps a rather rigid way of approaching a relationship with God, but the key is starting in a way that works for you, and then growing and growing until prayer becomes as natural as breathing.

If you prefer a more formal style of prayer or need a guideline to get started, a good place to start is found in the *Book of Common Prayer* on pages 136 to 140 under the heading “Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families.” These are four quick prayers appointed throughout the day that can be a good starting point for a renewed emphasis on prayer in your life. Prayer in its simplest form is a time to reflect on your life, to express gratitude for God's works, to repent, and to pray over your needs and anxieties. The more you practice talking with God about these things, the more natural it will become. We have no secrets before our Lord, so all parts of lives, from our desires and joy to our hate and sadness can and must be offered to God with complete genuineness. The more we do this, the more we come to know the joy and peace in believing, and the more we will have strength in times of adversity in our lives.

*Father Zachary Brooks +*

### ***A Course in Anglican History: Part LXII***

One of the first orders of business for the newly forming Episcopal Church was to settle on new *Book of Common Prayer*. This new Prayerbook was bound to set the tone for the new denomination. Leaders brought varying points of view to the process and they were mostly unable to resolve these differences. For example, what would the balance be between received tradition and modern rationality? Here, an effort to remove the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds from the *Prayerbook* by modern-minded unitarians was defeated by traditionalists. However, individuals were not required to recite the Apostles' Creed at Baptism and had the option of stating they believed simply "the Christian faith" instead. What place did ritual have in the Church? Here, there was an effort to remove the rubric requiring the priest to make the Sign of the Cross over the baby at Baptism, an act long hated by the Puritan party as far back as King Edward VI. Leaders again settled on compromise by making this act optional, while inserting an editorial insistence that it was a worthy act to perform. What authority does a priest have to confer God's grace? How is God's grace present in the elements of bread and wine? Here, New England leaders insisted on using the Scottish liturgy for Holy Communion, in which the priest invokes the Holy Spirit over the bread and wine. Other leaders agreed to this change, though they edited out the Scottish liturgy's statement that the Holy Spirit turns the bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus. What was eventually ratified in 1792 was a compromise document. Accommodating varying points of view through intentional ambiguity (a principle called latitudinarism) remains an important principle in the Episcopal Church today, for better and for worse. In typically Anglican fashion, these ambiguities would eventually become commonly accepted marks of the Episcopal Church's identity, and from there become pulled into new debates the original writers didn't quite imagine.

*This column is a monthly series on the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church.*

### ***A Recipe From the Past: Bellatti Ham Loaf***

- 2 pounds ground ham
- 1 pound ground lean pork
- (Have the butcher grind it together twice)
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup dry bread crumbs
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard

Mix together. Form in a 9 x 11 pan. Put one can of undiluted tomato soup on top. Bake in a 325 degree oven for one and a half hours. (After one hour, check and remove excess fat drippings.) Serve with horseradish topping.

**Topping:** Whip one cup of whipping cream. Add several teaspoons of horseradish, and beat unto smooth.

***Send us a recipe you would like us to share!***

### News & Announcements

#### ***The Heifer Project International***

The Church School would like to announce that they raised over **\$2300** for *The Heifer Project International*. This enables the children to “buy”: 2 heifers, a water buffalo, a goat, 2 flocks of bees, 2 pigs, a sheep, 2 flocks of chickens, some fish, garden seeds, and clean water.

Thanks to all the members of the Parish who contributed throughout the Lenten season. Without your generous donations, this would not have been such a great success and learning experience for the children. We again received a donation from George Norris’ daughter who is delighted that we support a project that her father was instrumental in setting up. We need to especially thank our Church School teachers Gayle Clark, Abby Radcliffe, and Hilda Radcliffe who donated baked goods, peaches, and MUCH time. At the bake sale, local honey was also sold to benefit the Project, thanks to Jim Herget.

#### ***Outreach Committee***

The Food Center was very grateful for the egg cartons our parish provided. They request that we continue to provide them. They also appreciate both food donations and monetary donations. The containers for donations are in the hallway of the parish hall.

#### ***Special Offerings***

The Good Friday Offering was \$270; the Easter Offering was \$645. This money will go toward the Outreach Programs of Trinity Church.

#### ***Doorbell Dinners***

Trinity Church will deliver Doorbell Dinners the week of May 12-16. Please contact K-Lou Ashmore to let her know when you can help.

#### ***Congratulations***

**Charlotte Benét Keaton**, daughter of Scott & Nicole and grandson of Forrest & Helen, was born on April 7. Welcome to the world, Charlotte!

**Copeland Wayne Woodruff**, the son of Courtland & Brianne and grandson of Dave & Ginda, was born on March 29, 2025. Welcome to the world, Copeland!

Gerald Quinn O’Hanlon and Giuliana Marie Ahlers, grandson of **Adah Mitchell & the late Newton Mitchell** and son of Cynthia & John O’Hanlon, were united in marriage on April 26, 2025, at the St. Martin De Porres Catholic Church in Jensen Beach, Florida. Congratulations!

#### ***Death***

Ruth Chalk, a longtime parishioner, died on February 24. Many of our “senior” members remember her fondly.

*May her soul and the souls  
of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.*

***\*If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.  
Spring time brings graduations and awards ceremonies. We’d love to share your news!***

**Trinity Fellowship**  
will end its study year with  
a potluck.  
**May 6, 6:00 pm**  
*Please sign up in the Parish Hall.*

**ECW**  
Build your own salad supper meeting  
Dessert and beverages are provided.  
**Thursday, May 8**  
**5:30 – 7:00 pm**

**Vestry**  
**Tuesday, May 20**  
**7:00 pm**

**Sunday, May 25**  
Last day of regular Church School

**Lectors**

May 4	Cathy Nelson
May 11	Paula Woods
May 18	Nancy Taylor Porter
May 25	Forrest Keaton

**Acolytes**

May 4	Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb
May 11	Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb
May 18	Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb
May 25	Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb

*Please let Fr. Zach and Jo Ann  
know when you are available.*

**Ushers**

May 4	Chuck Crim & Volunteer
May 11	John Clancy & Volunteer
May 18	Chuck Crim & Volunteer
May 25	John Clancy & Jim Herget

**SERVICES IN MAY 2025**

**Thursday, May 1:**  
St. Philip & St. James  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, May 4: EASTER III**  
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, May 7:**  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, May 11: EASTER IV**  
The Sunday after Ascension Day  
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, May 14:**  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, May 18: EASTER V**  
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, May 21:**  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, May 25: EASTER VI**  
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, May 28:**  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Thursday, May 29: ASCENSION DAY**  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**Saturday, May 31:**  
The Visitation of the BVM  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist