



HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Washington, DC

November 3, 2019

'Keep Death Before You Always'

By David Pennington

Call me morbid. Every November, I take out plans for my funeral, review them, make changes, and save the file away for another year. This exercise is actually one of my favorite annual activities. And, while the liturgy nerd in me loves to pore over options for prayer texts and music, ritual gestures and scripture, the exercise has very little to do with the liturgy itself. (I'll be dead, after all.) Reviewing my funeral plans reminds me of the (inevitable) fact that I'm going to die some day and makes me ask the question "Have I forgotten?"

Benedict of Nursia, the founder of Western Monasticism, advises his monks, "Keep death before you always." His little *memento mori* suggests that, though the things of this world are wonderful, they're fleeting, will pass away, and should be used for good and for the journey to heaven. He reminds them this life isn't all and everything. What difficult advice for us to hear. (Be glad you don't have to live in one of his monasteries.)

When you sit at my desk, you get a good number of phone calls from people who have experienced death. They're looking to put together funerals. In the last few years, there has been a rise in people who call asking for a "Celebration of Life" for their deceased loved one. I think the phrase is popular in secular circles where death is sometimes too hard, too traumatic to deal with. (For the record, death is always too hard and always too traumatic.) To counteract grief, some folks decide to celebrate the life they shared with an individual, remember the good times, and try, at least for a little while, to shake themselves of the grief that feels too much to bear.

But, the Church has no rites for a "Celebration of Life." Instead, Catholic response to death, at least liturgically, recognizes that the life never belonged to us in the first place. Our loved ones are given to us as gifts from God and their life now continues in a different way, hidden in God. So, the Church's rites surrounding death don't look to accomplishments, eulogies, or resumes to celebrate. Nor do they ignore the joy and love we share on this side of Heaven. Instead, they provide room for taking leave of departed loved ones, helping us name our grief, and commending back to God the ones God first entrusted to us.

There are several opportunities around the parish this month to heed Benedict's advice. The first is an All Souls Evening Prayer on Monday, November 4 at 7pm in Church to remember all those who now rest in God. You are invited to bring a framed photograph of deceased loved ones to Evening Prayer for the Table of Remembrance. On Sunday, November 17 at 4pm in McKenna Hall, there will be a funeral planning workshop to understand a little more about the Church's rites and things to think about in advance of death.

As we begin the month of November, a month traditionally held aside as a time to consider the "Last Things," I invite you to join me in asking the questions, "How am I doing on this journey? How do I need to show love and concern for the people in my life in clearer ways? What do I need to do to prepare better for my return to God's embrace?"



MAIN CHURCH

36th Street, NW
between N and O Streets
Washington, DC 20007

PARISH CENTER

3513 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 337-2840



www.trinity.org



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Share Your Faith with Our Youth

Preparation for Youth Confirmation begins on **November 20**, and adult volunteers are needed! This year, there will be **one Wednesday session and then five Sunday sessions**- all from 6:30-8pm. Planning meetings would be from 4:30-5:30pm on Sundays before Mass. If you are interested or would like to learn more, please email Rebecca at rhoesterey@trinity.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Jesuit Catholic parish that welcomes all to accompany one another in Christ, celebrate God's love and transform lives.

PARISH CENTER

Phone: (202) 337-2840 **Fax:** (202) 337-9048
Emergencies Only: (202) 903-2817
Hours: Mon-Thurs: 8:30am-7:30pm; Fri 8:30am-4:30pm; Sat & Sun: Closed

JESUIT STAFF

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Associate Pastor	Pat Earl, S.J.	pearl@trinity.org
Associate Pastor	Ben Hawley, S.J. (202) 903-2814	bhawley@trinity.org
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Stewardship	Rock Schuler (202) 903-2843	rschuler@trinity.org
Youth Ministry	Rebecca Hoesterey (202) 903-2814	rhoesterey@trinity.org

**Living Our Mission:
Accompany One Another in Christ**

*This week's column is written
by Rev. Benjamin Hawley, S.J.*

Recently, I was standing at the fresh fish counter of a Giant store when a man came up, looked at the fish, then said to me, "Hello, young man." —"Hello," I replied, adding, "I will bet we are about the same age." —"I'm 97," he said. "I fought in World War II. I was 19. Then we dropped the bomb on Hiroshima. So I left the army and married my girlfriend who was 17." (Pause) "We were married for 73 years." (A longer pause) "She died four years ago." (A very long pause).

The surviving spouse can barely explain to him/herself the reality of losing a beloved partner. The reality is that where there was someone, there is now no one. And with no one comes no companionship, no familiar routines. True, *someone* remains in familiar smells at home, shopping lists in familiar handwriting, piles of books or papers, clutter in the basement or attic, all reminders of what was. And a goodness endures that can be experienced at the fish counter in Giant.

Separation and divorce are different, but similar. The "no one" is the same. But the divorce is a rupture, a rejection, a disparagement. For the rejected one there is —what?—rejection, a kind of enforced death too deep for words. For the rejector a sort of freedom. But not real freedom, because there is no free lunch. Dishonesty and surprise increase the pain. For some perhaps release and relief from a toxic life. So many variations. So much pain.

In the face of separation, divorce, widowhood or widowerhood, our Catholic faith helps us create the space inside ourselves to engage our dark emotions and yet to come to know we are loved, to be healed by the love, from friends and family, and especially from Him who died from antagonists' anger, bitterness, and resentment—and yet who continued to love. We are the visible Church when we gather—with Him in our midst—to tell our stories, to feel heard and received, and to listen and accept. Jesus invites us to be with Him and with one another, so that love can prevail and we can be healed and nurtured into peace and new hope.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5). Jesus comforts and heals us in the poverty of our loss.

Please join us to share that comfort and healing at two events sponsored by the parish's Separated, Divorced and Widowed group:

Peace: A Retreat Day of Companionship & Reflection

led by Linda Arnold & Fran Knoll
November 16, 9:45am-3pm, McKenna Hall

An Evening of Reflection

led by Fr. Ben Hawley, S.J.
November 18, 7:30pm-9pm, McKenna Hall

The Separated Divorced & Widowed group meets Mondays at 7:30pm in the Neale Room. All are welcome.

Daily Mass Intentions

The parish community prays for all of the dead every day at Mass. However, we encourage parishioners to mention specific persons by name during the General Intercessions when invited to do so by the presider.

Parishioners may also request that a specific person be remembered by name at a particular weekday Mass by calling or visiting the receptionist's desk in the Parish Center during normal office hours.

Names must be submitted one week in advance. Persons to be so remembered at weekday Masses this week are:

Week of November 4, 2019

Monday	7:00am	Jane Spotts
	5:30pm	Stephen C. Matula+
Tuesday	7:00am	Esther M. Picaza+
	5:30pm	David Yockel+
Wednesday	8:00am	Jerry Conaty+
	5:30pm	Leland Baldwin Bishop II+
Thursday	8:00am	Moacyr Calhela+
	5:30pm	Joseph Gainer+
Friday	8:00am	Lee Meas+
	5:30pm	Christine Wiley+
Saturday	8:00am	Ruel Hector R. Tiongson

Pray for those who are sick: *For those we hold in our hearts*

Pray for those who are dead: *Jim Thompson*

PRAYER REQUESTS

To add a name to these prayer lists, please email parishlife@trinity.org or call (202) 903-2801. You must be an immediate relative of the one to be remembered, or have express permission in order to add a name to these lists. The names on this prayer list will be mentioned aloud at Sunday Mass during the General Intercessions and will be published in the parish eLetter and bulletin.

SACRAMENTS

Mass Schedule (*Check bulletin or website for Holy Days*)

Weekdays: 7am (Monday & Tuesday), 8am (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) & 5:30pm (in the Chapel on N St.)

Note: Please see schedule for daily Mass times.

Chapel is open on weekdays between Masses.

Saturday: 8am – Chapel; 5:30pm Vigil – Church

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 11:30am, 1:15pm & 5:30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday from 4:30pm–5:15pm or by appointment

Sacrament of the Sick

Communal anointing is celebrated seasonally in the St. Ignatius Chapel. Call the parish to request the sacrament at home or in the hospital.

Baptisms and Weddings:

- To schedule a Baptism or Wedding, contact Moira Duggan at (202) 903-2806 or mduggan@trinity.org.

Sacramental Preparation:

Persons desiring to receive certain sacraments at Holy Trinity need to be registered parishioners and are expected to participate in a preparation program. For more information or to register, contact the appropriate staff person:

- Infant Baptism: readmin@trinity.org, (202) 903-2808
- First Reconciliation: Judith Brusseau, (202) 903-2807
- First Eucharist: Judith Brusseau, (202) 903-2807
- Marriage Prep: readmin@trinity.org, (202) 903-2808
- Adult Initiation (RCIA): Anne Koester, (202) 337-2840 x128
- Children's Initiation (RCIA): Judith Brusseau, (202) 903-2807
- Adult Confirmation: Judith Brusseau, (202) 903-2807
- Youth Confirmation: Rebecca Hoesterey, (202) 903-2841

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

Welcome to Holy Trinity! We invite you to join our parish. You may register at www.trinity.org/register. Questions about registering can be directed to registration@trinity.org.

New parishioner orientations are held several times throughout the year. See the bulletin, eLetter and website for announcement of dates and times.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process of conversion and faith formation for individuals who are interested in living the Christian life in the Catholic tradition. Those who want to learn more about the possibility of becoming Catholic are welcome to come to the Inquiry meetings held every Tuesday evening at 7pm in the Faber Room, Holy Trinity Parish Center. Please contact Anne Koester akoester@trinity.org for more information or visit our website. Holy Trinity also offers RCIA adapted for Children for children and youth who are not baptized (ages 7 through high school) Please contact Judith Brusseau at jbrusseau@trinity.org for more information.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)

PPC members share leadership responsibility with our pastor. As advisors to the pastor, PPC members assist the pastor in discerning, articulating and communicating to other parishioners the identity and mission of the parish, and they assist the pastor in assuring fidelity to that identity and mission.

President	Chris Hannigan	ppcpresident@trinity.org
Vice President	Jim Thessin	parishcouncil@trinity.org

PRAY

All Souls Day Evening Prayer

The Church remembers all of the faithful departed in a special way during the month of November. Please join the parish community for a sung Evening Prayer on **November 4** at 7pm in the church. All are invited to bring a framed photograph of any deceased friends and loved ones to Evening Prayer. If you are unable to participate on November 4, please bring a photograph on November 10 to be remembered in our liturgies during November. Photographs may be collected on November 24.

Day of Reflection for Individuals Experiencing Being Separated, Widowed or Divorced

November 16, 9:45am-3pm, McKenna Hall
You are invited to join others who are recovering from the loss of a significant love. Members of the Ignatian Retreat Team, Linda Arnold and Fran Knoll, will facilitate our time together as we reflect together on seeking and finding peace. There will be time for silent reflection, sharing and communal prayer. Lunch will be provided. Space is limited. RSVP to Jack Harllee at jackharllee@gmail.com before November 12.

An Advent Retreat

December 8-14

Registration deadline is **November 24**

“In every age, God’s intention is that we be a people of hope.” So begins the theme for the first day of the Advent retreat, Emmanuel: God with us always. You are invited to have your hope nourished, to wait patiently for God’s never-failing help, and to share in God’s joy of coming into our world as Emmanuel. Register online at www.trinity.org/retreats or pick up a brochure at the entrances to the church and chapel. Please contact Martina O’Shea at moshea@trinity.org for more information.



LEARN

Blaming God? with Rabbi Hyim Shafner November 10, 10:10am, Trinity Hall



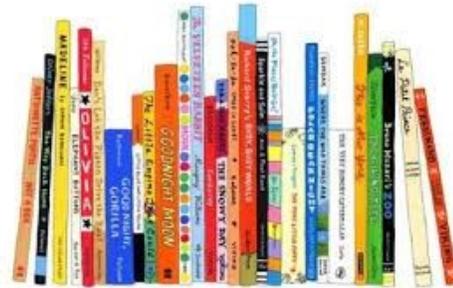
Rabbi Hyim Shafner of Keshet Israel in Georgetown will discuss “Blaming God? Exploring Ancient and Medieval Jewish Lamentation Literature as a Response to Exile.” From the destruction of the ancient Temple, to medieval persecutions, to the modern Holocaust, Jews have responded to tragedy with a rich body of scripture and liturgy. We will look at several examples and examine their themes and theology.

Confronting the Church’s Crisis: Leading Lay Voices on the Sexual Abuse Scandal in the Church

November 10, 4:30pm, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs

The event will feature lay voices in this current sexual abuse tragedy that is affecting both diocesan and religious communities: Dr. Francesco Cesareo, chair of the National Review Board of the USCCB; Dr. Len Sperry, chair of the National Advisory Council for Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM); Kathleen Coogan, parishioner and lay leader at Holy Trinity Catholic Church; and Katherine Marshall, executive director of World Faiths Development Dialogue and senior fellow at the Berkley Center, who has worked closely with faith leaders on issues of gender and sexuality. The discussion will focus on three main questions: What is the way past this scandal? What are the strategies for regaining hope? What are the dynamics in creating a culture of safeguarding? RSVP required at www.berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/events

SERVE



HTS Book Fair & So Others Might READ Book Drive

The HTS Book Fair starts **today** in the Lower School Big Room. The fair ends November 8. Students are also collecting books through **November 22** for their So Others Might READ Book Drive to benefit seven schools and tutoring programs in low-income communities. All are encouraged to participate by purchasing a book at the Book Fair or from the online wish list at www.trinity.org/read.

DACA Action!

The Ignatian Solidarity Network, Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities and Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology are organizing a Jesuit-affiliated meet-up point for the **November 12** rally in support of DACA on the steps of the Supreme Court in Washington D.C. Supporters will gather at 9:30am at the bell in Columbus Circle outside of Union Station in Washington D.C. All are welcome to join them there or say a prayer in solidarity with them at that time.



Calling for New Liturgical Ministers

Our parish is looking for new ministers to serve in particular ways in the liturgy. . If you would like to be trained in any of these ministries, RSVP to David Pennington at dpennington@trinity.org by letting him know in which training session you'd like to participate. All training sessions will meet in the church.

Youth Altar Servers (for any Mass time)

November 10 at 10:15am

Sacristans (for Vigil, 7:30, 9, or 11:30am Masses)

November 9 at 4pm

November 17 at 10:15am

Eucharistic Ministers (for any Mass time)

November 16 at 4pm

Lectors (for any Mass time)

November 12 at 7pm

Thanksgiving for All

Thanksgiving—and our annual turkey dinner drive—are just around the corner. This year, we'll collect meals for the Fr. McKenna Center to assist families in need. We'll hand out shopping lists at all masses on **November 16** and **17** (also available online) and collect food donations the following weekend, **November 23** and **24**. Please plan to make this a part of your Thanksgiving celebration. For more information, contact Cynthia Phoel at cp@cynthiaphoel.com.

Winter Shelter Co-ordinators Needed

From **December 15-29**, Holy Trinity hosts a winter shelter in partnership with the Georgetown Ministry Center. If you are interested in sharing the responsibilities of hosting this important program, please contact Ashley Klick at aklick@trinity.org for details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Parishioner Orientation

November 17, 2:30-4pm, McKenna Hall
Please join Father Kevin, the staff of Holy Trinity and other new parishioners for our Fall New Parishioner Orientation. Learn about the parish, tour the campus and enjoy light refreshments. Children are welcome. No RSVP is required.

Holy Trinity School Sibling Admissions

The deadline for sibling applications for current families enrolled at HTS is fast approaching. For early consideration please submit your applications by December 6.

Shop Holy Trinity

Crosses crafted from the salvaged pews, 2019 commemorative ornaments, stationery, and more are for sale in the Parish Center during business hours. If you would like more information, please contact Ashley Klick at aklick@trinity.org. Cash, check and credit card accepted.

Why We Pledge to Holy Trinity



As members of Holy Trinity, my wife Nancy and I are glad to be part of a spiritual community of caring and selfless persons who contribute their time, services and resources in support of many worthy ministries. For example, on the Social Justice Committee, we focus efforts and financial aid for individuals who are under-privileged and in desperate need of help. Assistance is given to So Others Might Eat (SOME) and Christ House in DC where people who are homeless and hungry are furnished housing, food, healthcare, counseling, and job training. HT provides people power and food.

In addition, the Social Justice Committee allocates tithing grants to needy charitable causes such as the sister parish and school St. Jean Baptiste in Haiti which is still recovering from a devastating earthquake. Tithing grants also assist our other sister parish Maria Madre de los Pobres In El Salvador which serves the poorest of the poor. Additional support has been given to organizations protecting immigrant children victimized by trafficking and abuse.

In contrast to people in these desperate circumstances, I have benefited from a Jesuit education since I was a freshman in high school when, after my father died, a caring priest, Fr. John Enright, S.J., stepped up to be a mentor. The impactful ministries of HT offer worthwhile opportunities to give back, with appreciation and gratitude.

While Nancy and I share the considerable disappointment in the way in which the Catholic Church hierarchy has addressed the clerical sexual abuse crisis, meaningful change can only come from within—involving both the clergy and laity working diligently together. Walking away when serious challenges arise will not help to rebuild a more positive, pro-active, and healthy Church. With the responsibility of stewardship in mind, Nancy and I plan to do our small part in donating time and resources in order to pass along a faithful and forward-thinking Church to our grandchildren. As Holy Trinity parishioners, we believe this is the least we can do.

—Tom Woodley

For more information about the 2020 pledge drive, visit www.trinity.org/give or contact Rock Schuler at rschuler@trinity.org.