

# Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Washington, DC

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Jesus Christ and the Joy of Christmas in India by Fr. Pudota Rayappa John SJ

Fr. John has been a visiting professor and Jesuit Chair at Georgetown University this past semester, residing in Holy Trinity's rectory. He has presided at numerous Masses here at Trinity, and has been a most welcome guest. He is heading back to India, and shares this piece on the celebration of Christmas in his home country:

Dear Holy Trinity Parishioners,

I wish you all a Blessed Christmas and Hope-filled New Year 2024!

Allow me to share a few thoughts on the joy of Christmas in India and who do the Indians say Jesus Christ is? India is an incredible land filled with religions, cultures, poor, contradictions and complexities. It is the birth place to religions like; Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, faith traditions of oppressed people Dalits and Adivasis. The religion of Islam found favor on Indian soil. Saints Thomas and Bartholomew, preached the Gospel and formed Christian communities in India. In 1542, Saint Francis Xavier reached Goa and paved the way for Jesuit missions.

Christmas is a time of family gathering, celebration and worship. It is a time for cakes and carols, Santa clauses and shopping. Students and teachers from Christian educational institutions, formation centers and the laity from parishes organize spiritual/cultural/charitable activities in the interreligious centers, homes for the aged, Mother Teresa Homes, Shelter Homes for Migrants, Slums and Prisons.

Christmas is celebrated not only by Christians but also people of other faiths. In India, we are accustomed to the worship of Child gods/goddesses: Krishna, Murugan,

**DAILY MASS SCHEDULE** 

continued on page 2



## OFFERTORY

We invite you to share your gifts with others in our parish community!

MAIN CHURCH 36th Street, NW between N & O Streets Washington, DC 20007 **PARISH CENTER & CHAPEL** 3513 N Street, NW Washington, DC 20007 (202) 337-2840



5:30 PM — Chapel SATURDAY: 8:00 AM — Chapel

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8:00 AM — Chapel

SATURDAY (VIGIL): 5:30 PM — Church SUNDAY: 7:30 AM — Church 9:00 AM — Church, Trinity Hall, and Livestream 11:30 AM — Church 5:30 PM — Church SACRAMENT OF

**RECONCILIATION:** Saturdays, 4:30 - 5:15 PM — Church

#### Jesus Christ and the Joy of Christmas in India continued from page 1

Ayyappa, Durga, and Batukamma. The large number of lullabies sung at Christmas time in Indian languages is a sign of 'inculturation' into this tradition.

An Italian Jesuit, Joseph Constantine Beschi (1680-1747), a missionary theologian, in his work Thembavani (the unfading garland), an epic poem in Tamil language, in honor of St Joseph makes the Father sing a lullaby to Baby Jesus:

The Abode of mercy, the ocean of joy, I am blessed to see you sleeping

For the heart that is wounded, you are a remedy incomparable o grace-filled love ... (10:138)

You have come as a Satguru [True Teacher], why do you hide yourself?

You are the bright sun to destroy the darkness of evil, why don't you shine?

You are born to bring joy to the world, a joy that is heavenly.

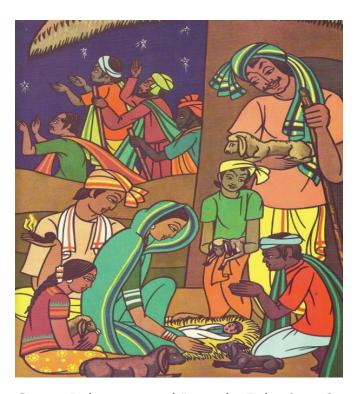
You who deserved unremitting love, 0 Treasure Supreme,

Such a great mercy must be seen by both the eyes and enjoyed (10:148).

Who do the Indians say Jesus Christ is?

In 19th century, the enlightened Hindus like; Raja Ram Mohan Roy encountered Jesus as a Supreme Guide to Human Happiness, Swami Ramakrishna Paramahamsa had the vision of Mother Mary holding the Child Jesus. Swami Vivekananda the founder of Ramakrishna Mission, spoke of Jesus as Liberator. Paramahamsa Yogananda who lived thirty-two years in America, presented Jesus, the Lord of Yoga. Pandita Ramabai a convert to the Anglican Church, travelled extensively North America, argued for 'Countercultural Jesus', for the emancipation of women in India.

In 20th century, Mahatma Gandhi was inspired by the 'Sermon on the Mount' and considered Jesus, the Supreme Satyagrahi (Beholder of Truth). A Belgian Missionary Constant Livens and his companions converted the tribals in Jharkhand, and gave them the image of Jesus, the Param Adivasi (the Ancient One).



Gurram Joshua presented Jesus, the Dalit. Satya Sai Baba spoke of Jesus, the Embodiment of Love.

The Indians cutting across the religions, have developed a special devotion to Jesus Christ. He speaks to them in their own idiom. There are many books along this direction: Oriental Christ, The Unknown Christ of Hinduism, The Yoga of Jesus, The Child and the Serpent, Asian Faces of Jesus, Asian Jesus, Jesus in Asia, Jesus of Asian Women, Jesus in Kashmir, Indian Faces of Jesus, etc...

Indians also depict Jesus Christ in their architecture, art and painting. I draw your attention to a painting of Nativity (see above) by Sr. Marie Claire SMMI (1937-2018). She was a Hindu convert from Tirupati, a well-known Temple city in South India. Sr. Claire used in her paintings Indian rural dress, codes and symbols.

To end, my sincere thanks to Frs. Kevin Gillespie, Patrick Earl, Benjamin Hawley, William Kelly, the Holy Trinity Staff and Parishioners for your hospitality and prayers. I cherished prayerful moments in the chapel of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the interaction with Saturday's Coffee Club.



## COFFEE DONUTS



Please visit McKenna Hall for coffee and donuts following the 9:00am and 11:30am Masses.

Thank you to all the volunteers who generously give of their time to bring this important ministry to the Parish

## PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!

Volunteers who wish to help with preparing the Church, Hall and Chapel for Christmas liturgies are invited to RSVP to David Gardiner, *dmgardiner@gardinerhall.com*. We will be working on Sunday **December 24**, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Cookies and egg nog will be provided!

## **GIVING TREE THANK YOU!**

Once again the Holy Trinity Community did not disappoint. Thanks to your generosity we fulfilled every wish (and a little more) for our eleven Giving Tree partners. Packaging, wrapping, sorting and delivering gifts for partners is no easy feat. Many thanks to all of our volunteers, especially our chief elves, Cristina Torres and Janice Wilder. Merry Christmas!

## INFORMATION SESSION ON THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

**January 13** | 11:00 AM on Zoom

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola are one way to come to love as God loves. Throughout an 8-9 month retreat made in daily life, the retreatant can grow in self-knowledge, deepen their intimacy with



Jesus, and grow in their practice of discernment of spirits. Join us for an hour conversation about this gift that God gave the church through St. Ignatius. Contact Martina O'Shea at *moshea@trinity.* org for the link to the online session.

## YOU CAN HELP THE YOUTH GROUP!

To provide breakfast items for Sunday Youth Group, please visit: *bit.ly/3REj6gk* Contact Katie Laskey at *klaskey@trinity.org* with questions.

Curious about getting involved with Youth Ministry as an adult volunteer?

Contact Katie Laskey at *klaskey@trinity.org* or fill out the Volunteer Interest Form at *trinity.org/youthvolunteers/* 

Phristmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24

4:00pm (Church and Trinity Hall) \*

5:45pm (Church)

7:30pm (Church)

9:30pm (Church)

11:15pm Carols & Scripture (Church) followed by Midnight Mass

(Note: There is no 9:00am Mass in Trinity Hall on the 24th. All other Sunday morning Masses on the 24th are as usually scheduled.)

## Christmas Day – Monday, December 25

9:30am (Church)

11:30am (Church) \*

(Note: There will be no 5:30pm daily Mass on the 25th.)

\* indicates the Mass will be livestreamed



Those who are gluten intolerant and wish to receive Holy Communion should speak with a Mass coordinator before the start of Mass. The Mass coordinator is stationed near the entrance of the Church.

#### **PRAY FOR OUR PILGRIMS**

From January 5 to 7, 2024, parishioners will participate in a Pilgrimage to Montgomery and Selma, Alabama, organized by Holy Trinity Social Justice Ministry and Catholic Mobilizing Network. Since 2020, Holy Trinity parishioners have been exploring the role of slavery, segregation, and race in Holy Trinity's history, and praying and reflecting on the complicity with racial injustice and the work towards racial healing. 25 parishioners will travel to Alabama to witness landmarks of racial violence and resilience, learn about the Civil Rights movement's history and present, pray together, and discern how God is calling us to dismantle racism within our lives, ministries, social systems and Church. We ask that parishioners support these pilgrims in prayer during these three days.

#### A SACRED SPACE OF FINAL REPOSE

Holy Trinity's Columbarium at Holy Rood Cemetery is located at 2126 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, on a hillside overlooking Georgetown, about a mile from the church.

The Columbarium is open to all, and over half of the available spaces have been sold.

For more information, please visit the Holy Trinity Columbarium website at *holytrinitycolumbarium.org*, or call (202) 903-2836.



## ABIDING IN GOD'S LOVE: AN IGNATIAN RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE January 21-27, 2024

Registration Deadline: **January 7, 2024** Register now! Space is limited.



Join us in praying in the tradition of St. Ignatius Loyola, engaging in Intellect, feelings and imagination. During the retreat you will be invited to reflect on the Mystery of God's Love spilling over into creation, become aware of God's comforting presence in your life, listen to God's call to you to be a receiver and giver of Divine Love and become God's friend.

Register at *trinity.org/ignatian-spirituality/godsabiding-love-retreat* 

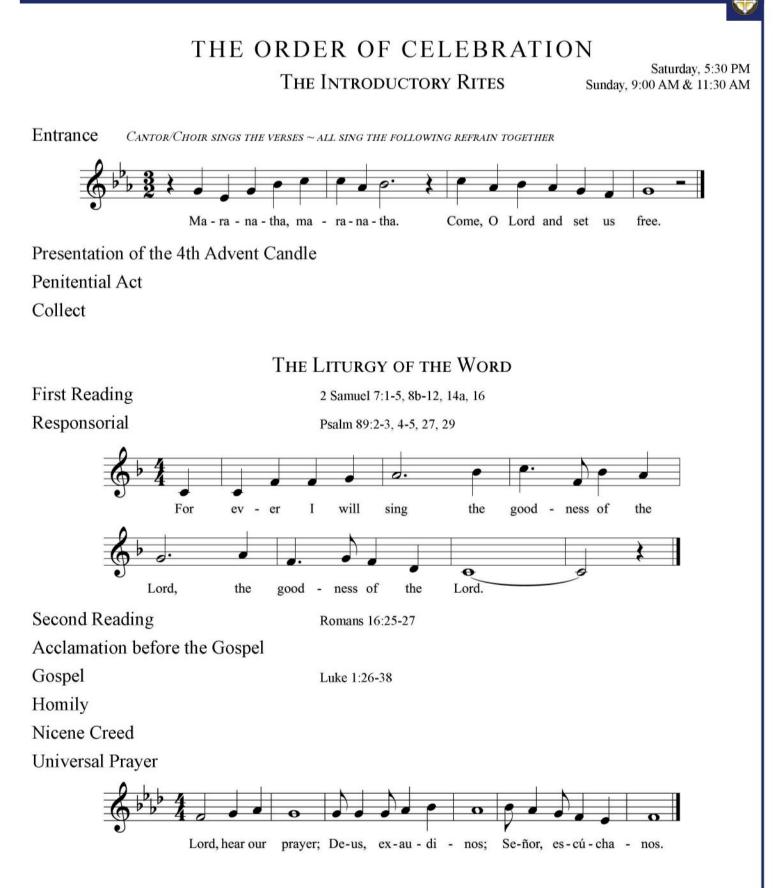
## DC JAIL VISITS WITH THE DOUGLASS PROJECT

The Social Justice Committee is coordinating D.C. Jail visits in collaboration with tithe recipient The Douglass Project. The goal is to have 15 participants at either or both dates.

The January dates available are Monday, **January 22** and Monday, **January 29**. All visits are from 1-3:30pm. Please scan this QR code to complete the form and share your availability/ interest:



The Frederick Douglass Project for Justice seeks to change the public's perception of the criminal justice system by becoming proximate with the humanity of incarcerated people.

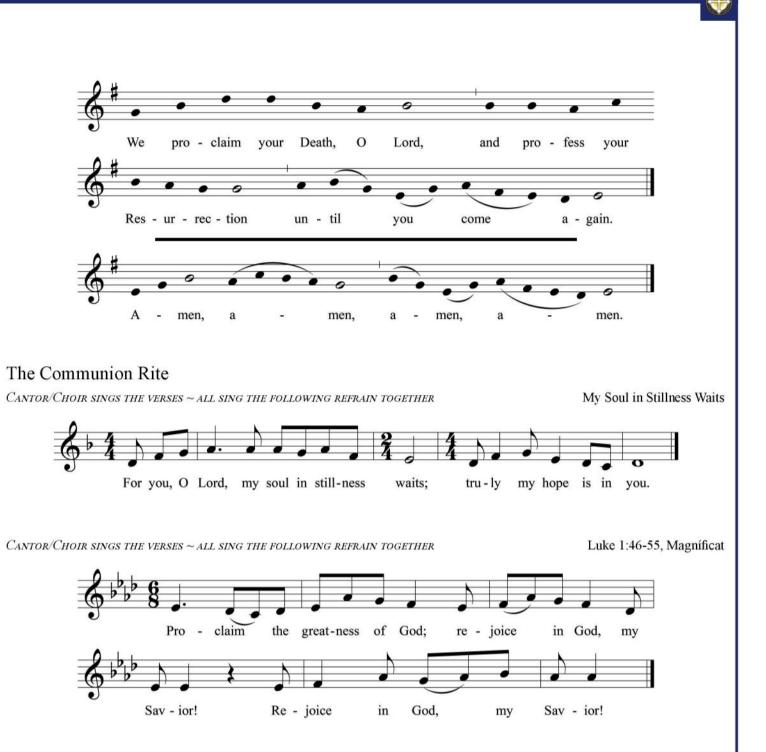


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## The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Wait for the Lord





Prayer after Communion

O Come, Divine, Messiah!

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

Announcements

Solemn Blessing for the Advent Season

Dismissal

**Concluding Processional** 



MUSIC ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Entrance–From Advent Litany and Gathering Rite based on Conditor alme siderum, Mode IV © 2006, 2011, Michael R. Prendergast & Rick Modlin. Published by OCP Publications. Responsorial–Psalm 89 by Marty Haugen © 1988, 1994 GIA Publications, Inc. Universal Prayer – Trilingual Intercessions, by Michael Hay, © 1994 World Library Publications. Offertory–Wait for the Lord by Jacques Berthier © 1984 Presses de Taize, Taize Community, France, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent. Eucharistic Acclamations–Missa Emmanuel by Richard Proulx © 1991, 2002, 2010, 2011, GIA Publications, Inc. Communion Processionals–My Soul in Stillness Waits by Marty Haugen, © 1982, 2005, GIA Publications, Inc.; Luke 1:46-55, Magnificat by James J. Chepponis, © 1980, GIA Publications, Inc. Concluding Processional–O Come, Divine Messiah! text by Abbé Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, 1663-1745; tr. by Sr. Mary of St. Phillip, SD, 1825-1904. Tune: VENEZ DIVIN MESSIE, 16th Cent. French Noël. Selections used with permission under OneLicense.net A-701277.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR WAYS TO SERVE, PRAY AND LEARN TOGETHER IN 2024!

Monthly birthday Cupcakes for Christ House will continue. Thank you to Esther Howe for keeping this program that developed during COVID going for so long. She has passed the leadership to Janice Wilder and Sarah Kilmer. Here is the link to sign up to bake in 2024. *signupgenius.com/go/cupcakes2024#/* 

Chefs and servers are needed every month for our Saturday Suppers at Mt. Zion in Georgetown. This 10 year tradition continues on **January 6 and 13**. *signupgenius.com/go/SSJan2024#/* 

The Social Justice Ministry is working with Georgetown Ministry Center to host a day of service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. on **January 13** from 3-5pm in Trinity Hall. Volunteers will make PB&J sandwiches and sort toiletry donations. There will be boxes for toiletry donations at the rear of the Church and in the parish center. *signupgenius.com/go/MLKDay2024* 

The HT Green Team wants to help you succeed at your resolution to care for our common home in 2024! Join Mary McGann, RSCJ on **January 17** for a virtual discussion on "Food Choices Matter."

The Social Justice Committee is coordinating DC Jail visits in collaboration with tithe recipient the Frederick Douglass Project for Justice. The goal is to have 15 participants on January 29. All visits are from 1-3:30pm. Please email *aklick@trinity.org* if you would like to participate.

Monthly Food Collections for SOME, Fr. McKenna Center, and Georgetown Ministry Center will continue to 2024. The first collection will be on January 28. *signupgenius.com/go/Community2024#/* 

## MORNING PRAYER ONLINE

Mondays and Fridays | 9:00 AM, Zoom

Morning Prayer is celebrated on Mondays and Fridays 9-9:45 am via Zoom. All are warmly invited to join whether once, occasionally, or regularly. Go to *trinity. org/morningprayer* for information and the link.

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

#### WEEK OF DECEMBER 25, 2023

MONDAY	8:00 AM
	5:30 PM
TUESDAY	8:00 AM
	5:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	8:00 AM Irene Yuille
	5:30 PM Michael Haute +
THURSDAY	8:00 AM
	5:30 PM
FRIDAY	8:00 AM
	5:30 PM Joan Sullivan Lavezzo +
SATURDAY	8:00 AM John Katkish +
	Apongnwu & Julien Patrick Tete

## **DAILY READINGS**

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 | Romans 16:25-27 | Luke 1:26-38

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 25** 

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD** Isaiah 62:11-12 | Luke 2:15-20

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26**

**FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 | Matthew 10:17-22

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

**FEAST OF SAINT JOHN** 1 John 1:1-4 | John 20:1a and 2-8

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28** 

**FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS** 1 John 1:5—2:2 | Matthew 2:13-18

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

**THE FIFTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS** 1 John 2:3-11 | Luke 2:22-35

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

## THE SIXTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

1 John 2:12-17 | Luke 2:36-40

## **NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION**

Welcome to Holy Trinity! We invite you to join our parish. You may register at *www.trinity.org/register* or scan the **QR code below.** 



#### **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 at *akoester@trinity.org* or (202) 903-2825. Holy Trinity also offers RCIA adapted for children and youth who are not Baptized (ages 7 through high school). Please contact Anne Marie Kaufmann at *akaufmann@trinity.org* (202) 903-2832 for more information.

### LGBTQIA+ MINISTRY

Holy Trinity's commitment to accompany one another in Christ invites us to be more deeply aware of the diversity of our community and more welcoming to those who are marginalized by society or the Church. Our layled ministry embraces individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning/queer, intersex, asexual and their families and friends. More information and upcoming meetings can be found at *www.trinity.org/lgtbqia* or by emailing *LGBTQIA@trinity.org.* 

### 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. Contact President Jennifer Dorsey at *ppcpresident@trinity.org* and Vice President Gail Louis at *parishcouncil@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**

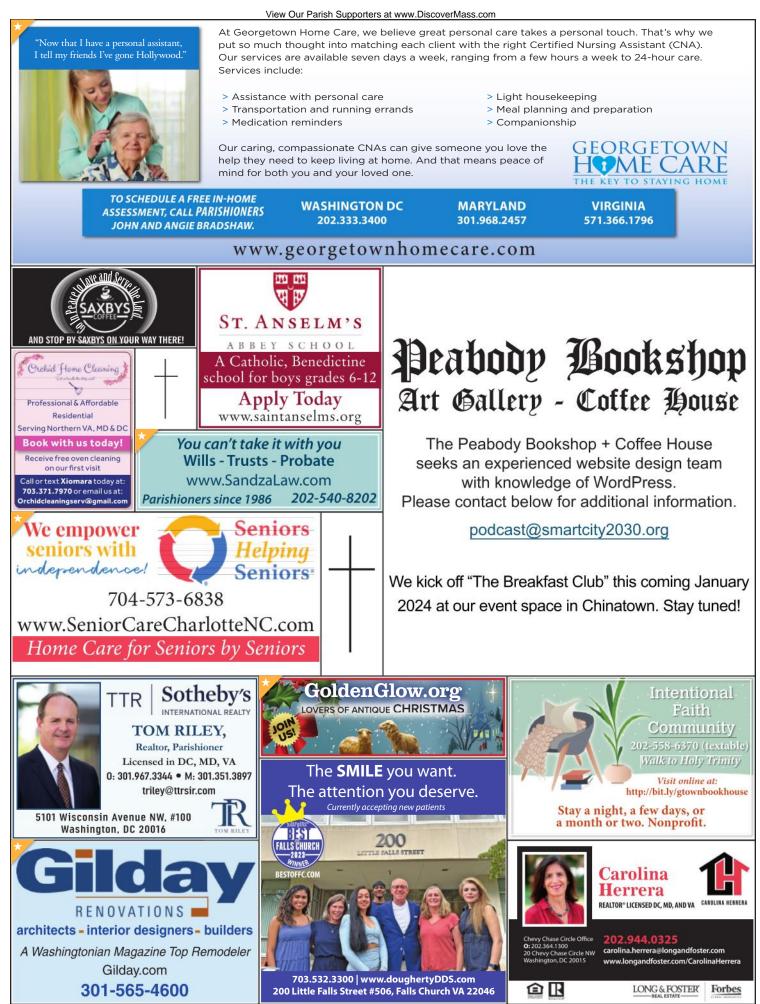
**Phone:** (202) 337-2840 **Fax:** (202) 337-9048 **Emergencies Only:** (202) 903-2817 **Hours:** Monday-Friday: 8:30am - 4:30pm Saturday & Sunday : Closed

## JESUIT STAFF

Pastor	Kevin Gillespie, S.J. (202) 903-2800	kgillespie@ trinity.org
Associate Pastor	Pat Earl, S.J. (202) 337-2840 x130	pearl@ trinity.org
Associate Pastor	Ben Hawley, S.J. (202) 903-2814	bhawley@ trinity.org
Associate Pastor	William Kelley, S.J. (202) 903-2833	wkelley@ trinity.org

#### PARISH DEPARTMENTS

	INILINIS	
Parish Operations	Tom Favret (202) 903-2847	tfavret@ trinity.org
Accounting	Elebat Mengiste (202) 903-2821	emengiste@ trinity.org
Communications	Ted Newton (202) 903-2824	tnewton@ trinity.org
Facilities	Dino Campagnari (202) 903-2813	dcampagnari@ trinity.org
Faith Formation/ Religious Ed.	Anne Marie Kaufmann (202) 903-2832	akaufmann@ trinity.org
Holy Trinity School	Katy Williams (202) 337-2339	principal@ htsdc.org
Ignatian Retreats & Training	Martina O'Shea (202) 903-2810	moshea@ trinity.org
Ignatian Spirituality	Catherine Heinhold (202) 903-2819	cheinhold@ trinity.org
Liturgy	Tony Varas (202) 903-2804	tvaras@ trinity.org
Music Ministry	Matthew Ogden 202-903-2827	mogden@ trinity.org
Pastor's Office/ Parish Life	Tabitha Acosta (202) 903-2801	tacosta@ trinity.org
Social Justice	Ashley Klick (202) 903-2836	aklick@ trinity.org
Stewardship	Rock Schuler (202) 903-2843	rschuler@ trinity.org
Youth Ministry	Katie Laskey (202) 903-2846	klaskey@ trinity.org



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