Holy Trinity Catholic Church

November 29, 2026 — First Sunday of Advent

Encountering Christ Behind the Walls: A Journey to Louisiana

Holy Trinity Prison Ministry Immersion Experience



Earlier this year, a group of Trinity parishioners, partners, and three Jesuit novices traveled to Louisiana for an immersion experience — a journey not only of miles, but of mind and heart. Over three days, guided by prayer, shared experience, and dialogue with many at the margins, we sought to understand our nation's system of mass incarceration from the inside out. What we found was a landscape of profound pain, unexpected grace, and an urgent call to action.

Day One: Roots of a Crisis. We began each morning with a prayer to orient our hearts. On the first day, we asked: "Spirit, help me see through the eyes of Jesus." Our first stop was Laura Plantation, where we were confronted with the uncomfortable truth that slavery is the greatest sin of our nation — one that continues to prevent us from becoming the nation we aspire to be. That history does not end at Emancipation. It flows directly into our present mass incarceration and the overrepresentation of people of color in our prisons.

That afternoon, we met Troi Bechet, CEO of the Center for Restorative Practices, founded in 2008 in New Orleans. Her organization works with young people to offer alternatives to violence when conflict arises — through healing circles built around three simple but transformative questions: What happened? (each person is fully heard); Who was impacted, and how? (the broader community is included); and How do we make things right? (restoration is designed by all, with both accountability and care). The center also partners with the Big Easy Budget Coalition to hold city government accountable, asking leaders to examine how New Orleans dollars are spent on punishment versus restoration, and to measure success by public safety outcomes — not incarceration rates.

We ended the day with a teach-in at St. Catherine of Sienna, guided by the Jesuit Social Research Institute and Loyola New Orleans. The statistics are staggering. The U.S. holds the highest prison population in the world: 2 million people as of 2024, a 500% increase over the past 40 years. Approximately one in three American adults carries an arrest record, conviction, or incarceration. Louisiana bears an especially heavy burden: it has the highest incarceration rate of any state, and its Black incarceration rate is more than four times the white rate. Encouragingly, ten reform bills passed in 2018 reduced Louisiana's prison population from 40,000 to 27,000 by 2022, saving the state $135 million. But legislation passed in 2022 reversed that progress, and the prison population is now projected to nearly double to 55,000 over the next decade.

continued on page 2

Offertory

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

Main Church
1315 36th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Parish Center & Chapel
3513 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 337-2840

trinity.org /HolyTrinity.DC @HolyTrinity.DC

Daily Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday:	8:00 AM — Chapel 5:30 PM — Chapel
Saturday:	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

Louisiana... *cont. from page 1*

Day Two: Inside Angola. "Lord, show yourself to me in the people I meet today." With that prayer on our lips, we entered the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola — one of the largest maximum-security prisons in the country. What we encountered defied simple description. We expected brokenness. What we found was something else.

As one of our group reflected: "I expected to see broken men and what I saw was not fixed but mended." Men smiled, laughed, showed their work with pride. Men have built communities within a community of death — through seminary programs, hospice care, trades, ministry, and mentorship. They have reclaimed, in some profound way, their humanity and their personhood. "It is a miracle of healing," she said, "and I saw it right in front of me."

And yet, the peace we witnessed was not simple. Another in our group asked herself, *Where is the Jesus who turned over the tables? Where is the one executed by the state for being a problem?* The history of Angola is one of violence hidden from the outside world — in the 1970's men who organized against forced plantation labor and sexual violence inside the prison were buried in solitary confinement for over four decades. Their isolation was due to their beliefs about liberation and self-determination. The organizing was the scandal, not what they organized against.

Today prisoners are still forced into farmline work with unbearable heat and inadequate water — a direct link to the original plantation roots of Angola. The compound is a hub of work assignments inside Angola's main prison, where incarcerated workers perform industrial work for Prison Enterprises, the DOC's for-profit arm which sells goods to municipal agencies across the state. Other state prisons have created similar arrangements, which altogether produce more than $2 billion a year in goods and $9 billion in services, according to a 2022 ACLU report, Captive Labor: Exploitation of Incarcerated Workers. Angola laborers earn 2-4 cents per hour for their labor.

This led us to a hard but honest conclusion: the peace at Angola may be simultaneously real grace and what remains when the prophetic, table-flipping half of Jesus has been removed from the room. You can be redeemed at Angola. But thy kingdom come, thy will be done — that transformative, earth-changing prayer — is not permitted there. Both things are true, and they sit right next to each other.
We ended the evening over dinner with the Louisiana Parole Project, listening to those who served many years in Angola, now working to restore freedom to their brothers and sisters still behind bars.

Day Three: Justice and Mercy. "Father, I am your hands and feet." We prayed the words of St. Teresa of Avila as we began our final day, meeting with Jee Park, Executive Director of Innocence and Justice Louisiana. Her non-profit helps free innocent people sentenced to life in prison and those serving unjust sentences. To date 77 people have been freed or exonerated serving a total of 1,709 years in prison for crimes they did not commit. Her work is a reminder that the stakes of a broken system are not abstract: innocent people are imprisoned. Justice is not always served.

One of our group spoke: "The more I read about the death penalty and the criminal legal system in this country, the more I know that I must voice my opposition to this violation of human dignity and the sacredness of life." She shared words written by Earl McGahee, incarcerated in Alabama, who wrote of the Creator's invitation to let go of past hurts so that something new can spring forth — echoing Isaiah 43: "Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it?"

Another pilgrim offered this reflection: "We were forced to reckon with an institution possessing the graphic brutality of the Lord's Passion, yet we received the grace of finding in prison signs of His persistent love." The experience forced each of us to confront our own capacity to ignore the suffering that persists, in part, because we don't have to look at it. Facing the scale of these challenges, we do not presume to have fixes. Instead, we are called, in the Ignatian tradition, simply to accompany.

A Call to Action. This journey was not an ending but a beginning. The men we met inside Angola, and the advocates we met outside it, are not abstractions — they are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Every person in that system is worthy of life, of forgiveness, of justice, and of love.

We invite the Holy Trinity community to join us in prayer, education, and advocacy. Consider engaging with restorative justice principles in your own life and workplace. Educate yourself on Louisiana's — and our nation's — criminal legal system. Attend a future conversation or immersion opportunity with our parish prison ministry. The prayer of Teresa of Avila is not merely poetic. It is a commission: Christ has no hands on earth but ours. Let us use them well.

For more information on Holy Trinity's Prison Ministry, please e-mail aklick@trinity.org.

Advent Midday Meditations: Journey Toward Healing

Wednesdays in Advent | 12:00 PM ET, 7:00 PM Palestine time, via Zoom

This Advent, prepare for the coming of Christ by looking honestly at where we need healing and at the God who makes healing possible. Over four weeks, Fr. Garrett, S.J. will lead a guided meditation and prayer series on Zoom. Each session builds on a short reflection exercise to complete beforehand, and we will pray for one another along the way. (Wednesdays, Dec. 2, 9 & 16) Register by scanning the QR code at right:

Praying in Sacred Space

Advent Saturdays | 4:00-5:00 PM, via Zoom

This hour of guided prayer and faith sharing invites you to encounter a scripture passage from the Advent Sunday readings in a deeply reflective way. A team of lay people who have made St. Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises leads the group in savoring silence and God's presence. Come to one session or all — no preparation is necessary. All are welcome! Register for the Zoom link by scanning the QR code at right.

Table of Grace: An Evening of Hope and Recovery

Thursday, December 3 | 6:30 PM, McKenna Hall

Come and experience the co-mingling of the 12 Steps of recovery with Ignatian spirituality. Share a simple meal of meat or vegetarian lasagna and be led in prayer by those who make the Ignatian Spirituality Project retreats, which are designed for women and men who are in recovery from homelessness and addiction. Please register to attend by scanning the QR code at right.

Holy Trinity Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 7 | 6:30 PM, beginning in Upper School Cafeteria

All are welcome to go Christmas caroling around the parish's Georgetown neighborhood. Come to the Upper School cafeteria at 6:30 PM to pick up a song sheet and get prepared. No singing experience is necessary, only holiday cheer! Afterward, we'll gather around the firepit for s'mores, hot chocolate, and other treats!

World AIDS Day Mass

Tuesday, December 1 | 5:30 PM, Chapel

Join the LGBTQIA+ Ministry and other Holy Trinity parishioners at Mass to mark the annual observance of World AIDS Day in prayer and worship.

Advent Scripture Study

In the Advent Season, Holy Trinity will again offer scripture study groups to help us deepen our understanding and experience of this liturgical season. Groups will meet three times during Advent on the following days, with two groups meeting in person and one group meeting online:

- **Fridays** at 8:45 AM, December 4, 11, 18 - in person
- **Sundays** at 4:00 PM, December 6, 13, 20 - in person
- **Mondays** at 7:00 PM, December 7, 14, 21 - on Zoom

Please register by **Monday, November 30** via the parish website or using the QR code here. For more information contact Ian Mitchell at *imitchell@trinity.org.*

How Catholic Social Teaching & Palestinian Theology Can Guide Your Israel-Palestine Advocacy

December 5 | 12:30 PM, McKenna Hall

How can our Catholic faith and insights from Palestinian theology guide us in thinking about Israel-Palestine? Hear from Orbis Books authors about recent and forthcoming resources in this work, including Jonathan Munayer, co-editor of The Cross and the Olive Tree: Cultivating Palestinian Theology amid Gaza and co-authors Jordan Denari Duffner and Julie Schumacher Cohen of Palestine, Israel and Catholic Social Teaching: A Guide. Over a light lunch, they will share about their work advocating for Palestinian freedom and justice, peace, and equality for all, with concrete ideas for how to act, speak, and pray for a better future in Israel-Palestine. A donation to the St. Catherine Sister Parish is encouraged. RSVP to *AKlick@trinity.org*.

Iconography Exhibit

Sunday, December 6 | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Parish Center, 1st floor

Holy Trinity's Iconographers' Guild presents the annual exhibit of their work. Learn more about Christian iconography and see the icons the guild members have written throughout the year.

Holy Trinity Giving Tree

Now Through December 13

Each year Holy Trinity partners with local groups to bring the joy of Christmas through the Giving Tree. We are working to fulfill wish lists from the following: Anne's Place, Cabrini Center, Fr. McKenna Center, Healthy Babies Project, HT Migrant Familia, Mary House, Returning Citizens Assistance Network (RCAN), Spanish Catholic Center, St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families, and the Wanda Alston Foundation. We also invite monetary support for the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation. Tags are hung on trees in the main Church and in McKenna Hall. Virtual tags will be promoted in the eLetters. All gifts should be returned by **December 13**. Thank you!





National Chamber Orchestra and Choir: An Advent concert of Handel's Messiah and Vivaldi's Magnificat

Saturday, December 5 | 7:30 PM (doors 7:00 PM), Church

On the heels of their glorious season opener featuring violin soloist Joshua Brown and Vivaldi's Four Seasons, Holy Trinity welcomes back the National Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Artistic Director Julien Benichou. More information available at *trinity.org/concerts*

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Events in December

Women & Marginalized Genders Discussion Group

Wednesday, December 9 | 6:30 PM, Neale Room

Family & Friends Discussion Group

Sunday, December 13 | 10:15 AM, Rectory

Men's Discussion Group

Wednesday, December 16 | 7:30 PM, Neale Room & Zoom.

Full Ministry Meeting

Sunday, December 20 | 1:00 PM, Neale Room & Zoom.

Please see the webpage for details on all meetings.

Shop For A Cause!

Sunday, December 6 | After all morning Masses, McKenna Hall

Shop for a Cause! The Migrant Familia and our sister parishes will host the annual holiday market on December 6 after all morning Masses. Shop for coffee, fair trade gifts, baked goods, books, and more!

Monthly Grief Support

Saturday, December 12 | 10:00 AM

The holidays can be especially difficult after the loss of a loved one. The next monthly grief support group will be held on Saturday, December 12. You are not alone! This group is open to anyone who is grieving and seeking support, whether your loss is recent or long ago. Each session includes, prayer, reflection, and opportunities to share in a compassionate and confidential setting. Registration is highly encouraged. Please e-mail *bereavementministry@trinity.org* or call Lisa 202-903-2808.

Information Session on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola

Saturday, December 12 | 11:00 AM on Zoom

The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola offer a powerful journey into the mystery of Christ's life, death and resurrection. Throughout an 8-9 month retreat made in daily life, the retreatant can deepen their intimacy with Jesus, and grow in their practice of discernment of spirits and self-knowledge. Join us for an hour conversation about this gift that God gave the church through St. Ignatius. Contact Ed at *emccormack@trinity.org* for the Zoom link.

Opportunities to Serve

Please consider opportunities to serve this fall:

- Saturday Suppers at Mt. Zion (December 12)
- Weekly Sunday dinners at Holy Trinity
- Community Collections
- Tuesday lunches for GMC

You can find details or sign up by visiting *trinity.org/neighbors*, scanning the QR code at right, or e-mailing Helen at *HDomenici@trinity.org*. Thank you!

Morning Prayer Online

Mondays and Fridays | 9:00 AM, Zoom

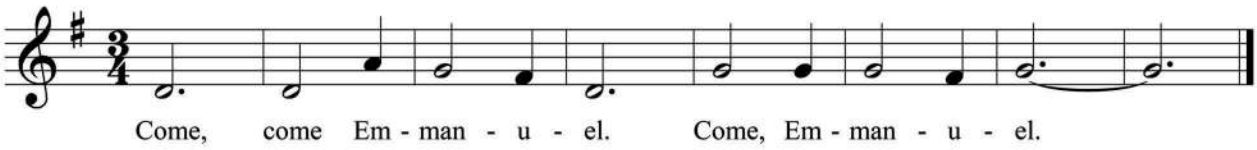
Morning Prayer is celebrated on Mondays and Fridays 9-9:45 AM via Zoom. Visit *trinity.org/morningprayer* for information and the link.

THE ORDER OF CELEBRATION

The Introductory Rites

Saturday, 5:30 PM
Sunday, 9:00 AM & 11:30 AM

Entrance *Cantor/Choir sings the verses ~ all sing the following refrain together*



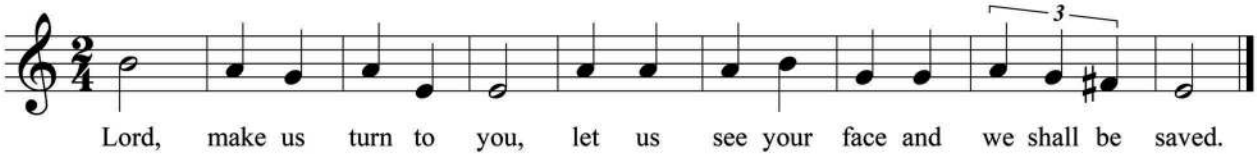
Penitential Act

Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7

Responsorial Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19



Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

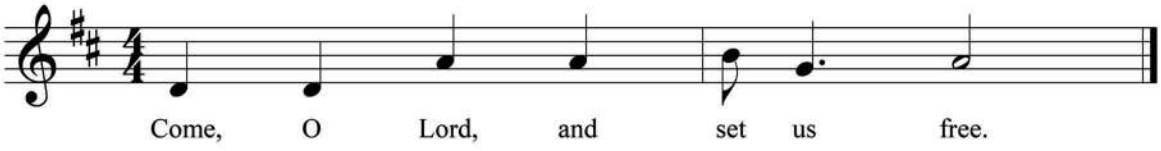
Acclamation before the Gospel

Gospel Mark 13:33-37

Homily

Nicene Creed

Universal Prayer



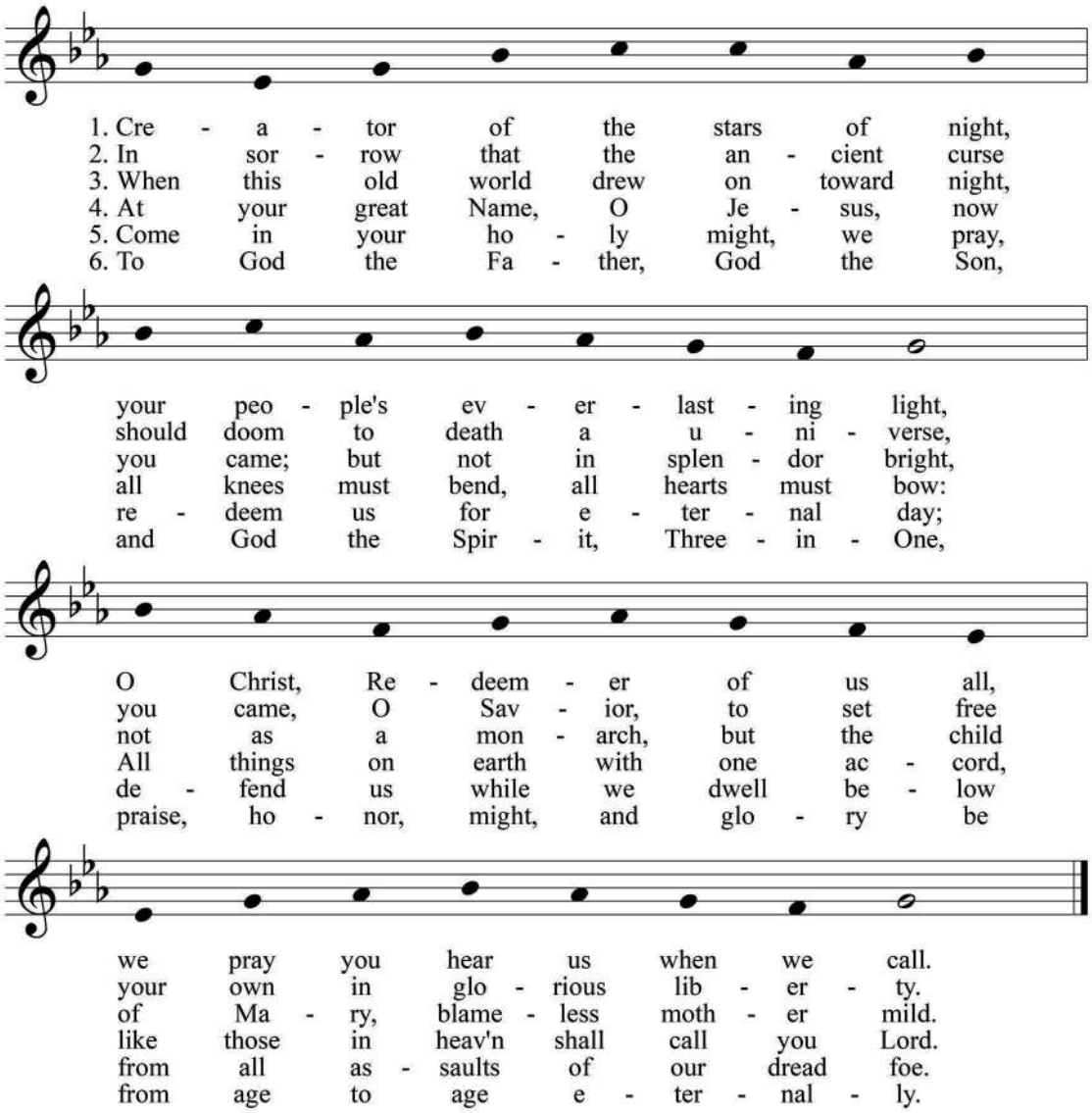
Blessing of the Advent Wreath



The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory

Creator of the Stars of Night

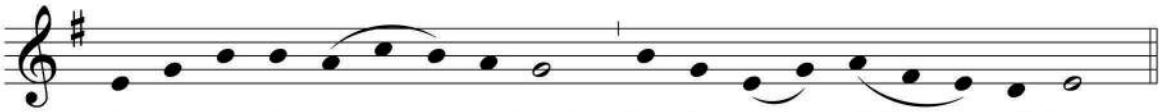


At 11:30 Mass Keep Your Lamps!, *André Thomas*
Holy Trinity Choir

The Eucharistic Prayer

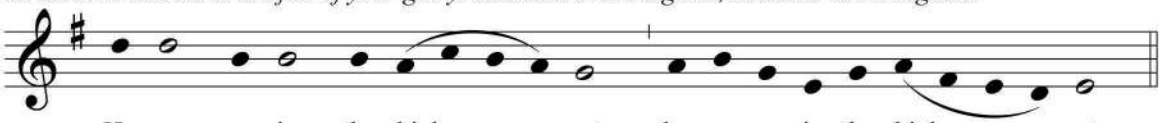
From the Missa Emmanuel

Cantor alone: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Holy Lord God of hosts.



Then all together: Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

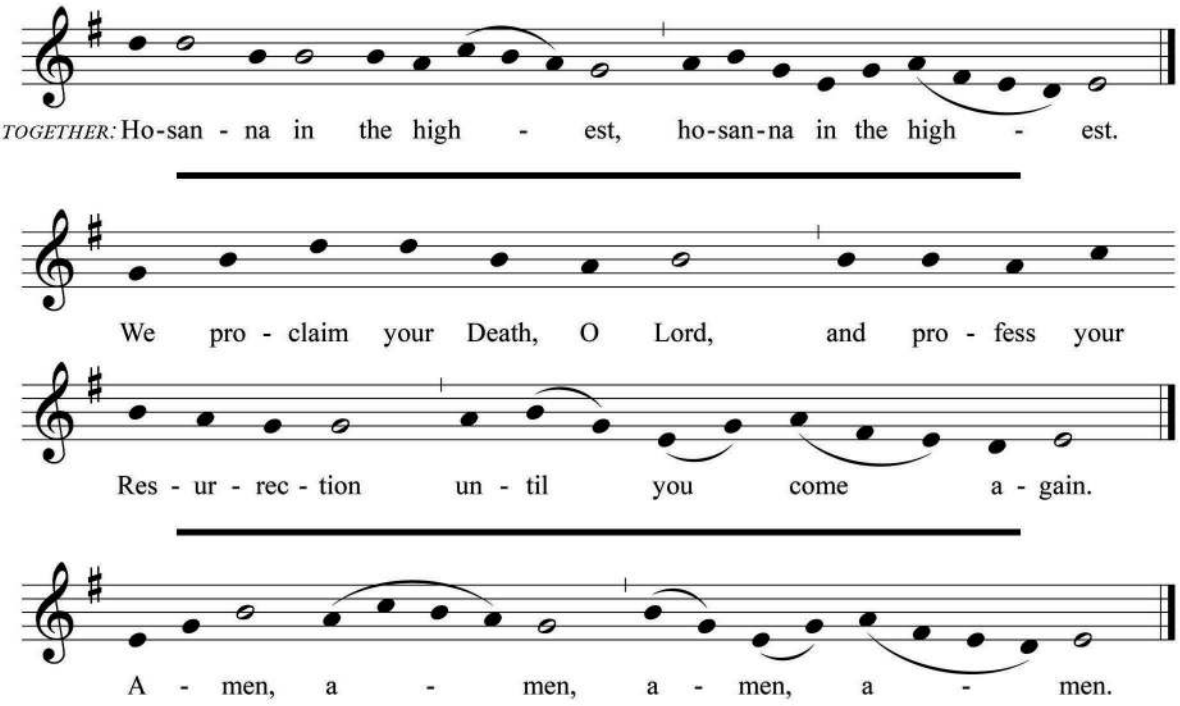
Cantor alone: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.



Then all together: Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

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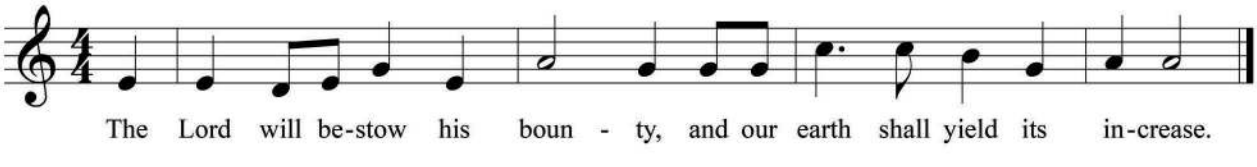
CANTOR ALONE: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.



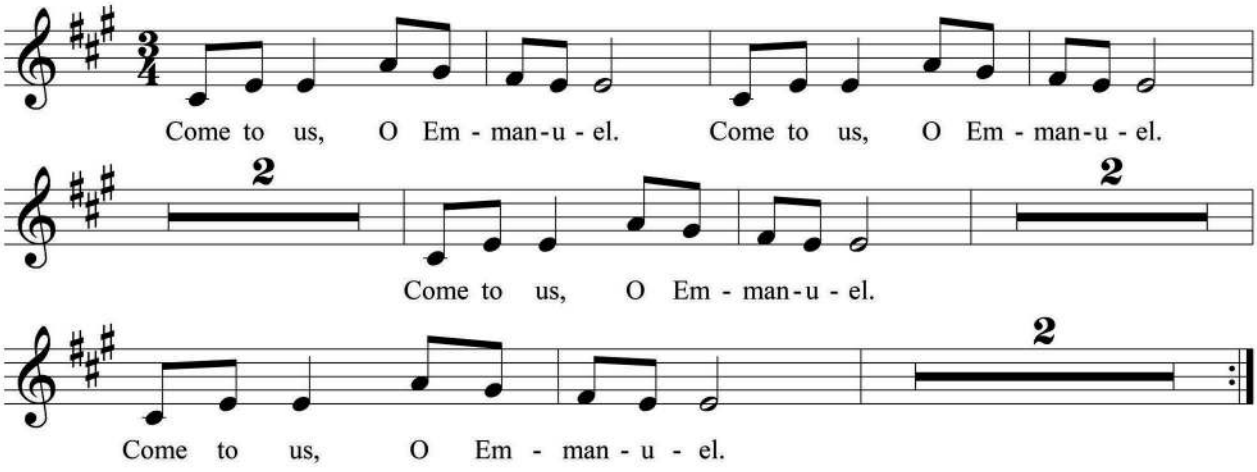
The Communion Rite

AT 11:30 MASS Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, *J.S. Bach*
Holy Trinity Choir

ANTIPHON Psalm 85: 2-5, 7,8,10-12



CANTOR/CHOIR SINGS INVOCATIONS THEN ALL RESPOND AS INDICATED Come to us, O Emmanuel



AT 9:00 AM MASS Like a Shepherd, *Gather #402*

Sending of the Ministers to our Homebound

Prayer after Communion

The Concluding Rites

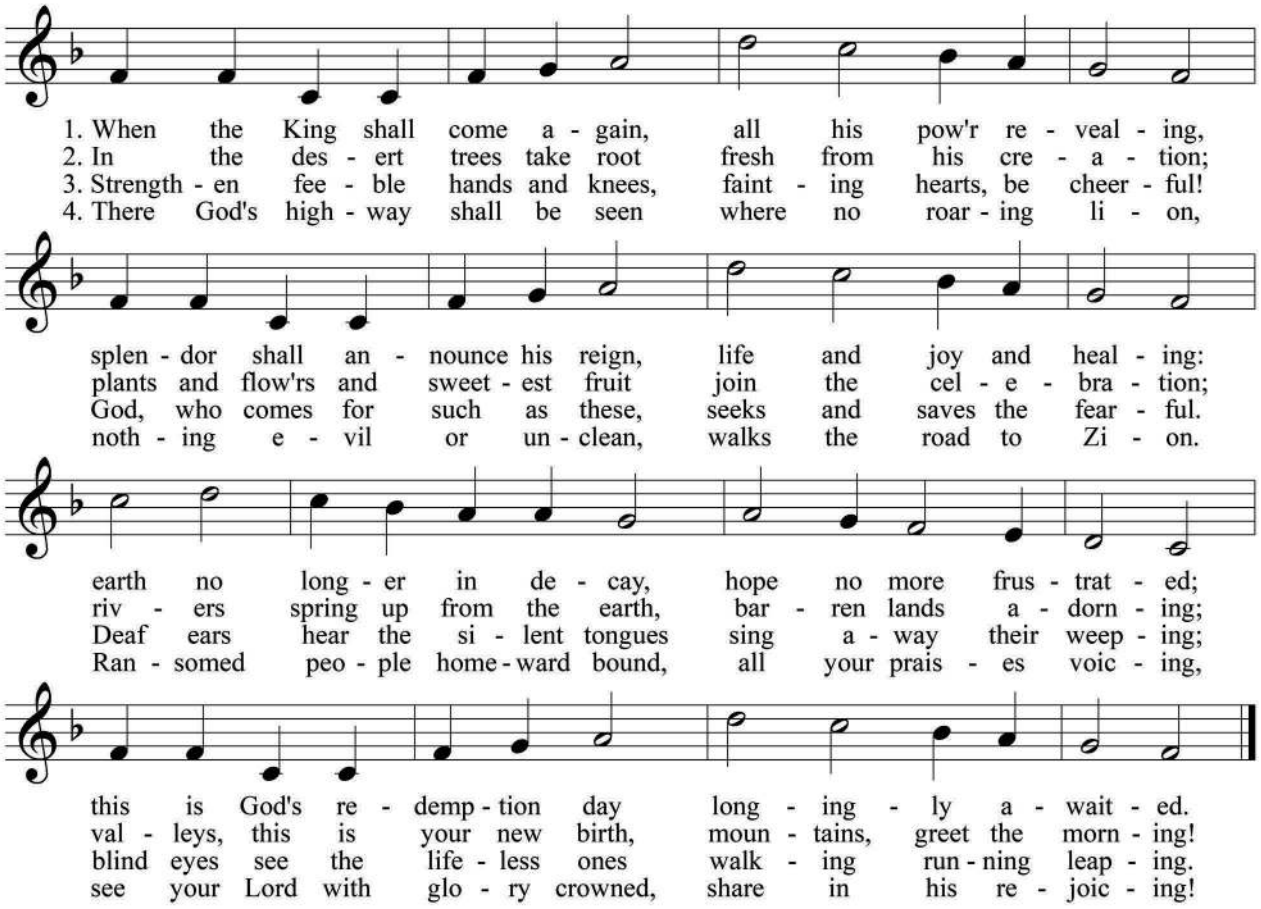
Announcements

Solemn Blessing for the Advent Season and Dismissal

Concluding Processional

At 9:00 AM Mass — Soon and Very Soon, *Gather #865*

When the King Shall Come Again

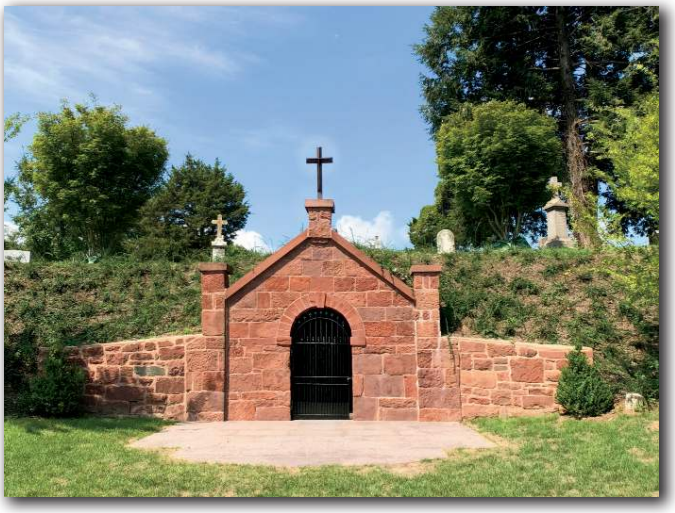


Music Acknowledgments Entrance–*Advent Gathering Song* by James Chepponis, © 1995, GIA Publications, Inc. Responsorial–*Psalm 80* music by Howard Hughes, SM, © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.; refrain text © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL. Universal Prayer–by Richard P. Gibala © 2016, Birnamwood Publications. Offertory–*Creator of the Stars of Night* text from The Hymnal 1982, © 1985, Church Pension Fund. Tune: Conditor alme siderum, chant, Mode IV. Eucharistic Acclamations–*Missa Emmanuel* by Richard Proulx © 1991, 2002, 2010, 2011, GIA Publications, Inc. Communion Processionals–Antiphon music by Russell Weismann, © 2014, GIA Publications, Inc.; antiphon text © 2010, ICEL; *Come to us, O Emmanuel* by Marty Haugen, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc. Concluding Processional–*When the King Shall Come Again* Text by Christopher Idle © 1982, Jubilate Group, Ltd. (admin. Hope Publishing). Tune: Gaudeamus pariter, Johann Horn. Selections used with permission under OneLicense.net A-701277.

Giving Options Beyond Cash Gifts

Holy Trinity now offers a secure online platform that makes it simple to give stock, IRA, or Donor-Advised Fund gifts directly to the parish. This trusted tool - powered by FreeWill's Smart Giving technology - helps you complete your asset-based gift in minutes and automatically notifies our Advancement Office, ensuring your generosity is properly directed, recorded, and acknowledged.

To explore these options or start your gift, please scan the QR code at right. If you have any questions, please contact Christopher Dake, Director of Advancement & Stewardship at *cdake@trinity.org* or (202) 903-2837 for personal assistance. Thank you!



Holy Trinity Columbarium: 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 more than three-quarters of the niches have been sold.

For more information, please visit the Holy Trinity Columbarium website at *holytrinitycolumbarium.org*, or e-mail *htcolumbarium@trinity.org.*

Parish Lost & Found

Numerous items get left behind after Mass and events - umbrellas, hats, glasses, etc. The parish lost & found is located in the sacristy behind the main Church. Due to space concerns, the lost and found is cleaned out monthly, with items being donated. Thank you!

Mass Intentions

Week of November 30, 2026

Monday	8:00 AM	Tim Reggev +
	5:30 PM	Carmel Louise Valitutti +
Tuesday	8:00 AM	Clyde Dervishi +
	5:30 PM	Ruth Ann Pastrick +
Wednesday	8:00 AM	Ann Hornaday Greenia +
	5:30 PM	William Philip Binzel +
Thursday	8:00 AM	Bob Crowley +
	5:30 PM	Buz Gorman +
Friday	8:00 AM	Pennamma Menachery +
	5:30 PM	Mary Charlotte Daniel +
Saturday	8:00 AM	Joyce Nugent +

Daily Readings

Sunday, November 29

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 | 1 Cor 1:3-9 | Mark 13:33-37

Monday, November 30

Feast of Saint Andrew

Romans 10:9-18 | Matthew 4:18-22

Tuesday, December 1

Tuesday of the First Week of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10 | Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 2

Wednesday of the First Week of Advent

Isaiah 25:6-10a | Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday, December 3

Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier

Isaiah 26:1-6 | Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 4

Friday of the First Week of Advent

Isaiah 29:17-24 | Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday, December 5

Saturday of the First Week of Advent

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26 | Matthew 9:35–10:1, 5a, 6-8

Mission Statement

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

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 using your phone:**

Order of Christian Initiation

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) 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 OCIA 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 lay-led ministry embraces individuals who are **l**esbian, **g**ay, **b**isexual, **t**ransgender, **q**uestioning/**q**ueer, **i**ntersex, **a**sexual and their families and friends. More information and upcoming meetings can be found at *www.trinity.org/lgtbqia* or by e-mailing *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 PPC President Eric Nicoll at *parishcouncil@trinity.org* with any questions.

GLUTEN FREE

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

Parish Center

Phone: (202) 337-2840 **Fax:** (202) 337-9048
Emergencies Only: (202) 903-2817
Hours: Mon-Fri: 8:30am - 4:30pm (closed Sat/Sun)

Jesuit Staff

Pastor	Kevin Gillespie, S.J. (202) 903-2800	kgillespie@trinity.org
Parochial Vicar	Jack Dennis, S.J. (202) 337-2840	jdennis@trinity.org
Parochial Vicar	William Kelley, S.J. (202) 903-2833	wkelley@trinity.org
Parochial Vicar	John P. Pignone, S.J. (202) 337-2840	jpignone@trinity.org
Senior Priest	Paul Brian Campbell, S.J. (202) 337-2840	pcampbell@trinity.org
Senior Priest	Pat Earl, S.J. (202) 337-2840 x130	pearl@trinity.org

Parish Departments

Parish Operations	Tom Favret (202) 903-2847	tfavret@trinity.org
Accounting	Elebat Mengiste (202) 903-2821	emengiste@trinity.org
Advancement and Stewardship	Christopher Dake (202) 903-2837	cdake@trinity.org
Communications	Ted Newton (202) 903-2824	tnewton@trinity.org
Facilities	Elmer Menjivar (202) 903-2838	emenjivar@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 Spirituality	Catherine Heinhold (202) 903-2819	cheinhold@trinity.org
*Spiritual Direction	Ed McCormack (202) 903-2810	emccormack@trinity.org
Liturgy	Tony Varas (202) 903-2804	tvaras@trinity.org
Music Ministry	Justin Connors (202) 903-2805	jconnors@trinity.org
	Matthew Ogden (202) 903-2827	mogden@trinity.org
Pastor's Office/ Parish Life	Macaire Carroll-Gavula (202) 903-2801	mcarroll@trinity.org
Social Justice	Ashley Klick (202) 903-2836	aklick@trinity.org

"Now that I have a personal assistant, I tell my friends I've gone Hollywood."



Our services are available seven days a week, ranging from a few hours a week to 24-hour care. Services include:

- Assistance with personal care
- Transportation & running errands
- Medication reminders
- Light housekeeping
- Meal planning & preparation
- Companionship

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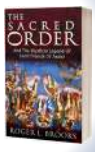
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