



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S HOLY VISION:

In glorifying God, we the members of Trinity Church, will foster a unified parish, demonstrate our spirituality with an open heart, and reflect in our actions the good news of the Holy Spirit to all members of our church and community.

THANKSGIVING OUTREACH

With over 900 meals served and delivered this year, 2022 was proved to be another successful and meaningful year for Trinity's Annual Thanksgiving Lunch Outreach.

Bud and Angela Bray, and Stacey Shaw worked tirelessly to coordinate this event. We are so grateful for their leadership in this ministry. We are also incredibly grateful for the support of our parishioners, fellow Marshall churches and organizations, community volunteers, and so many others who helped make this lunch possible, and without whom we would not be able to meet this need in our community. Thank you for partnering with, and serving alongside us year after year.



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OUR CORE VALUES:

Commitment to Jesus Christ

Authority of Scripture

Evangelism Relational

Ministry

Worship

Servant Ministry

Sacrificial Giving

Biblical Leadership

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Dear Trinity family,

Advent is upon us, and the season brings with it serious reflection about the coming of Christ. Not only do we think about the first coming of Christ in the Incarnation, but also his second coming on the Last Day. I have been pondering recently the significance of Christ's coming and the uniqueness of His salvific work. The Apostle Peter highlights this uniqueness when he exclaims to the Sanhedrin, "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12).



What implications does the uniqueness of Christ's salvation have for our understanding of the faith? Does it change the way we understand the Church and our worship? In light of these questions, I am including below a piece that I wrote a while ago on another occasion. The question we were examining whether Tibetan Singing Bowls (originally intended for Buddhist meditation) could be used in Christian worship. However, the import of the question goes further: How unique is Christ among the religions? Is Christ the only Savior? And what difference should that make in our worship? I commend it to you as we enter into our season of expectation for Christ's Advent.

*"If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain."
1 Corinthians 15:14*

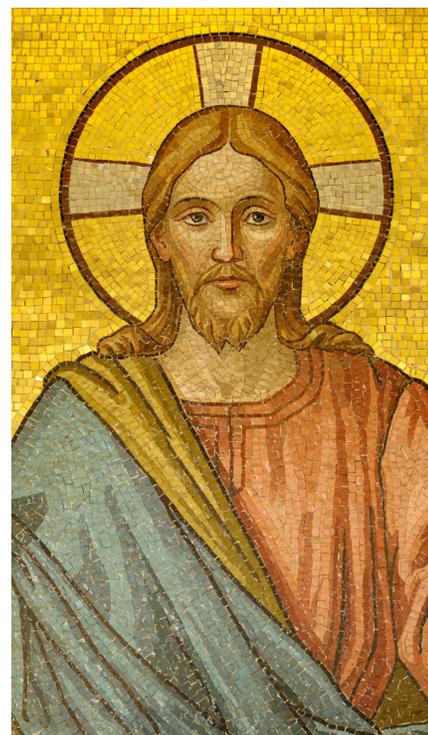
"Making room for a plurality of cultures and ideological stances has been a distinguishing mark of the American republic for over 200 years. Space is self-consciously created for freedom of thought, tolerance of opposing views and constructive dialogue within the public square. By necessity this influences the mindset of Americans in a number of other fields. The proliferation of acceptable ideas in the public discourse was by design; it was the aim of classical liberal thought. This goal has proved fruitful, not only in the United States but also in its acceptance as one of the core ideals of the Western world.

But balance and toleration for opposing viewpoints can only be maintained from a broader ideological framework which "hems in" the level of acceptable discourse from those ideas which, by their inclusion, would dissolve it. Philosopher Karl Popper has maintained that democratic society has the right and indeed the duty to exclude those views which would destroy the core of the republic. Such a view assumes (rightly, in my view) that incompatible ideas are unavoidable; some ideas are so inherently destructive to the republic that they must be excluded for it to survive. Every form of ideological governance creates these lines which exclude what is incompatible with its view, even in the roomy example of liberal democracy.

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

This reality holds especially true in the governance of the Church. The Christian way of life invites both Gentile and Jew into a new reality, a world in which some things are true and some things are false, from a domain of darkness to a kingdom of the beloved Son. Ideas are not egalitarian; some ideas lead to eternal life, some to eternal death. Jesus offers himself as someone utterly unique in the history of the world: a Savior for all the world to see.

Worship within the Church should not promote those practices which would destroy the uniqueness of the Christian vision. The incorporation of Buddhist mystical practice, however rightly intentioned to emphasize our common humanity, necessarily brings with it the disjunctive metaphysical structures which birthed those practices. Buddhist meditation shapes the mind of the participant in the direction of its understanding of reality (divestment of attachment to the world, avoidance of suffering as the path to enlightenment, etc), which opposes core tenets of Christian belief (human responsibility and stewardship of the world as God's creation, the voluntary acceptance of suffering for the sake of following Christ and neighbor love, etc.).



The dangers of incorporating these practices cannot be dismissed by an appeal to investing them with new, supposedly Christian meanings. Practices are not simply vehicles of detachable ideas; they embody meaning in themselves. It is one thing to invest different Christian practices (which share the same epistemological assumptions) with new meaning; it is quite another to import practices created to reinforce ideologically opposing assumptions.

God is not in every person, in the same way that He is in every Christian. The real sense in which God upholds everything by the power of His Being does not equate with the reconciliation of the soul to God. To collapse these distinctions in mystical practice is to place at risk the preciousness of the true kingdom, the uniqueness of Jesus' saving work in the world. God comes to us from outside ourselves, entering in for the gracious intention of transforming what cannot be transformed by looking within. If Jesus is not unique in His ability to produce that transforming power, what difference can it make to renounce the fleeting pleasures of the world and suffer for the sake of His love?

As Christians, our highest desire is to commune with God. This desire is a good one, but without discernment we can welcome in too much. The desire for spiritual experience can easily become a desire for a trick or a technique that promises special mystical access to God. But God has not hidden communion with Him behind a shroud of darkness. We need no secret techniques, objects or knowledge to commune with Him. God has given us the ways to experience Him in the ordinary, day-to-day means of grace: Word, sacrament, and the gathered Body of Christ in worship. It is in these ways that we commune with Him as travelers on the way, waiting in expectation for the day when He will come and be with us forever.

In Christ,
Rev. Sean

39 ARTICLES: COMMENTARY & REFLECTIONS

Article XI. Of the Justification of Man.

WE are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by faith, and not for our own works or deservings. Wherefore that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort; as more largely is expressed in the Homily of Justification.

The Christian faith, by virtue of its subject matter, touches on all parts of human life. Who am I? How should I act? What is my relation to my family, my community, the State? What is my vocation and how should I spend my time on this earth? All of these are questions of singular importance. But in order for these questions to be answered rightly, a more fundamental situation must be addressed: How can we become right with God? Ever since the Fall, mankind has been in a state of alienation against God. The harmony of creation has been broken. There can be no talk of real human flourishing or virtuous living as long as this bedrock relationship remains severed.



“How can I be right with God?”: We have already seen that the condition of mankind is such that we have no power of ourselves to do good works pleasant to God without God’s help (Article X). But what sort of help do I actually get from Jesus? Am I made right with God because of the good works that I can now do in the power of the Spirit? Has Jesus only given us the opportunity to become right with God ourselves? Has He made available the extra power that we need so that the works that we do still become the ground of our justification before God?

No. As long as our works, Spirit-filled or not, are the basis of our right standing before God, they will never be perfect enough. We will live in the fear of being weighed in the scales on Judgment Day and be found wanting. On the contrary it is upon the basis of Jesus’ merit given to us, not our own merit, that we are accounted righteous before God. There is no doubt but that our belief will necessarily issue in good works (see Article XII next time), but they are too weak and marbled with sin to ever be the grounding of our right standing with God. Only Christ’s righteousness is a sure enough foundation to never be shaken.

But why does it have to be exclusive? Can’t it be both? Why can’t the good works we do both merit merit salvation and also be on the basis of grace? Surely God can do a “both/and,” just as He uses the free choices of people to accomplish what He has sovereignly planned (to name a famous example). The Apostle Paul addresses precisely this objection in Romans 11 when he speaks of the destiny of Israel: “So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.”

Faith and works are mutually exclusive when it comes to being made right with God. If our salvation becomes ours because of our works in any way, it will cease to be grace. It will become another ladder upon which we ascend to God. The gospel is not that God gives us the extra power that we need to attain to Him; it is that He has come down to us and graciously gives us that which Christ has earned by right: A robe of righteousness.



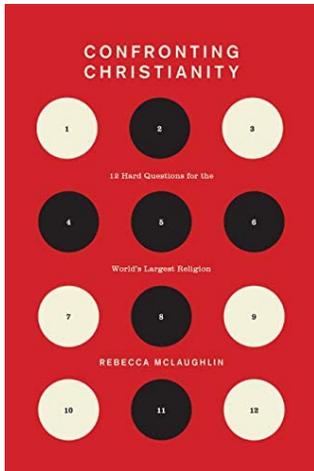
An ecumenical post script :

For those of you who have an interest in ecumenical dialogue, Lutherans and Roman Catholics have recently agreed to a statement on justification called the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (1993). The statement is a welcome celebration of many points of our common faith together. However, it has been implied that the Reformation debates may now cease because agreement has been reached. This is simply not the case. The Joint Declaration never broaches the key point in the disagreement. Both sides agree that it is God who justifies; both sides believe it is because of the righteousness of Christ. The sticking point is: How is Jesus’ righteousness applied to us? Through our individual, meritorious good works or being included in the meritorious good works of Christ? Until this question is settled, the Reformation debates remain at large.

ALL BOOKED UP: READING RECOMMENDATIONS

Are you looking for a new read this holiday season and beyond? Or perhaps you are looking for a gift for a friend or loved one.

From apologetics to theology to Christian poetry, Rev. Sean has shared some great titles to add to your reading list!

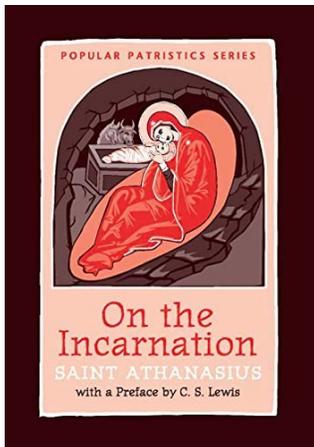


Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion

Rebecca McLaughlin

From the publisher:

Channeling state-of-the-art research, personal stories, and careful biblical study, *Confronting Christianity* explores 12 questions that keep many of us from considering faith in Christ. Look more closely, McLaughlin argues, and the reality of suffering, the complexity of sexuality, the desire for diversity, the success of science, and other seeming roadblocks to faith become signposts. Jesus becomes not a relic from the ancient world, but our modern world's best hope.

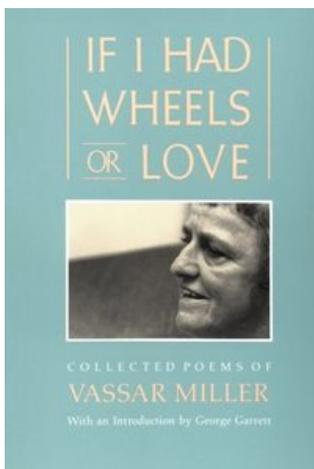


On the Incarnation

Saint Athanasius

From the publisher:

By any standard, this is a classic of Christian theology. Composed by St Athanasius in the fourth century, it expounds with simplicity the theological vision defended at the councils of Nicaea and Constantinople: that the Son of God himself became "fully human, so that we might become god." Its influence on all Christian theology thereafter, East and West, ensures its place as one of the few "must read" books for all who want to know more about the Christian faith.



If I Had Wheels or Love: Collected Poem

Vassar Miller

Vassar Miller was born in Houston, Texas where she lived her for the entirety of her life. Born with cerebral palsy, she was encouraged by her father to write by typewriter from a young age. Vassar went on to publish 10 books of poetry in her lifetime and was named poet laureate of Texas in both 1982 and 1988. It is noted that Miller believed the purpose of her life was "To write. And to serve God."

Source: The Poetry Foundation



OUR MISSION:

To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by:

Inviting all to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Fostering the presence of the Holy Spirit for the equipping of saints to do the work of ministry.

Witnessing to the power of God to heal, transform, and make all things new.

Supporting those who by word and example make Christ's redemptive work known.

FRIENDSGIVING 2022

Our first ever Friendsgiving was a wonderful success and we were so thrilled to have so many parishioners come out to join us for this new tradition. Rev. Sean & Amber were wonderful hosts and the cold weather didn't stop us from enjoying the warmth of friendship with one another.

Thank you to everyone who brought so many wonderful sides and desserts, and a special thanks the Bud Bray for preparing all the meat for the evening.

Harvest Moon Countrygrass band kept the even lively and entertaining for a toe tapping good time!

Mark you calendars for next year for another awesome Friendsgiving!



IN DECEMBER

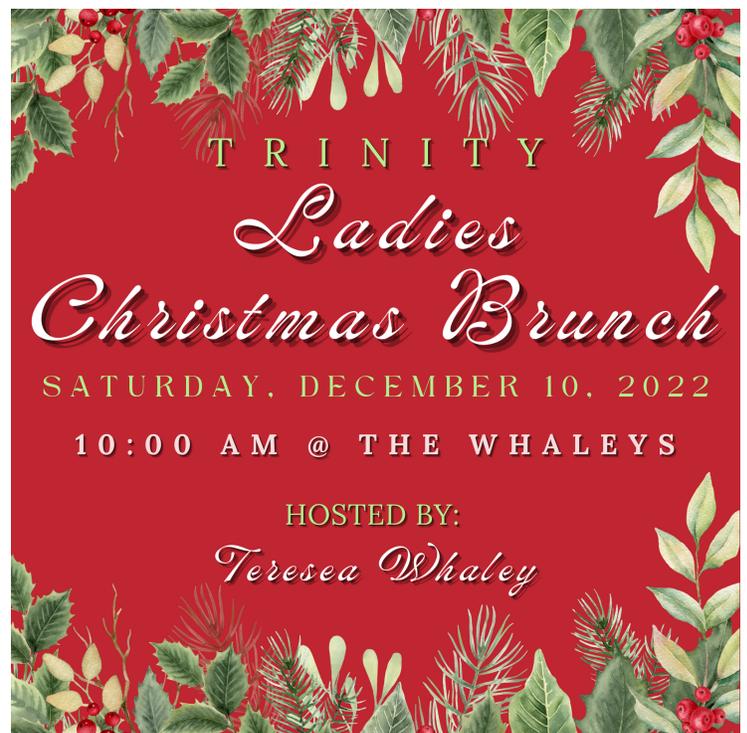


PARENT'S NIGHT OUT
Candyland
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2022
4:00 - 7:30 pm
Drop off: 4:00-5:30pm

CRAFTS & GAMES
PIZZA & SNACKS

AGES:
INFANT TO 10 YEARS OLD
REGISTER TODAY
12 SPOTS AVAILABLE

TRINITYEPISCOPALMARSHALL.ORG



TRINITY
Ladies
Christmas Brunch
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022
10:00 AM @ THE WHALEYS

HOSTED BY:
Teresea Whaley

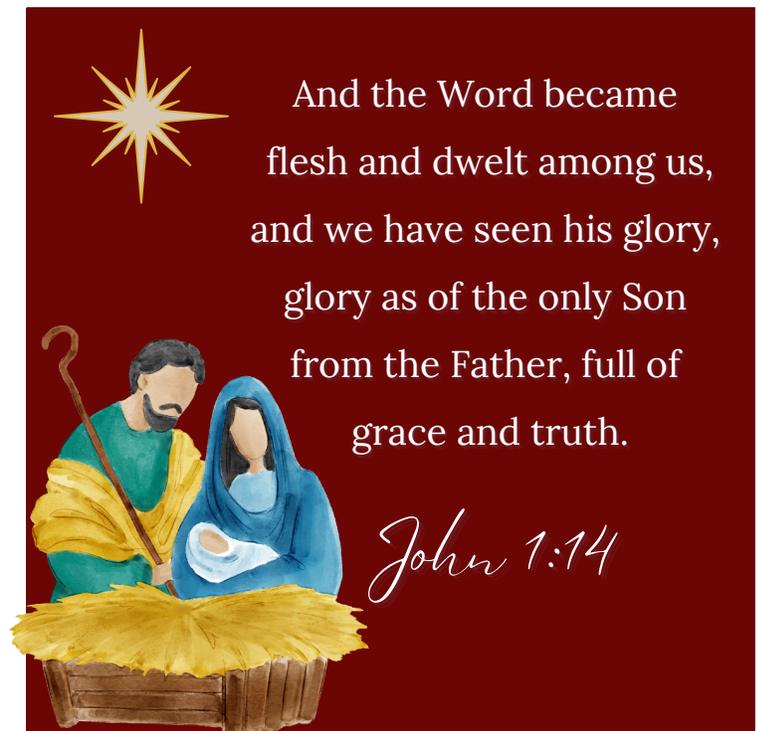


Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24, 2022
5:00 pm - Choir Prelude
5:30 pm - Family Christmas Service
11:00 PM - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25, 2022
10:30 AM

Lessons & Carols
Sunday, January 1, 2023
10:30 AM

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
106 N GROVE ST. | MARSHALL, TEXAS
TRINITYEPISCOPALMARSHALL.ORG



And the Word became
flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son
from the Father, full of
grace and truth.

John 1:14

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.
To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:8-11

JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR

OUR CLERGY:

Bishops Andy, Jeff, Hector, Kai, and our Rector Rev. Sean Duncan

OUR STAFF:

Jim Johnson - Organist; Melissa Hammers - Choir Director; Stacey Shaw - Parish Administrator; Danielle Bray - Nursery Director; Magdalena Altnau - Children's Minister & Communications Director; Christiaan Goldberg - Martha Kitchen's Assistant Director

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Our President, Joe; our Governor, Greg; our County Judge, Chad; our Mayor, Amy

OUR SERVICEMEN & WOMEN:

Zachary Vernon Walker, Jason Woodley, Michael Walsh, Lisa Sperhake, Christopher Love, Audrey Dobbs, Aubrey Toussaint, Kenny Welch, Ryan Allgood, Wil Moseley, Chase Tondee, Cole Cathey, Andy Albright

OUR PARISHIONERS:

Kay Kemp, Yank Terrell, Wanda Fugler, Dick Toussaint, Sandy Toussaint, David Cope, Terry Weeks, Michael Cason

IN THE COMMUNITY:

Rhonda Way, Tommy Hicks, Maria Mangieri, Brad Thomas, Vanessa White, Cathy Lazansky Horeu, Phil Thomas, Scott Gorges

HOMEBOUND:

Bill & Carolyn Sullivan - Home, Mary Jane McElroy - Marshall Manor, Jo Ann Cason - Home, Peggy Tracy - Home, Patty Whaley - Home, Mary Lou Barkett - Home, Ron Denney, Sr. - Home

SISTER PARISH:

Oyani Church - Kenya



MINISTRY ROSTER

	Sunday, Dec 4	Sunday, Dec 11	Sunday, Dec 18	Saturday, Dec 24	Sunday, Dec 25
8am Lectors	Scott Rectenwald	David Thomas	Ken Kerr	5:30pm Sally Graff Brad Graff	No service
8am Ushers	Ron Denney, Jr.	Mac Abney	Ken Haynes	5:30 pm - TBD	No service
10:30am Lectors	Jessica Lang Ann Brannon	Sally Graff Brad Graff	David Jones David Thomas	11pm Lyn Carmony Ann Brannon	Roy McCarroll
10:30am Ushers	Gary Hathaway Meiko Hathaway	Henry Henderson Robbey Simmons	Joel Truelove Brad Graff	11 pm - TBD	Gary Hathaway Meiko Hathaway
Acolyte	Yuri Altnau	Yuri Altnau	Yuri Altnau	5:30 pm Yuri Altnau 11 pm - TBD	No Acolyte
Verger	Chris Altnau	Chris Altnau	Chris Altnau	5:30pm Chris Altnau 11pm Frank Strauss	No Verger
Camera	Tony Pierce	Austin Oden	Austin Oden	5:30pm - Steve Lewis	No Camera
Altar Flowers	Truelove	Brown	Weeks	Whaley	Whaley
Coffee/Cookie Hour	Amber Duncan	Helen Beckwith	Helen Beckwith		No Coffee/Cookie
Breakfast	Bray	No Breakfast	No Breakfast		No Breakfast
Altar Guild	Monday, Dec 5	Monday, Dec 12	Monday, Dec 19		Monday, Dec 26
Polish Day December 15	<i>Team 4</i> Sue Boyd, C. Abney, G. Knutson, N. Haynes, L. Rectenwald	<i>Team 2</i> Angela Bray, K. Abraham, K. DeSa, S. Heim, B. Strauss	<i>Team 4</i> Sue Boyd, C. Abney, G. Knutson, N. Haynes, L. Rectenwald		<i>Team 3</i> Susan Bogue, C. Martin, J. Trexler, T. Whaley, J. Weeks, G. Weinberg

Ushers : Remember to count attendance, record it on card & hand it to the Verger during the Peace.

October Financials

REVENUE \$ 20,453.27
EXPENSES \$ 38,566.99

DIFFERENCE \$ {18,113.72}



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



December Birthdays

1	Ray Mastrogiacomo	21	Alaina Jones
8	Starr Minatrea	25	Sally Graff
13	Bill Lewis	28	Kay Kemp
13	Edwina Thomas	29	Natasha Brown Martinez
16	Gloria Portman		
17	Griffin Jones	31	Logan Jameson-Hatch
21	Tony Pierce		



Watch over thine children,
O Lord, as their days increase;
bless and guide them wherever
they may be. Strengthen them
when they stand; comfort them
when discouraged or sorrowful;
raise them up if they fall; and
in their hearts may thy peace
which passeth understanding
abide all the days of their life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Happy Anniversary

Mr. & Mrs. Joel Truelove
{ December 4 }

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Jones
{ December 10 }

Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Godinich
{ December 19 }

Mr. & Mrs. Michael DeSa
{ December 29 }



DECEMBER FEAST DAYS

ST. THOMAS {APOSTLE} | DECEMBER 21



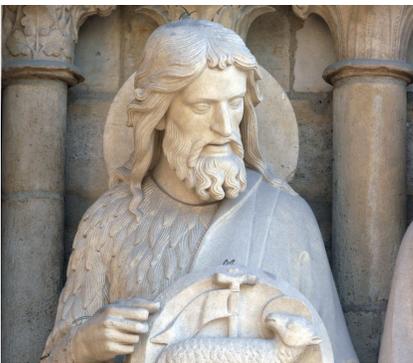
Everliving God, who strengthened your apostle Thomas with firm and certain faith in your Son's resurrection: Grant us so perfectly and without doubt to believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that our faith may never be found wanting in your sight; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

ST. STEPHEN {DEACON & MARTYR} | DECEMBER 26

We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of the first martyr Stephen, who looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors to your Son Jesus Christ, who stands at your right hand; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.



ST. JOHN {APOSTLE & EVANGELIST} | DECEMBER 27



Shed upon your Church, O Lord, the brightness of your light, that we, being illumined by the teaching of your apostle and evangelist John, may so walk in the light of your truth, that at length we may attain to the fullness of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOLY INNOCENTS | DECEMBER 28



We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by King Herod. Receive, we pray, into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims; and by your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



*Behold, I
come among
you as one
who serves.*

Luke 22:27

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Sean D. Duncan
Rector

Magdalena Altnau
*Children's Christian
Formation Director/Minister
& Communications Director*

Danielle Bray
Nursery Director

Jim Johnson
*Music Director
and Organist*

Melissa Hammers
Choir Director

Stacey Shaw
Parish Administrator

Christiaan Goldberg
Martha's Kitchen - Asst. Director

VESTRY

Laura Rectenwald
Senior Warden

Juli Jameson
Clerk of the Vestry

Bud Bray

Katie DeSa

Tony Pierce

Edwina Thomas

Julie Trexler

Joel Truelove

Teresea Whaley

Parish Treasurer
Ken Kerr

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning

Holy Communion Rite I - 8:00 am

Nursery - 9:15-11:45 am

Children's Sunday School - 9:30 - 10:15 am

Youth Christian Formation 9:30 - 10:15 am

Adult Christian Formation 9:30 - 10:15 am

Holy Communion Rite II - 10:30 am

In Person & Facebook Live

Wednesday Evening

Choir - 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Dinner - 5:30 - 6:15 pm

Children's Program - 6:15 - 7:15 pm

Rector's Forum - 6:15 - 7:15 pm

Compline - 7:15 - 7:30 pm

Thursday Evening

Martha's Kitchen

5:30 - 6:30 pm

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

8:30 am - 12:00 pm

1:00 pm - 4:30 pm



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

106 N. Grove Street
Marshall, Texas, 75670

903.938.4246

trinityepiscopalarmarshall.org