



## News for December 2021

### Rector's Message

Dearly beloved,

Welcome to a new church year! We've made it to Advent, and Christmas is almost here. Read on to see all the services and offerings of the season—we have many ways to join in together as we celebrate in-person once again. Don't miss the **quiet and contemplative Blue Christmas** (for more than just those facing loss this year), a special **Covenant Lessons & Carols**, and our **three Christmas services** with lots of music!

The turning of the year is often a time of reflection and reassessment. If you haven't yet completed our [Worship and Programs survey](#), [please do so now](#). We've collected many responses so far but have decided to leave it up a few more days to make sure we hear from as many of you as possible. The deadline is now the end of the day **Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**, with the forum for review and discussion at 9 am next Sunday.



On a more somber note, we remember this Advent all those who have lost much during this pandemic and we recognize how much fear and hesitation there still is for many as this new variant looms. Please join us only as you feel safe, and rest assured that we will continue the online options to keep you connected to the parish.

I look forward to continuing to meet and get to know better many of you in this coming year. Please reach out any time if you would like a informal visit or chat, or need any pastoral care of any kind. My cell phone is now local and available at [508-381-9389](tel:508-381-9389). Thank you for your warm welcome in these first few months, for the wonderful sharing in the **Renewal of Ministry** service last month (see photos above), and all that is to come!

In anticipation,

Father John

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## **A Reflection on Finding Your Way:**

### ***What To Do in the Darkness***

*Go slowly*

*Consent to it*

*But don't wallow in it*

*Know it as a place of germination*

*And growth*

*Remember the light*

*Take an outstretched hand if you find one*

*Exercise unused senses*

*Find the path by walking in it*

*Practice trust*

*Watch for dawn*

— Marilyn Chandler McEntyre (*Daily Prayer for All Seasons*)

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## **News around the Parish, Diocese and Church**

Keep reading for more about the following:

- **Celebrating Advent & Christmas:**
  - *Jesse Tree* gifts program
  - *Blue Christmas* service
  - Covenant service of *Lessons and Carols* at St. Mary's
  - All three Christmas services this year!
  - Altar Guild Christmas preparations
- **Worship & Parish Life**
  - Join your voices with ours in the Survey and Forum
  - Stewardship campaign 2021: "Coming Home"
  - Formation program and worship schedule



Some join us having faced trauma and loss, others are searching for an antidote for our hectic world. All are welcome.

## ***Lessons and Carols held with St. Mary's this year***

Our covenant partners at St. Mary of the Assumption will be hosting a joint *Lessons and Carols* service on **December 19th at 4:00 pm** this year. Please join us for a traditional round of stories and songs.

## **Christmas Eve and Day Services**

We are offering three opportunities for in-person worship this Christmas!

- **Family Service (with video pageant): December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm**

Our children will prepare a video-taped pageant during morning formation in Advent, which will be played during the service. Youth are invited to read and assist in leadership in-person.

- **Traditional Eve Service: December 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm**

We will begin with Christmas Carols at 7:15 pm, followed by a Holy Eucharist service, both featuring Anthony Orifice on the organ.

- **Quiet Christmas Morning Service: December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am**

Violinist Jagan Nath Singh Khalsa will accompany our small gathering on this morning of Christ's birth.

Our two **Sundays after Christmas** will feature a lay-led Morning Prayer (December 26) and a guest priest leading Holy Eucharist (January 2). Our Formation programs will take a break for these two weeks.

## **Altar Guild Christmas Preparations**

It is that time of year again—getting the church ready for Christmas! On **Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** from 8:30 to 11:00 am we will join together in brass polishing, dusting, sweeping and cleaning the Sanctuary and Narthex. On **Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>** following the 10am service, we will be hanging the wreaths and garland, arranging the poinsettias and everything else. Please join us, if you are able to, for any amount of time on one or both days.

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## **We want to hear from you! Survey now; forum on Dec 12**

Thank you to all those who have already completed our **Trinity Worship and Programs 2021** survey! So far, as of December 5<sup>th</sup>, we have a fabulous 71 responses. We'd love to hear from all of you, so please take a few minutes to complete the survey that was mailed to you on November 29<sup>th</sup> and return it to Trinity in the self-addressed stamped envelope that was included as soon as possible! We're extending the date to the end of the day on **Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**.

Please join us in the Parish Hall at **9 am on December 12<sup>th</sup>** for a Forum going over the results and offering discussion with your vestry and leadership about next steps as a parish for our programs and worship schedules for winter and spring of 2022.

## ***Coming Home: Stewardship for the Coming Year***

Our Stewardship Committee has selected our theme of “Coming Home”, celebrating the return to worship and community as the pandemic eases and reminding us of what we love so much about Trinity. You’ll be hearing more over the next few weeks as our letters and pledge forms go out and short testimonies are offered during services.

Please prayerfully consider your pledged contribution to the parish this year as not only a means of practical support to maintain our community but also as an efficacious spiritual discipline of generosity and thanksgiving.

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## **Volunteers Needed: Warming Shelter for the Homeless**

*Pathway to a Better Life* is holding two training sessions for urgently needed volunteers on December 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 1-2:30 pm at St. Mary of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church.

Please contact Lisa Trusas at [508-922-9032](tel:508-922-9032) or at [pathwaytoabetterlife2019@gmail.com](mailto:pathwaytoabetterlife2019@gmail.com) for more information about the program.

**Pathway to a Better Life**

We are a temporary pop-up warming shelter for the homeless. Open when the temperatures drop to 20 and below. It is a safe place for those to rest their heads during these trying times from 9:30pm until 7am.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**

**Training at St. Mary's Church  
17 Winter Street, Milford MA  
lower level parking lot**

**Sunday, December 12, 2021 from 1pm-2:30pm or  
Sunday, December 19, 2021 from 1pm-2:30pm**

Interested in volunteering call, text or email  
Lisa Trusas at 508-922-9032 or  
[pathwaytoabetterlife2019@gmail.com](mailto:pathwaytoabetterlife2019@gmail.com).



## **Dinners going strong; weekly and Thanksgiving!**

Volunteers from Trinity, Hopedale Unitarian, Sacred Heart Hopedale, and all around our extended community have been providing free hot-cooked meals weekly at Trinity through the pandemic, alternating between

purchasing from local restaurants and cooking our own. We are currently serving between 130 and 200 people in need every week.

Our Thanksgiving Meal leadership team pulled off a very successful program this year, switching to a new model on the fly while mourning the loss of Dave Scott, and fed every family that came to the door needing food in addition to delivering meals to the homebound. Thank you to all volunteers and organizers!

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## Ongoing reminders

- Donate to Episcopal Relief and Development's work with [Haiti](#), [Louisiana](#).
- Help [Episcopal Migration Ministries](#) with Afghan refugees.
- Donate altar flowers from your garden; contact Mary-Ellen Yaroshefski.
- Donate eyeglasses for recycling by the Lion's Club; collected in the parish hall.
- Donate food for distribution by Daily Bread; collected in the side narthex.

## Regular Events at Trinity

### Weekly Parish Schedule

- **SUNDAY**
  - Spiritual Formation (all ages) at 9 am
  - **Holy Eucharist** at 10 am
  - Coffee Hour following
  - Youth Group meets at 6:30 pm once monthly
- **Mondays**
  - *Parish office open 10:00 am to 2:00 pm*
- **Tuesdays**
  - *Parish office open 10:00 am to 2:00 pm*
  - Tai Chi practice at 6:00 pm in Lane Chapel
- **Wednesdays**
  - *Parish office open 10:00 am to 2:00 pm*
  - **Contemplative Gathering** in Lane Chapel at 7:00 pm  
(*Movement and Meditation* on the first Wednesday of the month)
- **Thursdays**
  - *Parish office open 10:00 am to 2:00 pm*
  - Volunteers gather to prepare meals at 12:00 or 2:00 pm
  - Community Suppers distributed outdoors at 4:00 pm
- **Fridays**
  - *Father John's sabbath day; office closed*
  - Painting Class in Murray Hall at 10:00 am

## All Advent and Christmas Services

- **First Sunday of Advent 1 (Nov 28)**
  - 9 am Formation (Advent Wreaths)
  - Holy Eucharist at 10 am
- **Second Sunday of Advent 2 (Dec 5)**
  - 9 am Formation (Adults: John the Baptist)
  - Holy Eucharist at 10 am
- **Third Sunday of Advent 3 (Dec 12)**
  - 9 am Parish Forum (Schedule and Programs)
  - 10 am Holy Eucharist
  - 4 pm Blue Christmas
- **Fourth Sunday of Advent 4 (Dec 19)**
  - 9 am Formation (Adults: Christmas story)
  - 10 am Holy Eucharist
  - 4 pm Lessons and Carols
  - 6 pm Youth Group: Movie and pizza
- **Christmas Day Services (Dec 24, 25)**
  - 4 pm Holy Eucharist with video pageant (Dec 24)
  - 8 pm Holy Eucharist with organ (Dec 24)
  - 9 am Holy Eucharist with violin (Dec 25)
- **First Sunday after Christmas (Dec 26)**
  - *No formation*
  - 10 am Morning Prayer
- **Second Sunday after Christmas (Jan 2)**
  - *No formation*
  - 10 am Holy Eucharist with the Rev. Lavonne Seifert

## Monthly Events

- Our **vestry** (leadership board) meets on the third Monday of every month at 7:00 pm on Zoom. All parishioners are welcome.
- Our **youth** meet one Sunday evening per month at Trinity for fun, fellowship, and formation. This month we'll meet at **6:00 pm** on December 19th for a movie and pizza.
- **Luncheon groups** JULIETs (women) and ROMEOs (men) meet monthly at local restaurants. This month:
  - ROMEOs are meeting at 12:30 pm on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Red Heat Tavern of Milford. Contact Dave Clinkman.
  - JULIETs are meeting at 12:30 pm on December 15<sup>th</sup> at Dynasty (Chinese) in Hopkinton. Contact Pat Keppler.

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**TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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NON-PROFIT ORG.

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Website	<a href="http://www.trinitychurchmilford.org">www.trinitychurchmilford.org</a>
Worship Schedule	Sunday at 10:00 am and Wednesday at 7:00 pm

December 2021

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**