

 Trinity Episcopal Church
Milford, Massachusetts

News for November 2021

Rector's Message

Dearly beloved,

We're very excited to **welcome Bishop Fisher to Trinity this Sunday!** A special celebration is customary with a new priest, which gives us all a chance to reflect on our common ministry and mission as a body.

Have you ever heard of the *Ship of Theseus*? It's an ancient (4-500 BCE) thought experiment from philosophers Heraclitus and Plato. The question goes: "If a wooden ship is maintained and rebuilt over decades, over which time every original piece is eventually replaced, in the end is it a new ship or the same one?"

This paradox (the ship is both the same and new) also describes the Church and the parish. We are part of a Body which has existed continuously for millennia yet has been reborn over and over. And the same is true of Trinity Episcopal Church, Milford MA (albeit on a shorter timescale).

We have worshiped in the same building since 1867, yet since that time we've added (and renovated) a bell tower and steeple, a rose window, a narthex, and a parish house (later torn down and rebuilt as a parish hall). We have replaced our organ, our roof, our siding, our windows, and more. Our altar has moved, our chancel renovated, a Zoom screen installed.



Within this building, we have buried, married, and baptized generations of parishioners. Rectors have come, and gone. So too have vestries, lay leaders, and families. None of us were physically present at that first service in 1863, nor are any of those who were bodily there with us now, but in a deeply spiritual sense we were present then and they too are present with us now.

What I love most about the Episcopal Church is our strong connection to an ancient tradition combined with a hope-filled commitment to an ever-emerging newness of life. As we celebrate both *All Saints* and *Renewal of Ministry* this Sunday, and as we look toward yet another season of Advent coming in a few weeks, let us pledge once again to combine the best of yesterday's heritage with an eagerness to see what the Spirit has for us tomorrow—because the Church and parish is always and ever both ancient and new.

In faith, hope, and love,
Father John

The First Letter of Paul to the Assembly in Corinth ***1 Corinthians 13 (CEB)***

If I speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but I don't have love, I am a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and I know all the mysteries and everything else, and if I have such complete faith that I can move mountains but I don't have love, I'm nothing. If I give away everything that I have and hand over my own body to feel good about what I've done but I don't have love, I receive no benefit whatsoever.

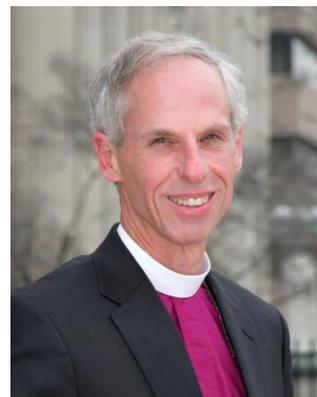
Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. As for prophecies, they will be brought to an end. As for tongues, they will stop. As for knowledge, it will be brought to an end. We know in part and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, what is partial will be brought to an end. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, reason like a child, think like a child. But now that I have become a man, I've put an end to childish things. Now we see a reflection in a mirror; then we will see face-to-face. Now I know partially, but then I will know completely in the same way that I have been completely known. Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love.

News around the Parish, Diocese and Church

All Saints and Renewal of Ministry

Bishop Fisher celebrated the full ministry of Trinity on Sunday, November 7th, at 2:00 pm. Our liturgy lifted up the mission of all in the parish, from outreach to music. Preaching and organ music was led by Fr. Peter and Jonathan of St. Mary of the Assumption, our covenant partners.



We want to hear from you! Survey and forum coming

When we began our new schedule of worship at 10 am and formation at 9 am, we knew it would be a change welcomed by some and difficult for others, and we're committed to listening and adjusting as we work toward a new post-pandemic normal.

During November, as we look toward Advent, we want to hear from you about your experience of the initial changes and thoughts about where we should go next. A survey will be going out soon, and once we have those responses, we'll schedule a forum to go over the results and engage in dialog together for the good of the parish and each other.

Spiritual Formation programs off to great start

Three weeks ago we started our fall offerings of formation for all ages at 9 am. We've had a great response so far and we're excited to build on this vital part of the church with your feedback and participation.

- **Children (under 8th grade)** have been gathering in the Chapel at 9 am for fun, interactive programs and hands-on activities. Then at 10 am they begin worshipping downstairs with their own songs and lessons before joining everyone in the nave for Communion.



- **Youth (8th-12th grades)** began meeting last month with an ice cream social, games, and a discussion about our goals and activities for the year. Our next meeting is November 21st at 6:30 pm.
- **Adults (and Youth!)** have been talking about Spiritual Growth in the Parish Hall at 9 am on Sunday mornings. We've had a great turnout of 12 each week so far, a solid start for a new program that allows for great conversation. A new series will begin in Advent.
- **Wednesday Contemplative Gatherings** have been spiritually enriching for a small group at 7 pm weekly. We began with Cindi Scrimgeour leading *Movement, Music, and Meditation*. In subsequent weeks Father John has led a service combining meditation (with candles, incense, and chanting), spiritual readings and discussion, and a simple Communion in the Nave before moving to the Chapel.



Thanksgiving Meal preparation help needed

Every year, Trinity and St. Mary's Catholic Church join together to distribute meals to anyone in the community who is in need. This year, we need some volunteers to help prepare the meals during the days and evenings leading up to Thanksgiving (November 22-24), as well as assist with cleanup afterward. Please reach out to Justin Varteresian for more information.

Update on our Community Dinners program

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. In **October**, we served:

- October 7: 142 meals distributed (85 restaurant)
- October 14: 143 meals cooked and served
- October 21: 139 meals distributed (85 restaurant)
- October 28: 208 meals cooked and served

We are committed to continuing weekly meals as the numbers of those facing food shortages increase. However, **we are struggling to accommodate the rising numbers**. More volunteers are always welcome, especially as we make some organizational changes toward 2022.

Warming Shelters for the Homeless in Milford

Pathway to a Better Life is holding two training sessions for volunteers on November 6 and 13, 1-2:30 pm at St. Mary of the Assumption. Please contact Lisa Trusas at 508-922-9032 for more information about the program.

Our parish has started the process of being certified as one of the buildings used as a pop-up shelter this year (alongside St. Mary's and First Congregational). We are not yet committed to do so, but have had our inspection and will continue talking with the organization, our vestry, and the parish as we learn more.

Trinity Christmas Fair now open!

Our second annual *Online Christmas Fair* is live for shopping at Trinity-Christmas-Fair.myshopify.com. In our online shop you may purchase any of the following:

- **Twelve Days of Christmas raffle**
with the grand prize of \$500 and a great array of prizes to win
- Buy your **Christmas Wreath**
- Pick up a beautiful **Cemetery Basket**
- Top it off with a tray of **Homemade Christmas Cookies**
(easily freezable until you need them)

All items can be **picked up between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm on Saturday Dec 4, 2021** at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Additional raffle tickets will be available at the church on Dec. 4th with the first raffle being drawn at 2:00 pm. Stop by the site, orders are being taken now and throughout November. Get your orders in before items are taken. Please share our fair site so we can get it to as many people in the community as possible.

Thanks,

Signed, the Trinity Christmas Elves!



Important dates in our Diocese and Church

- November 21: Next Youth Group at 6:30 pm
- November 25: Thanksgiving Meal Distribution
- November 28: *First Sunday of Advent*

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 (next: Nov 21)
- **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

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 at 6:30 pm per month at Trinity for fun, fellowship, and formation.
- **Luncheon groups** JULIET's (women) and ROMEOs (men) meet monthly at local restaurants. This month:
 - ROMEOs are meeting November 4th, 12:30 pm, at the Garden Restaurant in Milford. Contact Dave Clinkman.
 - JULIET's are meeting on November 10th, 12:30 pm, at Prezo in Milford. Contact Pat Kepler.

The Ministers of Trinity

are

THE PEOPLE OF THIS PARISH

led by

The Right Reverend Doug Fisher, *Bishop*

The Reverend John Elliott Lein, *Priest*

Rachel Carpenter, *Sunday School Coordinator*

Magee Lambert, *Secretary*, Paul Del Molino, *Sexton*

Beth Moeller, *Sr. Warden*, Lisa Ruggiero, *Jr. Warden*

and the Treasurer, Clerk, and Vestry.

We serve all God's Creation as a local parish

of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts,

part of The Episcopal Church (USA),

a member of the global Anglican Communion.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Milford, MA 01757

NON-PROFIT ORG.

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Email (Wardens)	wardens@trinitychurchmilford.org
Website	www.trinitychurchmilford.org
Worship Schedule	Sunday at 10:00 am and Wednesday at 7:00 pm

November 2021

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED