



The Vine...

Connecting the Body of Christ one to another

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Essex, 1131 Mace Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21221
(410) 687-5531 www.holytrinityessex.org

March 2026



FROM THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

Greetings from the kingdom of God, the reign of love and the culture of peace (*already in progress somewhere very, very close to you!*)

I was looking for a good Lenten quote to share with you and I stumbled across this one:

“Today, especially in affluent societies, St. Augustine’s warning is more timely than ever: ‘Enter again into yourself.’ Yes, we must enter again into ourselves, if we want to find ourselves. Not only our spiritual life is at stake, but indeed, our personal, family, and social equilibrium itself. One of the meanings of penitential fasting is to help us recover an interior life. Moderation, recollection, and prayer go hand in hand.” +St John Paul II

If we allow it, Lent has a way of stripping things down. The noise lowers. The distractions thin out. And somewhere in the quiet, a voice we have not heard in a while begins to speak.

“Enter again into yourself.”

That’s St. Augustine’s invitation, taken up by St. John Paul II—not as a piece of spiritual nostalgia, but as a warning for people who have everything except space to breathe. In affluent societies especially, we can fill every silence, answer every notification, buy every comfort—and still feel oddly homeless, drifting.

Lent asks us to step back inside.

Penitential fasting, as John Paul II reminds us, is not spiritual self-punishment. It is an act of recovery. When we fast—whether from food, from media, from endless consumption—we are not trying to prove our discipline. We are trying to make room. Moderation clears space. Recollection steadies the heart. Prayer tunes our inner ear.

Because if we never “enter again into ourselves,” we live only on the surface. And surface living cannot sustain a soul, a family, or a society. Without an interior life, we become reactive instead of reflective, anxious instead of grounded, busy instead of present.

Lent gently insists - go inward.

Not to wallow. Not to obsess. But to meet the God who is already there. Inside, beneath the noise and the hurry, there is a deeper current—quiet, steady, patient. The Spirit waits there. And when we dare to enter, we often discover that God has been holding the center all along.

So this season, fast a little. Turn down the volume even though the world is screaming. Sit still long enough to notice your own heart. Enter again into yourself. You may just find that Christ has been waiting there.

Peace,
Ken+

+++++

Church News



Inclement Weather Policy

It is that time of year again when we may have some inclement weather. Our church policy remains the same: We follow Baltimore County Public Schools closures.

SO, if Baltimore County Public Schools are closed or close early and we have an event, meeting, etc. scheduled for that night, it is cancelled. If there is inclement weather affecting our Sunday morning church service, an email will be sent out early Sunday morning...as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible.



Vestry Meeting

The next Vestry Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. *Please note: Vestry minutes are posted on the wall in the Parish Hall.*

Ken+ Out of Town

Ken+ will be on vacation February 26-March 8, 2026. If you have an urgent pastoral need in his absence, contact Linda+ or Chris. For any non-urgent items, send an email to: HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com or call the church office.



Tim Fields Memorial Service

The Memorial Service for Tim Fields will now be held on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. here at Holy Trinity. There will be a potluck luncheon in the Parish Hall after the service. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the wall in the Parish Hall to bring a dish to share...homemade or store-bought, sweet or savory.

Retha Shaw Memorial Service

The Memorial Service for Carolynn Mitchell's mother, Retha Shaw, will be held on Sunday, March 22, 2026, at 12:00 noon here at Holy Trinity. There will be a luncheon catered by Squire's of Dundalk in the Parish Hall following the service.



Save the Date Items

1. **Chocolate Covered Easter Egg Sales** continue through February 28, 2026! Contact Barb with any questions. Call 443-618-5978 between 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. to place an order. (Extra order forms and flyers are available in the church office.)

2. **Holy Trinity Campus Cleanup** on **Saturday, March 28, 2026, 8:30a.m.-2:00p.m.** Eastern Tech High School students will be cleaning up the Holy Trinity property by removing invasive vines from trees on our property. Feel free to join in the effort! Contact Lilian with any questions.

3. **Spring Craft Fair** on **Saturday, April 18, 2026, 9a.m.-2p.m.** Contact Kathy with any questions or if you are available to help.

4. **Eastern Tech Fundraiser Car Wash** on **Saturday, April 25, 2026, 10a.m.-1p.m.** Eastern Tech Class of 2026 will be having a fundraiser car wash on the parking lot of Holy Trinity. Please bring your cars/trucks for a wash to support our local students!

5. **Garden Planting** on **Saturday, May 2, 2026, 8:30a.m.-12noon.** Local Environmental Students will be planting a garden of coneflower, milkweed, goldenrod, and aster (plants native to our area) on the Holy Trinity property. Feel free to join in this effort! Contact Lilian with any questions.

6. **Flea Market** on **Saturday, June 20, 2026, 8a.m.-12noon.** Contact Kathy with any questions or if you are available to help.

7. **Church Picnic in June.** Watch for the date and more information.

(Watch for more details on all of these events as planning continues.)



Holy Trinity Campus Cleanup

Eastern Tech students will be on our church campus on Saturday, March 28, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. do some outdoor cleanup work.



Sunday School

Sunday School is held during the first part of the service on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. for children Pre-K through Grade 5! The children then join their families in church during The Peace portion of the service. If you have any questions, contact Leah.

Helping Hands Ministry

We continue to support members of our faith community who no longer attend services due to advancing age, declining health, and other issues. We offer the following:

1- Holy Trinity Roadrunners whose purpose is driving parishioners who no longer can drive to visit loved ones confined to institutions.

2- Sheila Crochunis continues to manage prayers for others. So if you can spare a few minutes to say a prayer and/or make a phone call to those on our prayer list and anyone else in need of prayers, contact Sheila at 410-382-2846 and add your name to her team.

3- The Order of St. Luke (OSL) Healing Ministers offer healing prayer at the rail during Holy Communion. *Each one of us has been called to live as Jesus did...loving, praying, and healing in His name.* If you are interested in joining OSL, we meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Kathy Crump for more information or to register at: crumpkathy6@gmail.com.

As always, Leah is the contact to add or remove names on our Parish Prayer List and to add names for anyone asking for prayers. *We pray for perseverance, delivery from pain, and community with our loved ones.* If you are interested or have questions, please contact Kathy.

Healing Service

Our weekly Healing Service is held every Wednesday at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. Contact Ken+ with any questions.

Craft Group

Our Monthly Craft Group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Bring a craft to work on, and enjoy some conversation! Contact Barbara with any questions. *Please note: In case of a Hall Rental, the date is sometimes cancelled or changed. If you are new to the group, please check with Barb.*



Monthly Extended Coffee Hour

We have our Monthly Extended Coffee Hour/Covered Dish on the last Sunday of each month after the 9:00 a.m. service. Please bring a dish to share! It can be homemade or store-bought, sweet or savory. If you have any questions, contact Millie.



Funeral Planning Forms and Emergency Contact Forms

We have both forms available in the church office. Please at least complete the Emergency Contact Form and turn it in to the church office. If you have not made your funeral plans known to the church yet, please complete that form as well, and turn it in to the church office. If you have any questions about the forms, call or email the office. If you would like to meet with Ken+ for help with planning your funeral, contact him directly.



Outreach Ministries from and to Holy Trinity

from Lynn F., Chairperson



Pet Donations to the Maryland SPCA:

Thank you for your generous donations! The items collected will be delivered to the SPCA this month.



Blessing Bags:

Blessing Bags are an Outreach ministry for the homeless in our area. Beginning this month, the second Sunday of every month will be a collection of items to be placed in Blessing Bags.

The items collected will be presented by one or more of the children during the Offertory. After the service, the items will be sorted and placed in bags to be distributed by those who feel called to do so to those in need. Blessing bags can be packed with small items such as granola bars, lotion, and

gloves. These bags can be kept in your vehicle and handed out to homeless men and women at traffic lights, etc. Contact Linda+ with any questions.



Operation Backpack:

Our backpack ministry will again include Sandalwood Elementary School and Essex Elementary School. We will be providing food items to students in need at both schools during the 2025-2026 school year. You are always welcome to contribute by bringing in needed food items such as: single serve oatmeal packets, applesauce cups, fruit cups, raisins, packs of peanuts, crackers, ramen noodles, instant chicken noodle soup, juice boxes, or white or chocolate milk or Yoohoo. We also accept small cans of tuna and boxes of macaroni and cheese. You can place any donated food items in the bin marked "Operation Backpack" in the Parish Hall. You can also make a monetary donation at any time. In addition to food items, there is a need for new socks and new underwear for elementary-age children. These items can also be placed in the same bin.

We pack the bags after the service. All are welcome to join in the effort. Also, each week there is a rotation of folks who deliver the bags to Essex and Sandalwood Elementary Schools. We can always use additional volunteers to deliver the backpacks! If you have any questions or are able to make deliveries, please contact Chris or Lynn F.

Eastern Interfaith Outreach (EIO):

EIO is open to serve those in need. They operate on an appointment basis, so please call in advance. (The address is listed later in this newsletter under “Food Pantry”.)

We are still collecting shelf-stable food items such as canned soup, pork and beans, tuna, and chicken for EIO. If you are able to buy a few items on your next grocery shopping trip or if you have any extra items in your pantry at home, please bring them in. ***Please make sure the expiration date is at least several months out.*** There is a bin in the Parish Hall labeled “EIO Donations” where you can place the donated shelf-stable food items to help those in need in our community. (More detailed information regarding EIO is also provided below under the Food Pantry section.)

**Ronald McDonald House Baltimore:**

Please continue to collect the pull tabs from any aluminum can products. I collect the tabs, and once or twice per year I take them to RMH. The tabs are then recycled with the profit used to fuel the shuttle bus to take family members of the children to the local hospitals. The collection box is located on the lower shelf of the main table in the Narthex.

Watch the bulletins and emails for the date of the next Outreach Committee meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Lynn F.

**Local Food Pantries****Eastern Interfaith Outreach (EIO)**

Contact: 410-406-2288 OR 211

Physical Address:

Maranatha Chapel
3 Bowleys Quarters Road
Middle River, MD 21220
410-406-2288

By Appointment Only! Call first!

Donations: Bring in shelf-stable items and place them in the bin in the Parish Hall marked “EIO” or make your check payable to “Eastern Interfaith Outreach” and mail it to:
Eastern Interfaith Outreach
P.O. Box 18122
Middle River, MD 21220

Hunger for Change:

These food distributions are until the food supplies run out on that day. Please call for distribution dates and site information: 443-838-2126.

Baltimore County has a Food Pantry

Locator service. Just click on either of the links below for more information:

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/county-news/2023/12/19/baltimore-county-releases-new-food-pantry-locator>

<https://bc-gis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/nearby/index.html?appid=2ec6ceb1732844bbb00a40ec1a0b733f>



Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland offers nutritious, fresh, prepared meals delivered to your home. Eat better with Meals on Wheels!

For those unable to cook or grocery shop for themselves – due to age, disability or illness - look to Meals on Wheels for dependable, friendly service.

To learn more, call 410-558-0923 or apply online at:

mealsonwheelsmd.org/client-application

Meals on Wheels also needs volunteers to help deliver these meals. If you have any time to donate to this worthy cause, please call the telephone number listed above.

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35



March Anniversaries

Joe and Laura – 3/6



March Birthdays

Mary – 3/9

Somo – 3/11

Joan – 3/15

Lynn F. – 3/17

Jim K. – 3/20

Ellen – 3/27

ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS, SEE LEAH



O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servants, that their weaknesses may be banished and their strength restored; and that, their health being renewed, they may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Alice
 Elliott (Alice's great great grandson)
 Jason R. (Alice)
 Millie
 Elizabeth P. (Millie's sister)
 Kelly (Millie's niece)
 Jean C. (Millie)
 Beau (Millie)
 Helen
 Ryan (Helen's grandson)
 Henry (Cheryl)
 Joan
 Bill and Diane (Joan's son and daughter-in-law)
 Pam A. (Joan's son and daughter-in-law)
 Chris and Patty (Joan's son and daughter-in-law)
 Gladys
 John and Jeannie
 Powell family (John and Jeannie's family)
 Heather (John and Jeannie)
 Mike (John and Jeannie)
 Landon (John and Jeannie)
 Christoper (John and Jeannie)
 Kurt (John N.)
 Ava (Pam N.)
 Somo

Hutchins family (Somo)
 Eddie (Somo)
 Florence (Somo)
 Lynne C.
 Karen (Lynne C's daughter)
 Nancy B. (Lynne C.)
 Greg (Lynne C.)
 Crosby family (Lynne C.)
 Bennett family (Lynne C.)
 Arlene
 Gary and Mary
 Donald and Sylvia
 John and Anne
 Mary Anne and family
 Linda Q. (Mary Anne's sister-in-law)
 Butch and Wanda (friends of Mary Anne)
 Tyler T. (Mary Anne)
 Christine (Mary Anne)
 Chris S. (Mary Anne)
 Gloria N.
 Nancy T. (Jimmy's significant other)
 Kathy S. (Leah's cousin)
 Eleanor (Leah's aunt)
 Jim C. (Leah's uncle)
 Shirlyn (Sam's niece)
 Colomba (Michelle S's sister)
 Frank S. (Michelle S's brother)
 Frank H
 Wendy
 Bridget (Kathy's daughter)
 Lynn J. (Joan and Michelle)
 Laura
 Bill
 Sharon
 Ron
 Alan (Ron)
 Debbie H. (Ron)
 Mary C. (Ron)
 Pat (Ellen's husband)
 Wayne
 Geoff
 Brett
 LouAnne (Lynn F.'s sister-in-law)
 Doug (Carolyn)
 Dianne (Ken+)
 Daniel (Sheila)

Darlene (Sheila)
Janice
Eric Z.
Teresa
Jerome
Wyatt
Rigoberto
Williams
Romanio
James
Jack
Demi
Liam
Sage
Fernando
Megan
Chris
Eric W.
Allison (Leah)
Colson (Leah)
Dottie
Karen L.



***PLEASE ADVISE LEAH OF ANY ADDITIONS OR
DELETIONS.***

Who do I contact?

The office is generally staffed on Thursday morning from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

If you have a non-urgent question, call the church telephone number (410-687-5531) and leave a message on the answering machine OR send Leah an email at HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com.

For urgent pastoral needs call:

The Rev. Ken Phelps, Priest-in-Charge
410-790-1631 (*Please note: Ken+ will be on vacation February 26-March 8, 2026. Call Linda+ or Chris with any pastoral emergencies during his absence.*)

If Ken is not available, call:
The Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Deacon
410-967-7404
OR
Christine Kinard, Sr. Warden
410-382-6928



Vestry Officers and Members

Officers (elected by the vestry for one-year terms; can be re-elected; do not have to be an elected vestry member to be elected as an officer):

Senior Warden – Chris Kinard
Junior Warden – John Morris
Treasurer – Ellen
Registrar – Lilian

Elected vestry members and date their terms end (initially elected by the congregation; if a position becomes vacant, the vestry elects a replacement to fill the rest of the term):

Lynne C.	2026
Nancy	2026
Sheila	2026
Christine	2027
Gladys	2027
Michele A.	2027
Lynn F.	2028
Carolynn	2028
John M.	2028

The parish clergy are also ex officio members of the vestry and the rector is the presiding officer.



REGULAR REMINDERS



Coffee Hour

Join us for socializing before or after the church service. Light refreshments are available. Please see the sign-up sheet on the wall in the Parish Hall if you would like to bring something to share.

Parish Hall Rental

If you would like information about renting the Parish Hall for an event, please send an email to HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com or leave a message at the church office 410-687-5531. The cost is \$400 per rental.



Flower Memorials/ Thanksgivings

If you are interested, please complete a form with your instructions, along with a check for \$40.00, and return them to Barbara in person or mail them to the church address listed on the form.

The 2026 forms are available from Barbara or Leah in the church office. Memorials are on a per Sunday basis, not per name. More than one person may donate on any given Sunday.

Housekeeping Notes

Please continue to keep areas clean and sanitized.

Mailing List Updates

For changes to your home address or phone number, call the parish office at 410-687-5531 and leave a message OR send an email to HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com.



E-mail Messages

Please keep the church updated on any changes to your email address so we can notify you of situations impacting the parish. Please email any changes to: HTOfficeSecretary@gmail.com.



Final Word from the Editor

Items for the April Newsletter are due by March 15.

MARCH 2026 SERVICE SCHEDULE

March 1, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Ushers: Sam
Lessons: Chris
Prayers: Lilian

March 8, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Ushers: Gloria G.
Lessons: Nancy
Prayers: Gladys

March 15, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Ushers: Jackie and Bill
Lessons: Sheila
Prayers: Jackie

March 22, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Ushers: Sam
Lessons: Rachel
Prayers: Elizabeth

March 29, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Ushers: Gloria G.
Lessons: Elizabeth
Prayers: Nancy

**** Please note:** Until further notice, those scheduled to read the Lessons will read the First Lesson, lead the Psalm, and then read the Second Lesson. Thank you!



March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Ken away 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Zoom) 9:00 AM Children's Sunday School 7pm-AA Meeting	2 12:30pm-AI-Anon Meeting	3 7:30pm-AA Meeting	4 12:00noon Healing Service	5 10am-12noon Office Staffed	6	7
8 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Zoom) 9:00 AM Children's Sunday School 7pm-AA Meeting	9 12:30pm-AI-Anon Meeting	10 7:30pm-AA Meeting	11 12:00noon Healing Service	12 10am-12noon Office Staffed 7pm-Vestry Meeting	13	14 1pm-Craft Group
15 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Zoom) 9:00 AM Children's Sunday School 7pm-AA Meeting	16 12:30pm-AI-Anon Meeting	17 St. Patrick's Day 7:30pm-AA Meeting	18 12noon Healing Service	19 10am-12noon Office Staffed 7pm-OSL Meeting via Zoom	20	21 11am Tim Fields Memorial Service
22 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Zoom) 9:00 AM Children's Sunday School 12Noon Retha Shaw Memorial Service 7pm-AA Meeting	23 12:30pm-AI-Anon Meeting	24 7:30pm-AA Meeting	25 12:00 noon Healing Service	26 10am-12noon Office Staffed	27	28 8:30am-2pm - Eastern Tech students HT Campus cleanup
29 Palm Sunday 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist (also Livestream on Zoom) 9:00 AM Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM Extended Coffee Hour/Potluck 7pm-AA Meeting	30	31				



Order your Easter Flowers no later than March 8, 2026!

Flower	Price	Quantity	\$ Total
Tulips (6")	\$11.00 ea.	_____	\$ _____
Hyacinth (6")	\$11.00 ea.	_____	\$ _____
Easter Lilies (6")	\$13.00 ea.	_____	\$ _____
GRAND TOTALS:		_____	\$ _____

Please print:

Your Name(s) _____

In Memory of _____

In Thanksgiving for _____

*Please make checks payable to: **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church** and write **Easter Flowers** on the memo line. Orders with payment due at Holy Trinity no later than March 8. Thank you.*