

FROM THE SPIRE WITH GLAD TIDINGS!

ST. PAUL'S ON THE HILL AND TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCHES – OSSINING, NEW YORK

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Holy Week presents us with a particularly challenging spiritual task: to complete the disciplined work we have been engaged in throughout Lent, while riding a veritable roller coaster of emotional experiences. We are asked to stay true to our efforts to create more room for God in our hearts even as we ride triumphantly with Jesus into Jerusalem, share in the intimacy of the Last Supper, feel the awful agony of the Crucifixion, and wait for a day as Jesus lies in the tomb. Only after we have maintained our disciplines through these very different, powerful events are we prepared for the explosion of joy that is Easter Day. Perhaps you share my experience that along with the joy of Easter comes a great exhaustion. The exertions of Holy Week, if we observe it fully, are very real.

Often, the day that is most difficult to process is Holy Saturday. How are we to sit with the idea that Jesus lies in the tomb on this day, to the dismay of his disciples, seemingly having failed in his Messianic mission? Of course, this reflected a failure on their part to have listened and understood what Jesus had taught them about the necessity of his death, and what would then follow. Emotionally, though, it is not hard for us to join them in a sense of cold fear and sadness, unclear about what, if anything, comes next.

I am highlighting Holy Saturday partly because we don't tend to do much with it in Western Christianity, but also because I think that in a way it captures the ongoing experience of living a Christian life in this age of pandemics: not only of COVID-19 viruses, but of racial and economic injustice, climate disruption, gun violence, and other frightening realities. It is hard to stay faithful in the belief that Jesus is indeed alive in the midst of these awful truths. What does it mean to stay hopeful when it seems that the Lord may indeed be dead after all, absent as our planet succumbs to human depravity?

Yet so many of us have made room for Jesus during this season of Lent and have found him to be alive in our hearts and in the ministries we share together. We have indeed found hope that those ministries of providing shelter and food, comfort and consolation, and of activism to combat injustice and unsustainability, are reflections of the living presence of our Lord. And of course, we have experienced his presence in our worship, which undergirds and sustains our common life. We have many reminders that Holy Saturday is not the end of the story but can be understood even in our trying times as not a death but a pregnancy, about to give birth to a completely new reality.

George Herbert, the great Anglican priest and poet of the 17th Century, wrote powerfully of the truth of Holy Saturday in his 1633 poem *Sepulchre*. Its first and last stanzas reflect first the trauma and then the miraculous truth of the day:

*Oh blessed body! Whither art thou thrown?
No lodging for thee, but a cold hard stone?
So many hearts on earth, and yet not one
Receive thee?*

And yet, human failing, while stubbornly unchanging, does not win the day:

*Yet do we still persist as we began,
And so should perish, but that nothing can,
Though it be cold, hard, foul, from loving man
Withhold thee.*

Our disciplines have not been in vain. Jesus did indeed rise, and lives among us, because nothing – *nothing* – could prevent the triumph of love.

Easter blessings to you all.

Charlie+



Who Am I ?



DEACON BEACON

I write to you in Holy Week. The 2nd Holy Week in a time of Pandemic. Today I had the privilege to be an oil bearer at the service of renewal of ordination vows at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. I say this because I want to quote Bishop Andy who preached for us today.

In his excellent sermon, which you can hear on the diocesan webpage, the bishop asked, “Who are you and how do you come to be here?” This question is a good one for all of us. I am happy to say that with more and more people getting the vaccine we have hope... real hope that we will be able to put these last 13 months truly behind us. And now more than ever we need to ask, who are you and how do you come to be here?

We have vibrant attendance at our Sunday morning YouTube services. Our weeknight Complines are being watched and shared, and the Lenten Live on Zoom has created a new kind of face-to-face community in a virtual world as well. Again, I ask, who are you and how do you come to be here?

The Social Justice Mission Committee is asking this on a regular basis. The members of this committee don't stop to ponder much; they are too busy doing the work that needs to be done: Ossining Food Pantry, Loaves and Fish, Emergency Shelter, Hope's Door, and so much more is all happening—whether we are “open” or not!

As we move towards regathering, can you answer the question? Who are you and how do you come to be here? And I'll add, why? Why are you here and, what? What will you get involved in?

For now, I am praying that spring will bring many joys to you and your loved ones in the resurrection light.

See you on Zoom!

Deacon Dorothée



Well, spring is in the air and with the birds, there's a sense of hope on the horizon. Vaccinations are more widely available and more and more folks are getting their shots. The days are a bit warmer and I must say there are so many things to be thankful for.

A few weeks ago, our Joint Vestry presented an open forum to all parishioners on Zoom to talk about our decision to become "One Church, Two Homes." We have chosen to blend our ministry into one entity and strengthen the already sturdy bonds we've created over the years as sister parishes.

There is a lot of work ahead for your Vestries and I can promise you it will be done thoughtfully and prayerfully. I can also promise to keep you informed as we develop our plans. Our next joint Vestry meeting is on April 5th, though in a few months, all our meetings will be as one Vestry. We are still in the preliminary stages of planning. If you have any questions or want to share your thoughts, we have set up a designated email for you. It is: sisterparishes3@gmail.com Please feel free to contact Fr. Mayer or any Vestry member with your thoughts. I'm excited about the possibilities. I hope you are too.

When we all said goodbye to Mo. Cooper, we were faced with the question of what to do with the rectory, as Fr. Charlie does not need it in his new position of Acting Priest-in-Charge. The rules for keeping the property's tax-free status are pretty narrow. The occupant had to be clergy and ideally attached to the parish. I was concerned and unsure of how to find that magical person. I reached out to the Diocese and was told there was a list-serve for priests in the area looking for housing. The Rev. Canon Nora Smith offered to post our listing there. As it turns out, I didn't need to do that, because the Holy Spirit emerged and we found a tenant in our very own church family.

I am delighted to tell you that the Rev. Deacon Dorothee Caulfield and her husband Rick will be taking up residence on April 15th. They are downsizing and are putting their house on the market—and they want to stay in Ossining for a while. How is that for answered prayers? We know "The Lord moves in mysterious ways." I just didn't know he worked with United Van Lines.

I hope you all are feeling well and seeing flowers poking from the dirt and trees beginning to blossom. It's been a very difficult year with more change and upheaval than we ever could have imagined. But here we are, we've made it this far, together. I have seen so many acts of kindness and tenderness extended across our church family during this time and I could not be prouder of all of you.

So, here's to brighter days and new adventures together.

With love and much, much gratitude,

Sue Monroe



OUR UPCOMING SERVICES

April 1	7:00 PM	Zoom Service Presentation of <i>The Power of His Last Words</i>	Maundy Thursday
April 2	7:00 PM	Zoom Service of Good Friday liturgy	Good Friday
April 3	6:00 PM	Landmark Service outdoors at All Saints' Briarcliff (weather permitting)	Easter Vigil
April 4	9:45 AM 12:30 PM	On-line Eucharist In-person Communion from reserved Sacrament at St. Paul's (weather permitting)	Easter Sunday
April 11	9:45 AM 12:30 PM	Online Service of Morning Prayer (Rite II) In-person Communion at St. Paul's (weather permitting) Coffee Hour after the service (!)	Easter 2
April 18	9:45 AM 12:30 PM	Online Service of Morning Prayer (Rite I) In-person Communion at Trinity (weather permitting)	Easter 3
April 25	9:45 AM 12:30 PM	Online Service of Morning Prayer (Rite II) In-person Communion at St. Paul's (weather permitting)	Easter 4

Weekly evening services are available at 7:00 PM. On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, we pray the service of Compline on our Facebook pages and our YouTube channel. Our leaders are Fr. Mayer, Carolyn Black, and Graham Gulian. Thank you all!

On Wednesdays, Deacon Dorothee offers a Zoom service of Evening Prayers at 7:00 PM. Here is the link for that service:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89842138521?pwd=TXN3ckJPM0N0N0JubEtJdk9FQXd6QT09>

Meeting ID: 898 4213 8521

Passcode: 143122

By phone: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 898 4213 8521

Passcode: 143122

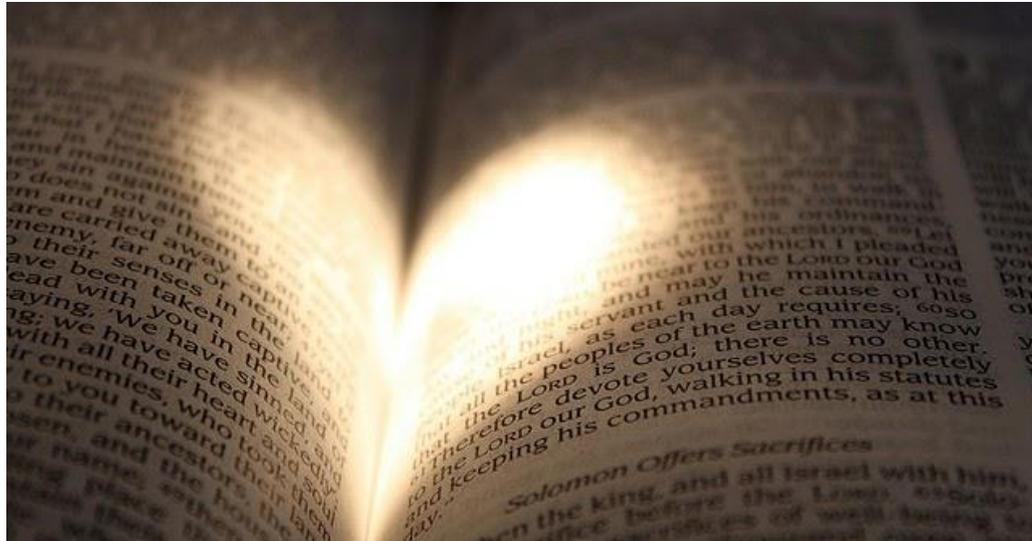
Our online services are delivered on our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP1qGAuJlIxWU8Z_ucCKEGA

And our YouTube services are all on our websites. Here are the links:

<http://trinityossining.org/>

<https://stpaulsonthehill.org/worship/virtual-church-services/>



INTERESTED IN MORE INVOLVEMENT?

At the last Re-Gathering Committee meeting, Fr. Mayer and Chris Fasulo suggested that we could increase in-person participation in our recorded services and our outreach. There are three ways we have come up with:

- 1) We currently have one person representing the congregation as a responder in our recorded services. We feel we can safely increase that to three parishioners and are looking for volunteers. The services are usually recorded at 7:00 PM on Thursday or 10:00 AM on Friday, alternating locations between St. Paul's and Trinity.
- 2) The Lessons are currently recorded by the readers on their phones and sent to Chris for inclusion in the YouTube video. Some of you have expressed uneasiness using this technology and have therefore been unable to participate in this way. We are now more comfortable ourselves and can record for you as you read from the lectern, which is more familiar.
- 3) On Tuesdays from noon to 2:00 PM at Trinity, the Food Pantry distributes bags of food to its clients. At the same time, Chris has been working with our music library, during which time he plays the music. This has been much enjoyed by the volunteers and we are thinking of opening the church for those two hours, allowing people to come in, pray, rest, meditate. We would like to have "welcomers" who will greet our visitors, make sure they are meeting our safety protocols, and take some time for themselves as well.

We will help you get comfortable if any of this is new to you! So, if you're interested in contributing your voice to our services and would like the experience of once again worshipping in our sacred spaces, please let us know but sending an email to our new joint address: sisterparishes3@gmail.com

MY CHILDHOOD AT TRINITY
By Alexis Cullen



My foundation in Christianity began in preschool at The Little School in Briarcliff (which was run by a Lutheran Church). From there, I went on to St. Augustine's School in Ossining - a Catholic parochial school.

Now, attending a Catholic school but not actually being a baptised Catholic meant lots of sitting in a back pew while training for sacraments occurred. As my classmates began their education in preparation for their First Communions, I started to feel

rather left out. So one day I came home from school and announced to my family that I wanted to convert to Catholicism. My mother firmly said "No" and told me we were going to go to church.

From what I understand, she did some shopping around. I don't remember that. But I DO remember stepping foot into Trinity Ossining for the first time and feeling my breath catch in my chest. It was so massive and beautiful, and it smelled of frankincense, and a liturgical nerd was born. At that time, the priest was very young, very handsome, and the church was using the 1928 prayer book. The service was so similar to those I had been attending at the Catholic church, and I had a near photographic memory at the time, so it took very little time for me to memorize all the prayers of the old service. They are still etched in my mind.

I began doing my studies for my First Communion solo with Fr. Phillips. There was a small youth group and we did Sunday School together, as well as some extracurricular things. I remember learning Shakespeare and playing Rosalind for some scenes the youth group performed for the congregation. My best buddy on Sundays, and sometimes after school, was Dhalya Baker - we lived fairly close and were exactly the same age. High Holy days were a spectacle at Trinity. There was a large Christmas pageant (where I sang my very first solo piece for an audience) and for Easter, I distinctively remember the reading of the Passion and also Vespers. It was a HUGE part of my childhood for the three or so years we attended.

Eventually, the loss of the rector and the parade of subs that ensued began our exit from the parish. Shortly thereafter my mother moved us to Florida and that was that. I didn't attend church regularly again until my late 20s, when I desired to root myself in anticipation of marrying and having children. Rejoining Trinity was truly "coming home," and the icing on that sweet cake was finding families there that I remembered and that remembered me (the Bakers, Chadeaynes, and Boswells).



ENLIGHTENED PERSPECTIVE by Andy Rooney

I've learned...That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned...That when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned...That just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.

I've learned...That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned...That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned...That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned...That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

I've learned...That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned...That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned...That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned...That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned...That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

I've learned...That money doesn't buy class.

I've learned...That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned...That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned...That the Lord didn't do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?

I've learned...That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I've learned...That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've learned...That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned...That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

I've learned...That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I've learned...That there's nothing sweeter than sleeping with your babies and feeling their breath on your cheeks.

I've learned...That no one is perfect until you fall in love with him or her.

I've learned...That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've learned...That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

I've learned...That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've learned...That I wish I could have told my Dad that I love him one more time before he passed away.

I've learned...That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

I've learned...That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've learned.... That I can't choose how I feel, but I can choose what I do about it.

I've learned...That when you're newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.

I've learned...That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

I've learned ... That it is best to give advice in only two circumstances; when it is requested and when it is a life-threatening situation.

I've learned...That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL



- 5 Joint Vestry Meeting
 - 13 St. Paul's Buildings & Grounds
 - 16 Staff Meeting
 - 26 Re-Gathering Committee
 - 28 Social Justice Mission Committee
- REPAIR meets

TRINITY'S APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Dorothee Caulfield	8
Randall Moeller	8
Karen Otten	8
Dale Bonenberger	9
Kayla Skylar Nixon	13
Warren Dyckman	18
Arlene Lazaro	20
Hannah Ok Beaudreault	24
Synara Okyne-Aryee	26
Frances King	26

TRINITY'S APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Donna and Neville Harvey	12
Kate and Steve Pendzuk	24

ST. PAUL'S APRIL BAPTISMS

- 1 Joanne Holsten
- 17 Kathryn Howard
- 17 Helena Blair Klein (The Blair's granddaughter)
- 18 Gregory Howard
- 20 Ann Skidgell Farrell
- 21 Lisa-Marie Liberti
- 23 Kathryn Brocchi
- 26 Sean Docker

ST. PAUL'S APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Katrina DiLoreto
- 3 Ellie Houghtaling
- 3 Michael Pasioka
- 5 Leslie Blatz
- 7 Graham Gulian
- 7 Robert Pauline
- 7 Roger Rowe
- 9 Sheryl Muth
- 11 April Lynn Dias
- 13 Ann Visconti
- 15 Jonathan Blair
- 16 Liam Houghtaling
- 17 Frank Schneckner
- 18 Marta "Marti" Bowen
- 19 Kara Pauline
- 20 Lisa Rosenbloom
- 22 Domenic Valentine Triano
- 23 Charlie Gulian
- 24 Scott Hunt
- 25 Maureen Washburn
- 26 Elma Dixon
- 29 Bill Plank

ST. PAUL'S APRIL DEATHS

- 1 John Deems
- 5 Robert Shedden
- 9 A. Richard Kamp
- 14 Fr. Jack Docker
- 16 Rose Beresford



CLERGY

The Rev. Dr. Charles D. Mayer, Acting Priest-in-Charge
The Rev. Dorothee R. Caulfield, Deacon

ST. PAUL'S OFFICE

Carolyn R. Black, Music Director
Tina Farrell, Church Administrator
Beth Pollack, Treasurer

TRINITY'S OFFICE

Christopher Fasulo, Minister of Music
Tam Hernández, Parish Administrator
Katherine Pendzuk, Treasurer and Verger
Pablo Montoya, Sexton

ST. PAUL'S 2021 VESTRY

Sue Monroe, Warden
Margery Barnes, Clerk
Julie DiLoreto
Milton Kerr
Darryl Moy
Lisa Rosenbloom
Roger Rowe

TRINITY'S 2021 VESTRY

Tam Hernández, Warden
Sally Evans, Clerk
Charles Baker
Alexis Cullen
Kellie Ishmael
Kate Pendzuk
Cecilia Quintero