



TRINITY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

January 15, 2026

TRINITY CHURCH A Warm – Thriving – Christian Community

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<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityChurchUptownSJ>

Our Parish Events Calendar is available on our Webpage! <http://trinitysj.com>

You are receiving this weekly Trinity Newsletter as you are a member of the Trinity family. Should you not wish to receive this, please indicate by return e mail.

Photo Credit – Uptown Saint John

You Tube Trinity Services: You can view Trinity’s recorded services by going onto YouTube and typing in Trinity Anglican Church SJ. That will bring you to our channel and all of the previously recorded services.

We, at Trinity, offer the family of Paul Dublin Hodgins our sincere



condolences as we have learned of his death, January 11, 2026. Mr. Hodgin was an active and faithful member of Trinity where he served in many capacities including Warden, Vestryman, Treasurer and Organist. He was also a beloved teacher at SJHS for some thirty-five years and a good

friend to many – having moved back to Ontario upon his retirement. Thank you, Lynn Kristoffersen for bringing Mr. Hodgins’ passing to our attention.



Happy Birthday – Your Trinity family extends late birthday greetings to Bill Irving and upcoming birthdays for Erik Kristoffersen, Heather Scribner, JoAnne Rivers, Lila Scaplen, Sean Ezeocha and Helen Webb. Happy Birthday from your Trinity family.

E-Offering Stewardship Option Trinity has presently 20 signed up using the E Offering Stewardship method. Thank you to all who are supporting Trinity through their regular stewardship, as this helps the Treasurer meet the ongoing financial needs of Trinity’s ministry. **If you are not currently a subscriber your**



Vestry members encourage you to check it out. By doing so no matter what happens during your week, month or year, once signed up you can rest assured your Trinity is being supported. Should you wish to join the E offering program, you can do so from your home by contacting the Parish Office at 506-693-8558 or trinsj@nb.aibn.com. Thank you for your continued support.

Vestry Meeting – Our January Vestry Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20th at 7:00pm.

Prayers

We offer special prayers for:



Once again, we are heartbroken and shocked at the application of deadly force being employed in our neighbouring community, Minneapolis Mn. USA. Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Renee Nicole Good who's life was taken in a moment of poor judgement of an ICE officer. Our prayers go out to Renee's family, her children and immediate family along with those who are charged with the duty to ensure justice is served. We pray for calmness in this community and that lessons will be learned to eliminate a recurrence of such a tragedy in our part of the world.

Prayers for Ukraine Most Holy God and Father. Hear our prayers for all who strive for peace and all who fight for justice. Help us, who today remember the cost of war, to work for a better tomorrow and as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict, bring us all, in the end, to the peace of Your presence through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayers for Russia We pray for all those in Russia who have been affected by this ongoing war of Ukraine. For the lives lost, the families torn apart and for those Ukrainians who reside in Russia along with Viktoriia and Alex and their boys. We ask for their continued safety, a speedy resolve to this unjust attack and for a lasting peace between these two countries. Amen

Anglican Cycle of Prayer The Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo, Archbishop Georges Titre Ande. Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Shane Parker. Diocese of Central Newfoundland, Bishop John Watton. Diocese of Ho, Bishop Matthias Meduadues-Badohu. Diocese of Yukon, Pelly Crossing: St. James the Lord's Brother; communities of Carmacks, Faro and Ross River. Archbishop David, retired bishop William and their families. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Prayer for Israel and Palestine we pray for the current peace actions and the safe release of those taken captive. We hold both communities in our prayers as they commence rebuilding their lives and that the peace presently experiencing will live on. Amen

Prayers for the people of Venezuela that they will return to a democratic lead government and oppression and unjust treatment of their people will come to an end.

Parish Prayer Requests Judith Miller, Katie Kassner, Shirley Shaw, and William Teed. We also pray for those who suffer from any form of addiction that they may have the strength to overcome their desires and return to a healthier state of life.

TRINITY's SERVICE CALENDAR

Date	Sunday	Service	Readings	Presider
Jan 18	Second Sunday after Epiphany	BCP MP	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-12 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	Rev. Steven Scribner
Jan 25	Third Sunday after Epiphany	BAS Eucharist	Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 5-13 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23	Rev. Steven Scribner
Feb 1	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	BCP HC	Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12	Rev. Steven Scribner

Upcoming Services and Events

Vestry Meeting

January 20th at 7:00 pm

Shrove Tuesday

February 17th

Pancake Supper at 5:00pm

Ash Wednesday

February 18th

Service at 7pm

Heritage Day

February 21st

Bennett Room 10:00am to 2:00pm

Lenten Book Study / lunch

week #1

Thursday February 19

2 noon – 1pm

week #2

Thursday February 26

12 noon – 1pm

week #3

Thursday March 5

12 noon – 1pm

week #4

Thursday March 12

12 noon – 1pm

week #5

Thursday March 19

12 noon – 1pm

week #6

Thursday March 26

12 noon – 1pm

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Palm Sunday

March 29th

Maundy Thursday

April 2nd

Service at 7pm

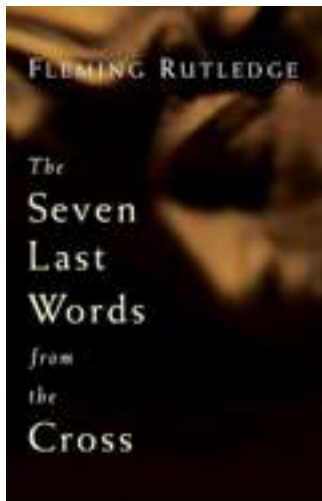
Good Friday

April 3rd

12 noon – 3pm

Easter Sunday

April 5th



The 2026 Lenten Book Study Resource will be 'The Seven Last Words from the Cross' by Fleming Rutledge [ISBN-10 9780802827869](https://www.flemingrutledge.com/) or [ISBN-13 978-0802827869](https://www.flemingrutledge.com/). Available wherever you buy your books.

Presently I am in the process of ordering a number of copies, please let me know if you wish to acquire one and / or plan to attend the lunch hour Lenten study in the Bennett Room as noted above. Bring your lunch and join in the less formal discussions as we discuss the author's point of view. Discounted price will be \$14.00 each.



Sunday's Message: On this Sunday we, the church, celebrate the Baptism of Jesus. It is one of the most important festivals on our church calendar. It comes right after the Christmas season and is known as the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Before Jesus began to preach and teach, He was first baptized.

We give thanks to God for His Holy Spirit and His Word for this created world. Through the waters of the flood, Noah and his family were delivered. Through the sea, He led the people of Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river Jordan His Son Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit and by His baptism, His death and resurrection we are set free from the power of sin and death as we are promised life fully with You now and forever.

As we think about the Sacrament of Baptism, we might as Anglicans give it a cursory thought, however when we look back into our faith alignments it was more than just a passing ritual.

Martin Luther had one comfort over all others, whether it was family, friends, the church or the Bible albeit all were very important in his life. What trumped all was his baptism which provided the greatest comfort for him. Luther described baptism as the greatest jewel that adorns ones' body and ones' soul. Luther stated, "In baptism, every Christian has enough to study and practice all his or her life."

So why is or should baptism be regarded as such? First and foremost; why was Jesus baptized? One born without sin – why would He need to be baptized? John the Baptist certainly wondered this where he said, *"I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?"* The first answer would be – Jesus was baptized for us just as He was born for us, crucified and died for us – He chose to be baptized for us. When we are baptized, we are cleansed of our sin and made one with Christ. When Jesus was baptized, he took on our sin and became one with us. Secondly by His baptism He was teaching us of the importance of our own baptism which can be distilled into three important learnings;

- 1) The Heavens were opened – True, the heavens were always opened to Jesus – however through our own baptism, the heavens are open to us. In life we fear death to the point we will try all in our power to delay death. Through our baptism, heaven has been opened, death as we know it is destroyed as we are fully united with Christ and nothing in all creation can separate us from Jesus or His love. Baptism will never completely take away the fear of death, however this fear will no longer totally consume us as we are reminded that gates of heaven are open for us to enter.
- 2) The Spirit of God descended upon Him – When the heavens opened the Spirit of God descended upon Him reminding us through our baptism the Holy Spirit who unites the Father and the Son also unites you and I with the Father and the Son. We are no longer alone, ever. As we go through life, yes, we fear death at some level, however we fear as much as being alone. Through our baptism, no matter what, we will never be alone.
- 3) This is My Son, the Beloved – The heavens opened, the spirit descends and a voice is heard; *"This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."* This is how God looks at each of us when we are baptized "This is my daughter, this is my son, a baptized child of mine; this is my beloved with whom I am well pleased." God looks at us as an image of His beloved Son not for what we have done, rather because of what Christ has done for us. We will make mistakes and some of which we might think God would hold against us. We are to remember that we are made beloved children of His, whom He loves and is well pleased.



Receiving the Gift of Baptism – As Martin Luther attested to, there is no greater Sacrament, gift or comfort on earth than our baptism. Simply put, all that happened with Jesus when He was baptized, also happens when we are baptized into Jesus. The gates of Heaven are opened to us. The Holy Spirit is given to us and we are told we are now God's beloved children with whom God is well pleased.

I always love the Sacrament of Baptism as it is an opportunity for each of us to revisit our own baptism / our promises made by our parents and godparents / sponsors and yes, the promises we took on at our own confirmation. I would invite us to turn to page 525 in the Book of Common Prayer.

Do you, ... Renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that you will not follow nor be led by them? **I do.**

Having previously re-affirmed our faith by repeating the Nicene Creed we can answer the following;

Do you Profess the faith we said through the Nicene Creed? **I do.**

Do you honor your Baptism and continue life according to this faith? **I do.**

Do you acknowledge the duty to keep God's holy will and commandments, walking steadfastly in the Way of Christ? **I do.**

Will you take care and continue your learning and do all these things? **I do.**

This is a tough life to commit to, one we will no doubt fail on multiple levels, however as we say in the Baptismal Covenant; Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord? Where we all respond by saying, **"I will with God's help.**

May each one of us take some time and revisit our Baptismal promises and reflect upon our present life to see how we are doing. Let us have the courage to make the changes we need to make – and from these changes enhance our lives.

Neighbour Missional Outreach Opportunities - 12 Neighbours

The following items are being asked for in order to make their residents feel at home and cared for;

- Coffee Creamers (shelf-stable or refrigerated), coffee, sugar or sugar packets, coffee cups.
- Feminine hygiene products (pads, tampons, liners)
- Shampoo and conditioner (full size or travel size)
- Personal care items, Irish Spring, razors, shaving cream, towels, face cloths, skin care products
- Non-perishable food items: instant oatmeal, different types of snacks, KD microwaveable, Ramen bowls, bread or bagels, peanut butter, cheese whiz, juice boxes, pop, ensure

- Plastic or wooden cutlery, good winter socks, men and women underwear, flip flops for our showers, Tim cards, paper plates

Let us focus on being a contributor to 12 Neighbours throughout 2026.

The Great East Window Campaign 2025 - 2026

The project is estimated at \$350,000 and at present the revenue on hand and committed totals \$170,040 (Revised) which represents 49% of the goal achieved to date. Two recent amounts, one a personal donation and the other a grant to be received.

St. James United Church, Woodstock NB Stain Glass window restoration 2026



I thought we might find some comfort in that Trinity SJ is not the only church that is passionate about protecting the great gifts of Stain Glass that parishes received during the building of their sacred spaces. The above pictures were taken from St. James United Church, Woodstock NB.

Unlike Trinity's East Windows' sandstone framework, this window is set in a wooden frame requiring the cross beam to be reinforced – the framework being over one hundred years old. The craftsman is reported to have an additional two years to complete the window restorations. Then the craftsman has two more churches on Prince Edward Island following this project. The workload for this diminishing craft is growing exponentially with aging churches and little to no attention being applied to the buildings with diminishing congregations and financial means.

It is with all expectation that Trinity will have the East Window and related work completed this summer providing the funds can be secured. It is the intent to get ahead of the curve prior to anything devastating happening to the Great East Window.

Having noisy children in the church is a far better sound than the sound of no children in the church.



We are truly blessed when we have children and youth among us at our services. How special Christmas was when we had many children joining us at all three services. We hope our young families find it comfortable to be with us with their children on Sundays'.

At St. Mark's Anglican Church Wpg, MB we had upwards of twenty young and young at heart every Sunday. There was one particular little girl who did make herself known at every service at her young age to the chagrin of many. I loved having her and looked forward to her and her mom attending, her mom being a single parent at the time. On may Sundays' she would be with me as I officiated and at times in my arms as I shared the Sunday Message. How great this was – having a child comfortable with all that the church has to offer.

What became the reason her mom was to bring her daughter to church on Sundays turned out to be the girl as she grew up being the motive force for her mom to come to church. God works wonders through both the parent and the child. So never underestimate the power of God working through us all.

Ice Altar – St. Paul Anglican Church Thunder Bay ON



Pictured here is an annual tradition at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Thunder Bay ON which started with Ven. Deborah Kraft (whom I walked across Spain in 2022) when she was Rector of St. Paul's. As you can see Northern Ontario has a supportive seasonal temperature to make this a reality annually. Parishioners bringing in their coloured ice all being part of creating this visual Ice Altar downtown Thunder Bay.

Heather and I attended St. Paul's upon our arrival in Thunder Bay back in 1996 and St. Paul's was Canon Paul Carr's church back in that day. Canon Paul being Bishop William Hockin's late brother-in-law. Small world yet again.



"HEY, JOEY. FORGET THE LEMONADE...
THIS IS WHERE THE BIG MONEY IS."

Here is a question for us all. Do you remember when it became fashionable for us, the consumer, to purchase a bottle of water at the store? Well, I am not certain to the actual year, however I can narrow it down to around 1989-1990 possibly. At this time, I was the Packaging / Maintenance Manager at Labatt's Brewery Saint John. One day while chatting after our daily 'taste panel' exercise our site manager asked the simple question; "Do you think anyone would pay 50 cents for a bottle of water'?"

After all the brewery would be in the best position to package bottled water – as the brewing process has an elaborate, scientific filtering process of the brew foundation water – where all organics and any taste characteristics have to be 100% eliminated – otherwise any impurities would negatively affect the outcome of the brew.

Well, I often wondered what this manager would think as one pays upwards of \$3-\$5 for a single bottle of water depending on the venue.

A Little Sunshine from Susanne



Coming up Roses!

Hope and opportunity are blossoming on the South Side of Chicago where Quilen Blackwell and his wife, Hannah Bonham, have used flowers to help poor communities turn over a new leaf.

Following service in the peace corps, Wisconsin native Quilen moved to attend a Chicago theological college, where he encountered Englewood, a south-side suburb notorious for its poverty, boarded-up shops, condemned buildings and empty lots. There, he saw an opportunity to help reconnect the community with nature, beautify the area and provide training and employment, especially for young people.



His first attempt, growing fruit and vegetables, ran into regulatory problems, so, considering that 70% of flowers sold by American florists are imported, Quilen pivoted to a new crop. The Blackwells developed 2 nonprofits, Chicago Eco House and Southside Blooms, to help at-risk youth find opportunity and to encourage Chicagoans to buy local. By 2021, Chicago Eco House had turned 6 vacant South Side lots into solar-powered flower farms, with the resulting flowers sold through Southside Blooms florists. A second location, on the city's west side, is planned for this spring.

They currently have 25 employees, primarily aged 16-25, involved in growing, harvesting, arranging, and selling the flowers. "A lot of the most beautiful flowers we grow do very well in adverse conditions," says Quilen, "and that's just like the people here. As long as they're getting all of the

ingredients they need to be successful, there's nothing that they can't do. Our young people are blossoming and blooming every single day."

Blackwell's work earned him the 2025 CNN Hero of the Year Award, organized by the cable news outlet with support from corporate sponsors. It came with a \$100,000 prize to support the Blackwells' work.

Thank you, Susanne for contributing to the Trinity Newsletter weekly. Love the stories you share.

Humour



Now for all of you that checked this out last week– there are only 150 Psalms – so I expect all had a difficult time doing last weeks' homework reading Psalm 199.

To fully get the humor of wedding picture you have to do some homework and read **Psalm 119** in its' entirety. The message speaks for itself and the wedding ceremony has just been extended by another half-hour. Suffice to say, I have never been asked for this scripture for any service in my time.



New Years' Blessings 2026 – Reverend Steven