



# HOLY TRINITY NEWS

February 2019



## Father Rob's Reflections February 2019

Dear Parish Family,

I'm so excited that we are offering confirmation classes this year. So far, 2 families have turned in material to take the classes. That being said, please get the information to Casey by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Now that's out of the way, what is confirmation? Why do we do it? Who should be confirmed?

First of all, for general questions about what we believe you are encouraged to see the "An Outline of Faith" commonly called the Catechism beginning on page 548 in the Book of Common Prayer. In that document on page 860, the question about Confirmation is answered. It says, "Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop." It is then a rite, sacramental like baptism or Eucharist, but what some call a sacramental rite not a sacrament as in required of us like baptism and Eucharist. Confirmation developed in the Roman church over the years as a way to continue to have the Apostolic laying on of hands, and empowerment of the Spirit by such, as the church got larger and Priests took on the what had been a Bishop's role at one time---Baptism. As baptisms were performed by priests, with laying on of hands and oil, the need for Bishops decreased. Confirmation then became a follow up step to baptism. To be clear, Baptism is a complete action whereby we are saved. But Confirmation, with the commensurate laying on of hands by only the Bishop, became a calling forth of that baptismal ministry; an opportunity of the young person or adult to claim the promises made for them by parents, sponsors and godparents; and commit, as they are able, to take on their role in the church as active members. It is a commitment to this as they strive toward growing with the Church family, as children have school and college that often keeps them from us. But their ministry is not to us, but with us and Christ to the world, most often practiced here and grown, and nurtured in their home parish. Sacraments and sacramental rites are an outward and spiritual sign of an inward and spiritual grace. The outward sign of Confirmation is the laying on of hands by the Bishop--dating back to Jesus' commissioning of Peter (Apostolic Succession), and passing that calling onto all of us in our respective

commissioning by the Spirit, to go forth in ministry to the church and to the world.

How old must you be? Well, in the days when everyone went to church and there were hordes of folks wanting Confirmation for children, a cut off, or what some would call an age of accountability, was often employed. It was generally around ages 12 or 13. But that is not strict, as some children are old enough at 9 to take on this responsibility--knowing full well that none of us will ever be "old enough" to understand the full scope of what we take on as Christians. We will spend our lives figuring it out, some going further along in the discovery than others. No more than we can understand fully what takes place in the real presence of the Holy Eucharist. But we take communion anyway. Fortunately, full knowledge of the mysteries of God is not required to commit to the spiritual work of life or partake in it. Therefore, I encourage every parent to consider if their child (you know them best) might be ready for a challenge of faith. Encourage, don't coerce of course, but perhaps strongly recommend they take on the challenge. We'll be serious. We'll have fun, and we'll eat. Parents will provide the yummy food. For further questions, or the determine if your child is ready, please feel free to call me and we can talk together, without pressure, with your young person.

In Christ's love,  
Fr. Rob

Confirmation class dates—5pm to 6pm class,  
followed by a parent prepared meal.

Class 1—March 10

Class 2—March 17

Class 3—March 24

Class 4—March 31

Class 5—April 7

Class 6—April 14 (Palm Sunday)

[skip April 21--Easter]

Class 7—April 28

Class 8—March 5

[skip May 12—Mother's Day]

Class 9—May 19

Class 10—Last Class with Jeopardy Night for the  
whole family—practice for Confirmation service  
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY—June 2<sup>nd</sup>--ONE  
SERVICE 9am—The Bishop's last with us.



### Upcoming Events:

- Sun, Feb 3 – Scouting Sunday
- Sun, Feb 10 – 10 am service, special choir
- Mon, Feb 11 – 5:30 Vestry
- Sat, Feb 16 – Vestry Retreat
- Sun, Feb 17 – Youth Sunday
- Wed, Feb 20-5:30, Open Door Dinner@ Nativity
- Tues, Mar 5 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
- Wed, Mar 6 – Ash Wednesday
- Sun, Mar 10 – 1st Sun of Lent



### Special choral music on Sunday, February 10

□ *Ubi caritas (Where there is love, there is God)* □

On Sunday, February 10 at the 10am service, the Choir will offer a special anthem, written in 2001 by Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo.

Our Choir will be joined by a half-dozen additional voices, some of whom (along with our own Linda Wirts) sang this gorgeous anthem on a tour of the Baltic States last summer. They are coming from Johnson, Morrisville, and Burlington to join us. It will be a wonderful occasion!

Immediately following the 10am service, the Choir will host a special festive coffee hour, to give everyone an opportunity to meet and greet our guest singers.

Please put this service on your calendar, so you can be present to support our Choir and receive a musical blessing.



Dear Parish Family,  
Thank you so much for the wonderful money gift you gave me for Christmas. And I offer many thanks for the gift cards, gifts, and goodies. How generous and thoughtful! It meant a great deal to me.  
In Christ's love and with Thanksgiving, Fr. Rob

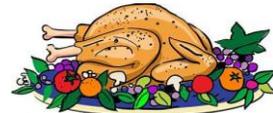
### Annual Meeting Elections

Vestry: for 3 year terms - Steve Marshall  
Linda Wirts  
Mary Wood  
For 2 year term – Steve St. Onge

Convention delegates – Steve Marshall  
Natalie Good  
Marianne Marshall  
Convention alternates – Wally Good  
Sandi Kenyon  
Laura Buel

Continuing Vestry – Tammy Farr  
Adam Fournier  
Don Fournier  
Wally Good  
Amanda Shand

Don Fournier - Senior Warden  
Adam Fournier - Junior Warden



### Open Door Dinners

**5:30**

Church of the Nativity  
Wednesdays Feb 20, Mar 27

Holy Trinity  
Tues April 30, Thursdays May 23, Jun 20



11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Episcopal Church in  
Vermont Search

### Timeline

Winter 2018/19 – discernment of candidates

Mar 2019 – Slate of final candidates announced

April 28-May 1- Walkabouts; candidates visit all corners of the diocese

May 18 – Electing Convention

Sept 28 – Consecration of the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Episcopal Church in VT

**The convention delegates we elect in Jan. at annual meeting will attend and vote at the electing convention on May 18<sup>th</sup>.**

## Meals on Wheels

Franklin County and Swanton specifically are in great need of drivers for Meals on Wheels. Age Well is now the agency in charge of Meals on Wheels. If you can deliver meals one or more days a week, please contact Erica Marks, Director of Volunteer Services: 802-662-5249 or emarks@agewellvt.org.



### Open House & Blessing at Martha's Kitchen

Martha's Kitchen has moved to their new forever home at 139 Lake Street (former Moose Lodge). Through an anonymous benefactor Martha's Kitchen was able to get a mortgage and now own their own place. No more rent! An Open House and Blessing will take place on **Monday, February 4 from 6:30-8:00 pm.** The blessing will take place at approximately 7:40. **Please come** and see the new Martha's Kitchen.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Empty Bowls to benefit Martha's Kitchen Saturday, March 9, 11:00-3:00 The Room @ 14<sup>th</sup> Star

Come pick out a locally handmade bowl to keep and enjoy a meal of soup, bread & a dessert



An Invitation from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to Practice the Way of Love  
*I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:17-19*

In the first century Jesus of Nazareth inspired a movement. A community of people whose lives were centered on Jesus Christ and committed to living the way of God's unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial, and redemptive love. Before they were called "church" or "Christian," this Jesus Movement was simply called "the way."

Today I believe our vocation is to live as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement. But how can we together grow more deeply with Jesus Christ at the center of our lives, so we can bear witness to his way of love in and for the world?

The deep roots of our Christian tradition may offer just such a path. For centuries, monastic communities have shaped their lives around rhythms and disciplines for following Jesus together. Such a pattern is known as a "Rule of Life." The book I propose - The Way of Love: Practices for Jesus-Centered Life - outlines a Rule for the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement.

It is designed to be spare and spacious, so that individuals, ministry groups,

O God:

Give me strength to live another day;  
Let me not turn coward before its difficulties  
or prove recreant to its duties;

Let me not lose faith in other people;  
Keep me sweet and sound of heart, in spite of  
ingratitude, treachery, or meanness;  
Preserve me from minding little stings or  
giving them;

Help me to keep my heart clean, and to live so  
honestly and fearlessly that no outward failure  
can dishearten me or take away the joy of  
conscious integrity;

Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see  
good in all things;

Grant me this day some new vision of thy truth;  
Inspire me with the spirit of joy and gladness;

And make me the cup of strength to suffering  
souls; in the name of the strong Deliverer,  
our only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

-The Rev. Phillips Brooks



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## ***FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS***

**2 Cindy Monahan, Ayen Abui**

**3 Steve Marshall**

**28 Adam Longe**



## ***FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES***

**4 Doreen & Randy LaFlam**



## **JUST MARRIED**

**Jan 19 Jordan Foltz & Aaron Bartemy**



## **IN NEW LIFE**

**Dec 4 Gordon A. "Tim" Ayer**  
**Mary Hartman's father**

May the souls of the faithful rest in peace  
And may light perpetual shine upon them