



## HOLY TRINITY NEWS

### DECEMBER 2025



#### **Advent Journey - From the Rector**

On November 30 we begin a new church year and our annual walk through the season of Advent. This is a season of anticipatory waiting and preparation. When I was a child it took FOREVER to get from October to Thanksgiving.....and another eternity to get to Christmas. Now it all flies by in the blink of an eye.

We are so very busy. There are gifts to buy (and wrap), decorations to find and put up, make room in our house for those decorations, cookies to bake, parties to plan or attend, food to make, cards to send....it seems to be never ending. There seems to be no room for anything else.

But do we remember what else we are meant to be journeying toward? Where else do we need to make room?

We are preparing again for the coming of Christ. God with us – incarnate. The Word that came to live with and as us. We are meant to make room for him again and again in our hearts and our lives. Where do we make room for THAT? How can we possibly carve out time for that work in this busy season.

It is not easy – I recognize that. And I challenge all of us (because I need it as much as anyone) to flip the script this Advent. Make a couple less batches of cookies and say a few more prayers. Think about what parties you are planning to attend and ask yourself if you have to attend them. Or....get up in the morning and sit down with a cup of coffee or tea and talk with God. Make room in your busy life and heart for that interaction. It will make your journey better. And...there are a few suggestions under “Advent Formation” for how to make room. Simple things that will not take huge amounts of time. Pieces you can fit in and around what you are already doing. Let me know how it goes!

*Kathleen+*

#### **Inter-generational formation Dates and Topics**

*During coffee hour in the parish hall*

**December 14 – Sacraments of the Church:** What is the difference between a sacrament and a sacramental rite? How many are there? What do they actually MEAN? Join in to learn about these important parts of our spiritual journey as individuals and as a community.

#### **Mark your calendars!**

**Sunday, January 25, 2026 – Annual Parish meeting –** we’ll celebrate all that happened in 2025, talk about what might be happening in 2026, vote for new vestry members, and enjoy each others company. This will take place following the 10am service.

**Sunday, February 1, 2026 – Bishop Shannon will be with us!!** This is our chance to brag a little about who we are and what we share with the community. Stay tuned for details regarding service times (which may adjust depending on the bishop’s schedule).

It is also a chance for baptism (by the bishop), confirmation, and reception. If you are interested in any of these please speak with Rev. Kathleen as soon as possible. Here is a brief description of these rites:

**Baptism:** Ceremonial rite of initiation into the Christian faith.

**Confirmation:** The strengthening of baptized for continued life in and with the Church. This presumes that the person has been baptized and is making a conscious decision to receive the prayers of the Bishop and the laying on of hands.

**Reception:** This is a rite for individuals previously confirmed in certain other Christian churches. These churches include, but are not limited to: Anglican Churches, Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church.

#### **Advent Formation**

There are three options this year for some additional Advent formation – a way to strengthen your journey.

**The Will to Dream Devotional:** On the table in the narthex there are some small booklets with the title “The Will to Dream”. This is a resource by Illustrated Ministry and includes a scripture passage, reflection and questions for each of the four Sundays in Advent as well as for Christmas Day, the first Sunday after Christmas, and Epiphany. This booklet allows you the freedom to fit this new devotion into your schedule when it will best work for you personally.

**AdventWord:** This is an offering by Forward Movement, a ministry of the Episcopal Church. It is a free inspirational online Advent calendar featuring a daily prompt word selected from the Advent Sunday Lectionary readings. Followers receive a daily meditation and image inspired by the day’s word, and are invited to share their own personal reflections, art, poetry, or other creative expression. You can see the daily calendar here: [AdventWord 25 1.pdf](#) and if you wish to sign up for the daily emails or get more information please follow this link: [AdventWord - An Online Advent Calendar](#)

**Advent in Plain Sight:** A video series. Every Sunday Rev. Kathleen will post on Facebook a link to a YouTube video for the week (and send out an email with the link). Each video will contain seven short moments of Scripture, reflection and prayer; one for each day of the week.

### December Calendar

Mon 12/1- Outreach meeting, 9:00am  
Tues 12/2- Fellowship Crafts & Tea, 1-3pm  
- Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm  
Sat 12/6- Cookie Baking w/ Youth, 10a-noon, pizza  
Sun 12/7- Spoken Service, 8am  
-Christmas Circus, all ages welcome, 1-3pm  
Mon 12/8- Vestry meeting, 5pm  
Tues 12/9- Choir Rehearsal, 7pm  
Sat 12/13-Community Carol Service, 3pm, St John's  
Sun 12/14- Ecumenical Christmas Caroling, 2-4pm  
Tues 12/16- Fellowship Crafts & Tea, 1-3pm  
- Choir Rehearsal, 7pm  
Wed 12/24- Christmas Eve services 4pm & 9pm  
Tues 12/30- Fellowship Crafts & Tea, 1-3pm

### Fellowship

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to make the reception for Leanne and David Hill's Wedding Blessing a success. This was a good 'warm up' for the busy December that's ahead of us.

Crafts, Tea, and cookies will be held on Tuesdays Dec 2nd, 16th, and 30th. Due to the reduction of daylight hours at this time of year, we will meet from 1-3 so people can get home before dusk.

On December 21st we will 'Green the Church' for Christmas after the 10AM service. While getting the garland made and hung from the Rood Beam is challenging, this can be a fun event. Wreaths will be hung from the windows and the Christmas tree will be decorated. This is an event for all ages.

On December 24th Fellowship Team will be giving out small gift bags filled with snacks as people leave the 4PM Paper Bag Pageant. There will be a Festive Celebration after the 9PM Christmas Eve service. Please email Helen Short [hshortvt49@gmail.com](mailto:hshortvt49@gmail.com) or call 802-752-5497 and let her know what you plan to bring for the Festive Celebration.

### Thank You

To my church family,  
I never know what to say for all you do for me. The visits, the calls, the food.! The rides. The get well cards are lovely. Everything you do I just can't express what I feel, except thank you and bless each of you.

Love, Mary Gladden



### HOLY TRINITY'S OUTREACH ADVENT PROJECT

This year, the Outreach Team has selected two programs to support through our Advent Tree Collection Project. You are welcome to select one or two envelopes to help support this project. One option is Heat for Homes through CVOEO and the other is Personal Care Items through the Diaper and Wipe Program. Please place your monetary donation in the envelope and place the envelope in the weekly collection or drop it off in the office mailbox. Thank You!

### Youth Bakers Invited!

Please join other youth on Sat, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 to bake cookies and muffins for the Christmas Circus Activity on Sunday, Dec 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00.

We will be making and glazing sugar cookies for children to decorate and making circus muffins for children to win in a Muffin March game that we will play on Sunday. So, invite a friend and join us for this valued and fun event! Following the baking times, we will be celebrating our time together with a pizza lunch. We are also looking for volunteers to help decorate and perform in our Great Astounding Circus Show!

Please note that these hours can be used towards your service hours for school.



### Circus Christmas

Sun, Dec 7, 1:00-3:00 PM, Holy Trinity Church  
Children under 5 years, need to be accompanied by an adult.

Games, Snacks and Prizes for Everyone! Bowling, Mini Golf, Bean Bag Toss, Musical Spots, Bingo, Face Painting, Snowball Toss. Mrs Claus & Elves will decorate cookies.

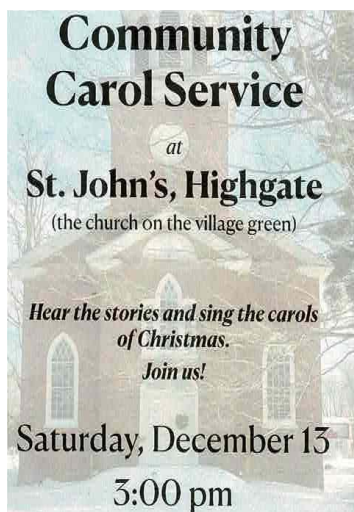
Popcorn, Cookies, Animal Crackers, & Juice.

This is a free program sponsored in partnership with Swanton Recreation. We look forward to seeing you there!



### Christmas Flowers

There are envelopes on the buffet in the narthex for donations for Christmas flowers. Fill out the envelope as to Thanksgiving or In Memory.



Join us for the Ecumenical Caroling Afternoon

**WHO:** Everyone Young and Old

**WHAT:** Enjoy an afternoon of singing, fun, cookies and warm drinks.

**WHEN:** Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> (2:00-4:00)

**WHERE:** Meet at Nativity Parking lot at 1:45. The Blue Bus and Favreau Wagon will depart at 2:00. We'll finish up at Holy Trinity for cookies & warm drinks.

### Art Wall

During the month of November, the Art Wall has featured Vermont Folk Art from a parishioner's collection. A few highlights include:

"Christmas Moon" by **Will Moses**, great-grandson of Grandma Moses. Although Will's style is less primitive than his great-grandmother's, there are obvious similarities, especially in the depiction of rural country scenes buzzing with people and activity — communities at work and play.

In addition to several prints by **Stephen Huneck**, the Art Wall display includes his book *The Dog Chapel* which bears the subtitle "Welcome All Creeds, All Breeds, No Dogmas Allowed." The book is about the chapel he built in St. Johnsbury to celebrate the bond between dogs and their humans.

In contrast to an abundance of animals on display, a tall, narrow landscape with a simple country church in winter is quintessential **Warren Kimble**, folk artist of Brandon, Vermont.

In December Rev Kathleen will share her Nativities and other Christmas things.



Martha's Kitchen needs for December:  
lettuce      cucumbers      tomatoes

Tell Out My Soul – Nov 16, 2025 updated 11/10/25  
Psalm 41:1 says, "Happy are they who consider the poor and needy! The Lord will deliver them in the time of trouble."

Have you ever wondered what God is orchestrating in your life and when He will reveal an opportunity to love and help people?

God laid a burden on our Outreach Commission giving his direction and power with a designated space and financial and product donations and help from the Commission, the Vestry and parishioners as well as community members to get started, officially opening our Diaper Ministry on February 3.

Our very first visitor, who has been regular and has brought many people through our door, is a woman who is homeless. We have met and served many homeless and financially deprived people, who have needed resources: personal care products, sleeping bags, blankets, first aid kits, back packs, emergency food, gas, transportation, not to mention emotional and spiritual support. Some people have come in, and they stay for an hour and a half because they need someone, to talk with, to cry to. A woman, who had been talking about a particular bad living situation returned to say thank you just for us listening and advising her to go and speak to the person who was making her family's life horrible. She appreciated the opportunity to talk to people who would just be there.

People come back month after month, and we have gotten to know them on a personal level through their stories, their pregnancies (one of our first visitors was pregnant with twins) and then they will bring their babies in, and we have seen them grow. Children come in and play and can leave with a stuffed animal or maybe another gift. We have begun to give new babies homemade blankets. All of these have been blessings from our parishioners. The Diaper Team has been staffed by ten dedicated individuals, and I had no idea how that was even going to work.

Psalm 98:1 says "Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him."

Indeed, indeed.

-Mary Hartman



Thank you Boy Scout Troop 823 for the wreath!



Linda B's Dec. Angels Corner from the Heart

- 1 Each new day can be better than the one before
- 2 You are never less than good enough
- 3 Jump start your dreams. Believe
- 4 Our angels say you are in the right direction
- 5 No one deserves happiness more than you do
- 6 You impress people
- 7 Be your own cheerleader. You're someone worth rooting for!

Happiness is not a station you arrived at but a manner of traveling

Millions of spiritual creatures walk the earth unseen, but when we wake and when we sleep all these with ceaseless praise His works behold both day and night

Angels are real, Angels are alive. Angels are always with us guiding our way.

I know I have written this before; I must write it again

With angel mail you write your special prayers on a piece of paper and mail it to the angels. Thank the angels as if the request has already been granted.

Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the city of David a savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Suddenly a great company of the Heavenly Host with the angels praising God and saying Glory to God in the highest and on Earth peace, good will to men and women on whom His favor rests. Yes I am always with you Dear Lord. The angels hold me by my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.

I am a child of God and I am joint heir with your abiding life with my angels.

Please answer

Turn and answer me O Lord my God!

Restore the sparkle in my eyes. Thank you

The next time you find yourself lying in bed unable to sleep, try inhaling mercy for a count of five then exhaling your worry for a count of five. Then rest in God's embrace

She who sings frightens away her ills

God of all goodness you have been so kind to me. No matter what circumstances I am facing I know you are with me. Help me breathe deeply of your grace today



## Holy Trinity Scholarship Sunday Sun, Jan 4, 2026

Please join us during coffee hour to celebrate the presentation of 2025 Scholarship recipients and hear about their course of study and the work they have done this year to promote Service Learning in their communities.

All past recipients are encouraged to attend!

Eagan Murphy 2022 Ella Partlow 2022  
Connor Nielsen 2023 Abigail Raleigh 2023  
Leah Fitzgerald 2024 Rachel Ledoux 2024



### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Tyler Robtoy  
5 Harry Moulton  
8 Zachary Ries  
9 Cody Shand  
10 Marguerite LaFlam  
12 Sarah LaFlam-Longe  
16 Beverly Montiel  
18 Linda Bruyette  
22 Amy Giroux  
24 Ryan LaFlam  
26 Sandi Kenyon  
31 Eamon Murphy



### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

18 Sandi & Chuck Kenyon  
28 Kay & Chaunce Benedict



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