



Trinity Tidings

January 2026

Parish Meeting: January 25, 2026



Greetings and Merry Christmas!

The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 25, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. Committee reports are due to the office by Sunday, Jan. 11. Thank you!

A Potluck Luncheon will be held during our annual meeting and everyone is invited to bring their favorite dish to share. A sign-up form will be posted in Garland Hall. Please note what you will bring to the luncheon, as well as number of persons attending with you.

Parish By-Laws: During the course of this past year, the bylaws committee and vestry have been conducting their hard work revising a set of bylaws for the parish, especially as we move forward into the 21st century. This document was adopted by vestry at its November meeting and it will be ratified at the annual meeting. A copy of the bylaws is posted on the bulletin board in Garland Hall. Please do not remove the document from the premises.

Vestry Members: The congregation offers our gratitude to the two vestry persons whose terms will end this January: Sally Ludlum and Jenn Wilkins. Thank you to Sally for serving as parish warden these past years. And thank you to Jenn, who also serves as vestry clerk. At the annual meeting two nominees are to be placed forward for election to vestry: Janeil Rey and Ginny Becker. The following persons, and current vestry members, will be presented to serve as wardens for 2026: Melisa Eichmann, Senior Warden, and Jake Wilkins, Junior Warden.

Holiday Wishes: A big Thank You to everyone who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season! The poinsettias, floral arrangements, and decorations made for a wonderful setting and festive Christmas Eve service. May you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Peace during this season,
James+*

Important dates in January:

Sundays:

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. I. (Jan. 4 and 18).
1030 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rt. II.

Vestry Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 5:30 p.m.

Parish Meeting and Luncheon: Sunday, Jan 25.

Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe's Christmas Message

Posted: December 23, 2025
www.episcopalnewsservice.org

Dear people of God in The Episcopal Church,

If you imagine yourself as a character in the Gospel Nativity readings, you'll soon realize that the first Christmas was not about staying home by a warm hearth with chestnuts roasting and stockings hanging. Everyone in these passages is on the move, mostly without warning and against their will. Joseph and Mary are summoned from Nazareth to Bethlehem for a census. Shepherds, at the behest of an angel, leave their sheep in the fields to see what all the fuss is about. And the three Magi, my favorites, are just sitting there minding their own kingdoms when a star intrudes on their lives and leads them on an unplanned and uncomfortable trip far away from home.

The Anglican poet T.S. Eliot [wrote a poem](#) about that arduous journey from the perspective of one of the Magi, recounting, among other things, the difficulty of getting camels to do as they are told. The three kings' encounter with the newborn son of God was hard, disruptive, and unsettling. And when they returned home—by a different road to elude capture by Herod—it no longer felt like home. In Eliot's retelling, the first Christmas turned the Magis' lives upside down, and they had mixed feelings about the whole experience.

You might be greeting Christmas this year with the awe of the shepherds or the wariness of the Magi. Either way, the Gospel reminds us that Jesus came both to experience all of the joy, uncertainty, and brokenness of our humanity, and to bring God's kingdom near. The birth of the Christ Child heralds a new reality in which the last shall be first, the hungry will be fed, and the stranger among us shall be welcomed as a beloved child of God.

This Christmas, I hope that you will join me in proclaiming these good tidings by supporting the most vulnerable among us with a donation to one of these Episcopal Church ministries:

[Episcopal Migration Ministries](#), which works with dioceses and ministry networks to serve migrants and protect their rights.

[Good Friday Offering for the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East](#), which supports lifesaving ministry in Gaza and across the Holy Land.

[Episcopal Relief & Development](#), which works for lasting change in communities affected by injustice, poverty, disaster, and climate change.

I am grateful to be on the journey of faith with you. May God bless you and all those you love this Christmas and always.

The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe
Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church

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Trinity Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes November 18, 2025

As approved at the December Meeting

Present: Sally Ludlum, Warden; Ann Sullivan; Jenn Wilkins; Melisa Eichmann; Jake Wilkins; Cathy Berner (video-conferencing); Virginia Becker, Treasurer; The Reverend James Clement, Rector.

Excused:

Call to Order: Father Clement called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m., with an opening prayer.

Meeting Agenda: Agenda approved with a motion made by Ann Sullivan, seconded by Jake Wilkins.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Jake Wilkins, seconded by Melissa Eichmann to approve the October 21, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Finance / Building and Grounds:

Finance: Written report prepared by Ginny Becker and presented. Sally Ludlum made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by Melissa Eichman. Motion carried. (See attached report).

- **General Fund:** All monthly expenses were paid during the month of November.

- **Building Fund:** Invoice for Gugino Plumbing & Heating was paid, as quoted for the parish hall HVAC. Muck Electric will receive the balance of their estimate once they have removed the old electric system from the undercroft utility room.
- **Estimated 2026 Operating Budget:** A current expense draft was presented to vestry.

Buildings & Ground: Reported by Father Clement.

- New HVAC for Garland Hall installed. Generator/converter has been disconnected.
- Ice salt and the snow shovels has been placed at the door locations for their use this winter.
- It was discovered that the light timer switch that operates exterior lighting in the front of the church building is not working. Fr. Clement will contact the electrician to check this unit and repair if needed. While the electrician is on site, he will continue to replace some ceiling units in the parish hall, now burned out, to halogen lighting. If the cost is more than \$500, Vestry will be consulted for this capital improvement project.

Congregational Ministries:

Flower Guild:

- After a recent deposit and payment to Fresh-n-Fancy, the current balance \$265.07.
- The congregation and guests are invited to decorate the church for the Christmas season on Sunday, December 14. A sign-up form will be posted on the bulletin board in Garland Hall to reserve poinsettias and arrangements. The deadline is Dec. 2.

TECW: The recent rummage sale held in Garland Hall raised approximately \$1,350.

Rector's Report:

- The Deacons' Challenge: The November challenge presented to each congregation in the diocese was accepted by Trinity. The congregation raised \$750 to purchase sleeping bags for persons in need. This donation was sent to the cathedral.
- The Sonos Saxophone Quartet associated with SUNY will hold a recital at Trinity on Sunday, December 14. Details will be

published in the newspaper and the parish newsletter.

- A service of Morning Prayer, with hymns, is scheduled for Sunday, November 23. Fr. Clement will not be present on this date.
- The funeral service for Ronald Veklotz was held on Thursday, November 4.

Old Business:

- A good turn out from the congregation as nearly a dozen persons attended Jonah Albert's senior recital on November 2 at SUNY Fredonia in Rosch Recital Hall.
- Parish By-Laws Committee: The committee presented its final document to be adopted by vestry. After a review, Jake Wilkins made a motion, seconded by Ann Sullivan, to accept and adopt this revised document of the parish bylaws. The vestry also offers its gratitude to the committee members who worked on this over the past year. Motion carried unanimously by vestry. The congregation will ratify this new Bylaws document at the annual meeting in 2026.

New Business:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17p.m. with a motion made by Jenn Wilkins, seconded by Cathy Berner. Carried. Vestry concluded its time together with prayer. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Wilkins.

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Parish Notes

WNY Deacons' Challenge

The congregation recently received a thank you note from the deacons of our diocese regarding the November Challenge to help persons in need in the City of Buffalo. Below is the text of this message:

We want to thank you for your contribution to the Deacons "Just one challenge." Your generosity will make it possible to purchase not only sleeping bags but heavy thermal gloves as well.

Thanks again, Your Deacons

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Lectionary Readings for Sundays in January: www.lectionarypage.net

Sunday, Jan. 4

The Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, Jan. 11

First Sunday after the Epiphany:

The Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday, Jan. 19

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-12

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Sunday, Jan. 26

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-14

Psalm 27:1, 10-18

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

Birthdays in January

- 1 Patricia Arnold
- 2 Diego Rey
- 5 Melisa Eichmann

- 5 Bryon Rexford
- 5 Chloe Chin
- 6 Andrew Liener
- 6 Kaylee Adamczak
- 17 Diane Sercu
- 17 Jacqueline Branch
- 18 Tessa Chin
- 20 John Berner
- 21 Ginny Becker

Wedding Anniversaries

(None in January)

In Memoriam

- 21 Sam Mancuso

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Trinity Episcopal Church

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Office: 716-679-7901

Website: www.trinitychurchwny.org

Parish Clergy and Staff

The Revd. James Clement, Rector

Donald Fellows, Organist

Sara Jagoda, Custodian

The Vestry of the Parish

Sally Ludlum, Warden

Jenn Wilkins

Ann Sullivan

Jake Wilkins

Melisa Eichmann

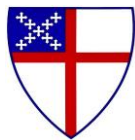
Cathy Berner

Virginia Becker, Treasurer



Trinity Episcopal Church
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The newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”
Ephesians 1:2*