

Trinity Episcopal Church

Cranford, in the Diocese of New Jersey



"Hope" — George Frederic Watts

The Second Sunday of Advent

Rite I Holy Eucharist

December 7, 2025 at 8 AM

The Reverend Andrew David Kruger, Rector & Presider

Anthony Rafaniello, Director of Music

Casey Woodruff, Senior Warden & Thomas Kaercher, Junior Warden

Welcome

Andrew Kruger

The bell is rung and the People stand.

Acclamation

BCP 323

Presider Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins;
People **God's mercy endureth for ever.**

Collect for Purity

BCP 323

Presider Let us pray.

People **Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love thee,
and worthily magnify thy holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Lighting the Advent Candle

The Eucharistic Minister says

Today is the second Sunday of Advent when we listen carefully for the prophetic voice of God which calls us to repentance. As we light the second candle let us be reminded of our need to expose our sin to the light.

The second Advent Candle is lit by the Eucharistic minister.

Kyrie

BCP 324

Presider Kyrie eleison.
People **Christe eleison.**
Presider Kyrie eleison.

Collect of the Day

BCP 159

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Let us pray.

Merciful God, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The People sit.

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

1. Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
2. That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
3. That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
4. He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
5. He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
6. He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
7. In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
**there shall be abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.**
18. Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!
19. And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

Reader A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand.

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Affirmation of Baptismal Faith

The people stand and the Presider moves to the Font.

Friends in Christ, Baptism is not the rite of a moment but the commitment of a lifetime. In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with our Lord. Therefore let us reaffirm our Baptismal Vows together with all those who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this month.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil
and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as your self?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Blessing the Water

Celebrating Common Prayer

Let us give thanks to the Lord:

God is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.

Blessèd are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be glory and praise for ever!

You are our light and our salvation.

From the deep waters of death you have raised your Son to life in triumph.

Accept our sacrifice of praise, we pray,

and sanctify these waters of your new creation, that we,

with all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit,

may be renewed in your image, walk by the light of faith,

and serve you in newness of life;

through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ,

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit we lift our voices of praise,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessèd be God for ever.

The Presider sprinkles the people with the aspergillum.

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all humanity: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Sean, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Sally our Bishop, and Andrew our Rector, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially Donald, our President, Philip, our governor, and Terrence, the mayor of this town, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear [*especially...*], beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP 330

The Presider says

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins,
and are in love and charity with your neighbors,
and intend to lead a new life,
following the commandments of God,
and walking from henceforth in his holy ways:
Draw near with faith,
and make your humble confession to Almighty God,
devoutly kneeling.

The People kneel.

**Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins
and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Absolution

BCP 332

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Comfortable Words

BCP 332

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden,
and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

Peace

BCP 332

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

Announcements

Andrew Kruger

Offertory Sentence

Romans 13:11

The hour has come for you to wake from sleep.
For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.



*The Ushers pass the collection plates among the People.
Alternatively, you may give to Trinity online:
scan the QR code and go directly to our Breeze link.*

The Presentation of Gifts

1 Chronicles 29:14b

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord:
People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

Eucharistic Prayer II

BCP 340

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption.

He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread;
and when he had given thanks to thee,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them, saying,
“Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant,
which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins.
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with
these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath
commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious
death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming
again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy
Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they
may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise
and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our
souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy
Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son
Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that
we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in
us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor
and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

BCP 337

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is observed, then the Presider says

Presider O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People **have mercy upon us.**

Presider O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People **have mercy upon us.**

Presider O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
People **grant us thy peace.**

Prayer of Humble Access

BCP 337

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Invitation

BCP 338

Presider The Gifts of God:
People **For the People of God.**

Holy Communion

The ushers guide the people to receive Holy Communion. All who hunger for God, including children, are cordially invited to share the Gifts of God offered at this table. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your life's journey, you are welcome here.

All persons may, but no person must, receive communion in both kinds to receive the full spiritual benefits of communion. Wine is offered by way of a sip from the common cup. You may choose to receive only the host.

Gluten-free wafers are available by simple request to the priest.

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 834

Presider Let us pray.

People **O Lord Jesus Christ, who in a wonderful Sacrament
hast left unto us a memorial of thy passion:
Grant us, we beseech thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries
of thy Body and Blood,
that we may ever perceive within ourselves
the fruit of thy redemption;
who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

BCP 339

The Presider pronounces the blessing

And now may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The ministers recess.

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**



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For Friends, Visitors and Newcomers

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church in Cranford, New Jersey. Thank you for joining us in worship. The bulletin is designed to make you feel at home; and includes everything you need for the service (liturgy, hymns, rubrics, etc.). Please connect with us; introduce yourself to the ushers so they can make you feel more comfortable. Father Andy is in the narthex (entrance) at the end of the service; it is an opportunity to connect on a more personal level. All are invited to Fellowship Hour in Sherlock Hall, immediately after the service.

Every Thursday by 2 PM, an email blast is sent with hyperlinks to sign-up sheets, methods to contribute to the parish or other charitable organizations, ways to contact individuals or receive information on events, etc. Please contact the parish office to receive it or alternative methods of communication.

Cover Art - "Hope"

"Hope" is a Symbolist oil painting by the English painter George Frederic Watts (1817-1904) who completed the first two versions in 1886. Radically different from previous treatments of the subject; the background is almost blank, its only visible feature a single star. Although Watts received many offers to buy the painting, he had agreed to donate his most important works to the nation and felt it would be inappropriate not to include *Hope*. Consequently, he later painted a second version. President Theodore Roosevelt displayed a copy at his home in New York. It remained influential. MLK Jr. based a 1959 sermon on the theme of the painting, as did Jeremiah Wright in Chicago in 1990. Among the congregation for the latter was the young Barack Obama, who was deeply moved.

Baptismal Anniversaries

When we think about birthdays, we immediately recall the date we were born and took our first breath in this world. But if we take a moment to reflect, we will realize that we have another "birthday" of even greater significance: the day we became members of the body of Christ – our Baptismal birthday. Through the waters of baptism, the Holy Spirit anoints us and sets our inner compass, to walk in a path that is pleasing to God, to do all good works that God has planned for us, and to "seek God's face" [Psalm 27:8]. This is the path that ultimately leads us into abundant life both in this earthly existence, and in the world to come. Whether baptized as a child or an adult, we prayerfully grow in our understanding and appreciation of our baptismal identity, as individuals and as a community. Once a month, we acknowledge those who have a baptismal "birthday" during that month and share with them in the renewal of baptismal vows. We hope this recognition of our "birth from above" [John 3:3] will allow us to develop a deeper appreciation for the essence of our baptism. These parishioners are celebrating their Baptismal Anniversaries in December:

Diane Baldwin	December	Albert James Michael	Dec. 18	Anders Laursen	Dec. 26
Christy Barone	Dec. 14	Dianne Pecoraro	Dec. 13	Megan Harris	Dec. 17
Gwenn Cuozzo	Dec. 28	Casey Woodruff	Dec. 14	James Garstka	December
Bonnie Gentesse	December	Miles Woodruff	Dec. 18	Jim Behnke	Dec. 16

Banns of Marriage

The Banns of Marriage are published between Tiffany Tangorra and Justin Bain. You are required to give your consent to their marriage; if you cannot, you are to speak now or else for ever hereafter hold your peace. The wedding date is Saturday, December 13, 2025 in Hampton, New Jersey. This is the third time of asking.

What you need to know today...

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals Children will receive the blessing as usual during the 10 AM service, and then move to Sherlock Hall.

Fellowship Hour In Sherlock Hall, immediately after this service; coffee, tea and snacks are provided.


Children's Choir Rehearsal today at 11:30 AM in Witherington Hall.

Confirmation Class Today from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM; the class will join the Taizé service at 7:30 PM.

Taizé Service Today at 7:30 PM in the church. Set up takes place after the 10 AM Eucharist at 11:30, and take down takes place at 11 AM, Monday, December 8. Please email Fr Andy to assist with set up and take down.

Ministry for the Imprisoned For children who have a parent who is incarcerated, the holidays are a particularly difficult time. Trinity's ministry is looking for donations of new gifts for children aged birth to 17 years old. Gifts should be unwrapped and not in gift bags. \$25 gift cards to Target or Walmart are good gift ideas for older children. Please contact Senior Warden Casey Woodruff (908-868-4915 or woodruff5073@gmail.com) to arrange donations. Collection ends today.

Sanctuary Candle During Advent, while there are no flowers on the altar, we can still remember our loved ones and the attributions on the front cover will read as follows: "The Sanctuary Candle is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of _____."

Christmas Flowers As part of the preparation for celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord, please contribute towards this year's flowers. The deadline is Sunday, December 14. Envelopes marked for this purpose are in the narthex of the church. Alternatively, give to Trinity online and write 'Christmas Flowers' in the memo line. All remembrances must be logged online by completing the form which can be accessed via the QR code.  Loved one's names will be on the Christmas bulletins and will be prayed for at Morning Prayer during the season of Christmas.

Christmas Wreaths and Grave Blankets For the next weeks before Christmas, Cranford Troop 80 Boy Scouts from Trinity will be selling after each service during coffee hour. Wreaths will be delivered to the church the following Sunday, and special arrangements can be made for deliveries. Funds raised help support Troop activities, service projects, and summer camps.

Trinity Nominating Committee is in the process of identifying individuals interested in serving the parish in the following roles: Junior Warden, Vestry Member (3), Delegates to Diocesan Convention, and Delegates to Northern Convocation. To learn more about these positions, please contact Casey Woodruff (Senior Warden and Chair of this year's Nominating Committee).

Youth Representative Applications are being accepted for this appointed position on the Trinity Vestry. Open to high school students in their sophomore or junior year to represent the youth of the parish. See email blast to apply by Sunday, December 14.

Cranford HS Madrigal Choir Holiday CD Today through Christmas Eve, the session recorded at Trinity in December 2024 will be on sale. See Anthony Rafaniello after the 8 AM or 10 AM services to purchase. Each CD is \$25; cash, check made out to "Cranford High School" or Venmo (@CranfordChoir). Proceeds support the Cranford HS Choir Program.

Disaster Relief in Jamaica Outreach collected \$817; \$1000 will be given to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD).

TEDS Pajama Drive Thank you to all who participated; 110 sets of pajamas were collected which will be distributed to children right here in Union County. Thank you again, your support is a blessing.

The Diocese of NJ is providing a \$1 million gift to the Diocese of Jerusalem. This gift was announced by Bishop French, Diocese of NJ, and Archbishop Naoum, Bishop of Jerusalem, and will support medical and trauma care for children, youth, and families in Gaza and the Palestinian Territories. A link to the Pastoral Letter is in this week's email blast.

Diocesan Convention was last weekend, the full texts of the Convention Address, Presentation on the Listening Sessions, and State of the Diocese Address, as well as the full Report on the Listening Sessions are now available on the Diocesan website.

What you need to know this week...

The Daily Offices Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are offered online from Monday to Friday at 8:30 AM and 5 PM.

Trinity Women's Group Monday, December 8 from 7 to 8 PM online.

Parish Office Parish Administrator Marion Nechuta is in Tuesday (12 noon-2:30 PM), Wednesday (1 PM-3:30 PM) and Thursday (12 noon-2:30 PM). Father Andy's sabbath day is Friday.

Handbells and Choir Rehearsals This Wednesday, December 10; rehearsal for Handbells is 7 to 7:50 PM and Adult Choir is 8-9 PM.

Compline Thursdays at 8 PM online. A contemplative Office that emphasizes spiritual peace.

Santa/Polar Express Event Saturday, December 13 in Sherlock Hall. All are invited; see email blast for details. This is a fundraiser for the Moscoso Foundation.

Knitting Circle Saturday, December 13 meeting is cancelled; the group will meet in January.

What you need to know in the future...

Christmas Cookie Fellowship Hour Sunday, December 14 after both services. Please bring in a few dozen of your favorite treats. Due to allergy concerns, please list the ingredients, especially if it contains NUTS. Recipes are also welcome. A sign-up list is accessible via the weekly email blast. Contact Cynthia Kolby (908-451-4370) or Carol Beier (cbeier@gordonherlands.com) for more information.

Fellowship Luncheon Thursday, December 18 from 12:30 to 2 PM in Witherington Hall. TEDs students singing Christmas Carols will serenade while Shepherd's Pie (beef) is served – everyone's favorite Luncheon. Call Susan Olszewski (908-757-9561) or Susan Nelson (908-397-3944) for questions or to help.

St. John's Sandwich Sunday December 20; people are needed to make sandwiches after the services and deliver them to St. John's in Elizabeth. Sandwich donation items needed are listed in this week's email blast. Food bags will be made on Saturday, December 19 in Sherlock Hall from 10 to 11 AM. Only sandwich bags are being accepted at this time, no additional food items or clothing. To help, please contact Marion Nechuta (marionnechuta@yahoo.com) or Helen Shteynberg (hshteynberg@gmail.com).

Martin Luther King Jr. Thursday, January 15 at 7 PM at St. Mark's AME Church, Cranford. Highschoolers are invited to submit an essay on MLK; the winner will be read during this annual Cranford MLK service. Details may be viewed in the weekly email blast.

Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, January 25, 2026 following one service at 10 AM. Reports are due by Sunday, January 4.

Lectionary & Liturgy

This is the first of the two Advent Sundays in which John the Baptist is the dominant figure. John's ministry as the forerunner of the Messiah is introduced in today's gospel reading by his preaching: a stern call to repentance. John warns that neither reliance on the religious practices of the Pharisees and Sadducees nor descent from Abraham is of any use unless one turns around and repents. The first reading is one of the visions of Isaiah. From the almost moribund family of Jesse (King David's father) a new shoot will appear, a new David. his Messiah will establish God's universal reign as a time of peace even extending to the natural world. Paul's message in the second reading also reflects on the character of the Messiah's ministry as one for all peoples: Jews and Gentiles. Advent calls all people, not just those who are religious, into relationship with God and with each other. Nevertheless, a key element in this new relationship is repentance, entering into the new Way of living brought through the dying and rising of Jesus.

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 7	Second Sunday of Advent	8 AM, Rite I and 10 AM, Rite II
Sunday, December 7	Taizé Service	7:30 PM
Sunday, December 14	Third Sunday of Advent	8 AM, Rite I and 10 AM, Rite II
Sunday, December 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent	8 AM, Rite I and 10 AM, Rite II
Wednesday, December 24	Christmas Pageant	4:30 PM Rite II Eucharist with the blessing of the creche
Wednesday, December 24	Lessons & Carols	10:30 PM Traditional Anglican feast of music and scripture
Thursday, December 25	Christmas Day	9 AM One single worship service, Rite I
Sunday, December 28	First Sunday after Christmas	9 AM One single worship service, Rite II
Sunday, January 4	Epiphany (observed)	8 AM Rite I Eucharist and 10 AM Rite II Eucharist
Sunday, January 11	Baptism of our Lord	8 AM Rite I Eucharist and 10 AM Rite II Eucharist



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