



The Dove

Church of the Holy Spirit - 3 Haytown Road - Lebanon, NJ - churchholyspirit.org

OUR MISSION: *to become like Christ as we serve others, proclaim God's love, and grow in the Spirit*



Sharon Tripodi Photo

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Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany—February 23rd

Today's Gospel passage is Luke 6: 27-38. I have always had a problem with it. Jesus tells his disciples that they are to love their enemies, do good to those who dislike you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who abuse you. If that is not enough, he tells them that if someone strikes them on the cheek they should turn the other one also. What? Part of my issue is being Italian; these words are far removed from what some Italians may feel when someone wrongs them.

I can recall, back when I was a senior in high school, there was this wiry little guy who was always bullying another fellow in class. He would shove him and make fun of him and his target was a mild-mannered kid. So, one day, I had enough, and I went over to this bully and told him to knock it off. He looked up at me and then shoved me. My first reaction was "leave it alone — you said your peace", but then I decided to grab this guy under both elbows and shove him into two of the desks. We both got in trouble, but he never bullied that other kid again. Would it have been the right thing to do to turn the other cheek?

So why is our lord telling his guys what they should and should not do? He is telling them, and it also goes for us, that if we act with violence, retribution, then we have lowered ourselves to the other party's level, which makes us small. He is not telling us *what* to see, he is teaching us *how* to see. In today's Gospel, there are three basic themes for us to consider: tension, behavior, and choice.

1. Tension. Do we feel tension in our lives? In what ways does it trigger something inside you? What words in today's Gospel hit a sore spot and challenge your politics, words, and actions? The values that drive your life? At times we are conflicted, because we say who we are and who we show ourselves to be, between what we believe and how we act, between our life in Christ and our life in society. How are you keeping that tension at bay?
2. Behavior. We often think of faith as being about what we believe, but how about how we behave? Isn't faith about how we live according to the Gospel? What if our actual behavior is an indicator of what we believe, and who or what really matters to us? Do we want to change our behaviors for the better to align ourselves with Jesus' message? Do we?
3. Choice. We are all given free will. Either to be large and do good, or choose to be not particularly good and be small. How and what we choose impacts not only ourselves, but also affects others. Which are you choosing these days? Are you being large or being small? Thomas Aquinas taught that there were two approaches to how we view and understand God. There is the *Via Positiva*, whereby we stress what we can affirm about God and his relationship to us and we to him. We can speak positively about Him. Then there is the *Via Negativa*, whereby we stress what God is not. It is the idea that God is beyond our human comprehension. It can be a recipe for what to avoid, what not to do.

Pain. There is pain in the world. Each of us has a story of the personal pain we have experienced in life. But at times we fail to see and understand the pain that someone else is going through. Jesus tells us not to judge others or condemn, but to be forgiving. We may not be able to take away the pain in the world, but neither do we have to add to it. What needs to change? How can we do things differently? How might we stop? Can you stop? Are you willing to stop if someone — a family member, a friend, a colleague, or even a stranger — is different than we are by their race, creed, politics, or another way we see them?

That is a big challenge today. Perhaps that person needs understanding, but do we lash out at them because we do not agree with their stance on things? Someone needs love, mercy, forgiveness, prayer, generosity, and compassion. Christ is telling us to give them the benefit of the doubt, an open heart and open hands and minds. We all know what that can be like because we have been there too.

A theologian wrote: "Today there are so many who are on edge, scared, their faith is diminishing, they are without hope and the milk of human kindness and understanding. They may be hanging by a thread."

Think about it, and let us not use scissors to cut the thread.

Fr. Andrew Calandriello

February 23, 2025

Farewell to Father Andrew

We have been blessed since last September when Father Andrew Calandriello joined us as Interim Rector. On Sunday, February 23 he announced that his contract is up shortly and therefore his last Sunday service will be March 2nd. We thank him for the wonderful, warm fellowship and Christian love he has brought to us over the past six months and wish him all the best in his future ministry. Here are some photos that capture part of his time at CHS.



Welcome to Father Matthew Engleby

Father Matt will join us as Interim Rector on Sunday, March 23rd. He has been an ordained Episcopal priest for over 30 years and graduated from The General Theological Seminary in New York. He was the Rector at St. John on the Mountain in Bernardsville for a decade and was the Executive Director for El Hogar Projects, a non-profit educational organization in Honduras, for ten years. More recently he has been the Interim Rector at Christ Church San Marcos in Tarrytown, NY.



Fr. Matt will bring many new gifts to CHS through his experience as a parish rector and in working with other congregations who are exploring their lives in Christ while preparing for a new rector.

Vestry Meeting Notes from February

The Vestry met on Thursday, February 20th, and we would like to share some highlights.

We reviewed recent successes including the January 26th Annual Meeting, where we shaped the meeting so we could share relevant information with the parish, specifically the financial gap we face in 2025 [see the February *Dove* for a brief report. Other successes included a January 22nd Orientation Session for new vestry members and a two-day Vestry Workshop to identify our focus for 2025 [February 1st and 8th].

We discussed a new administrative approach to managing vestry meetings and minutes. To use vestry meeting time more efficiently, members will share ministry status prior to the meeting, and we will focus meetings on action items. Despite inviting eight parishioners to serve, we have not found a recording secretary; consequently we will rotate the responsibility of minute taking within the vestry and a sign-up sheet was circulated.

The Parochial Report was completed by Sally Bird, Eva Lesniak and Diane Hrozencik. It was approved by the vestry and was sent to the Diocese by the deadline.

The Vestry discussed upcoming events, including the Winter Thaw Potluck on 2/22, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper [3/4], new Lenten Book Study [begins 3/19] and Good Friday Day of Service. Our focus was to shape the events and expand opportunities for parishioners to volunteer at these activities.

Fr. Andrew shared that his contract ends on March 7th and he feels it is time for him to move on, adding that there is great need for supply priests in New Jersey. The vestry thanked him for his service to CHS during this time of transition. His last Sunday at CHS is March 2nd and he will also be presiding at the Ash Wednesday Service on March 5th.

Regular vestry meetings are open to all [except when personnel matters are discussed]. They are generally held on the third Thursday of each month at the church or via ZOOM. The vestry page on the website has more information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the wardens, Diane Hrozencik and Gary Scott. Their contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Prayer in a Time of Transition

God of all ages and keeper of our days, we lay before you this season in which we find ourselves. What has been has ended and we know not what lies ahead. Be with us in this time and give us the courage and patience to live these days of losing and finding, mindful, as Jesus taught his friends, that the grain of wheat must be planted in the earth and die in order to bear much fruit. Amen.

What Else Has Been Going On?

HMC Clothing Drive Continues: Many folks on Hunterdon Medical Center's staff are concerned that some patients, from toddlers to adults, don't have adequate winter clothing as they leave the facility. To help ease this situation, Suzanne and Katie Higgins have been collecting donations of NEW hats and gloves for all ages [except babies, who receive headwear from other groups].

Sweatshirts are appreciated but aren't expected, given the additional cost. Please note that we are not collecting scarves or mufflers.

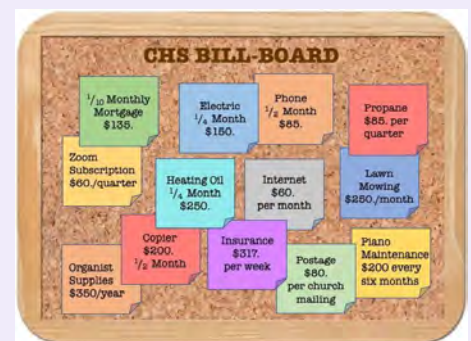
As you are likely aware, HMC serves people from many communities throughout Hunterdon County and the need has been especially acute during this frigid winter. Bins are available in the Narthex for your contributions. Thank you for your generosity, and to Katie and Suzanne for their concern for others.



Acolyte Festival: On Saturday, February 8, Acolyte Master Jack Daniels and Evan Wyglendowski were among those who celebrated the return of this wonderful event at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton. The first meeting of its kind since Covid forced us all inside in 2019, it saw 50+ children, youth, and adults gather for learning, formation and connection. Thanks to Jack for the photo.

The Billboard is Back: This is an opportunity for parishioners to help offset our expenses for 2025. Please look in the Narthex for the tri-fold board with various "bills" on it. Select one that you can help out with, place it in the envelope provided, and either put it in the collection plate or mail it to the church. Another option to donate is through PayPal using the Bill Board Button on the Giving web page. <https://www.churchholyspirit.org/giving-st-chs.html>

If every family could select one "bill", it would help us with our expenses for this year. Any questions, please reach out to the treasurer, sally.bird@churchholyspirit.net



Creating Parish Announcements: One of the best ways to get awareness and participation in events is by sharing a well-crafted announcement.

Long-time parishioners often know what an event is simply by a cryptic name (TOT, anyone?) but to appeal to newcomers we must include full information.

Please use the checklist on the parish website to make sure you have told us what we need to know [and it's got a 2-page chart, which is very helpful]. Thanks all! <https://www.churchholyspirit.org/creating-parish-announcements.html>

Good Friday Day of Service Planning Meetings: All who are willing to help organize our Good Friday Day of Service are asked to meet in between Sunday worship services [so, 9:00-10:00 am] in Dove Hall. Meetings are planned for March 9th, March 30 and April 13th. If you can attend, please RSVP to the Church Office, admin@churchholyspirit.net. We hope to see you there!

Coming this Month and Next:

The Great Litany: Church of the Holy Spirit will experience a bit of liturgical history on March 9th.



On that date, the First Sunday of Lent, the Great Litany will be used at the 10 a.m. service. First published in 1544 during the reign of King Henry VIII, the Great Litany was the first English language rite prepared by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. Cranmer modified an earlier litany form by consolidating certain groups of petitions into single prayers with response. Being the first liturgy in the vernacular of the people, it became remarkably popular.

While not used regularly in modern times, it still evokes a sense of devotion as we enter the season of Lent.

Fr. John Rollins

Youth Group T-Shirt Sale: Available until March 23rd. Need a new shirt? Never had one? Show off your CHS spirit!! The youth group is selling Church of the Holy Spirit T-shirts for \$12 per shirt. \$3 of the sale for each shirt will go directly to our youth group to support their events, trips, and outreach. Orders can be made online at <https://forms.gle/ZUVQh14Gn2uRAQDo7> Payments can be made by check to CHS or through PayPal). T-shirt sizes youth small through adult XXL are available. All orders and payments must be in by the deadline (3/23). Delivery to CHS early April; available for Good Friday Day of Service. Contact Michelle Marlow michellekmarlow@gmail.com if you have questions.



Four-week Lenten Study Program: To be held on March 19 and 26 and April 2 and 9 at 7 pm at CHS and on Zoom, the series will be led by the Rev. Dr. Timothy Mulder. The program will focus on *Dancing in the Darkness*, a very readable book by Otis Morris III, with profound spiritual truths for our everyday lives. Please sign up in the Narthex or on line to let us know you are coming.

Father Tim has served Reformed and Episcopal parishes in New Jersey and Maryland. Most recently he has been assisting parishes in transition, leading retreats with deacons and other lay persons.

Contact Janet Matts janetmatts@gmail.com or Tricia Simpson-Curtin (simpsoncurtint@yahoo.com) for more information .

Contemplating Mary & Martha — Women's Lenten Retreat: On April 5th, all women of the parish, and the Diocese of NJ, are invited to a retreat sponsored by the Daughters of the King. Our featured speaker is Sr. Monica Clare from the Community of St. John Baptist. The Saturday retreat will be held from 9:00am to 3:00pm. For more information see the [Daughters of the King webpage](#).

Registration: <https://forms.gle/RVUm3eyoEUNZYv7s5>. Or for more information, reach out to Wendy Hallstrom: whallstrom@comcast.net.



Around the Area and Beyond



Spring Concert: Rachmaninoff Vespers: The Bach Choir of Bethlehem, with the Westminster Choir, will be performing Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil* on Saturday, March 29th and Sunday, March 30th. More information and ticket sale links are [on their website](#).

The Choir is presenting the *All-Night Vigil* for the first time in its history, along with the talented singers of the Westminster Choir, the flagship ensemble of Westminster Choir College, in a first-ever collaboration between two titans of the American choral landscape. [If you weren't aware, CHS's multi-talented Meg McKenna has been a member of the Bach Choir for a number of years and will be taking part.]



Hello Dolly! Hunterdon Central Regional High School's presentation of the musical "Hello Dolly" will be held at the HCRHS auditorium, 84 Route 31 in Flemington early this month. There is a free senior citizen show at 3:30pm on Wednesday, March 5th. The other dates are Mar 6, 7, 8 and those shows are at 7 pm. Our own **Luke Schnaudt** is in the ensemble. The link for tickets is <https://www.hcrhs.org/cta-button/student-events-dues>

Looking for a Summer Job? The CHS website has all the information on Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center's open positions. Look under "CHS News" at www.churchholyspirit.org



Ecumenical Easter Morning Sunrise Service: To be held at Sauerland Outdoor Center, 1124 Stanton-Lebanon Road in Lebanon, NJ on Sunday, April 20th at 6:30am. More information will be available in the Dove's April issue. In the meantime, you may want to reach out to Rex vanVeldhuisen by cell or text at 908-217-2083.



In Case You Missed Pot Luck on February 22:

What a great evening was evident the last Saturday of February! Thanks to Eva Lesniak, Dave Dabour, and Gloria Jean Waller for the super photos and to Eva for the explanatory text. I, for one, am very sorry to have missed it! Here's a taste of what transpired, with many CHS members sharing their hobbies. Looks as if the food was terrific, too.



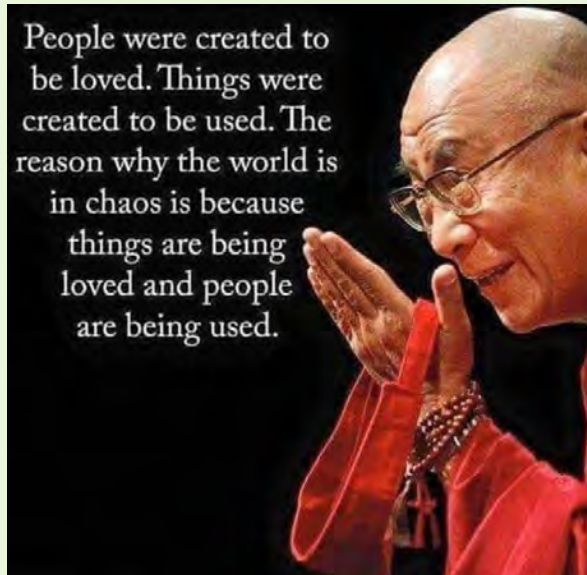
Left to right above: The Groaning Board; Crocheting Monsters; Magic!



Left to right above: Painting; Astronomy; Ireland Travelogue

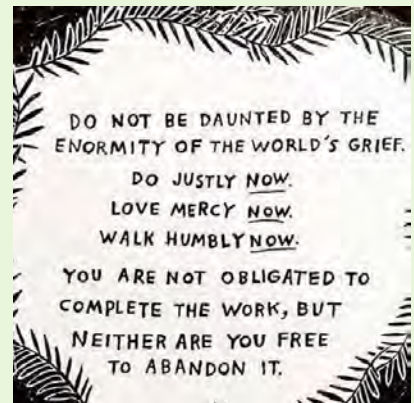
Thoughts to Ponder

From time to time I'll see a poem, phrase or image that speaks to me. Here are a few that I wanted to share with you. Thank you for indulging me. — Ed.



Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
For only in you can we live in safety.
 Lord, keep this nation under your care;
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
 Let your way be known upon earth;
Your saving health among all nations.
 Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
 Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Versicles and Responses from Morning Prayer
 in the Book of Common Prayer



**This Lent, keep the chocolate and give up
 Bigotry, Judgment,
 Misogyny, Hatred, Bias,
 & Divisiveness!
 Love God, Love your neighbor.
 No Exceptions!**

PULSE OF THE PARISH

BIRTHDAYS

March

Judy	Linger	1
Arden	Olson	1
Melissa	Olsen	6
Deborah	Canty	8
Pat	Egan	19
Rex	Van Veldhuisen	20
Eva	Lesniak	22
Ethan	Rocchietti	24
Lindsay	Wyglandowski	24
June	Filipski	28
Mary	Scott	29

April

Blake	Masenoir	5
Roberta	Maas-Wester	6
Hayleigh	Masenoir	6
Brendan	Feeley	9
Kaylin	Feeley	9
Polly	Truet	9
Diane	Bendahmane	10
Mary	Olsen	10
Joanne	Shallo	11
Dave	Dabour	12
Andra	Taylor	13

Jane	Anderson	15
Mollie	Gora	21
Richard	Waller	22
Bella	Shallo	23
Jane	Paradiso	24
Dcn. Dot	Hospador	29

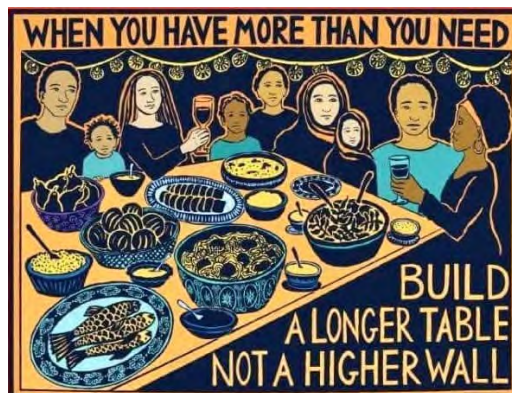
TRANSITIONS

Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

The Reverend Canon Edmond Walton Zelle, Jr. There will be a celebration of life at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Trenton on March 15th at 11:00am. Interment will follow in the Memorial Garden at St. Luke's in Metuchen. More information is available on our website.

Grace Lyons , June Filipski's aunt, has ended her Chapter of Life on Earth, but is beginning the one of Eternal Life.

An Announcement from Rex van Veldhuisen, chair of the Search Committee: On Sunday, March 2nd, just past, Chair Rex announced that the committee is hard at work. He explained that the lack of information the group had been able to share was due to the fact that these searches are VERY confidential—as would be the work of any other human resources group. So he can't tell us: how many folks they have interviewed, who they are, or what the committee, the applicant and the diocese are thinking.



Thanks to Ricky Waller for this image

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH

- 4 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:00-7:00pm
- 5 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm
- 9 **Daylight Savings Time begins [“spring forward”]**
The Great Litany [at 10:00am service only: see page 5]
- 11 Theology on Tap (Zoom only; twice per month)
- 15 **Hazardous Waste Recycling 9:00am—1:00pm at the County Complex, Route 12, Flemington**
- 16 Second Sunday in Lent: Rev. Dr. Timothy Mulder, Guest celebrant
Clinton St. Patrick’s Day Parade
- 19 Lenten Study Program with Rev. Dr. Timothy Mulder, 7:00pm
- 20 Vestry Meeting [*also the first day of Spring!*]
- 22 **Electronic Recycling 9:00am—12:00 noon at the County Complex, Route 12, Flemington**
- 23 Fr. Matt Engleby joins us as Interim Rector
- 25 Theology on Tap (Zoom only; twice per month)
- 26 Lenten Study Program with Rev. Dr. Timothy Mulder, 7:00pm

APRIL

- 2 Lenten Study Program with Rev. Dr. Timothy Mulder, 7:00pm
- 5 Women’s Lenten Retreat: Contemplating Mary and Martha; led by Sr. Monica Clare; 9:00am-3:00pm
- 9 Lenten Study Program with Rev. Dr. Timothy Mulder, 7:00pm
- 12 **Shredding 8:00—11:30am [or until trucks are full] at the County Complex, Route 12, Flemington**
- 17 Maundy Thursday
- 18 **Good Friday Day of Service**
- 19 Holy Saturday
- 20 6:30am: Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service
Easter Sunday at CHS
CHS Services

RECURRING MEETINGS

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Mondays | Knit/Crochet and Chat: returns in April: stay tuned for details |
| 1st Monday | Caregiver Support Group [Zoom] |
| Tuesdays | 7:00am, Bible Study at The Spinning Wheel Diner |
| 2nd Thursday | Choir Rehearsal and dinner |
| 3rd Thursday | Vestry; 7:00-9:00pm [check website for special Zoom link]. |
| Sundays | 8:00 & 10:00am, Virtual or in-person services [Eucharist can be delivered at home if requested]
9:30 & 11:15am, Choir Rehearsal, St. Francis Room |

Who's Who at Holy Spirit [Area Code 908 unless otherwise noted]

VESTRY		
Senior Warden	Diane Hrozencik	dhrozenc@outlook.com
Junior Warden	Gary Scott	gary.scottnj@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sally Bird	sally.bird@churchholyspirit.org
Outreach	Jane Anderson	janderson4244@gmail.com
Engagement	Jeff Anderson	janderson4244@gmail.com
Fellowship	Dale Dabour	daledabour@gmail.com
Outreach	Suzanne Higgins	suzanne.l.higgins@gmail.com
Stewardship	Eva Lesniak	eva@churchholyspirit.net
Education	Janet Matts	janetmatts@gmail.com
Education	Tricia Simpson-Curtin	simpsoncurtint@yahoo.com
Facilities	Alex vanVeldhuisen	alexvv1969@gmail.com

STAFF			
Interim Rector	Fr. Andrew Calandriello	205-2145	toscac2014@gmail.com
Deacon	Dot Hospador	335-4055	dnhospador@gmail.com
Deacon	Michelleslie Maltese	892-2745	deaconmichelleslie@gmail.com
Director of Music	Alex Tartakovsky	267-938-5438	music@churchholyspirit.net
Church Office		236-6301	admin@churchholyspirit.org

VOLUNTEER STAFF		
Acolyte Master	Jack Daniels	jdaniels_fire@yahoo.com
Bulletin Editor	Marge Keller	mgkeller29@gmail.com
Bldg. Room / Hall Rentals	Church Office	admin@churchholyspirit.org
CHS News Editor	Jan Paxton	webmaster@churchholyspirit.net
Clerk of the Vestry	Diane Bendahmane	(currently on leave)
Daughters of the King	Wendy Hallstrom	whallstrom@comcast.net
Dove Editor	Vicki Brooks	Vicki.brooks@churchholyspirit.net
Flowers, Altar Guild	On line	Churchholyspirit.org/altar-flowers.html
OR	Church Office	admin@churchholyspirit.org
Lay Ministry Training	Dot Hospador	dnhospador@gmail.com
Parish Photographer	Dave Dabour	dave@dabourphotography.com
Pledging	Eva Lesniak	eva@churchholyspirit.net
	David Marlow	davidbmarlow@gmail.com
Prayer Chain	On line	Churchholyspirit.org/pastoral-care.html
Search Committee Chair	Rex van Veldhuisen	mailto:rexvanveld@gmail.com
Webmaster	Jan Paxton	webmaster@churchholyspirit.net
Youth Coordinator	Lindsay Wyglendowski	wyglos@gmail.com