



TRINITY E-NEWS



From the Rector's Desk

Trinity Episcopal Church

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SUNDAY SERVICES
9:30 AM

Rev. Stephen Shortess
Rector
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Our Mission

In and through Christ, to restore people to unity with God and each other (2 Cor. 5:14-21)

Our Vision

Recognizing that we are all one in Christ, Trinity Episcopal Church is an embracing family, growing spiritually, and joyfully serving the community; a home that comforts the spirit; a place where people's gifts for ministry are identified, nourished, and shared; and place of learning where disciples are formed.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.trinitymcla.org

www.facebook.com/trinitymcla

Our Book of Common Prayer defines sacraments as "outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace (BCP - Catechism 857)." Saint Augustine wrote that a sacrament is "a sign of a sacred thing." French Bishop Peter Lombard might help us out more as he writes about sacraments. In his words, they are "the sign of a sacred thing, because it calls something to mind beyond the appearance which it presents to the senses." Meaning that sacraments have the power to signify, or convey, a more profound sense of who we are as Christian people.

Think about it. The sacrament of baptism escorts us into a remembrance of our commitment to live a Christ-like life. The Holy Eucharist shepherds us into the foretaste of the heavenly banquet, a meal, the Last Supper.

Not only are sacraments signs of sacred things, accompanied with them are various other symbols of power. For instance, bread, wine, table, water, font, oil; these symbols hold a power over us that promotes a sure joy and knowledge of who we are as Christ's people. As Christians, we know the power of symbols.

But these are not the only signs and symbols readily available to us in our life. What other symbols or signs do you have in your life that call you into a more profound meaning?

Perhaps you have a wedding ring, or you have the symbol of a fraternal or sorority order, or maybe you have the symbol of a military uniform. Myself I wear a collar.

And let us not be amiss that the intent of symbols in our society is to hold an influential power over people. The Statue of Liberty is a symbol of freedom. The American flag is a symbol of the hope of a nation of equality.

We also know that some signs and symbols in our world do not always promote joy but instead pain. The hammer and sickle are a symbol of international communism. The modern use of the swastika is a symbol of Aryan race dominance.

As a hospital chaplain in Maryland, one of my fellow chaplains was a man named Yuri from Ukraine. One day Yuri told me this story of how his dad would take him every year into Russia to stand in front of a statue of Joseph Stalin. His dad wanted to remind him that this man, Stalin, believed the people of Ukraine were sub-human. Symbols have

power, and sometimes their power reduces the shared humanity of other people. The conversation of race and racism, justice, and equality that we find our country currently in is not a brand-new conversation. It has existed for many years, and it has manifested itself in many ways. And this conversation is ripe with potent symbols that many people find themselves either calling to tear down or keep them in place.

It is a heavy and passion-filled debate. Furthermore, it is not a monolithic debate. Like my friend Yuri's father, who took his son to see a statue of Stalin. A curator of an African American History Museum I once visited, a black woman, told me, "we should leave the Confederate monuments, so we know who all the racist were." Quite a statement. Indeed, it was filled with passion.

I do not pretend to know the right answer to this debate. However, I do often believe that in the discussion, whichever side we may choose, we provide ourselves the illusion that someone should feel the same way about a symbol as we do. Instead of genuinely listening to the hurt and pain that destroys the sense of shared humanity in another human being.

We know the power of symbols. Think about it.

As Christians, who live through our baptismal covenant that seeks to strive for the justice and human dignity of everyone, which is also our doorway into the feast in which Jesus shares with us in our humanity, may we attempt to do more than debate. May we strive to listen, may we do more than defend our own right opinion, and may we strive to work for a world that Jesus believes in, a world of shared humanity.

Shared humanity. Think about it.

God's peace,
Fr. Stephen+



04 Cathy Broussard
13 Eli Lodrigue
15 Natalie Kinchen
20 James Shortess

19 Lisa and Charlie Parsiola



Please Pray For: for this nation and the world as we deal with Covid-19, Ellen, Nancy, Cathy and Barry, Jane and David, Kay and Mike, Roy, Norma, Lonnie, Sharon and Steve, Emilie, Sandy, Judy, Dean, Chuck, Joan and Charles, Denver, Chantel, Nick, Annie, our partner in ministry: St. John's, for all Christians who are persecuted around the world, for all First Responders in our area, those serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, our partners in mission at the Deaneries of Copan and Maya in Honduras and our sister parish Cristo Salvador; and our prayer partners in the Anglican Diocese of Tohoku, Japan; and the Anglican Diocese of Lango, Uganda.

Notice: Fr. Stephen will be out of town from July 6-July 11. In an emergency for a priest, please call Fr. Craig Dalferes at 985 790-1086 or Fr. Spencer Lindsay at 985 209-1265.

Our beautiful new cross has been installed on the church. A special thank you to Robbie Wiggins for all his work and to Ed White for being with Robbie while he was up on the man lift.

