

AN INVITATION TO OUR NEW PRIEST IN CHARGE

Welcome to Trinity Church and thank you for your interest in our Parish. Our liturgy is steeped in a broad church tradition; we are forward looking, warm, hospitable, and inviting—all significant elements in the strong Eucharistic parish we have created here at Trinity. It is a culture founded on community, a desire to extend ourselves to anyone who wants to become a member of our congregation, and to serve God and the people outside our walls, embracing them as part of our family.

Many of our parishioners are already involved in individual missional work – participating in food and clothing drives, helping their neighbors, visiting the sick and working in soup kitchens. We want to bring these efforts together and enhance them as we become a fully missional church.

The Parish has been continuing a process of culture change that will lead us into a deep exploration of what God is calling us to do here and in the surrounding communities. We have reached out to the local schools, the First Selectman's office, and the Director of Senior Services to determine community needs that might be met by our parishioners. Unfortunately, many of our plans have been temporarily suspended due to various COVID related restrictions.



So that we can more faithfully participate in God's mission, we seek a priest who is a strong spiritual and inspirational leader—one who relates equally well to youth as well as to senior citizens, one who listens and who will encourage new ministries on our path to growth.

This includes growth both within and outside of the church walls. It involves spiritual growth through our church school, Bible study, meditation, and liturgy; as well as ecumenical growth through programs shared and developed with our neighboring churches. We also seek financial growth through increased pledges and innovative sources of income; as well as congregational growth through an increase in youth-centered and community activities.

Trinity is a parish that has enthusiastically embraced change—whether that involved





adopting a new schedule for our Sunday services, adding a Saturday service, increasing our outreach into the community, or sponsoring Family Matters—a free play school program in Bridgeport that has served hundreds of children and their parents. We have also expanded our mission with programs like the Blessing of the Animals, and by providing food and other essential items to our local senior center. We also offered several very

successful Beatle's Tribute Band concerts which not only filled the church but generated both funds and non-perishable food for our local food pantries. We look forward to renewing and expanding this offering with the lessening of the concerns related to COVID.

Perhaps this spirit and willingness to explore new options is why we are one of the few parishes in Connecticut to have shown a steady growth in annual membership that has now been sustained for the past fourteen years.

At Trinity, our leaders are each committed to serving God and the congregation, and to ensuring that the parish is doing everything possible to fulfill the needs of our church community. Individual agendas have very little place in a community dedicated to serving the greater good of our entire parish. Individual success is measured by the fulfillment we feel from carrying out God's will in caring for all of our family and the wider community.

We believe that our new priest will be someone who wants to work together with us as part of the Trinity team. The future of this parish cannot rest on the leadership of a single individual but on the combined efforts of everyone here at Trinity.



That is our commitment to the person who is called to become our new Priest in Charge.