

PRAYER SHAWLS

The prayer shawls in the church have been knit by members of our Sisters' Circle and are there for you to take if you need one for yourself or someone in need of comfort. They're always appreciated in chilly hospital rooms, or sometimes just to cuddle with for someone who needs a hug. You don't have to ask to take one; they are there to be taken. The shawls carry with them the prayers and music of our services, and each has been blessed by Father Tony.

CHURCH WEBSITES

Have you taken a look at our Trinity Website? Laurie Alsobrook is our webmaster and is doing a wonderful job. Colossians and the Servers Schedule are always posted there and you will also find announcements of our special events and pictures of some.

The Diocesan website is also full of information not only of diocesan events, but also of happenings at Camp Weed, information about the other churches in our diocese, and some of the classes and seminars that the Bishop's Institute is sponsoring.

It isn't difficult to find the websites, just put in the name and state and the website should come right up for you.

THE REDISCOVERED LIFE OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

The retreat will begin with a look at the second most ancient-yet very contemporary and accessible-biography of St. Francis--lost for 800 years and rediscovered in 2004! Prof. Johnson is the author of the English translation of this groundbreaking discovery. It will look also at the development of St. Francis' thought and spirituality in the writings of St. Bonaventure who was born within years of St. Francis' death.

The course will be held at St. John's Cathedral on Jan. 19 from 10:00am until 3:00p, and the cost is \$25.00 per person and lunch is included. If you would like to attend, please register online or come to the office for help with registration.

NATIVITY WALK THANK YOU

Many thanks to all of those who brought in your nativity, baked cookies or just came to enjoy seeing all of the nativities and enjoy the cookies and fellowship. Special thanks to Fr. Tony and Will who provided the wonderful Christmas music for the entire event and made it even more fun as some sang along and others were just happy to listen!

Colossians 3:23

Trinity's Take Home Paper

Calendar - Announcements - Reports - Schedules

First Sunday of Advent, Dec. 16, 2018

The Rev. Tony Powell, Rector

The vision of Trinity Church is to be relevant to the Lake Region Community serving and drawing others to the gospel of Jesus Christ as a growing Episcopal Church.

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We are pleased that you have come to worship with us this Lord's Day morning, and it is our prayer that you will receive God's blessing throughout the service. Trinity is an active and caring Episcopal Church. If you are a baptized Christian, you are welcome to come to the altar rail to receive the Sacrament of the Bread and Wine, the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. God loves you. No Exceptions!

COOKIES, CAROLS and COCOA

This afternoon at 4:00pm, there will be Cookies, Carols and Cocoa in the Parish Hall. Everyone is asked to bring some of their favorite cookies and a recipe, and there will be joyful guitars playing all of your favorite Christmas Carols and lots of happy fellowship, come and enjoy the afternoon.

ADVENT BOOKLETS

There are still booklets with Advent Readings and meditations for everyone and if you haven't picked yours up yet, you can take one as you leave. These are wonderful little booklets to help guide your hearts and minds into the true meaning of the season.

PASTORAL CARE

If you, someone in your family, or one of our parishioners is in the hospital, or becomes homebound, please call the office and let us know as soon as possible so that Father Tony is able to call or visit. Our pastoral care team is also available to bring meals to the home, do small chores, and help with any other needs that we are able to meet.

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY CHURCH

Sunday 12/16

Holy Eucharist
Service 8:30 and 11:00am
9:30am Discussion of the Lessons
JC and the Gospel
Refreshments Follow both Services
4:00pm Cookies, Carols & Cocoa

Monday 12/17

9:00am Morning Prayer

Tuesday 12/18

10:00 Sister's Circle
12:00 pm Betty's and the Bible
5:30pm AA in Wicker Room
7:00pm Al Anon in Wicker Room

Wednesday 12/19

9:00am Morning Prayer
6:00pm Evening Service

Thursday 12/20

Thrift Shop 10:00am to 4:00pm

Friday 12/21

Thrift Shop 2:00-5:00pm

Saturday 12/22

Thrift Shop 9am—noon

Sunday 12/23

Holy Eucharist
Service 8:30 and 11:00am
9:30am Discussion of the Lessons
JC and the Gospel
Refreshments Follow both Services

Trinity Episcopal Church
204 SR 26

Post Office Box 361
Melrose, Florida 32666
Phone: 352 475 2177

Father Tony's Cell: 352 727 0354
Email: trinitymelrose@windstream.net
Website: www.trinitymelrosefl.org

FUTURE EVENTS

DECEMBER

Dec. 16 Cookies Carols and Cocoa
4:00pm Parish Hall

Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve Services**
5:30 Family Service
10:00 Choral Service

Dec. 25—Jan 2 **Office Closed**

JANUARY

Jan. 6 **First Sunday**
1st Sunday one service

Jan. 8 ECW meeting 10:00am

Jan. 21 MLK Holiday

Jan 26 Diocesan Convention

FEBRUARY

Feb. 2 **First Service**
One Service at 10:00am
Annual Meeting

Christmas Eve Services

5:30 Family Service
10:00 Choral Service



Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God.

If you would like to give flowers in memory of, gratitude for, or to celebrate a person or event, please call the office.

Dear Trinity Family,

Why do we have pink candle today? Well, actually it's rose colored, as are the altar and lectern coverings, which remind us that the Third Sunday in Advent is Gaudete (gowDETeh) Sunday. The rather odd name is taken from the first word in the traditional Latin Introit, *Gaudete* means "Rejoice!" *Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete* – "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!"

Originally a penitential season, Advent is a 40 day fast kept in preparation for Christmas. However, the Church takes a break on this Third Sunday, moving the focus from the penitential nature of Advent towards the joy and promise of Jesus' coming, looking forward to Christmas and the birth of our Lord.

For those who are counting candles, the rose candle serves as a warning – there is only one week, one candle, one Advent Sunday left until Christmas!

"On a more serious note, please pray for the persecuted Church. Pastor John Cao, a US permanent resident, spent 3 years routinely crossing from China into Myanmar (Burma), establishing schools and house churches. He kept his Chinese citizenship but is married to an American and lives in the US. In March 2017 he was arrested and sentenced to 7 years in prison. Living in a crowded cell, he has lost 50 pounds and is suffering from health issues. Please pray for his release, and for his family in NC. Tony+

Warmly, Tony+

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

If you are going to give to Trinity and would like it to be applied to your 2018 giving, it needs to be given by Sunday the 30th so it can be deposited on Mon. the 31st.

If it's given later it will be applied to 2019 giving because of bank dating and regulations.

So, if you have something you'd like to have applied to your end of the year statement for tax purposes, please get it in before the end of the year.

Thanks!