



Lent-Easter 2026
Messenger

Holy Trinity Anglican Church
Messenger 2026, Issue 2
Lent - Easter 2026

Holy Trinity faithful, we have entered Lent, and this season provides an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to the Lord. Consider the following words that you heard during the Ash Wednesday liturgy, which states that during Lent “the whole congregation [is] put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith” (ASB 165). Reiterating and reminding ourselves of our commitment to Christ is paramount to the life of a believer, and this is the very reason why God had the Israelites do so during their journey to the Promised Land, and required that they do the same at the Tabernacle on a regular basis.

What does it look like to recommit ourselves to the Lord? There exist many aspects of the spiritual life to which we must attend, and concerning which we may have become neglectful. Let’s just focus on one. We who follow Christ are called his “disciples.” This word in the New Testament is Greek, and it is a noun derived from the verb “to learn.” Therefore, a literal translation is “learner.” It is more natural in modern English to say “student.” Thus, we Christians are students of Christ. And what is the mark of a student, but that he or she spends significant time studying.

We must renew our commitment to the study of Christ this Lent. We can pursue this in various ways, but it certainly includes the private and public study of Scripture. First, let us be sure that we are reading God’s Word on a regular basis at home, and not just simply reading. Rather, we must, as the Prayer Book states, “hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them.” Do not do your Bible reading just to get through it, so that you can say that you’ve done your religious duty for the day. Instead, let us remember that God’s Word is food for our spirits, and just as we cannot withhold food from our bodies for extended periods without causing weakness and atrophy, the same happens to our inner man when we deny it the fuel that God has provided. Let us slowly read and meditate on the meaning of Holy Scripture, so that we “inwardly digest” it, nourishing our souls and equipping ourselves not only to endure, but to flourish in this mortal life.

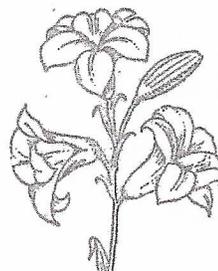
Further, this commitment to study includes learning in the corporate setting. Our Church provides Christian education classes for all ages. On every Sunday that we are able, our children and we need to attend these classes. We must not schedule events that conflict with these classes. If we are invited to something that conflicts with the timing of these education programs, we must carefully consider the message that it sends to our children when we skip the Church classes in order to attend something else. It ought to be the case that we reserve absence from Christian education for the most serious of circumstances, and nothing else, and that we make clear to ourselves and our families that being in God’s House every Sunday, and participating in the programs offered thereby, is our first commitment. Moreover, during these classes, let us pay close attention, with a teachable disposition

Continued...

that is eager to grow in the Lord. If something is covered that we already know, why not attend anyway, knowing that repetition is indeed important in the mastery of a subject. If the Apostle Paul, mighty in the Lord in both word and deed, stated near the end of his life that he had not "already attained it, or [was] already perfect" (Phil 3:12), certainly none of us should act like we are so knowledgeable that Christian Education cannot benefit us. Further, let us remember that being a student of the Lord is not the same as being a student in a normal academic subject. Rather than being presented with a body of knowledge to memorize, synthesize, and reproduce, what we are doing includes much more. Yes, Christian education includes propositional knowledge, such as the Creeds, and the writings of Holy Scripture. However, we are engaging in a pursuit far beyond this as well. God is not mathematics, biology, U.S. history, and the like. He is a living God who has put His very Spirit inside of us and desires to commune with us. For this reason, when we do Christian education, this is not simply an attempt at learning a new set of facts to be recited later, but also the pursuit of closeness with God through the Holy Spirit. As we are taught, mull over what is said, respond in the group setting, and so on, our spirits are being built up so that we might walk more closely with God. Much more can be said on this, but my desire is that we all understand that our corporate pursuit of God includes not only attending the Mass, but also learning together and interacting with one another during Christian education.

Let us recommit ourselves to the study of God this Lent, along with bolstering the other spiritual practices, and may God receive glory as we grow closer to Him this holy season.

In Christ,
Fr. Shawn+



EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS

As always, we will have a wonderful show of flowers at Easter. You are invited to contribute to the flowers by making a donation in memory of a loved one, or in thanksgiving or living honor of someone. Please fill out the form inserted in the Sunday bulletin, or send your request to Tanya Bottini at jbottini1@verizon.net. Your check should be made out to Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Please give your payment to Tanya Bottini, or place it in the offering plate marked "*Flower Fund*". If mailing, please send to: Mrs. Tanya Bottini, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 60 Gibbon Street, Marlborough, MA 01752.

The deadline for names to be included in the Easter bulletin is **Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026**. Contributions in ANY AMOUNT are most welcome.

Visit from our Diocesan Bishop

Our Diocesan Bishop, the Right Reverend Dan Gifford, visited Holy Trinity at the beginning of February. He led a clergy retreat from Thursday to Saturday. Then, on Sunday, February 8th, Bishop Dan celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple and also conducted the Confirmation of three of our young people: James Burbeck, Lily Fowler and Christian Manrique. Following the Mass, Bishop Dan then presented the Bishop Donald Harvey Award for Christian Ministry to Joan Balk. This was a truly wonderful event!

HTAC Lent & Easter Schedule 2026

Masses & Liturgical Services

- Every Sunday at 8AM (exceptions see below) & 10AM throughout Lent, plus
 - Palm Sunday – 3/29
 - Liturgy of the Palms in Procession Outdoors – 9:30 am
 - Palm Sunday Mass – 10am (no 8am)
 - Maundy Thursday – 4/2 @ 7pm
 - Good Friday – 4/3 @ 7pm
 - Holy Saturday – 4/4 @ 10am
 - Easter Vigil – 4/4 @ 7pm
 - Easter Day – 4/5 @ 10am (no 8am)

Lenten Lectures

- St. Augustine on Spiritual Growth: lectures followed by Q&A
- Fridays @ 7pm
 - 3/6 – *Augustine in Lent: Learning to Give Oneself to God*
 - Dr. Marcos B. Gouvêa
 - 3/13 – *How to Live the Christian Life: Augustine on the Sermon on the Mount*
 - The Rev. Shawn S. Fowler+
 - 3/20 – *Augustine on Teaching as a Lenten Discipline*
 - The Rev. John F. Gavin+, S.J.
 - 3/27 – *Repentance in Augustine's Life and Ours*
 - The Rev. Shawn S. Fowler+

Stations of the Cross

- Fridays @ 6pm immediately before the Lenten lectures on:
 - 3/6, 3/13, & 3/27
- Also on Good Friday, 4/3 @ 3pm – Outdoors on Lincoln Street

Lenten Quiet Day

- A mini retreat focused on Scripture, prayer, and meditation held at Holy Trinity and guided by Danny Burbeck, our Aspirant to Holy Orders.
 - Saturday 3/28 – 9am-Noon

* * * * *

Food and clean up during Christian Fellowship:

We all enjoy the light lunch between Mass and Christian Education each Sunday. If you are able to commit to bringing food on an occasional specific Sunday, that would be greatly appreciated. If you are not in a position to provide food but can help clean up, that would be much appreciated also. Please don't leave it to just a few people! For more information, or to offer help, please contact Joan Balk (508-835-2085 or jcbalk@aol.com).

* * * * *

A Collect for Easter Day:

Almighty God, who through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may, by thy life-giving Spirit, be delivered from sin and raised from death; through the same Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

From the Organist / Choirmaster:



The choir joins me in extending an invitation to join! St. Augustine has been credited with saying that "He who sings, prays twice." One of the joys of being the organist at HTAC is how lustily the congregation sings at mass. Another is how devoted the choir members are. For various reasons, such as moving away, we have lost a few members. Are you interested in joining us? The only requirements are that you attend rehearsals on alternate Tuesday evenings, and arrive at about 9 a.m. on Sunday to prepare, but these are flexible and can accommodate your work or family schedule. You don't need to know how to read music, but that helps, of course; reading music really is fairly easy, and I will help you learn. Please let me or a choir member know if you are interested!

David Baker

* * * * *

ANNUAL MEETING OF HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

Our Annual Meeting was held Sunday, February 15 in the Fellowship Hall. Many of our members were present to enjoy lunch followed by the meeting. At the meeting, David Tucker was voted into the position of Clerk and Emily Morse was voted in to complete the final year of David's term of office as a Vestry member. Monica Walker and Lynne Krebs were thanked for their faithful service with special thanks and appreciation to Lynne on her move to Tennessee. Lynne has served in many capacities at Holy Trinity over her 60 plus years as a member. She will remain a member and hope to visit quite frequently. The full list of Vestry members can be seen at the end of this newsletter. Tom Cotton and Danny Burbeck were voted in as lay delegates to Synod this year.

Proposed changes to our Bylaws were reviewed and approved with three minor amendments. John Bottini reviewed the budget for 2026 and reported on the financial activity during 2025. Fr. Shawn gave his report as Rector during which he announced the Bishop Donald F. Harvey Award for Christian Ministry will be given this year to Dcn. Rhonda and Tom Cotton for their many ministries behind the scenes, particularly in Tom's case, covering many maintenance jobs on the buildings. The Award will be presented during our next visit from a Bishop.

If you would like a copy of the Annual Report book, hard copies are available at church or contact David Tucker at David_tucker@pobox.com.

* * * * *

FREE WINTER COAT PROGRAM

We started this program a little earlier than usual this year and have one more month to go (end of March). Many of our neighbors have received warm coats, hats, scarves, and gloves. Donation boxes were put in the Marlborough Police Station, City Hall and the Lost Shoe Roaster and Brewery café. Students from AMSA picked them up and dropped them off to us. This is what happens when a community comes together!

We are open each Wednesday from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more information, please contact me.

Kathleen Demers
508-624-7642 or nanakay105@aol.com



ANGLICANS FOR LIFE

"You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in Your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed" (Psalm 139:16, NLT)

- **40 days for life campaign:** The Spring campaign began February 18th and runs through March 29th, 2026. The closest prayer vigil is on Pleasant Street in Worcester, across from the Planned Parenthood Super Center. For more information, go to www.40daysforlife.org
- **Baby Bottle Drive:** Once again we will hold a baby bottle drive from Mother's Day through Father's Day to benefit the First Concern Pregnancy Resource Center. Please take a bottle and fill with loose change (or bills, or a check!) Thank you!
- **Sanctity of Life:** We have many brochures in the Narthex, the front entrance of the church. Please visit the website anglicansforlife.org/publications for up-to-date information. You can also keep up to date with Life Issues by going to LiveAction.org.
- **Please continue to pray** for the unborn, the sick, all those who society feels are a burden.
- **Donations of clothes, etc:** Donations of baby and toddler diapers, clothing, etc. benefit First Concern Pregnancy Resource Center (www.firstconcern.org). We also service the young mothers in the neighborhood when needed. Donations may be left in the entrance to the church or contact Kathleen to arrange a drop off time.
- **Anglicans for Life** is an international Pro-Life Ministry within the Anglican Communion, upholding and proclaiming the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Our local Chapter seeks to raise awareness regarding alternatives to abortion...Let us help you! If you are being called to help with this vital ministry, or if you would like to have information on how we can help, please speak to our co-Coordinators Kathleen Demers (508-624-7642) and Marjorie Franko (978-369-8192). Thank you!

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOOD PANTRY

"For I was hungry and you gave Me food" (St. Matthew 25:35a)

Our Food Pantry is very low at this time.

The pantry is low on many of the most popular items: Canned tuna and chicken, pasta, sauce, soup, corn, green beans, canned pasta and cups of noodles. Please, NO garbanzo or black beans; we are over-stocked with these items.

Please place your offering in the box provided in the Narthex.

Thank you for your generosity.

Also, if you are in need of food, please visit our Food Pantry located in the Fellowship Hall, or speak with Fr. Shawn or Kathleen Demers.



SECOND SATURDAY

Thank you to everyone who has given of their time and energy to help maintain our buildings and grounds! But, as always, there is plenty more to do. Please, please help as you are able! We would like to spruce up our buildings and grounds. Please watch the Enews for information on tasks needing attention. Upcoming Second Saturdays are March 14th, April 11th, May 9th.



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd enables children to encounter God through developmentally appropriate presentations, centers, and prayer with a strong focus on Scripture, liturgy, and the whole of sacred history. The program helps the children develop a personal relationship with the Lord. Classes are held at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, following fellowship time. We now have three groups: Level I (ages 3-6), led by Cate Fowler; Level II (ages 6-9), led by Monica Walker; and Level III (ages 9-12), led by Diana Newton Wood. Parents and others assist in the Atrium each week for which we are very grateful. Several of these assistants have taken – or plan to take – Atrium assistant training online and that is a great blessing.

We would love to have more catechists and Atrium assistants, to make it possible for our regular catechists to take a day off occasionally. Please, if you think this ministry may be of interest to you, speak with Monica, Cate or Diana for more information.

* * * * *

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Planning is under way for this year's Vacation Bible School. It will take place the week of July 20-24, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and is open to all children aged three through eighth grade. There are also a few openings for high school students to help in the classrooms and other ways. Soon we will have our first meeting at which we will choose the program to use this year. We are expecting another wonderful week encouraging children in their relationship with the Lord. We would love to welcome even more children than in previous years. Please spread the word to parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors.

A most important factor in a successful VBS is, of course, the adult volunteers. We need teachers and others who would like to lead special activities such as crafts. If you would like to offer help or just learn more about what may be required, please speak to me.

Many thanks,
Monica Walker (508-272-6900)

* * * * *

Women's Group

Our group meets usually the third Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. We have a main scripture topic around which to have a discussion. Coffee and snacks are provided and the meeting runs at least an hour but not longer than two. All women are invited to come and voice their opinions or their desires and needs for this ministry. There will be an outreach component woven into it at some point. ***Please note: there will be NO meeting in March.*** Upcoming meetings are scheduled for Saturdays April 18th, and May 16th.

Dcn Rhonda Cotton (cottonfamily@verizon.net)

* * * * *

Just Me and My Shadow

"Just Me and My Shadow" is a luncheon fellowship group for those who live alone and others who simply would enjoy some company and fellowship. We meet once a month (usually the third Wednesday) for lunch and fellowship. People **do not** need to belong to our church family in order to attend. **All are welcome.** Thus, please feel welcome to invite a family member, friend, or neighbor who lives alone or someone in need of a little company and fellowship. If you are unable to afford the meal, **PLEASE** do not let this stop you from joining the group. Just let Fr. Shawn know (860-207-2210 or shawnfowler86@gmail.com) and he will cover all or part of your meal.

PRAYER AND FASTING

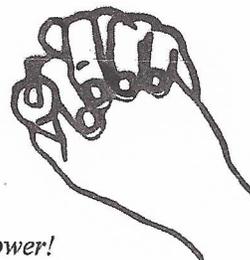
To fast and to pray on behalf of our church family is an important ministry in which most of us can participate. For several years Holy Trinity has had a week of fasting and day of prayer each month.

If you are not familiar with our monthly practice of Fasting and Prayer, it is as follows: During one week each month we have six days set apart for prayer and fasting. One or more persons sign-up to fast on each of the days appointed (Monday through Saturday). Our week of fasting concludes with a Day of Prayer on the Saturday from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. A minimum of eleven persons sign-up to pray in their own home for one hour. This way at least one person will be fasting every day that week on behalf of the church family and at least one person will be praying from approximately sunup to sundown on the Day of Prayer.

Fr. Shawn has created a helpful Guide to Fasting. Hard copies are available at church or you may request a copy by emailing walkermonica@comcast.net. There are also suggested prayers for those who would like them. Again, you may email Monica and she will pass on the request.

Upcoming dates:

<i>Week of Fasting:</i>	Monday, March 23 – Saturday, March 28
	Monday, April 20 – Saturday, April 25
	Monday, May 25 – Saturday, May 30
<i>Day of Prayer:</i>	Saturdays March 28, April 25, May 30.



Come Holy Spirit! Fall upon us! Come in power!

* * * * *

Heaven's Grocery Store Submitted by Joan-Carol Balk

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago. One day I saw a sign that read HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE. As I got a little closer, the door opened wide and I found myself standing inside. Saw a host of Angels that were standing everywhere. One handed me a basket and said, "My child, shop with care". Everything a Christian needed was in this grocery store. All that you could not carry, you could come back the next day for more. First, I got some PATIENCE. LOVE was in the same row. Further down was UNDERSTANDING, you need that wherever you go. I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH, just couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST for He was all over the place. I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me run the race. By then, my basket was getting full; but I remembered I needed some GRACE. Oh, didn't forget SALVATION. SALVATION, for that was free! I tried to get enough of that for you and me. Then, I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill, for I thought I had everything to do my MASTER'S WILL. As I went up the aisle, I saw PRAYER and I just had to put that in, for I knew when I stepped outside I would run right into sin. PEACE and JOY were plentiful, they were on the last shelf. SONG and PRAISES were hanging near, so I just helped myself. Then I said to the Angel, "How much do I owe?" He smiled and said, "Just take them wherever you go." Again said I, "How much do I really owe?" He smiled again, and said...

"MY CHILD, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG TIME AGO!"

* * * * *

Please let us know!

If you, or a family member, is sick or in the hospital, please inform Fr. Shawn or another clergy person. They will arrange visits, and holy communion if requested.

ALTAR FLOWERS and SANCTUARY LAMP

If you would like to commemorate a loved one by donating the cost of the altar flowers or Sanctuary Lamp, please contact Tanya Bottini (508-877-8736), or email JBottini1@verizon.net for details and to sign up for a particular Sunday. You are welcome to donate in memory, in thanksgiving, or in honor of one or more people. The Holy Eucharist will also be offered for your intention. Thank you!

* * * * *

Notes of Note:

- **The Intercessory Prayer Group** is led by Martha Ayisi. Those participating in this ministry are committed to pray for the clergy of HTAC and their families. They pray for the Holy Spirit to bless the members of our church family, our several ministries and our financial worship. They also pray for God's protection upon us all.
- **Noonday Prayer on Tuesdays:** This will continue via Zoom. All are welcome. Following Noonday Prayer we offer a time of free prayer for all who are able to join in.
- **Adult Christian Education** is offered each Sunday at 12:15 p.m.
- **Wednesday Bible Study** is offered at 10:00 a.m. in person and via Zoom. Please join us!
- **Men's Group:** All men are invited to join us for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. followed by discussion. This is usually the first Saturday of the month. For more information, please contact Dan Morse at 978-808-0901, or dwmorse@live.com.
- **Special Collection for the Rector's Discretionary Fund:** Sunday, April 12.
- **Special Collection for the Non-Stipendiary Clergy Fund:** Sunday, May 10.
- **Special Collection to help fund June's Table:** Sunday, March 8 and Sunday, June 14.
- **Prayer requests:** please email Emily Morse at emmorse@comcast.net or call/text Emily on 978-808-8608.
- **Vestry (Parish Council) meetings:** Any member of the parish is welcome to observe any regular Vestry meeting. At present these meetings are held via Zoom.
- **Fr. Shawn is off every Monday and Saturday.** He will be present for special Services and events in the life of our church family that fall on these days. On these two days, please only call him in the event of an emergency. Thank you.

* * * * *

Happy Birthday:

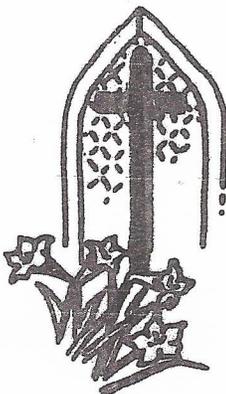
March: Marjorie Franko - 1st; John Wood - 1st; Joan Robinson - 1st; Ned Leeming - 7th; Katherine Bottini - 10th; Audrey Day - 12th; Marcos Gouvea - 15th; John Bottini - 16th; Monica Walker - 24th; Tom Cotton - 30th; Justin Smith - 30th.

April: David Holt - 4th; Judy Richards - 9th; Tanya Bottini - 15th; Joan Fallon - 16th; Dan Morse - 16th; Verna Peterson - 19th; Sarah McKinnon - 23rd; Fr. Bob Cummins - April 25th; Dave Day - 26th; Dustin Hassard - 27th; Emily Morse - 27th; Renee Beausoleil - 29th.

May: Rylee Cashen - 8th; Michael McGinnis - 13th; Brian O'Leary - 14th; Marion Butland - 14th; Kendall Cotton - 22nd; Nicholas Cotton - 23rd; Cate Fowler - 25th; Thomas Holt - 25th; Mary Carroll - 29th; Steve Walker - 29th; Sara Day - 31st.

Happy Anniversary:

Michael and Elizabeth McGinnis on April 4th.
Bob and Kathleen Demers on April 6th.
Dave and Molly Day on April 7th.
Charley and Diane Place on April 30th.



HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Rt. Rev. Dan Gifford	Diocesan Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Donald F. Harvey	Bishop Emeritus
Father Shawn Fowler (Killingly, CT)	860-207-2210 (Rector)
Father Robert Cummins, PhD (Harvard, MA)	978-732-3012 (c) or 978-456-2767 (h)
Father Praveen Mutalik (Southborough, MA)	508-259 -0804 (c) or 508-481-0409 (h)
Deacon Rhonda Cotton (Harvard, MA)	508-517-9805 (c) or 978-456-8680 (h)
Deacon John Lindsay (East Brookfield, MA)	508-867-6641 (h)
Vestry:	
Joe Cosgrove	508-508-304-1235 (Rector's Warden)
Dave Day	734-223-0153 (People's Warden)
John Bottini	508-877-8736 (Treasurer)
David Tucker	508-875-4863 (Clerk)
Karen Carlson	508-667-9516
Emily Morse	978-808-8608
Donald Richards	Senior Warden Emeritus

Contact Information for Fr. Shawn and Holy Trinity Anglican Church

- In case of an emergency, please call Fr. Shawn any time, including his days off at 860-207-2210.
- Fr. Shawn's email: shawnfowler86@gmail.com
- Fr. Shawn's days off are Monday and Saturday.
- Church address: 472 Lincoln Street, Marlborough MA
- Church mailing address: 60 Gibbon Street, Marlborough MA
- Church office: 508-481-8493
- Church website: www.holytrinitymarlborough.org
- Our Diocesan Website: www.dioceseofcanada.ca
- Our Provincial Website: www.anglicanchurch.net

Snow Policy/Cancellation Notice:

The 10:00 a.m. Principal Sunday Eucharist typically is cancelled only in the most extreme circumstances (e.g. the Governor declaring a State of Emergency). If you have any question as to whether an event is cancelled, please check the E-news Or call Fr. Shawn at 860-207-2210. Thank you!



DEADLINE FOR NEXT MESSENGER

The deadline for the next issue of this newsletter to cover the first half of the Trinity Season is Sunday, May 17, 2026. Please e-mail your items to me at walkermonica@comcast.net. Thanks, Monica

Worship at Holy Trinity

Sundays:

8:00 a.m. Said Mass (*except* any fifth Sunday of the month)

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Solemn High Mass the first Sunday of the month and other Special Days)

Wednesdays:

11:30 a.m. Said Mass

Holy Trinity Anglican Church
60 Gibbon Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
FORWARDING REQUESTED



HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

472 Lincoln Street

Marlborough, Massachusetts, 01752

Mailing address: 60 Gibbon Street, Marlborough, MA 01752

(508) 481-8493

www.holytrinitymarlborough.org

An orthodox Anglican Christian Community

A Parish of the Province of the Anglican Church in North America