

The Rev. Shawn S. Fowler+
Holy Trinity Anglican Church
Messenger Article
Late Trinitytide 2026 (September-November)

Israel in the Church Age

Recently the Sunday Lectionary has been taking us through Romans, and a couple of weeks ago the New Testament Lesson was from Romans 11. This Pauline text spoke of God's future plans for Israel. I decided to take up this thorny issue, briefly laying out the two possible interpretations of the subject: first, that the Church is the New Israel, supplanting the former group as God's chosen people, and second, that ethnic Israel continues to exist in the mind of God as a distinct group apart from the Church, and concerning whom God's promise of salvation still stands. The main difficulty arises from the fact that Romans 11:26 states, "all Israel shall be saved." Does this mean all believers, Jews and Gentiles alike, because the true Israel is the Church, or does it mean that God is planning an end-time revival of Jewish faith in the Messiah, and all ethnic Jews alive at the Eschaton will receive Christ as Savior? As we saw, due to some ambiguity in the text, either of those interpretations can be validly held. It is true that for most of Church history, the majority of authoritative interpreters held the former view. The second has gained traction in the last century or so. Again, a Christian can hold either view while trying to remain faithful to Scripture. The purpose of this Messenger article is to flesh out how each position ought to inform a believer's political approach to the modern state of Israel.

The United States' relationship with Israel is one of the most contentious subjects of modern political discourse, and while I will not be telling you what to think on the matter, I do hope to help you understand how to think about it from a biblically-faithful perspective. First let us consider how to approach this issue if you believe that ethnic Israel is still considered by God to be His chosen people, distinct from the Church, and that a future eschatological revival awaits them. If that is the case, it would naturally follow that a Christian ought broadly to support the Jews, as God states in Scripture to Abraham that he will bless those who bless him, and curse those who curse him. If the one true God has declared that a certain people belong to Him, it is only right that those who serve God deal kindly with those whom their God loves. However, the matter does have some complexity to it, for the Christian must determine how that support manifests concerning the modern state of Israel. Does supporting Israel mean supporting the government of that country, even its acts of warfare? I would encourage Christians to allow some subtlety into their thinking, and to embrace the drawing of distinctions. Remember that Israel itself has more than one political party and that not all its citizens agree with every action taken by the government. This is the same for us towards our own political leaders. Nevertheless, certainly the citizens of Israel, even those who vehemently oppose their country's ruling party, still desire their country to continue existing and to prosper. Therefore, one can support the right of Israel to exist as a nation, support it broadly in that you desire to see our country

Continued.;;

assist Israel in flourishing, yet still have reservations or even criticism of some of its government's actions. This is not antisemitism; it is better labeled critical thinking, or being a thoughtful person. No group of humans should receive blind devotion. Therefore, support, but also test. Do the actions weighed align with biblical values? If so, commend, but if not, critique.

Next, let us take up the position that since the victory of Christ, only the true Israel exists in the mind of God, which is made up of all believers, Jew and Gentile alike; that is, the Church. In this case the modern state of Israel is no different theologically from any other country that exists today, for ethnic Jews do not constitute God's special people; only believers do. First, let me emphasize that holding this view is not antisemitic, and those who claim such are either dishonest or unable to think in a nuanced manner. This position can easily be proved from Scripture, and in my opinion, is the more likely correct interpretation. In this case, how is one to think and act concerning modern Israel? The answer is simple: just like one would towards any other country other than his own. They are humans made in the image of God, and believers ought to desire that they come to saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, in addition to treating them with dignity and generally desiring good for them. Additionally, although holding this view is not antisemitic, it must not be used as a cloak for anti-Jewish sentiment. It does appear that some in this theological camp seem to have an unhealthy fixation on criticizing Israel, far beyond the level or frequency of critique that is levied against any other country. Israel has a right to exist, defend its borders, etc., and ought not to be the target of unreasonable expectations. To be clear, as I stated above, I am not advocating for a blind devotion to this country, and I think that criticizing its government's actions is entirely possible for a person who genuinely supports its citizens.

In summary, no matter to which of the two interpretations of modern Israel you subscribe, the guiding principle ought to be not to fall into either a naïve loyalty, or a cynical hostility towards the country. A Christian should support this country's right to exist, desire good for its citizens, yet also judge its government's actions based upon the biblical morality we hold dear. Reasonable criticism does not make you an antisemite, and support does not have to mean sycophancy. Finally, although both positions are possible for the Bible-believing Christian, it is true that we all should exhibit a gratitude for ethnic Jews, as those to whom the promises of God first came. We will close by considering two statements from the Apostle Paul concerning the blessedness of the Israelites: "For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. 5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen" (Rom. 9:3-5); and, "As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, 31 so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. 32 For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!" (Rom. 11:28-33). May God bless you and give you wisdom as you navigate this difficult issue. Amen.

Fr. Shawn+

Worship at Holy Trinity

Please note schedule for 8:00 a.m. Mass

Sundays:

8:00 a.m.	Said Mass <i>the first and third Sunday of the month only for the present</i>
9:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer <i>the first and third Sunday of the month only for the present</i>
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
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From the Organist / Choirmaster:



Regular choir rehearsals start in September; are you interested in joining the choir? We would be very happy to chat with you about what "member" means in the choir context. We rehearse every other Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. to 8:30 during the season (i.e., Labor Day through the Feast of Corpus Christi) in the choir area downstairs. Please feel free to speak to me or one of the choir members for more information.

Last season we had a few series where a number of young people sang with the choir during the communion anthem. It was wonderful to have them - they are exceptionally talented! I would like to elevate this to a regular appearance, once a month. I will be contacting the parents in September after conferring with Fr. Shawn about a schedule. I look forward to this addition to our music program!

Pax vobiscum!

David Baker

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BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

We hope to have our usual Blessing Service
in September or October.

You are welcome to bring your pet(s).

Watch the Enews for more information.

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A Prayer for Joy in God's Creation:

O heavenly Father, who hast filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works; that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026



In July we hosted another successful VBS – *Emerald Crossing!* This Answers in Genesis curriculum, based on Psalm 23, used Bible stories, songs, crafts, games and outreach projects to help children learn to connect their Bible to their everyday life. Some popular activities returned – tie-dyeing t-shirts, a visit from Animal Adventures, and the water slide on Friday afternoon. Our outreach project this year was to prepare craft kits to be donated to Better Day Adult Social Day Program in Marlborough. On Friday evening parents and friends joined us for an end-of-week celebration, including a slide show of the week's activities, a live performance of one of the daily skits (directed by John Bottini), and the children performing songs learned during the week (led by Danica Clark and Lily Fowler).

We are fortunate to be blessed with teen helpers and adult volunteers willing to give their time and energy to work with the children. I am extremely grateful to everyone who helped in any way. You make this week possible.

With many thanks to all,
Monica Walker

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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 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 are looking forward to our new Atrium year. Our first session will be September 13th.

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.

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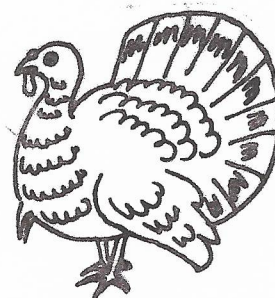
A Prayer for the Care of Children:

Almighty God, heavenly Father, who has blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Anglican Service Book, p. 650)

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Once again we will provide Thanksgiving Day Dinner for members of the Holy Trinity family and many of our neighbors. The plan is to have dinner on Thanksgiving, November 26th at 1:00 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall. If you would like to help in any way – cooking a turkey, making side dishes or desserts, setting up the hall, serving, cleaning-up, donating money to be used for purchasing supplies – please inform Fr. Shawn or Monica Walker. Let's make this another wonderful Thanksgiving!



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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 September 12th, October 10th, and November 14th. Thank you!

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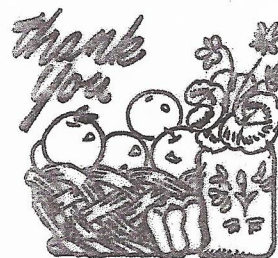
PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOOD PANTRY

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

Our Food Pantry is very low at this time.

Needed items right now are canned tuna, canned chicken, tomato sauce, peanut butter, jelly, mayonnaise, canned fruit, pasta, soups, stews, baked beans, etc. We do not need black beans, garbanzo beans, or carrots at this time. Please place your offering in the box provided in the Narthex. Thank you and God Bless You!

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.



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FREE WINTER COAT PROGRAM

Your help will be needed mid-October, please to help unpack and hang the coats. We would like to start offering them on the last Wednesday of October and every Wednesday through the end of March. Please speak to Kathleen if you are interested in helping with this important ministry.

Kathleen Demers
Nanakay105@aol.com

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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.

FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to Samantha Keeler who graduated with Honors from MassBay Community College on May 28th. She is transferring to UMass Amherst in September to finish her degree in Political Science.

Happy Birthday:

September: Bri Regonini – 2nd; Raynor Krebs – 3rd; Liam Dunphy – 4th; Susan Leeming – 4th; Glenn Adams – 5th; Erica Ayisi – 6th; Marjorie McCabe – 6th; Devin Gouvêa – 6th; Karen Panasevich-Cummins – 7th; Linda Smith – 27th; Phil Davis – 30th.

October: Mike Kenyon – 1st; Lily Fowler – 6th; Eva Burbeck – 12th; Lynne Krebs – 14th; Kathleen Demers – 15th; Sandra Quintin – 15th; Miranda Gouvêa – 15th; Brenda Caldwell – 23rd; Molly Day – 28th.

November: Katy Holt – 2nd; Lawrence Franko – 3rd; Marybeth Cashen – 3rd; William Keeler – 10th; Deacon Rhonda Cotton – 14th; Samantha Keeler – 18th; Thomas Bottini – 21st; Diane O'Leary – 24th; Joleen Alicea – 26th; Fran Hodson – 29th.

Happy Anniversary:

Jay and Diane O'Leary on September 8th.

Ned and Susan Leeming on September 18th.

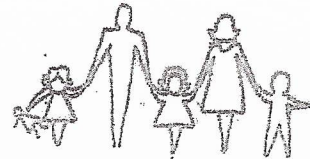
Dustin and Allison Hassard on September 23rd.

Rev. Terrence and Linda McGillicuddy on September 25th.

Rev. Michael and Christine McKinnon on September 28th.

David and Katy Holt on October 20th.

Rt. Rev. Donald and Trudy Harvey on October 31st.



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PRAYER AND FASTING

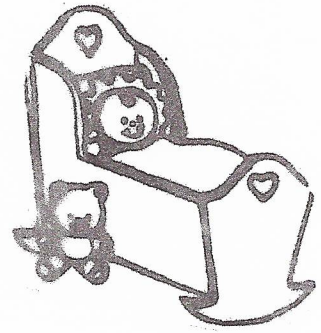
To fast and pray on behalf of our church family is an important ministry in which most of us can participate. For several years Holy Trinity has had a week of fasting and day of prayer each month. Now the summer is over we will schedule specific days/times for this (see below).

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.

Upcoming dates:

<i>Week of Fasting:</i>	Monday, September 21 – Saturday, September 26
	Monday, October 19 – Saturday, October 24
	Monday, November 16 – Saturday, November 21
<i>Day of Prayer:</i>	Saturdays September 26, October 24 and November 21.

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



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)

- **Baby Bottle Drive:** Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's baby bottle drive to benefit First Concern Pregnancy Resource Center. firstconcernpregnancyresourcecenter/Marlborough.org
- **Annual Banquet:** The First Concern Pregnancy Resource Center Vision Dinner will be held Friday, October 2nd, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA. We usually fill a table from our church. We need to RSVP by September 16th. Please contact Kathleen if you are interested.
- **40 days for life campaign:** The Fall campaign will be held September 23rd and run through November 1st. The closest prayer vigil is held across the street from Planned Parenthood, 470 Pleasant Street, Worcester. For more information, go to www.40daysforlife.org
- **Brochures and other information:** There is a huge amount of information regarding Sanctity of Life issues on the walls in the Narthex (entrance to the church) that you may take home. Please visit the website www.anglicansforlife.org which lists the many great programs going on right now. The list is too long to mention everything!
- **Please continue to pray** for the unborn, the sick, all those who society feels are a burden.
- **Newsletter of Anglicans for Life:** The current newsletter from Anglicans for Life is on our table at the entrance of the church. It may also be viewed at <https://anglicansforlife.org/publications/>. You can also keep up to date with Life Issues by going to www.Liveaction.org.
- **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!

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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).

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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. Our meetings this Fall will be Saturdays, September 19th, October 17th, November 21st.

Dcn Rhonda Cotton (cottonfamily@verizon.net)

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. The group will take a break in July and August.
- **Special Collection to help fund June's Table:** Sunday, September 13th.
- **Special Collection for the Rector's Discretionary Fund:** Sunday, October 11th.
- **Special Collection for the Non-Stipendiary Clergy Fund:** Sunday, November 8th.
- **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.

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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!

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A Collect for Thanksgiving Day:

O most merciful Father, we humbly thank thee for all thy gifts so freely bestowed upon us: for life and health and safety, for power to work and leisure to rest, for all that is beautiful in creation and in the lives of men; but above all we thank thee for our spiritual mercies in Christ Jesus our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

- BCP p. 637



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 or 860-771-1690 (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

- Fr. Shawn has *an additional phone number* that he will often use during his work days – 860-771-1690 – please feel free to try this number first.
- In case of an emergency, please call Fr. Shawn any time, including his days off at 860-207-2210 or 860-771-1690.
- 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

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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.

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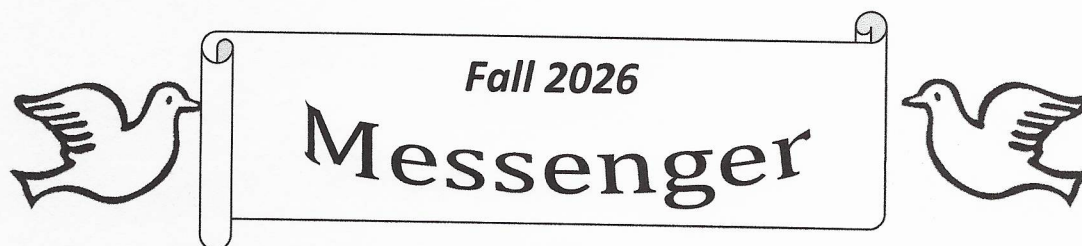
DEADLINE FOR NEXT MESSENGER

The deadline for the next issue of this newsletter to cover the Seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany (roughly December, January and February) is **Sunday, November 15, 2026.**

Please e-mail your items to me at walkermonica@comcast.net. Thanks!

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
FORWARDING REQUESTED



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www.holytrinitymarlborough.org

An orthodox Anglican Christian Community

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