



BLESSED TRINITY PARISH

We are now Blessed Trinity Parish

We are now Blessed Trinity Parish. One Parish with two worship sites – Saint Anne Church and Saint Catherine of Alexandria Church.

Our journey to this moment in history is based, to a great extent, upon Jesus' prayer for all believers in the Seventeenth Chapter of the Gospel of John: "I pray also for those who will believe in me through their word, that all may be one as you, Father, are in me, and I in you; I pray that they may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me that they may be one, as we are one – I living in them, you living in me – that their unity may be complete!" (John 17:20-23)

Not only do these words of Jesus point to the complete unity of the Godhead, but also do they point to the Lord's desire that we be one as a community of believers. This is Jesus' emphatic desire which he states in his Farewell Discourse in the Gospel of John. This is Jesus' desire for us! Whether we like it or not, this is who we are!!

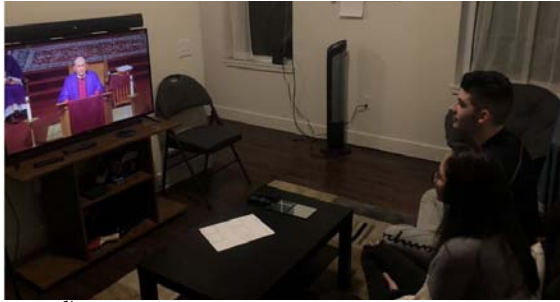
We are deeply blessed to have two churches that are currently thriving – even during COVID-19. This is cause for great rejoicing in the fervent hope that each retains its rich history, traditions and identity. This is more than a fervent hope; it is an absolute desire on the part of all of us.

Talk about unity is so prevent these days that one is easily tempted to ignore and dismiss it. Context is key. The context that we challenge you to provide to this discussion are the powerful words of Jesus Christ in John Chapter 17, mentioned earlier in this text. Jesus desires that our unity may be complete. Is this truly our desire as well? What does it even mean to be unified? Each of us may answer this question in different ways. There is room for all answers and for everyone.

Allow me to conclude by quoting an excerpt from a letter that circulated around the time when we were trying to determine a new name for our Parish. It is very well done – I think it speaks for itself:

"We suggest that Blessed Trinity is the best choice because Blessed Trinity addresses three major goals for our new parish, which are to become united, to treat each other as equals and to help all parishioners embrace a stewardship way of life."

Live Streaming - Bringing faith direct to the home



<https://www.youtube.com/c/BlessedTrinityParish/featured>

Over the past year, The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted not only our health and our day-to-day activities, but our spiritual lives as well. In times of turmoil and uncertainty, people flock to the church. Being unable to offer spiritual options to our parishioners had crushing effects. We needed a solution, and we needed it fast.

The AV Ministry came to the rescue. The AV Ministry was started by us, a group of young men at Blessed Trinity Parish. Our team assists the parish with all audio, video, and technical needs. We mix audio, troubleshoot equipment, provide advice and, most importantly, live stream and record the Masses.

Mass live streaming was born out of necessity of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to health limitations, safety protocols, and social distance restrictions, not everyone was able to or willing to attend weekly Mass in person. By live streaming the Mass, anyone who wanted to, could join us to worship.

Live streaming allows for participation in real-time—video streaming is set up at the actual time and for the duration of the event. You watch everything happening LIVE. It's like being there without actually being physically present! For those who can't stream live, they can watch the recorded session any time afterwards at their convenience. Live streaming has allowed our whole parish to continue to participate in Masses in a safe and responsible manner.

But live streaming isn't just for COVID-19 times. It also allows the homebound, families with

young children, sick parishioners, and people traveling to celebrate Mass with us. During inclement weather, parishioners can watch Mass from the comfort and safety of their homes

without having to risk driving to church. For funerals or sacramental events, guests can observe the rites online while securing their safety and the safety of those they would have otherwise come in contact with. In a strange way, COVID-19 has been a blessing. It has enabled our parish to provide Mass and services to more people in more situations.

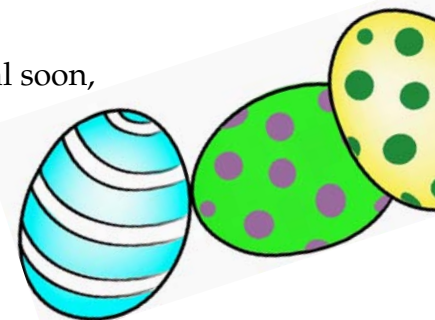
Thank you to the generous parishioners who provided the financial resources to bring this ministry to life, and for your continued dedicated support during the pandemic.



Unfortunately, our small group cannot be the entire ministry. **We need volunteers!** We are looking for people to run cameras, take pictures, help with audio, and assist with the live stream. If you have interest in any of these things, please reach out to us at blessedtrinityavministry@gmail.com.

It has been our pleasure to bring the Mass to you during these troubling times. We hope you have enjoyed it!

Hope to see you LIVE real soon,
Sean O'Donnell
Brian O'Neill
Matt Miller



A LETTER FROM FATHER PETER

Light to Fill Our Souls

Wishing you a blessed Easter filled with healing, hope, joy and newness of life to you and all your loved ones!

For many, the darkness of the pandemic has been one long, long challenging journey. The effects of COVID-19 have touched each family unlike anything we could ever have dreamed. The isolation aspect for the elderly and subsequent loss of social intimacy has been devastating. It feels like we are living in a science-fiction movie!

Yet amidst this crushing darkness—the light of loving compassion has penetrated the darkness with hope. The amazing creative ways people have devised to encourage and walk with others who were hurting has been truly inspiring. The incredible dedication of our first responders, nurses, doctors, unheralded hospital staff and so many social service agencies willing to put themselves in harms way to comfort those in dire need.

These examples are Easter life-giving events here and now. From the tomb of isolation, despair and death, people are summoned forth to newness of life through the loving compassion and outreach of others. There are people actually risking their lives so others may live.



There is a beautiful refrain that the Taizé Community* uses that hopefully will fill your heart and soul with hope-filled light:

*"Lord Jesus Christ inner light, let not my darkness speak to me.
Lord Jesus Christ inner light, let me welcome your love."*

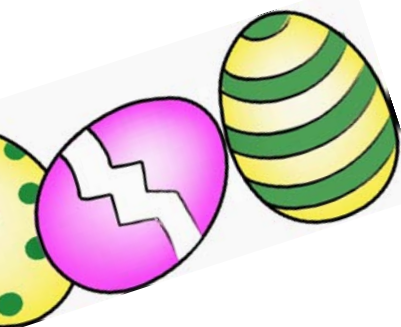
In faith we are called to believe the fire of Easter love will always accompany us, grace us and lead us out of all forms of darkness and depression into the fullness of light and life God desires for all of us.



God love and keep you!

Fr. Peter

Fr. Peter Quinn



*The Taizé Community is an ecumenical Christian monastic fraternity in Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France. It is composed of more than one hundred brothers, from Catholic and Protestant traditions, who originate from about thirty countries across the world.

New Pastoral Council: Mihran Keoseian

What is the Pastoral Council?

The Pastoral Council, (PC), is established by Canon Law. It assumes a consultative role and is ultimately governed by the diocesan bishop. The membership consists of elected and appointed members of the parish(s), ex-officio members, the Pastoral Team (Fr. Peter & Fr. Joe), and assigned deacons, and pastoral associates.

Background and Nomination Process

In 2019, the St. Anne - St. Catherine Faith Community began working on a strategy for replenishing and sustaining our faith community's advisory PC for 2020 and beyond.

The Council membership had been declining for a variety of reasons, and it was time for it to be reconstituted. A primary cornerstone of the replenishment process was to provide membership stability for the 2020 through 2022 timeframe. In order to maintain organizational stability, it was agreed that some existing members would remain on the PC in 2020 for a specific term, while others may need to be nominated and selected if they desire to continue as members. Three members agreed to continue serving (2 from St. Catherine's and 1 from St. Anne's).

Near the end of 2019, the names of potential candidates were contacted to ascertain if they wished to remain in the selection process. Only the names of nominees who affirmed continued interest in serving on the PC remained on the active list for consideration. The process moved forward into 2020 until the COVID Pandemic, sadly, put a halt to most activities in our lives in general, as well as most church activities, including the PC selection process.



The selection process was resumed the weekend of November 7, 2020, with the selection of seven new members to the Pastoral Council. In addition, two new members were asked, specifically by Fr. Peter and Fr. Joe, to join the PC, returning the Council's total representation to 12 members.

The following is a list of the members on the Pastoral Council for 2021 along with the number of years each member will be serving.

PC Member	Church Affiliation	Service Term Years
Mihran Keoseian (Chair)	St. Catherine's	3
Wes Baker	St. Catherine's	3
Rita Biagioni	St. Anne's	3
Shaun Driscoll	St. Catherine's	3
Tom Emberley	St. Anne's	2
Peter Fidrych	St. Catherine's	2
Lori Hauptert	St. Anne's	2
Rachel Hepp	St. Catherine's	2
Karen McNamara	St. Anne's	2
Joyce O'Donnell	St. Catherine's	2
Bob O'Neill	St. Anne's	3
Carol Prest	St. Catherine's	3

To help ensure that the Pastoral Council is properly populated in the future, the following table shows how many representatives from St. Anne's and St. Catherine's will be selected each year as well as their term length. By 2025 and every year thereafter, there will be two selected members from both St. Anne's and St. Catherine's for the Pastoral Council that will be serving a 3-year term.

Selection Year	St. Anne's Reps		St. Cath's Reps	
	2 Year	3 Year	2 Year	3 year
2020 (for 2021)	3	1	3	0
2021 (for 2022)	0	0	0	0
2022 (for 2023)	2	1	2	1
2023 (for 2024)	1	1	1	1
2024 (for 2025)	0	2	0	2

In addition to the listed representatives of the Pastoral Council, monthly PC meetings are attended by Father Peter, Father Joe, Deacon Bill Dwyer, Debbie Rhodes, Director of Stewardship, and Sue Gormley, Pastoral Associate.

Moving Forward

Other than the March meeting, which was held on March 8, all meetings are held on the first Monday of the month. Our last meeting for each year is held in June. As stated previously, the Council is a consultative Board that works closely with our Pastoral Team and, as needed, other ministries. We will be developing our long and short term goals and initiatives over the next few months to help make our previously successful Faith Community Collaborative now flourish as the Blessed Trinity Parish. With your prayers and support, I am confident we will succeed in our mission.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any other member of the Pastoral Council at PastoralCouncil@BlessedTrinityCatholic.org with any input you may wish to pass on or questions you may have.

Members of the Stewardship Council

Chris Banks
Rita Biagioni
Rich Chenell
Laura Doherty (Co-Chair)
Deacon Bill Dwyer
Kathy Emberley
Beth Anne Frechette
Sue Gormley
Vladimir Lemaine
Debbie Rhodes (Director)
Bob Stall
Carolyn Stall (Co-Chair)
Denise Van Veen
Jackie Welham

Members of the Finance Council

Tom Brown
Stacey Browne
Susan Connors
Karen Cross
Kevin Donaruma
Jeff Gottschalk
Ken Hanly
Tom Kinch
Bob Stall
John Toomey
Mike Whitney



GOOD NEWS

CORNER

EASTER SCHEDULE

Pre-registration Required
to attend in person.
www.blessedtrinitycatholic.org

Triduum

Holy Thursday (April 1)

Good Friday (April 2)

Easter Vigil (April 3)

Morning Prayer 8:00 am &

Mass 7:00 pm* each day

St. Catherine Church

Easter Sunday April 4th

8:30 am – St. Anne Church

10:30 am – St. Catherine Church*

* also live streamed

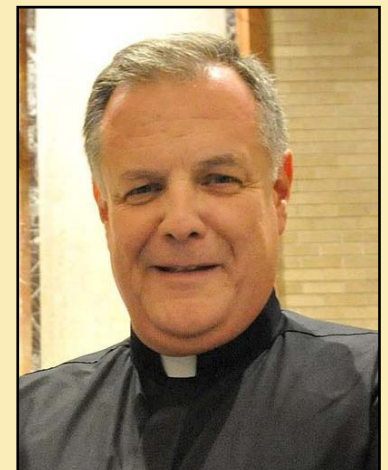
For more information, or to get involved, contact the parish office at 978-320-4220 or office@blessedtrinitycatholic.org, or visit us at www.blessedtrinitycatholic.org.

We are now Blessed Trinity Parish continued from page 1

Although St. Anne and St. Catherine have been a collaborative for over six years, there is still a lingering "us versus them" mentality. The name Blessed Trinity will remind us of the perfect unity of three persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in one Godhead. There was a great deal of fear about St. Anne being "taken over" by St. Catherine or being closed down. In the Blessed Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit treat each other as equals, working toward a common purpose with no one seeking to gain advantage over another.

We have embraced a stewardship way of life in our faith community, and are continually working with individuals to help them understand that by virtue of our baptism, "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," we are called to share in the life of the Blessed Trinity and to discern our charisms and use them for the good of the Church."

"Blessed Trinity Express" is preparing to leave the train station. Hop on board! There is a special place reserved for everyone!!! God bless you all...Fr. Joe



A New Name... and So Many Ways to Keep in Touch



By now you are no doubt aware that our Faith Community has a new name! Yes, we are now **Blessed Trinity Parish**. With a new name comes many newly merged ways to communicate and stay in touch. Managing that effort is our new Communications Coordinator, Kristen "KiKi" Donahue. You will probably recognize KiKi as our Parish Cantor and Director of our Children's Choir. When the need arose, KiKi was happy to use her skills from her years working in Higher Education to help the Parish.

Our new website has merged all the information and data from the previous separate websites into one brand new easy to navigate space. The new website holds everything you need to know: you can get staff contact information, send them a direct contact, make a request to the Prayer Ministry, access virtual worship aids, live-stream services and so much more! If you haven't visited yet, please head over to www.blessedtrinitycatholic.org to keep up with everything happening at the parish.

We have also launched a Parish App! You can now access and contact our parish right from your phone, make prayer requests, connect to virtual services, and use the worship aid during Mass to follow along with the readings and responses. To Download search "WeConnect Parish App" in your phone app store or iPhone Users Text: ParishApp1 to 800-950-9952 and Android Users Text: ParishApp2 to 800-950-9952

Merging communications has also brought us a new Facebook page with over 1,000 followers and counting! We try to post daily everything from information and events to photos, articles and community events, it's a great way to keep in touch daily! Like us today!

Our YouTube channel is growing every day! Last March 2020 we had 5 subscribers and now we have over 550. Each Saturday, the 4pm Mass goes live on YouTube, and you can also find videos of

groups from our Faith Community praying all the mysteries of the Rosary, Weekly messages from our clergy and staff, plus a Lenten Video Series and much more content to come!

With a new name comes a new logo, and our Merger Committee was hard at work coming up with concepts for the trinity symbols and went through many options before settling on a modern Trinity symbol with colors that evoke the thought of all the elements. Our beautiful new logo will really help bring our merger to one parish together with one symbol to identify our faith community.

You can also connect with Blessed Trinity Parish on Instagram and Twitter where we post photos, and images as well as events and happenings in our Parish. We hope that if you haven't followed us yet or subscribed to our social media you will connect with us so we can always stay in touch and all of our faith community can contact us easily.

We continue to use Flocknote as our parish's email tool, where we send out two emails a week to parishioners. Flocknote is also being used for Mass signups and things like parish-wide surveys and email/text communication within ministries. In addition, this gives parishioners access to the entire Word on Fire digital video library, where they can watch any of Bishop Barron's films or study programs on any device. This can be accessed by texting "Grateful" to 84576.

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/blessedtrinityparish/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/blessedtrinitycatholicMA/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/_BlessedTrinity

Website: <https://www.blessedtrinitycatholic.org>

Flocknote: <https://blessedtrinitynews.flocknote.com>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/blessedtrinityparish>

Impact of COVID and Reopening Returning to Mass

The pandemic has affected every aspect of our lives, including how we worship and attend Mass. In March of 2020, we were forced to close our churches to ensure the safety of our clergy and our congregation due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In order to plan for an eventual re-opening of our churches, a parish Re-Opening Committee was formed to plan on how to safely return to Mass in the middle of a pandemic.

The Re-Opening committee is made up of volunteers representing various ministries from both St. Anne's and St. Catherine's churches and includes parish staff, clergy, medical professionals and scientists, among others who help guide our decision making. The committee meets on a regular basis to plan and review protocols to ensure that we are gathering in a safe manner for the well-being of our clergy, and everyone involved in the liturgy.

In order to get a sense of people's readiness to return to Mass, last Spring we conducted a survey to gauge people's willingness to return to in person Masses. The results indicated a wide range of people's willingness to return to in-person Masses, from those who were comfortable attending Mass, to those who indicated that they were waiting for a vaccine. While we were waiting for the appropriate time to bring people back to Mass, we were able to offer recorded Masses with the help of our AV Ministry. In addition to the recorded Masses, we have been able to offer live streaming Masses at 4pm on Saturdays.

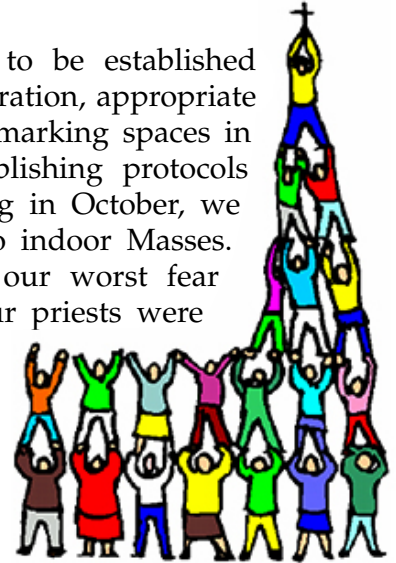
While most people appreciated access to the Mass online, many expressed the desire to receive the Eucharist. As summer arrived, the warmer weather allowed us to gather outdoors in the parking lot of St. Anne's for live Masses. Attendance grew to over 200 people outdoors and provided the opportunity for people to receive the Eucharist in a safe environment. As Fall approached and temperatures dropped, a plan was created to transition to indoor Masses at both churches.

Transitioning indoors required a lot of planning and volunteers to carry out the plan. All state and CDC guidelines were considered in creating a plan based on the occupancy numbers for indoor gatherings.



Safety protocols had to be established including online registration, appropriate spacing in the pews, marking spaces in the church, and establishing protocols for volunteers. Starting in October, we were able to return to indoor Masses. After several weeks, our worst fear was realized when our priests were affected by the virus.

In December, we had to close our churches again as we were starting to plan for the Christmas liturgies.



As a committee, our foremost priority has always been the well-being of our priests and our parishioners. With God's grace, Father Peter and Father Joe were able to return to good health, which allowed us to plan to re-open a second time. With the infection rates rising, we considered our Mass schedules in relation to the severity of the pandemic. The winter and post-Christmas season brought an increase in the numbers, which required further vigilance and attention to our safety protocols. At that point, it was decided to return to two Masses in February and to let the attendance numbers guide us on when to return to our regular schedule.

As Easter approaches and the vaccine is becoming more widely available, we look forward to returning to our regular schedule of three Masses. It is our hope that we will *all* be able to gather again in our churches and welcome *everyone* back very soon.

CHURCH *is not*
A BUILDING YOU GO TO,
IT IS a family
YOU BELONG TO.



Blessed Trinity Parish
 2 West Street • Westford, MA 01886
 office@blessedtrinitycatholic.org
 www.blessedtrinitycatholic.org

Non-Profit Org.
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 Permit 66

Saint Anne Church
 75 King St.
 Littleton, MA 01460
 978-486-4100

Saint Catherine Church
 107 N. Main St.
 Westford, MA 01886
 978-692-6353

CURRENT MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekend Schedule:

Pre-registration Required

www.blessedtrinitycatholic.org

Saturday 4:00 pm – St. Catherine Church (live streamed)

Sunday 8:30 am – St. Anne Church

Sunday 10:30 am – St. Catherine Church

Weekday Schedule:

No registration required

Mon & Tues 8:00 am – St. Anne Church

Thu & Fri 8:00 am – St. Catherine Church

Reconciliation:

By Appointment Only

Fr. Peter Quinn 978-320-4201

Father Joe Rossi 978-320-4202

EASTER SCHEDULE

Pre-registration Required to attend in person.

www.blessedtrinitycatholic.org

Triduum - Holy Thursday (April 1), Good Friday (April 2), Easter Vigil (April 3)

Morning prayer 8:00 am & Mass 7:00 pm each day – St. Catherine Church

(Mass live streamed)

Easter Sunday April 4th

8:30 am – St. Anne Church

10:30 am – St. Catherine Church (live streamed)

Blessed Trinity Parish

The Parish Office is now located at
 2 West Street, Westford, MA 01886
 office@blessedtrinitycatholic.org
 www.blessedtrinitycatholic.org
 978-320-4220

Temporary Parish Office hours are:
 Monday through Friday
 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

Due to COVID restrictions, and for your safety,
 we ask that you call ahead to 978-320-4220
 before visiting the Parish Office.

Thank you, and have a very

Happy Easter!

