

# Trinity Times

A newsletter for the members and friends of Trinity Episcopal Church

Trinity Episcopal Church  
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## Advent - Christmas - December - 2007

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Greetings,

I like writing the column most of all in December. Advent, that period of anticipatory joy, pulls me out of Pentecost and toward the annual commemoration of Christ's birth!

A new year; fresh beginnings and the celebration of Christ's coming as an infant in Bethlehem and his arrival when he comes again.

The birth of Jesus, God's gift to us is an event that causes me to focus on the joy of life.

Henri Nouwen wrote in Jesus & Mary Finding our Sacred Center... "Mary creates a space for us where we can become children as Jesus became a child...It is precisely this childhood that Mary wants us to claim. She who offered an immaculate space for God to take on human flesh wants to offer us a space where we can be reborn as Jesus was born. With the same heart that loved Jesus, she wants to love us. It is a heart that will not make us wonder anxiously whether we are truly loved. It is a heart that has not been marked by the infidelities of the human race and so will never bring wounds to those who seek peace there."

When we hold a child and feel the almost overwhelming need to love that child, we do so without effort.

When they are infants we wrap them in blankets and hold them close. We demonstrate love with touch and sound. We sing to them. We comfort them when they cry.

As they get older, we do some of the same, without the blankets, maybe. Touch and reassurance come natural to those who love a child.

I imagine Mary touching Jesus, holding him closely, singing lightly to him. Knowing, more than anyone else would ever again experience, the true miracle of birth.

The human flesh brought forth from her womb to become the King of Kings, to sacrifice his life for humankind, to be like no other.

I imagine this scene and can't help but become excited about Advent.

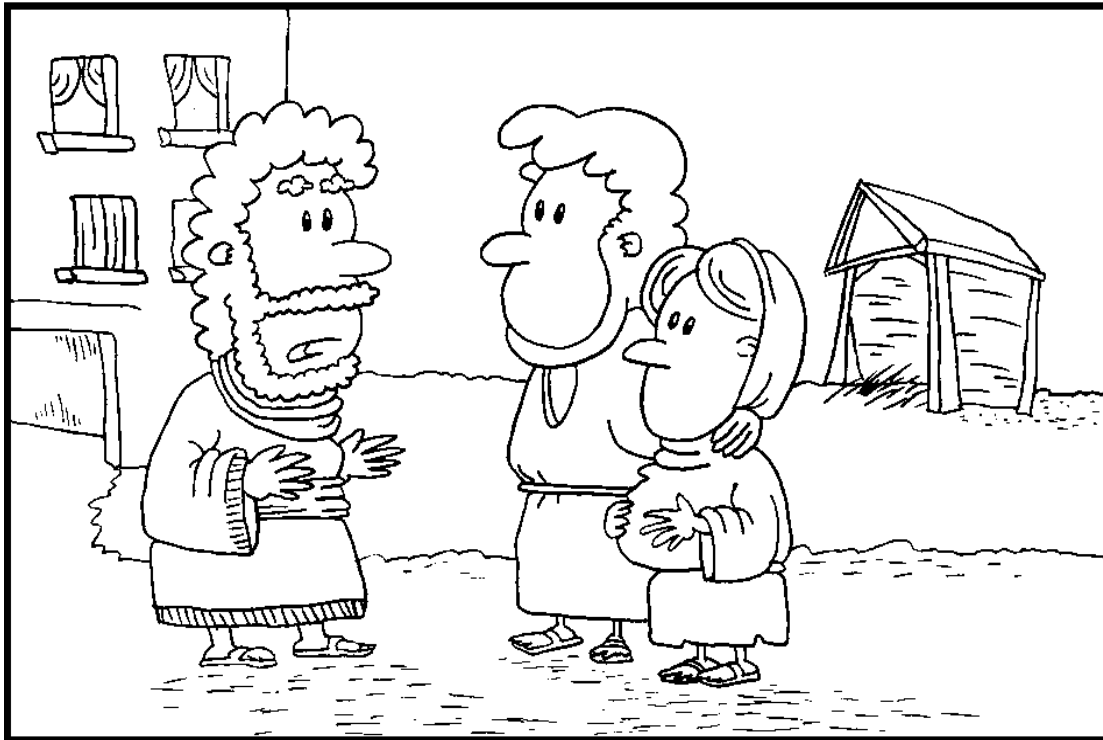
The joy of Mary is contagious. Every day we live, we can feel that joy. As we wake every morning this Advent, imagine Jesus being born that very night we just slept through. Imagine Mary holding the child, Jesus. Lie in bed for just a few seconds longer, and imagine the love of Mary passed through Jesus to us.

Feel the warmth that a child must feel when someone squeezes them and tells them how very much they are loved.

It is an amazing feeling. There is nothing better to kick start your day. Gain strength from that feeling and approach your day by taking on the task of being the person you know yourself to be; the person God intended. A life created for a purpose.

God's Peace,  
Mother Trula

# REVEREND FUN [WWW.REVERENDFUN.COM](http://WWW.REVERENDFUN.COM)



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**SORRY FOLKS, I'M BOOKED SOLID ... GOD HIMSELF COULDN'T GET A ROOM HERE TONIGHT**

## A Service of Lessons and Carols

St. Stephen's Church, 35 South Franklin Street in downtown Wilkes-Barre (across from Boscov's), the Pro-Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem, is pleased to welcome all to attend our 2007 Festival Service of Lessons and Carols for the Season of Advent on Wednesday, December 12th at 6:00 p.m.

The service will be led by Fr. Daniel Cube Gunn, Rector of St. Stephen's, with readings by members of the parish and staff. The Choirs of St. Stephen's will be led and accompanied by Mark Laubach, Organist and Choirmaster.

Organ voluntaries will begin and end the service, which will feature choral music by Palestrina, Malcolm Archer, Robert Twynham, Hugo Distler, Stephen Cleobury, Francis Poulenc, and Peter Warlock. Hymns sung by all will include Come, thou Redeemer of the earth, O day of peace, Comfort, comfort ye, my people, O come, O come, Emmanuel, On Jordan's bank, and Lo! he comes, with clouds descending.

An offering will be received to support St. Stephen's Music Ministry and Reach of St. Stephen's, which ministers to those in need in our community. Those attending are also encouraged to bring gifts of food (non-perishable) or clothing for the Reach Food Pantry and Clothing Closets.

For more information about this and other seasonal liturgies and concerts at St. Stephen's, call the Church Office at (570) 825-6653 or send e-mail to Mark Laubach, Organist and Choirmaster, at [mlaubach@ststephenswb.org](mailto:mlaubach@ststephenswb.org).

God bless you and yours in this season of expectancy and anticipation, and please remember those in need in our community.

Yours faithfully,  
Mark Laubach, Organist and Choirmaster




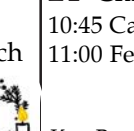


*If you cannot make the service, look for it on WVIA public radio, where it will be broadcast on Music from St. Stephen's, Sunday afternoons at 4.*

Travel through Advent on line with a daily calendar at <http://edow.org/spirituality/advent/index.html>



# Trinity Episcopal Church - December 2007

## Advent Christmas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Diocesan Prayer Cycle 12/2</i> St. Luke's, Lebanon, The Rev. Terrence Wible, rector; <i>12/9</i> St. Luke's, Scranton, the Rev. Peter D'Angio, priest-in-charge; <i>12/16</i> St. James, Schuylkill Haven, the Rev. Dr. John Heffner, rector; <i>12/2</i> Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem. The Very Rev. Tony Pompa, dean and rector; Canon Anne E. Kitch, Christian formation; Canon Joel W. Atkinson, missionary; Canon Joseph N. Leo, canon associate; <i>12/30</i> St. Stephen's, Whitehall, The Hon. Beverly Doneker, senior warden.			<i>Trinity Prayer Cycle</i> <i>12/2</i> Stephen, Mary Beth, Chandler and Savannah Paul <i>12/9</i> Fanna Proper, Carla Ross <i>12/16</i> Tom, Lori, Derek and Lauren Pruyne <i>12/23</i> John and Carol Reed <i>12/30</i> John Schoonover, Hermine Shapiro			1
<b>2 1st Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour 	3 	4  <i>Ed Gilbert</i>	5	6	7  <i>Barbara Cole</i>	8
<b>9 2nd Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 11:00 Coffee Hour <i>Heather Hunsinger</i> <i>Hazel Hunt, Fr. Ben Lentz</i> <i>Ian Bivins</i> Boy Scouts mee 7 - Polishing Party	10 	11	12 A Service of Lessons and Carols, St. Stephens, W-B, 6 p.m.	13	14	15
<b>16 3rd Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist II 10:00 Coffee Hour -----Vestry Meets----- 	17	18	19	20 Clergy Bible study 8, 10 a.m.	21 <b>St. Thomas the Apostle</b>	22
<b>23 4th Sunday of Advent</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Greening the Church  Boy Scouts meet 	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 10:45 Carol Sing 11:00 Festival Eucharist  <i>Kay Bennett</i>	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 	<b>26 St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr</b>  <i>Don &amp; Beverly Barton</i>	<b>27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</b>  <i>Jason Barry</i>	<b>28 The Holy Innocents</b>	30
<b>30 The First Sunday after Christmas Day</b> 9:00 Holy Eucharist 10:00 Coffee Hour	31	<i>Kajo Keji</i> , <i>12/2</i> The congregation of Longhira; <i>12/19</i> The congregation of Lira <i>12/16</i> The Congregation at Limi Displacement Camp; <i>11/23</i> The Congregation of Kenyba; <i>12/30</i> The Congregation of Leikor		<i>Anglicans Around the World</i> <i>12/2</i> Province VII, the Southwest, of the Episcopal Church; <i>12/9</i> Province II, New York, New Jersey, Haiti, the Virgin Islands, the Convocation of American Churches in Europe; <i>12/16</i> The Diocese of Worcester and Worcester-Dudly, England; <i>11/23</i> The Diocese of Yirol, Episcopal Church of the Sudan; <i>12/30</i> The Diocese of Zonkwa, Nigeria.		

**December Highlights**

**Sunday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m., Brass Polishing Party**

**Wednesday, Dec. 12, A service of Lessons and Carols, 6 p.m. St. Stephen's, Wilkes-Barre**

**Sunday, Dec. 16, Vestry meets**

**Sunday, Dec. 23, Greening of the Church**

**Monday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve; 10:45 p.m., Carol Sing; 11:00 p.m., Festival Eucharist**

**Stephen Paul**

Please keep Steve, Mary Beth, Chandler and Savannah in your prayers. Steve is on his fourth stay in the hospital due to complications from Parkinson's Disease and pneumonia; he is not doing very well. We send our love and prayers for healing and comfort.

**During Lent**, a book study will be held in the parish hall and led by Mother Trula. The book will be "Bad Girls from the Bible" by Barbara Essex. Days and times will be announced in the next newsletter. If you are interested in joining the book club talk to Mother Hollywood. The book can be purchased on Amazon and in book stores.

**The Boy Scouts** are meeting in our Parish hall again this year. The Tiger Cubs from last year have graduated to "Wolf" and meet on the second and fourth Sunday evening of each month.

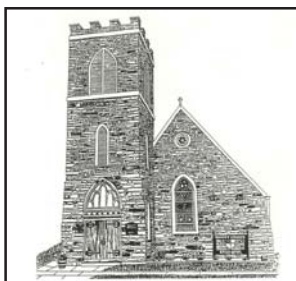
The Reverend Demery Bader-Saye is coming to Redeemer in Decemeber to help a core group of clergy and laypersons intiate a "contemporary liturgy" which will be held in the

basement of Redeemer Church. There is a hope that this will develop into a ministry that will serve the spiritual needs of those younger individuals who have, for one reason or another, not returned to regular Sunday services. Margaret Cole, the Reverend Mary Kisner, the Reverend Laurie Keir and Mother Trula are starting this intiative in December.

There will be a **polishing party** on December 9th at 7 pm. The candlesticks and other brass are badly in need of polishing. Please join us. We'll have a great time together.

Anyone interested in becoming involved with the Altar Guild, please let Mother Hollywood know. This is a much needed ministry. It is not time consuming but very gratifying. Please consider if this is a ministry for you.

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**December at Trinity**

