From the Rector
My Dear People,

Signs of spring abound in our historic churchyard. Daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips are in bloom, and even the daylily foliage is quite full. The bunnies have been spotted darting to and fro amidst the ancient tombstones, and the neighborhood families are once again filling our ball fields with the sounds of play. These beautiful gifts from our creator make me long for Easter Sunday, which is always a day of great joy and beauty at our parish.

Many people, it seems, have the same idea and have already begun to celebrate. I have seen several trees decorated with dangling colored eggs, and an illuminated "Mr. & Mrs. Easter Bunny" can be seen out my office window.

We know, however, that we have a way to go until the journey to Easter joy is complete. I write this to you on the eve of Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, the week in which the drama of our Salvation is re-remembered. The theological term for this is anamnesis, which is essentially the opposite of amnesia. In other words, we do not reenact, instead we remember so well that we are there with our Lord.

We are there crying "Hosanna to the son of David!" one moment, and "Crucify him!" the next. We deny him; we attempt to wash our hands of guilt. It is also we who help him carry his cross; we who tenderly prepare him for burial. And it is we who share in joy and amazement when we come upon his empty tomb. All this and more awaits us during this week of weeks.

You can think of the days of Holy Week as being different acts, but all in the same play. Therefore, I invite you to participate as fully as possible in all of our Holy Week offerings. You will find yourself spiritually uplifted, and the joy of Easter morning to be all the sweeter.

Blessings, Father Richard
Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday
Holy Week commemorates the last week of the earthly life of Jesus as recorded in the Canonical gospels. It begins with Palm Sunday, April 1, where at both the 8am and 10am Mass, we will remember the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as well as the agony of the Passion that he was about to endure. The 10am service will feature the Bell Choir, a traditional procession, and the reading of the Passion which will include members of the congregation. Please visit our website for pictures of Holy Week from last year. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week, a simple Mass will be said daily at 10am in the church.

Maundy Thursday
On Maundy Thursday, April 5, at 7pm, we will commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus Christ in which he instituted the Holy Eucharist. After communion, the altar will be stripped by the acolytes and ceremonially washed to represent the tomb that will receive Christ’s body on Good Friday. The reserved Sacrament will then be taken in procession to the Altar of Repose in the Buchanan Building, which will represent the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus asked his disciples "Could you not wait with me one hour?" The Buchanan Building will remain open until 10pm for silent prayer and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament.

Good Friday
According to ancient tradition, our Lord was crucified on a Friday at noon and died at 3pm. With this in mind, our Good Friday observance will begin at noon on Friday, April 6 in the church. At this service, we read the Passion of Christ, venerate the wood of the cross, and receive communion from the Blessed Sacrament consecrated the night before.

The Good Friday Offering has been a source of support, love and hope for the people of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. This is the 89th year that the National Church offers the opportunity to give our thanks and commitment to the church of Jerusalem as they continue to work toward justice, reconciliation and peace. Through our support of these churches we are helping to realize God's vision of peace throughout this area. More information about this ministry can be found online. Special envelopes will be available in church that day or you can send your offering to the church office and mark it for Good Friday Offering. You may also contribute online via the donate button on the home page of our website - please be sure to note GFO with your donation.

Easter Sunday
There will be two festive masses on Easter
Sunday, April 8. The 8am mass will be a simple, yet joyful, spoken service. The 10am mass will include special music and feature a Brass Ensemble along with the Children's and Senior Choirs. Following the 10am service, we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard for the children of the parish. Bring your own basket or we can provide you with a bag to collect your eggs. Remember to check your eggs for slips that let you know you can collect a prize! Please visit our website for pictures of last Easter's festivities.

Other Trinity News

Candidates for Vestry
Our Annual Parish Meeting is coming up on April 29, so now is the time to think about investing yourself in a leadership role at Trinity. There are five people leaving the Vestry this year and only one is eligible to run again; the other four must sit off for a year. Without a Vestry to authorize monies and to see to the operation of the Parish we cannot operate. So we need YOU to volunteer to stand for a Vestry position.

Who is eligible? Any baptized person, over 21 years of age, whose household has been a pledging member of Trinity for two years and is reasonably regular in attendance.

What does it entail? Attendance at Vestry meetings one evening a month, usually the third Monday from 7-9 pm. For one three year term that amounts to 30 meetings (we don't meet in July or August) and 60 hours total. The Vestry is extremely good about keeping the meetings on track and to that two hour time allotment. Each Vestry member serves on one committee of their choice with varying degrees of time commitment.

Won't someone else do it? There is no one else. We are a very small parish in numbers so we need everyone who is able to serve.

What's in it for me? Lots. You will get a better understanding of what it takes for Trinity to be an active parish, you'll have a direct and on-going say in how Trinity is run, and you'll get to know better those folks serving with you.

How do I get on the ballot? Talk to one of the following Nominating Committee members: John Annand, Lynne Geliebter, Judy Maile, Pam McCracken, or Mindy Weaver, and tell them that you are willing to stand for Vestry.

Easter Memorials
If you would like to contribute to the beautiful music and flowers that fill our church at Easter, envelopes are available in the church or you may send a check to the office no later than April 4. You may also contribute online via the donate button on the home
Lenten Learning
During Lent, a group listened to an audio-book version of Comfort for God’s People, a book which provides a fascinating historical background for the composition of Handel’s Messiah, tracing not only its unlikely inception but also amazing reception throughout history. And on March 17, we attended the Pennsylvania Ballet’s translation of the world-famous Messiah libretto to the stage. The ballet was a beautiful interpretation of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Lenten Outreach
Please pick up a mite box or a Lenten offering envelope in the church and support this year’s giving to Dodwell House, a ministry of St. Anna’s Church in New Orleans. The ministry of Dodwell House will preserve an historic landmark home in the Treme neighborhood, which will house an outreach to immigrants, local children, those in need of medical care, as well as accommodating up to 50 people who are on mission trips to New Orleans. You may also send donations in to the church office with the notation "Dodwell House." Please be generous, and shake out the change from your sofa!

Marriage Banns
I publish the banns of marriage between David Dignetti of Philadelphia and Deirdre Makula of Philadelphia.

I publish the banns of marriage between Michael Paul Prete of Philadelphia and Kaitlyn Elizabeth Geliebter of Abington.

I publish the banns of marriage between Keith Edward Williams of Burlington, VT and Joan Ellen Annand of Burlington, VT.

This is the second time of asking. If any of you know cause or just impediment why these persons should not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, ye are to declare it. Father Robyn

Memorials
This month, we remember three parents of parishioners who passed away recently.
Mrs. Virginia H. Thompson, mother of Jeffrey L. Pyle, died February 6, 2012 at the age of 89. Father Robyn administered the burial rites on March 10 at Glenwood Memorial Gardens.

Mr. David C. Geliebter, father of Phillip Geliebter, died March 16 at the age of 79. He was a Quaker and very active in the community. His memorial service will take place at 2pm on Saturday, April 14, at the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, 1515 Arch Street.

Mr. Paul L. Sullivan, birth father of Peter Datos, died March 27 at the age of 83. Father Robyn administered the burial rites on March 31 at Jefferson Memorial Gardens in Pittsburgh.

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Sermons Online
Have you ever skipped church on a Sunday and wondered what you missed? Have you ever heard such a great sermon that you wished you could share it with a friend or family member? Well, now you can. We’ve created a new feature on our website where the audio recording of each week’s sermon is available, along with the readings. If you are not able to attend church on Sunday, you can go online anytime during the week and get some insight into your faith. Please give it a try!

Vestry Highlights
At the March meeting of the Vestry, we discussed the steeple renovations, repairs from the recent burglary, and preparations for the upcoming Annual Meeting. Our next meeting is on Monday, April 16 at 7pm in the Buchanan Building.

Calendar and Your Feedback
Please visit our new interactive online calendar on our website that allows you to view events at Trinity by week or month, and in a variety of formats. You can also print out the calendar in a way that works best for you. Please also email any input for the May Trinitarian to me by April 27.

Cheers, Pete (your Trinitarian editor)

Schedule of Events
Every Sunday, Mass at 8am (spoken) and 10am (with music and church school during the service, followed by coffee hour in the Buchanan Building)

Every Sunday, Senior Choir rehearsal at 8:45am in the Buchanan Building, Junior Choir rehearsal after the 10am service in the Choir Room
Sunday, April 1, Palm Sunday, Mass at 8am (spoken) and 10am (with bell choir and procession)

Monday, April 2, Mass at 10am in the Church

Tuesday, April 3, Mass at 10am in the Church

Wednesday, April 4, Mass at 10am in the Church

Thursday, April 5, Solemn stripping of the Altar follows 7pm mass in the Church, Altar of Repose in the Buchanan Building

Friday, April 6, Liturgy at noon in the Church with Veneration of the Cross

Sunday, April 8, Mass (spoken) at 8am, High Mass (with special music) at 10am followed by Easter egg hunt in the churchyard

Tuesday, April 10, Wardens’ Meeting at 9:30am in the Church Office

Tuesday, April 10, Women of Trinity at noon in the Buchanan Building

Thursday, April 12, Property Committee Meeting at 7pm in the Buchanan Building

Monday, April 16, Vestry Meeting at 7pm in the Buchanan Building

Tuesday, April 17, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Children’s House

Sunday, April 22, Easter Cantata featuring the senior choir during the 10am service

Tuesday, April 24, Girls Friendly Society at 7pm in the Children's House

Thursday, April 26, Bell Choir Rehearsal at 7:30pm in the Church

Sunday, April 29, Annual Meeting after the 10am service