

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Washington, DC

February 13, 2022

African American Baptisms at Holy Trinity 1795-1815

By Peter J. Albert

Who were our earliest African American brothers and sisters here in the parish during its founding years? Were they all enslaved? The names Liddy and Lucy Butler and Anne Marie Becraft are familiar, (1) but who else was here? One place to look for an answer is in Holy Trinity's sacramental registers — the chronological list of baptisms and marriages kept in the parish archives.

The first entry in our registers, for example, records the marriage of Philis, an enslaved woman, to David Thomas, a free Black man. (Editor's note: The spelling, capitalization, and punctuation in the transcriptions that follow are rendered as found in the original): (2)

January 1 – 1795

Married in the College chapel David Thomas to Philis a negro slave property of Elizabeth Doyle of G. Town –

Witnesses James Byrne –

Robin -

Following in the register are the names of other enslaved men and women, and their enslavers, in entries like these: (3)

Baptized -

John son of Charles slave property of Masum Waring George

February 15 – 1795 –

And (4)

idem Die [same day] Antony Baptized son of Catherine a slave property of Dolly Barber – near G.T. –

In the baptismal registers between 1795 to 1815, over 200 of the children's parents are designated as enslaved. Coupled with their names — as in the examples above, from 1795,

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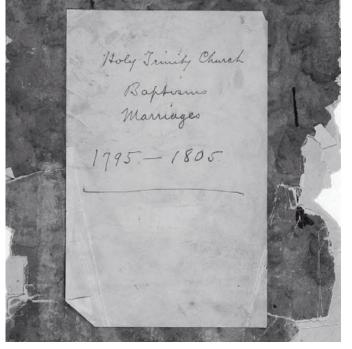
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and this one, from 1815 — are the names of over 100 of their englavers:

June 18.1815. Baptised Jane black daughr of Math. and Jany belgng to Bp. Neale [. . .] God Mother Mary of Mr Franck Fanwick

And sometimes the priest making an entry in the register simply did not indicate that the persons he was naming were Black, so there are more African Americans named in the registers than it would at first appear.

The registers suggest that in the case of a quarter or more of the 200 enslaved parents (between 25 and 30 of the couples),

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Setting Captives Free: Racism, I and You and God's Liberating Grace

AN IGNATIAN RETREAT

during the weeks of **February 27 - April 3, 2022**Registration deadline is **February 1**7

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Jesuit Catholic parish that welcomes all to accompany one another in Christ, celebrate God's love and transform lives.

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LIVING OUR MISSION

The following is an excerpt from a recent homily given by Fr. Pat Earl, S.J.. Parishioners have been requesting a copy of the quote which he used from the book by Willigis Jaeger titled, Ueber die Liebe [About Love]. Fr. Earl translated the reflections from the German.

Reflections on life lived without love:

Duty – without love – makes you grumpy.
Responsibility – without love – makes you unfeeling.
Justice – without love – makes you hard-hearted.
Truth – without love – makes you only critical.
Education – without love – makes you contrarian.
Intelligence – without love – makes you sly.
Friendliness – without love – makes you hypocritical.
Order – without love – makes you petty.
Expertise – without love – makes you dogmatic.
Power – without love – makes you violent.
Honors – without love – make you proud and haughty.
Possessions – without love – make you greedy.
Faith – without love – makes you fanatical

Select just one saying, taking it with you into the day, letting it help you to re-view/re-see your dealings with people.

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

The parish community prays for all of the dead every day at Mass. However, we encourage parishioners to mention specific persons by name during the General Intercessions when invited to do so by the presider.

Parishioners may also request that a specific person be remembered by name at a particular weekday Mass by calling or visiting the receptionist's desk in the Parish Center during normal office hours.

Names must be submitted one week in advance. Persons to be so remembered at weekday Masses this week are:

Week of February 14, 2022

Monday	8:00am	Winifred H. Wilson+
	5:30pm	Betty & Warren Westerfield
Tuesday	8:00am	
	5:30pm	
Wednesday	8:00am	Holly Destry+
	5:00pm	Inez Skinner+
Thursday	8:00am	Joan Montgomery+
	5:30pm	Rita G. Sardella
Friday	8:00am	Dennis Blackwell+
	5:30pm	Kathleen Greco
Saturday	8:00am	Edward Penney+

Pray for those who are sick: For those we hold in our hearts

Pray for those who are dead: For those we hold in our hearts

PRAYER REQUESTS

To add a name to these prayer lists, please email parishlife@trinity.org or call (202) 903-2801. You must be an immediate relative of the one to be remembered, or have express permission in order to add a name to these lists. The names on this prayer list will be mentioned aloud at Sunday Mass during the General Intercessions and will be published in the parish eLetter and bulletin.

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

Welcome to Holy Trinity! We invite you to join our parish. You may register at www. trinity.org/register. Questions about registering can be directed to registration@ trinity.org. New parishioner orientations are held several times throughout the year. See the bulletin, eLetter (sign up at www.trinity.org/eLetter) and website for announcement of dates and times.

SACRAMENTS

Mass Schedule (Check bulletin or website for Holy Days)

Weekdays: 8:00am & 5:30pm (in the Chapel on N St.)

Note: Please see schedule for daily Mass times.

Chapel is open on weekdays between Masses.

Saturday: 8:00am — Chapel; 5:30pm Vigil — Church **Sunday:** 7:30am, 9:00am, 11:30am, 5:30pm — Church;

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday from 4:30pm-5:15pm or by appointment

Sacramental Preparation:

Persons desiring to receive certain sacraments at Holy Trinity need to be registered parishioners and are expected to participate in a preparation program. For more information or to register, contact the appropriate staff person:

- Infant Baptism: readmin@trinity.org, (202) 903-2808
- First Reconciliation/Eucharist: Anne Marie Kaufmann, (202) 903-2846
- Youth Confirmation: Anne Marie Kaufmann, (202) 903-2846
- Adult Confirmation: Anne Marie Kaufmann, (202) 903-2846
- Marriage Preparation: readmin@trinity.org, (202) 903-2808

Baptisms and Weddings:

To schedule a Baptism or Wedding, contact Kathleen Haley at baptisms@ trinity.org or weddings@trinity.org, respectively.

Sacrament of the Sick

Communal anointing is celebrated seasonally in the Chapel of St. Ignatius. Call the parish to request the sacrament at home or in the hospital.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process of conversion and faith formation for individuals who are interested in living the Christian life in the Catholic tradition. Those who want to learn more about the possibility of becoming Catholic are welcome to come to the Inquiry meetings held every Tuesday evening at 7pm in the Faber Room, Holy Trinity Parish Center. Please contact Anne Koester at akoester@trinity.org or (202) 903-2825. Holy Trinity also offers RCIA adapted for children and youth who are not Baptized (ages 7 through high school). Please contact Anne Marie Kaufmann at akaufmann@trinity.org (202) 903-2846 for more information.

LGBTQIA+ MINISTRY

Holy Trinity's commitment to accompany one another in Christ invites us to be more deeply aware of the diversity of our community and more welcoming to those who are marginalized by society or the Church. Our lay-led ministry embraces individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning/queer, intersex, asexual and their families and friends. More information and upcoming meetings can be found at www.trinity.org/lgtbqia or by emailing LGBTQIA@trinity.org.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)

PPC members share leadership responsibility with our pastor. As advisors to the pastor, PPC members assist the pastor in discerning, articulating and communicating to other parishioners the identity and mission of the parish, and they assist the pastor in assuring fidelity to that identity and mission. Contact President Tania Chomiak-Salvi at ppcpresident@trinity.org and Vice President Jennifer Dorsey at parishcouncil@trinity.org.

PRAY

Setting Captives Free: Racism, I and You and God's Liberating Grace

AN IGNATIAN RETREAT

during the weeks of February 27 - April 3, 2022

Registration deadline is February 17

Retreatants are offered the explicit gifts of revelation, repentance, lament and contrition and implicit gifts of transformation, reconciliation, and reparation, which may be given by God and received by the retreatant in God's time.

Retreatants are asked to commit to 30 minutes of prayer each day for the six weeks of the retreat. Small groups (6-8 individuals) will meet on zoom for 90 minutes during the weeks of February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3 to share the fruits of their prayer. Read a full description of the retreat and how to register here *trinity.org/ignatian-spirituality/setting-captives-free/*.

Being Seen, Being Heard, Being Accepted

An Ignatian Retreat for our LGBTQIA+ Community

February 19, 2022 from 1-4 pm, Zoom

Each of us, the psalmist proclaims is "wonderfully made" [Psalm 139]. How would you live if you really believed in the depths of your being that you are created in the image of God? A God who sees you, hears you, and accepts you just as you are and invites you into abundant life in the world and among the People of God (John 15)? You are invited to gather



in community to pray with sacred texts, share in small and large groups and receive input from Martina O'Shea, Director of Ignatian Retreats and Training Programs and Father Ben Hawley, S.J. Parochial Vicar at Holy Trinity. Retreatants will gather for the 5:30 pm Vigil Mass at Holy Trinity. Register here forms.gle/M8XLVuCpQhHtUbJE8

LEARN

CommuniTea: Marc Howard, Founder of the Frederick Douglass Project for Justice

February 22, 12pm, Zoom

Marc M. Howard, J.D., Ph.D., is the Founder and President of the Frederick Douglass Project for Justice. In this role, he leads all aspects of the organization and strives to fulfill the Douglass Project's mission of facilitating structured meetings and respectful conversations between members of free society and prisoners. Please register on our website.

Women Who Stayed Winter Series Begins! Women Who Seek Wisdom

For our winter series, we will welcome three speakers and for the fourth week we will gather in a hybrid manner (hopefully!). The first 3 weeks will continue as Zooms at 5:30pm. The final week will be an opportunity for participants over the past two years to gather at 7pm in McKenna Hall in person or via Zoom to reflect and pray together. Please register on our website.

February 28: Mary Schaffer March 7: Dr. Jaime Waters March 14: Sr. Mary Forman

March 21: Gathering the Graces & Wandering in Wisdom

White Nationalism and the LGBTQ Community: The Challenge to Catholics to See All Things New March 5, 2:30pm, Church. Reception to follow in Trinity

Fr. Bryan Massingale joins us to explore how white nationalism is not simply about racism, but also a threat to the well-being of the entire LGBTQ community. This threat challenges LGBTQ Catholics to a more inclusive understanding of their/our community. It also implicates Catholic practices of complicity in both racial and sexual injustice, and a summons an Ignatian inspired imagination that sees and acts differently in response to the needs of vulnerable populations. All are welcome to this Ignatian Year event!

SERVE

Community Support Invitations

We are continuing to update our needs for partners. At this time we are collecting items for an Afghan family of 6, a member of our Migrant Team, and a young couple expecting their first child.

At this time we are in need of the following new or gently used furniture: table and 6 chairs; sofa; end tables; coffee tables; new linens and blankets (twin and queen sized); new towels. Used items should be in good condition without stains.

You may also make a financial donation on our website- please select **Afghan Ally** in the fund menu or place a check in the offertory basket for "Afghan Ally program." Gift cards to Target and Old Navy are always appreciated.

We are now collecting diapers and newborn items for a young couple expecting their first child. This request is from our tithe partner, Just Neighbors. Please visit the Community Amazon wish list or email <code>aklick@trinity.org</code> for more information.

Update on Phase II Housing Effort in Haiti

The St. Jean Baptiste Committee is excited to share that the Phase II housing effort - ten two-bedroom houses with water, light and sanitation- with Food for the Poor is 80% funded. We need \$16,000 to reach the goal. Tithe dollars were provided to this effort, and we invite individual donors to help our friends in Anse d'Hainault. We will also be supporting the construction of a new community center to replace the chapel destroyed by Hurricane Matthew. This will be located in the mountains near where the coffee is grown. The messages of gratitude from Pere Medard shares what a difference this partnership makes for our sister parish. If you would like to donate to this effort, please visit the champions page created by our partner, Food for the Poor.

African American Baptisms at HT continued from page 1

the two partners were held by different enslavers.

The registers from 1795 to 1815 also designate some 60 Black parents as free. Of the 41 baptisms listing free Black parents, 19 designate both parents as free. For example: (9)

April 4 [1798].

Baptized Charles Thomas born February 27, 1798 of Gustavus & Patty Thomas free negros living George Town

Sponsors George Tibore Patience Tibore

1812 – February 23. Baptized William Henry born December 3d 1811 of Thomas & Ann Robertson free living in George Town God Mother Henrietta a slave

The same day [Oct. 15, 1815] Baptised Mary Ann black daughter of Ruben and Nancy Holly free of G.T. [born] June 11th. 1815. God Mother Monica Shoter.

May 17. 1795

Mary Ann Adams born 28th March 1795 of – Liddy Adams St Mary County now in George Town a negro woman free

Also of significance here are the godparents, usually godmothers, slave or free, whose names often signified important relationships — "fictive kin networks" — insuring ongoing care of children in case of their separation from parents. (14) It was not unusual for the same woman to be named a godmother in multiple baptisms — between 1795 and 1815, Patience Tibore was named a godmother in 14, Lucy Butler in 20, and Liddy Butler in 25.

These names on the fading pages in our parish archives may be the only traces we now have of the lives of some of these African American co-founders of our parish, although further research may perhaps bring more information to light. Occasionally a name recurs — David Thomas and Philis, for example, appear both in the marriage register and, as parents, in the record of two of the baptisms, and Lucy and Liddy Butler served repeatedly as godmothers. Few of them appear in the federal censuses, however — only four, for example, are in the 1800 census: Gustavus Thomas, Ruben Holly, John Thompson, and Thomas Robertson. The enslaved were not named in early censuses — the enslaver's name was given, but the enslaved were represented only by anonymous hash marks.

The silence of our records suggests the words of Patrick Modiano in accepting the 2014 Nobel Prize for Literature: "Memory is...engaged...in a constant struggle against amnesia and oblivion. This layer, this mass of oblivion that obscures everything, means we can only pick up fragments of the past, disconnected traces, fleeting and almost ungraspable human destinies. Yet it has to be the vocation of the novelist [and the historian?], when faced with this large blank page of oblivion, to make a few faded words visible again, like lost icebergs adrift on the surface of the ocean.".

This article has been edited for print. To read the unabridged version and for citations, please visit curavirtualis.org/post/african-american-baptisms-at-holy-trinity-1795-1815

2022 Tithe Grants Deadline for Submission is March 4

The large and small grant RFPs have been posted to our website. Each year the social justice ministry of Holy Trinity Catholic Church awards grants to organizations that address root causes of social justice issues both locally and within the global community. We have a "large grant" category with the goal of providing funds large enough to have a significant social justice impact. Each year the committee in conjunction with the pastor discerns the most pressing social justice issue(s) of the moment and develops a request for proposals to fund organizations seeking to address the root causes of the issue(s) in question. The focus in 2022 is early childhood development. Please pass the invitation on to partners or organizations you work with that may be candidates for either grant. Additional grants are available to organizations focused on care for our common home, youth, food insecurity, affordable housing, returning citizens and immigration. For more information, email aklick@ trinity.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship Update:

You may have heard – or maybe you are hearing for the first time – that Solar Power is coming to Holy Trinity! This summer, we will be installing solar panels on the roofs of our school buildings. This is in direct support of Pope Francis's environmental encyclical Laudato Si and the Jesuit's Universal Apostolic Preference of Caring for our Common Home. Solar energy will help us greatly reduce our carbon footprint while offering significant long term financial benefits. Recently, Fr. Gillespie sent a letter asking for donations to help make this project possible. We have already raised over \$150,000 – well above half of what is needed! Please offer your gift by clicking the Donate button in the banner at the top of our website at *trinity.org*, by using this donate form, or by texting SOLAR to 202-991-4483. Thank you!

Holy Trinity is Hiring!

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For more information, visit *htsdc.org/careers*

- Director of Liturgy
- Coordinator of Youth Ministry

For more information, visit trinity.org/jobs

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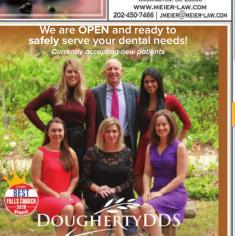




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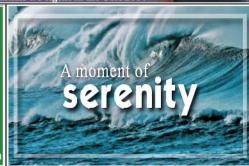
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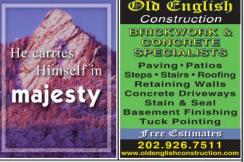


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