



HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Washington, DC

May 22, 2022

Holy Trinity's African American Community and the Cholera Epidemic of 1832

by Peter J. Albert

Washingtonians read about the approaching cholera epidemic with horrified fascination in 1832. First reported in Asia in 1829, it was in Moscow by 1830, Poland and Germany by 1831, London in early 1832. Jumping the Atlantic barrier, it was in New York by June and Philadelphia by July. "We collect in our columns to-day all the information we can lay our hands upon relating to the dreadful malady whose appearance may now be daily expected among us," a Washington newspaper reported.

Cholera's symptoms were terrifying – acute diarrhea, spasmodic vomiting, painful cramps, then chills, dehydration, and darkening and puckering skin. Death could come within hours of the onset of symptoms. Killing roughly half of those who contracted it, its causes were a mystery. There were no known remedies. "To see individuals well in the morning & buried before night...is something which is appalling to the boldest heart," wrote one observer. Newspapers told readers to avoid tobacco, alcohol, and raw vegetables, as well as any excitement, "for that will bring on the disease."

While it claimed fewer victims than tuberculosis or malaria, and its grip on Washington was brief (it had vanished by November), the disease was "novel and terrifying." The *Daily National Intelligencer* reported the first cases in the city on Aug. 22. Holy Trinity's records, kept by Pastor Stephen Dubuisson, S.J., noted the first cholera death in the parish on Aug. 29 with the passing of George, an enslaved man.

Fr. Dubuisson's records indicate that 50% of the parishioners who died of cholera during the epidemic were Black. By contrast, 44% of those dying in the parish and buried at Holy Rood Cemetery during the remainder of the decade, between 1833 and 1840, after the epidemic had ended, were Black.

Who were Holy Trinity's African American parishioners who died in the 1832 cholera epidemic? Here are Fr. Dubuisson's notations,

together with the fragments of information available from the 1830 census:

August 29 George – black – servt of Miss Jane Sewall – chol.
September 4 Clare – black – servt of Mr Jos. Semmes – chol.
" " Jenkins (Dennis) – black – free – chol.

(The census recorded Dennis Jenkins as head of a household of 5 free African Americans.)

" 6 Sarah – black – servt Mrs Widow Semmes – chol.

(The census recorded Eleanor H. Semmes as head of a household of 9 Whites and 4 enslaved persons.)

" 7 Leonard – (Butler) – black – a servt of Mr Birth – chol.

(The census recorded James Birth as head of a household of 6 Whites, 2 enslaved persons, and 1 free African American.)

" 8 Butler (Frances) – coloured – free – chol.

" " Brooks (Henrietta) – black – free – chol.

" 9 Hull (William) – chol.

(The census recorded William Hull as head of a household of 2 free African Americans – himself and one other. Fr. Dubuisson's notes do not mention that he was an African American.)

" Woodward (Silvester) – black – free – chol.

(The census recorded Sylvester Woodward as head of a household of 6 free African Americans.)

" 10 Butler (Phillis) – black – free – chol.

" " Ignatius – black – servt of Capt Scott – chol.

" 13 Henry – black – servt – of Mr Waring – chol.

(The census recorded Henry Waring as head of a household consisting of 1 White male – himself – and 3 enslaved persons.)

" " Coffee (Nancy) – black – free – chol.

" 15 July Ann – black – servt of Mr Eden Clarke – chol.

" 16 Mary Baptist – black – chol.

" 18 Downs (Susan) – free – coloured – chol.

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Holy Trinity's gardens in full bloom; Photo taken May 18 outside the Chapel.

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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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Associate Pastor	Ben Hawley, S.J. (202) 903-2814	bhawley@trinity.org
Associate Pastor	William Kelley, S.J. (202) 903-2833	wkelley@trinity.org
Associate Pastor	William Woody, S.J. (202) 337-2840 x112	wwoody@trinity.org

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Accounting	Elebat Mengiste (202) 903-2821	emengiste@trinity.org
Communications	Beth Frigola-McGinn (202)-487-4235	bfrigola@trinity.org
Facilities	Dino Campagnari (202) 903-2813	dcampagnari@trinity.org
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Social Justice	Ashley Klick (202) 903-2836	aklick@trinity.org
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LIVING OUR MISSION

by Tony Varas



A little over a year ago, I was well settled into the routines of the work of a liturgy director. After almost 10 years in the same position, I had my templates and had developed “well oiled” processes that helped me to carry out the work of ministry. I saw myself as smoothly cycling through the many liturgical years ahead. Then something happened that changed everything. My spiritual director invited me to revisit my prayer journal. I had spent many years - on and off - journaling the fruits of prayer. Her request seemed like a good thing to do so I began reading through my own personal sacred story.

Over the months that followed, I prayerfully reflected on the years of entries in the journal. Slowly new insights were unveiled, and it seemed that it was time to start a new chapter in my story. Not long after, I found myself in a dialog with the search committee and the pastoral staff here at Holy Trinity. What I found at Holy Trinity was a welcoming community focused on accompanying one another on each other's journey of faith. It didn't take long for me to see that this was the right next chapter for living the mission I was entrusted with at my baptism. I am grateful to Fr. Gillespie and the pastoral staff for inviting me to serve with them and giving me an opportunity to write this next chapter.

Now, as I join this pastoral staff, I ask for your prayers. I hope to learn about how this community celebrates the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the liturgy. I hope to build upon the parish's long-standing tradition of well celebrated liturgies. I hope to offer whatever gifts I received at my own baptism and join them together with the gifts of other collaborators to nurture the liturgical life of Holy Trinity. I hope to grow alongside the others who I'll collaborate with in this ministry. I hope that the continuing conversion that we experience together as disciples will influence the conversion of the world. After all, isn't that our mission? Thanks be to God!

Tony Varas is the newly appointed Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and can be reached at tvaras@trinity.org.

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 May 23, 2022

Monday	8:00am	
	5:30pm	
Tuesday	8:00am	
	5:30pm	Jotham Johnson+
Wednesday	8:00am	
	5:30pm	
Thursday	8:00am	
	5:30pm	Jack Brodie+
Friday	8:00am	Mary O'Connell+
	5:30pm	Al Eisele & Steve Skonberg+
Saturday	8:00am	Mary Elizabeth Soldo+

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

Pray for those who are dead: *Karen Wiessler; Jack Brodie*

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.

WE WELCOME YOU TO JOIN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Register Today!



NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

Welcome to Holy Trinity! We invite you to join our parish. You may register at www.trinity.org/register or click the QR code below. 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/lgbtqia 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.

LEARN

Gerard Manley Hopkins Discussion

May 25, 7pm, Zoom

Join members of the Social Justice Ministry to examine several poems by Gerard Manley Hopkins, both for the purpose of giving participants the chance to become familiar with his work and to pose the question of what poetry can do in the work of justice—especially given Hopkins' resonance with modern ecological justice. Please RSVP to aklick@trinity.org by **May 22**.

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL



May is the Month of Mary

Please join Holy Trinity School's Mathematics Teacher Ms. McGowan and Principal Mr. McShane in prayer **every weekday morning this May** at 7:40am at the statue of Mary on the parish grounds to pray a decade of the Rosary. Rosaries and prayer guides will be provided. This will be a short prayer session and last less than 10 minutes. All are welcome!

SERVE

Catechists Needed for 2022-2023 Faith Formation Year

The Faith Formation program is in need of catechists to nurture the faith of the children and youth of our parish families. Catechists teach in teams of two, and classes meet on Sunday mornings from 10:15am-11:15am from September to May. Serving as a catechist not only provides a needed service to Holy Trinity, it also helps you to grow in your own faith. If you are interested in being a catechist or would like more information, please contact Sandy Nguyen, rek8@trinity.org or 202-903-2815.

2022 Border Trips

Parishioner and Migrant Team member, Margie Legowski, is coordinating our 2022 border trips. These border trip learning opportunities aim to help you understand the complexity of immigration on the border and service opportunities that support local immigrant ministries. There will be an information session June 7 at 7pm. Please email aklick@trinity.org if you are interested in joining one of the 2022 border trips: **El Paso, Texas: September 28-October 2** and **Nogales, Arizona: October 27-31**.

Get Involved with Don Bosco Cristo Rey

Don Bosco Cristo Rey is a Catholic college-prep school for students with the need and motivation to earn their own tuition through a corporate work-study program. Students come from families of limited economic means. Don Bosco partners local businesses to fill entry-level positions with well-trained students, enhancing diversity and talent in their own corporate pipeline. If you or your company would like to get involved and change the trajectory of students' lives by hiring or donating, please visit dbcr.org, or email achapa@dbcr.org.

May Fundraiser for Haitian Mothers

The St. Jean Baptiste Committee is working on a new initiative to provide clean delivery birth kits and newborn kits to women in Haiti. A key element lacking in the birthing process for the women of Haiti is a clean, safe delivery. In addition to the clean delivery birth kits, the committee will be putting together newborn kits too. The collection will run from **May 8-May 29**. Requested items for the newborn kits include: diaper pins, newborn cloth diapers, bars of soap, diaper covers, three-month to newborn size t-shirt (snap), and swaddling blankets. Individual items may be dropped off in collection baskets at Mass, at the parish center or shipped to the Parish Center, Attn: Social Justice. The committee is also accepting donations to purchase items. It costs approximately \$15 for a newborn kit and \$25 for a clean delivery kit. Checks should be payable to Holy Trinity Catholic Church with *Haiti Relief* in the memo.

Updated Wish List Items for Migrant Families Members

Items may be shipped to or dropped off at the Parish Center.

- Girls summer clothes size 18 months, 4, 6 & 7 (new or gently used)
- Weed trimmer
- Cell phones

SOME Snack Bag Collections

Snack bag collections will continue through August. Please drop off donations Saturdays between 10am and 12pm at the corner of 0 and 36th Streets.

May 28: Snack bags and new or gently used men's or women's shoes (no dress shoes please)

June 25: Snack bags and pairs of new socks

July 23: Snack bags and new or gently used men's or women's jeans or pants

August 27: Snack bags and pairs of women's or men's new underwear



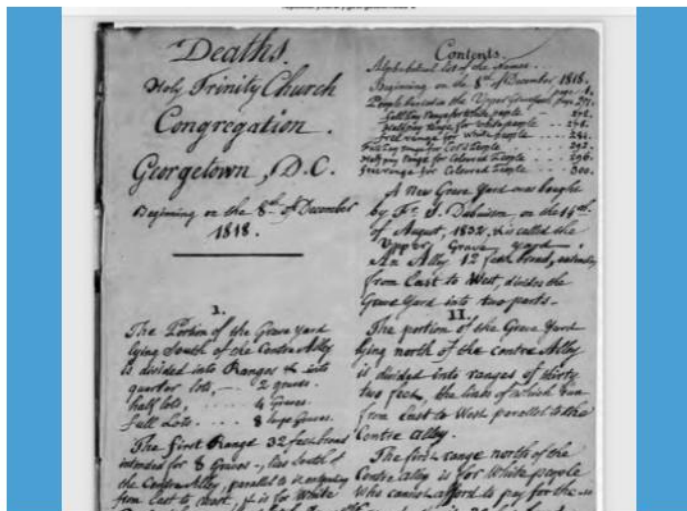
Baltimore Community Engagement for High School Youth

All current high school students are invited to serve our neighbors this summer, **June 27-July 2**, in Baltimore. Teens and adult leaders will spend the time serving meals, learning about causes of homelessness and poverty, and reflecting on their experience through prayer & conversation. For more information, contact Anne Marie Kaufmann, akaufmann@trinity.org.

Volunteer Leaders Needed

This summer high school youth from Holy Trinity Parish will spend the week of **June 27-July 2** serving our neighbors in Baltimore. We are still in need of two more adult leaders to accompany our teens on this week of service. Consider whether God might be calling you to serve as a volunteer for this service experience. All adult volunteers must complete background check paperwork and attend training in order to serve as leaders. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Anne Marie Kaufmann, akaufmann@trinity.org.

HT African American Community and the Cholera Epidemic of 1832 *continued from page 1*



A page from the parish death register describing the layout of graves in The College Ground on the Georgetown campus and in The Upper Grave Yard (Holy Rood Cemetery). Holy Trinity Church, Deaths, 1818-1867, Digital Georgetown Manuscripts Collection.

(The census recorded Susanna Downes as head of a household of 6 free African Americans and an enslaved female.)

“ “ Ignatius – black – servt of Mrs Manning – chol.

(The census recorded Mary Manning as head of a household of 5 Whites and 4 enslaved persons.)

“ “ Conwell (Elizabeth) – coloured – free – chol.
 “ 19 Butler (Sarah) – black – free – chol.

(The census recorded Sarah Butler as head of a household of 3 free African Americans.)

“ 20 Butler (Harriet) – black – free – chol.
 “ 23 Burges (John) – black – free – chol.
 October 2 Mary – black – servt of Mr. Smoot – chol.

(The census recorded Walter Smoot as head of a household of 5 Whites and 6 enslaved persons.)

“ 9 Sarah – black – servt of Mrs Elizabeth Fearson – chol.
 “ 13 John (Dyson) black – servt of Mr Chew – chol.

(The census recorded Samuel Chew as head of a household of 6 Whites and 2 enslaved persons.)

Holy Trinity parishioners who died in the cholera epidemic of 1832 were buried in the College Ground, the parish cemetery located on what is now the Georgetown campus. Land for Holy Rood Cemetery was purchased in 1832, but burials did not begin there until 1833.✠

CONNECT

New Parishioner Wine and Cheese Reception
May 22, 6:30pm, Chapel Garden

If you have registered at Holy Trinity in the last year, please attend the New Parishioner Wine and Cheese Reception in the Chapel Garden. In case of rain it will be moved inside the Chapel Hallway and Reception area. All are welcome.

Holy Trinity Annual Mass and Picnic
June 12, 10am, Visitation

Mark your calendars for the return of our annual Mass and Picnic held at Visitation High School. Starting with 10am Mass at Visitation’s Nolan Center the picnic will follow on the front lawn. Enjoy games, hot dogs, sides, cotton candy, ice cones, a bounce tent, balloon making, a DJ, and great fun. There is no charge for the event, food or activities. Bring family, friends and your own blanket or chairs. Volunteers are needed! If you can help, please see the SignUpGenius on the Parish Life webpage, or call Lisa Dittmeier in the Parish Office at 202-903-2801.

LGBTQIA Ministry Men’s Group Informal Supper
May 23pm, 7pm, McKenna Hall

The Men’s Group of the LGBTQIA Ministry will meet for an informal supper. We will be in contact with members of the Ministry in the next several weeks to ask for contributions to the menu. Please contact Bill Corcoran at lgbtq@trinity.org or 202-281-9895 with any questions or suggestions. We look forward to seeing you all there.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PPC Elections

The PPC is now accepting self-nominations for election into the 12-member group which works with Fr. Kevin Gillespie, SJ in making strategic decisions about the direction of the parish. If you are an engaged parishioner over the age of 16 with skills or interests associated with administration, communications, community life, faith formation, social justice, or worship, consider joining other engaged parishioners on the PPC. Interested candidates should submit a short bio/statement of interest and headshot by **May 27**. Please email PPCElections@trinity.org for more information.

Easter Appeal

Our ministries of social justice and inclusion are some of the most powerful ways we as a parish speak of the Risen Christ’s presence in our communities and in our world.

Our parish is a beacon, a source of advocacy and an example of hope. We are witnessing with and on behalf of women, members of the LGBTQ+ communities, migrants fleeing war and oppression, Black lives matter, and all marginalized people as we direct our time and resources to alleviate suffering, promote inclusion, and create justice. Your contributions to our Easter Fund are used 100% in support of these and all our parish ministries. Thank you for your generosity. You can contribute by clicking “Donate” in the banner at the top of trinity.org or by scanning the QR code below.





Sunday, May 22

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 | Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23 | John 14:23-29

6:30pm

New Parishioner Wine & Cheese
Parish Center Gallery/Garden

Monday, May 23

MONDAY OF THE SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER

Acts 16:11-15 | John 15:26—16:4a

9:00am

Morning Prayer
Zoom

7:00pm

HT Migrant Team Meeting
Zoom

7:00pm

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Men's Discussion
Upper Room, McKenna Hall

8:00pm

Separated/Divorced/Widowed Support Group
Zoom

Tuesday, May 24

TUESDAY OF THE SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER

Acts 16:22-34 | John 16:5-11

7:00pm

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)
McKenna Hall

7:30pm

Pray the Rosary with Fr. Gillespie
Zoom

Wednesday, May 25

WEDNESDAY OF THE SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER

Acts 17:15, 22—18:1 | John 16:12-15

7:00pm

Gerald Manley Hopkins Discussion
Zoom

Thursday, May 26

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Acts 1:1-11 | Luke 24:46-53

6:05pm

Christian Meditation
Chapel

7:00pm

Iconographers Guild
Zoom

7:00pm

Young Adult Faith Sharing
Chapel

7:15pm

Book Discussion Group
Zoom

Friday, May 27

FRIDAY OF THE SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER

Acts 18:9-18 | John 16:20-23

9:00am

Morning Prayer
Zoom

Saturday, May 28

SATURDAY OF THE SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER

Acts 18:23-28 | John 16:23b-28

7:30am

Zen Meditation
Church

Sunday, May 29

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 7:55-60 | Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20 | John 17:20-26

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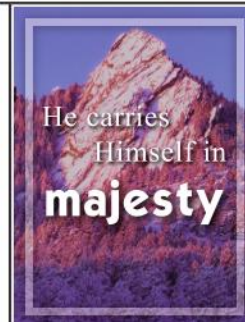
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