

TRINITY TRIANGLE

Stewardship - A Way of Life

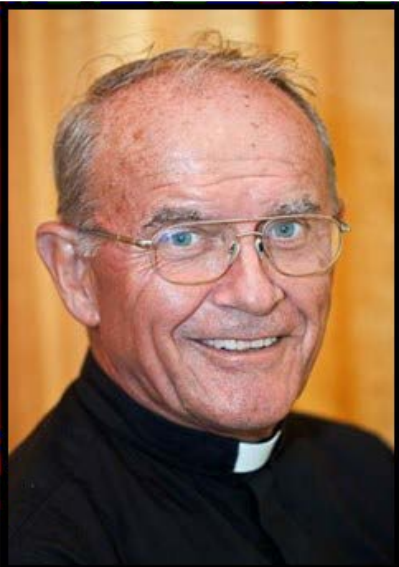
TIME • TALENT • TREASURE

Catholic Community of Blessed Trinity

50th Anniversary of the Blessed Trinity Sanctuary



Photo courtesy of Jeff Bairstow



The Source & Summit of Our Spirituality

The special presence of Jesus with us is in His real presence in the Eucharist – the Blessed Sacrament is the high point of B.T. spirituality. Just as we have practiced here at Blessed Trinity over the last 50 years and longer, receiving Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass is the summit of the Catholic faith.

While preparing for and receiving Jesus in the Eucharist is a very private matter that continually grows our personal relationship with Him, it also must grow our relationship with the Body of Christ throughout the parish, throughout our Diocese and, in fact, with the whole world.

The outcome of receiving Jesus in Holy Communion at Mass and our private visits with Him in the Adoration Chapel can never be separated from our efforts to take care of the needs of the Body of Christ throughout the world.

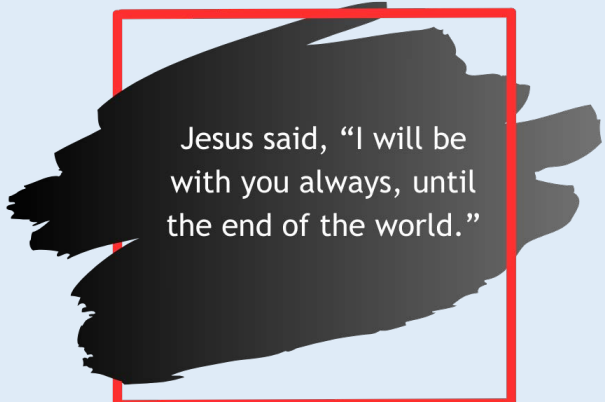
While receiving Jesus in the Eucharist can really inspire us in our own private efforts to respond to His needs as we see them daily, our parish has dozens and dozens of ministries and organizations set up to facilitate this care for Christ's Body.

You could be part of:

- Brother's Keeper, which primarily responds to the needs of the local poor.
- Bereavement Ministry, which responds to families who have lost a loved one.
- Ministry to the Sick, whose members visit and pray with those in hospitals, nursing homes, private homes, and retirement homes.
- Prison Ministry, whose members by visit inmates in jails and prisons, offering them God's word, Holy Communion, and Mass.
- Catholic Education, whether through our 3 Catholic schools, our Religious Education program, Life Teen, EDGE, or faith sharing groups.
- Mission trips, traveling outside the U.S. with Covenant Mission Team or Sister Parish groups, or within our own community by joining the Prayer & Action mission group.
- Saving Mercy, Project Hope, or Open Arms Village, striving to give a fresh or new beginning to the homeless.
- Liturgical Ministries, whose members lead the community in God's Word, prayer, and worship.
- Administration, by becoming an active member of one of the 12 boards that oversee all parish endeavors.

Blessed Trinity Church is well known for its many efforts in building up the Body of Christ close to home and through out the world. We are certainly not a private club just taking care of our members privately. Fully caring for our parishioners involves immersing them in the needs of Christ's Body after intimately uniting them with Jesus Christ in Holy Communion.

Our parish exists to foster each member's deep personal relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist, which leads to an ever-deeper commitment to respond to the needs of the Body of Christ.



Jesus said, "I will be with you always, until the end of the world."

PRIESTS

*of Blessed
Trinity*

1974 - PRESENT

- FR. FRANCIS X.J. SMITH, PASTOR
1966-1976 (RIP)
- FR. LAWRENCE REDMOND, PASTOR
1976-1987 (RIP)
- FR. PAUL T KAMIDE, PASTOR
1987-1988 (RIP)
- FR. PATRICK SHEEDY, PASTOR
1988-PRESENT
- FR. ADRIAN TORRES
1989-1993
- FR. NICK O'BRIEN
1990-1994
- FR. HUGO LONDONO
1993-1997 (RIP)
- FR. LUIS BARRERA
1997-2001
- FR. PEDRO ZAPATA
2001-2003
- FR. MICHAEL O'KEEFFE
2001-2024 (RIP)

- FR. ALPHONSO CELY
2003-2012
- FR. JEAN DESIR
2006-2009
- FR. ROY ECO
2009-2013
- FR. JESUS ARROYAVE
2012-2013
- FR. FRANKLIN SALAZAR
2013-2016 (RIP)
- FR. RAUL VALDEZ
2013-2020
- FR. ZBIGNIEW STRADOMSKI
2016 - PRESENT
- FR. FRANCIS JOSEPH
2020-2021
- FR. BERNARD KIRATU
2021-2023
- FR. TITUS KACHINDA
2023 - PRESENT

*Please Pray for
All of our Priests!*



DEACONS

1974 - PRESENT



- DEACON HERIBERTO BERRIOS
ORDAINED 2000
- DEACON STEVE FLOYD
ORDAINED 2017
- DEACON JIM MAUBACH
ORDAINED 1992
- DEACON JIM SCHWARTZ (RIP)
ORDAINED 2000
- DEACON ANTONIO TORRES
ORDAINED 2017
- DEACON VERN KRAJESKI
ORDAINED 1980
- DEACON JIM BOERSTLER (RIP)
ORDAINED 1996
- DEACON RAY HUFF (RIP)
ORDAINED 1982
- DEACON HAROLD TIMMIS (RIP)



BLESSED TRINITY'S

Religious Sisters

MISSIONARIES OF THE SPANISH INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Sister Vanesa Galvis, Sister Marta Florian, and Sister Magalis Baldovino joined Blessed Trinity after a two-year discernment and on-site visit confirmed that Blessed Trinity's needs corresponded to the order's charisms.

JANUARY 2007



CONGREGATION OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY REPARATRIX

Sister Concepta, Sister Juliet, and Sister Theodozia established a convent at Blessed Trinity at the invitation of Father Pat. The Sisters' presence in Ocala eventually led to Blessed Trinity's involvement in our sister parish in Nalweyo, Uganda.

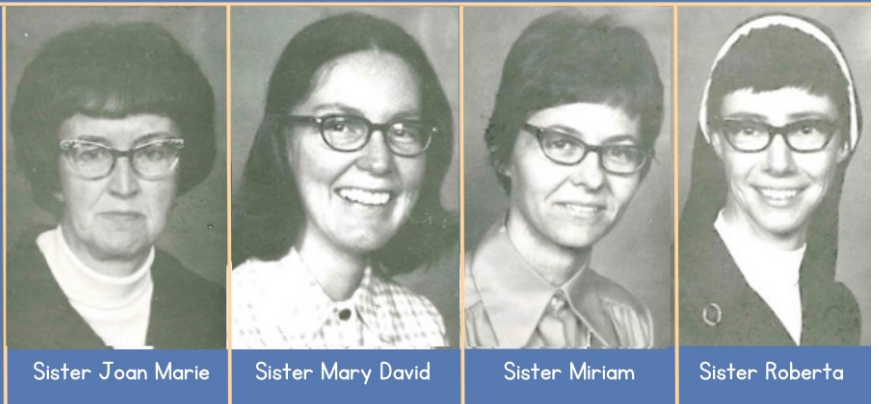
AUGUST 2000



THE ORIGINALS

Blessed Trinity School was staffed by the Sisters of Saint Benedict from San Antonio, Florida.

1933 - MID 1970'S



Sister Joan Marie

Sister Mary David

Sister Miriam

Sister Roberta

PARISHIONERS SINCE 1974

ROSEMARIE & WILLIAM NELSON

THE BORTER FAMILY

JEFF WRIGHT

CAROL IMMEL

MARY ANNE HITSON

VICTOR MUSLEH, JR

LAUREL WILSON

MARY ELLEN DAVID

ETHEL ALDER

LOIS LEIGHTON & FAMILY

SUSAN & AUGIE GREINER & FAMILY

MIKE & JUDY O'FARRELL

BERT DEKKER

RALPH & MARY LIZ RANIERI

PEGGY WATTS

TONI A WARREN

TAMARA YORK

KAREN TAYLOR

MAUREEN WALKER

PETER PESOLA

SUSAN PESOLA - SILVER

JEANNE PESOLA ANDREWS

ROBERT, BARBARA, BETH
GALLENTE

JAMES LIPA & FAMILY

GREGORY TUCCI

ANN LAPLANT

BARBARA (PARKER) VITALIANO

VIC & BARBARA MUSLEH

TYLER MUSLEH MINTON

MARTHA LYNN MUSLEH SCROGGIE

ROBERTA HARKINS FAMILY

CHERYL CURTIN FAMILY

CHARLOTTE HATCH CHAMBLISS

ROBIN LOUISE REICH

TAMMY MARIA REICH

LISA LYN REICH

MICHAEL JAMES REICH

JIMMY REICH JR

JODI ANNA GOODEN

JERRY VIGLIONI & FAMILY

JOYCE & KEN LEMEK

BOBBIE HANEGAN

FLOYD HERSHBERGER

DAVID ELLSPERMAN

THE COY FAMILY

MARY & MICKY MIKULAK & FAMILY



Parish Boards & Committees

Blessed Trinity parish has about 15 boards or committees.

Most of the parish work falls under one or more of these boards.

PARISH COUNCIL

Together with the pastor, the parish council takes a leadership role in the faith community. Through prayer, deliberation and living the Gospel message, the council fosters the spiritual growth of the parish.

ANGELS IN ARMS BOARD

This board is responsible for planning the activities and faith formation of our youngest members. They help in the early education of our children from six weeks to pre-k.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BOARD

These board members directly assist the pastor and the faith formation director in the faith formation of our parish community. They represent RCIC, RCIA, Young Adults and all youth ministries.

LIFE TEEN CORE TEAM

This team serves teens by building good moral relationships with them, all the time leading them into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

This committee helps in the implementation of stewardship in Blessed Trinity parish. They oversee all aspects of commitments of time, talent, and treasure encouraging all members to keep God number one in all our ministries.



2024 Stewardship Committee

THE TRIANGLE

While it does not have a board, under the direction of the pastor and Michelle Hernandez, each issue of this parish newsletter is planned.

Articles are assigned to various writers and ministries. New staff are introduced. Parish and church policies and parish celebrations are dealt with in more detail. One whole issue is given to our Sister Parish in Uganda. Michelle does all the work of getting the material ready for the printer. The Triangle is published 4 or 5 times a year and is mailed out to every registered parishioner.

ELDER CARE BOARD

These board members handle the financial reports and issues that arise in the care of older, frail members of the community.

SISTER PARISH MISSION TEAM

This team meets at least four times a year supporting all aspects of our Blessed Trinity sister parish in Uganda – including educating our parish, raising money, seeking student sponsors, gathering mission supplies, and planning the annual mission



2024 Sister Parish Team

LITURGY TEAM

Members from each of the major liturgical ministries meet to plan each liturgical season in advance – making sure sufficient volunteers are committed, logistical issues are solved, and a strong spiritual atmosphere is evident in all our liturgies.

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

This is the only committee mandated by the church at large. It oversees all financial aspects and decisions concerning income, charities, and budgets.

COVENANT MISSION TEAM

These members, ranging in age from 14 to adult, do community service projects and fundraising – all leading to a trip to a foreign country, usually South or Central America each summer.

HISPANIC BOARD

The leaders of each Hispanic ministry, with their priest, meet to keep every ministry focused and on track as they bring the full message of salvation through Christ to all their people.

BLESSED TRINITY INVESTMENT BOARD

This board oversees and encourages the long-term growth and financial stability of the parish by promoting planned gifts and bequests.

BLESSED TRINITY SCHOOL BOARD

The board aids in the planning of a strong sound academic education in a moral Catholic environment for students from 5k to 8th grade.

BROTHER'S KEEPER BOARD

These board members oversee the operation and mission of Brother's Keeper which provides major assistance to parishioners and to local poor and homeless in Marion County.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

These members oversee all parish maintenance, all new construction and any issues involving parish buildings and grounds.

Blessed Trinity's Sanctuary 1974 - 2005



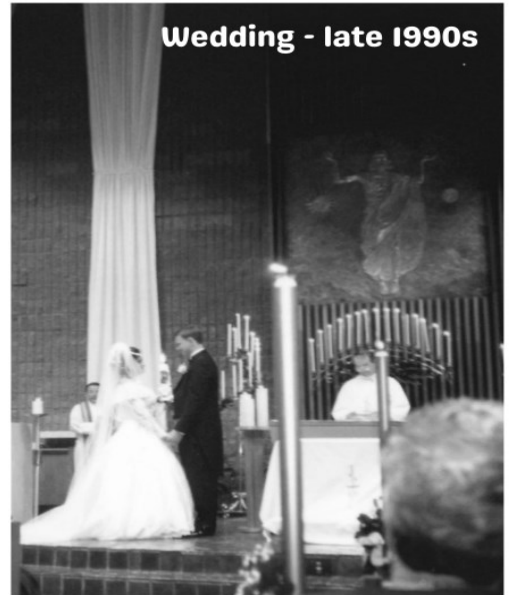
Baptism in 2001



Baptismal font & tabernacle



Mass in the gym



Wedding - late 1990s



Old pews in the portico - square brown tile floor!

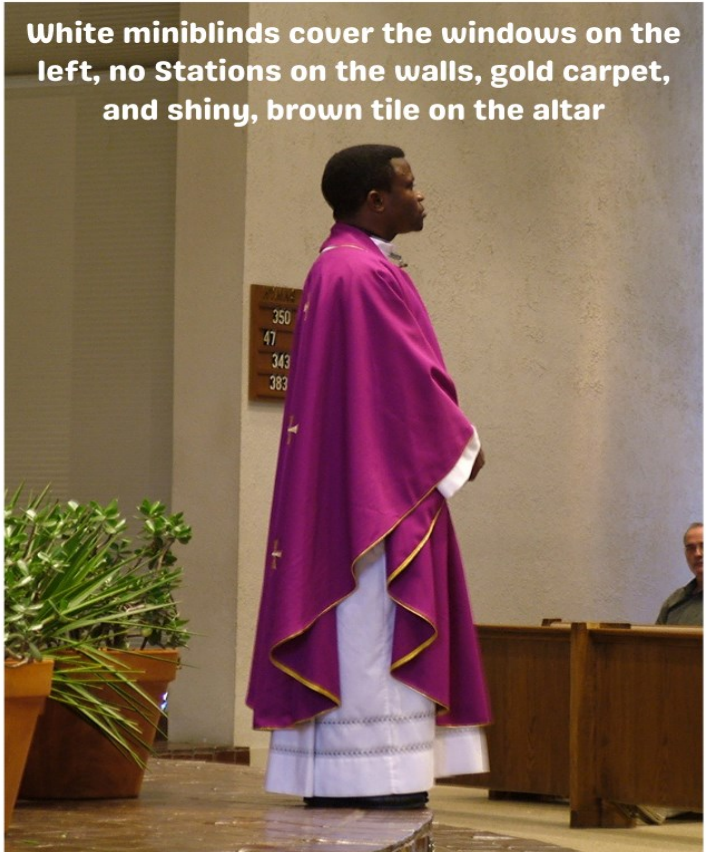


Demo of the church altar 2005

Final Mass Before Renovation
March 13, 2005



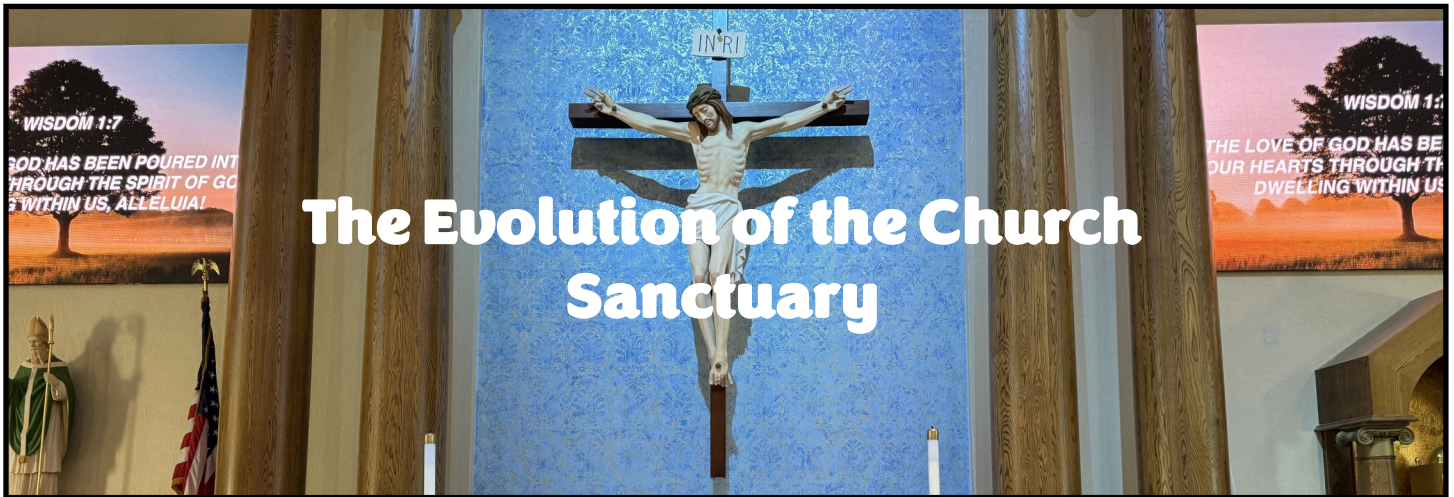
White miniblinds cover the windows on the left, no Stations on the walls, gold carpet, and shiny, brown tile on the altar



Crowded choir & old organ



Choir area as viewed from the balcony



The Evolution of the Church Sanctuary



The church building itself has undergone many physical changes over the last 50 years.

As the Blessed Trinity community grew and grew, the need for more Masses and increased seating capacity became urgent. Due to the type of walls used in the building, the ground floor of the church could not be expanded. A free-standing 250-seat balcony was added in 1995. The number of seats decreased by about 30 when we placed the technical equipment in the balcony. The original church had yellow carpet which was long since outdated and the subject of many jokes.



In 2005, a major updating and liturgical renewal took place that cost over \$1.5 million. The yellow carpet was replaced by new flooring. Old pews were replaced by new pews. Glass doors were installed instead of full doors leading from the vestibule to the main church. The addition of sound in the vestibule allowed moms/dads with babies and little children to fully participate in Mass while in the vestibule.

At the same time some needed liturgical changes were made. The resurrected Christ which stood behind the altar was moved over the baptismal font. Four giant pillars, named after the four Evangelists, were built behind the altar with the crucifix in the middle. A new baptismal font, which also allowed for adult baptisms, was placed to the right of the altar.

The shrine to Our Lady was placed on the left wall of the church and later on, St. Joseph was placed on the right. Somehow St. Patrick appeared behind

the choir! It is worth noting that the resurrected Christ, the crucifix, and St. Patrick, were all created by our own liturgical artist – Thomas Glisson.

The Stations of the Cross were finally installed in the main church. A small version of The Stations was already affixed to the walls of the chapel. Outdoor Stations erected by the Spanish Community were arranged on the left side of the church and the ever popular outdoor shrine to Our Lady, also put in place by the Hispanic Community, was erected on the ‘island’ between the parish hall and the church.

A burned statue of Our Lady, due to a chapel fire in September 1992, was placed over the poor box in the vestibule. A new statue of Our Lady took its place in the chapel. In 2014, the Divine Mercy Shrine in the chapel was added, along with the covered walkway that starts at the hall and continues almost all the way around the church building.

All in all, the environment leading from the parking lot to the church, which now also includes the new parish prayer garden, helps to move us from a “parking lot mentality” to a more reflective mood. And the total spiritual atmosphere within the church can easily lead people who are ready, to silence, prayer, and community worship.



The Parish Prayer Garden

Our new parish prayer garden will be blessed by Bishop Noonan after the 4pm Mass on October 5, 2024. The old prayer garden area has been fenced in. While there were Stations of the Cross in the same area for years, it was never a very prayerful environment. The old Stations became damaged and faded. People generally walked through the area going from A to B. Now there is a gate leading in on one side and a concrete path opening at the other side. The big old tree stump is gone. The ground was made ready to build the 14 Stations of the Cross, a 30-foot statue of the resurrected Jesus and a concrete pathway connecting all the Stations leading to Jesus. A concrete bench is available at each Station for those who want to sit, pray, and meditate.

The statue of Jesus and the Stations are modeled on the ones so widely known internationally at Our Lady's Shrine in Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina.



Since this prayer garden area is especially designed for prayer, mediation, and spiritual reading, it is our hope that it will be very much in use everyday of the year. Florida is very suited to outdoor prayer and meditation. We already have our Perpetual Adoration Chapel. This prayer garden can also be used, at times, for group prayer, for teacher-led classes, for teen-led prayer, etc.

Check it out. It will draw you back.

The *Roots* of our New Parish Prayer Garden

by Heidi Jasper

At a Parish Council meeting two years ago, a general discussion of beautiful pilgrimages and prayer gardens turned to our own prayer garden at Blessed Trinity. The Stations of the Cross area between the Church and the primary building were rarely used. Some monuments were missing the plaques depicting their Station of the Cross, while other monuments were missing altogether. The uneven terrain also made the area inaccessible for many of our parishioners. Father Pat decided it was time to take action and create a prayer garden more suitable for the prayer life of our parish. He convened a committee of Parish Council members to begin the work of a new prayer garden. It was my pleasure to be a part of the committee. When we asked Father Pat what the budget would be, he told us not to worry about it, because if God wills it, then He will provide.

The first task was to identify the needs and goals of the new prayer garden. We met several times, starting with morning weekday Mass, and then walking the prayer garden site for inspiration. We wanted to maintain the Stations of the Cross theme. The stump at the top of the area, next to the primary building was to be removed and replaced with a meaningful statue. Furthermore, accessibility for all our parishioners and an atmosphere of prayer and meditation were of utmost importance.

We brought these goals back to the next Parish Council meeting. Father Pat agreed that enclosing the garden would create a feeling of separation from the bustle of activity surrounding the area. Because pilgrimages to Medjugorje have strengthened the faith of so many of our parishioners, Father Pat suggested that we model our prayer garden after elements found there. The Stations of the Cross would be tiled mosaics set in stone monuments, and the statue would be an exact replica of Medjugorje's 27 foot tall Risen Christ statue.

At that point, the project was handed off to the building committee. Mike Boyle would manage the project from the initial site preparation to the installation of the Risen Christ statue. The stone monuments, designed with the help of Gilbert Martinez, would be hand-painted tile mosaics depicting the Stations of the Cross.

Unique Rabbit Studios will engineer and construct the statue. We conducted months of meetings between the committee and Unique Rabbit Studios to ensure Blessed Trinity's Risen Christ statue stayed true to the original one designed by Slovenian artist Andrej Ajdic. We also requested the statue was constructed to be able to withstand potential hurricane force winds.

Members of the Parish Council and Building Committees have been inspired as they have watched the progress each week on their way to and from Mass. As the project nears completion, we are reminded of Father Pat's advice. If we put our trust in God, and if it is His will, then He will provide.

PARISHES & MISSIONS



In 1978 Blessed Trinity's pastor, Fr. Larry Redmond, along with Ray Huff spearheaded an effort to meet the needs of the growing Catholic community in Marion County. This effort was called Project Growth and had the ambitious goal of raising \$500,000.

This successful campaign resulted in the construction of Saint Joseph's of the Forest Catholic Church, Our Lady of the Springs Catholic Church, Blessed Trinity's Community Center, and the purchase of land for Christ the King, which was to be a mission parish of Blessed Trinity.

The Ocala Estates-area Spanish community celebrated Mass in homes and even a horse stable from 1997 until the mission church was completed in 2001. Blessed Trinity and Queen of Peace helped fund the construction project.

OUR LADY OF THE SPRINGS



ST JOSEPH OF THE FOREST



CHRIST THE KING



LA GUADALUPANA





Save the Date!




50th Anniversary Celebration

*of Blessed Trinity
Church's
Sanctuary*



*1970's
themed
party on the
soccer field
to follow*



**Oct 5, 2024
4:00 Mass**
*celebrated by
Bishop Noonan
&
Blessing of
Prayer Garden*

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Philippians 4:13

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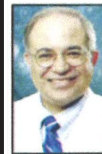
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