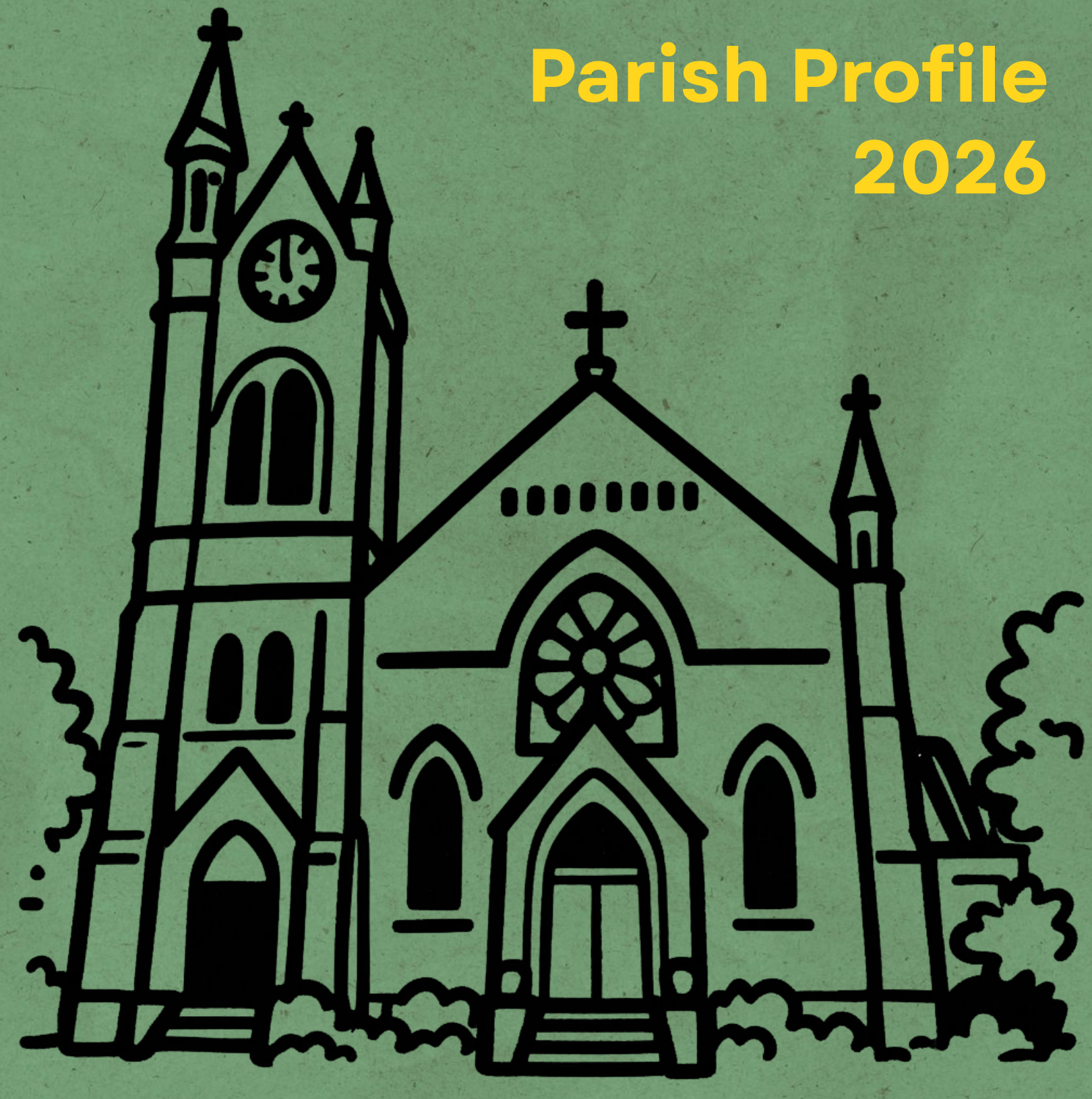
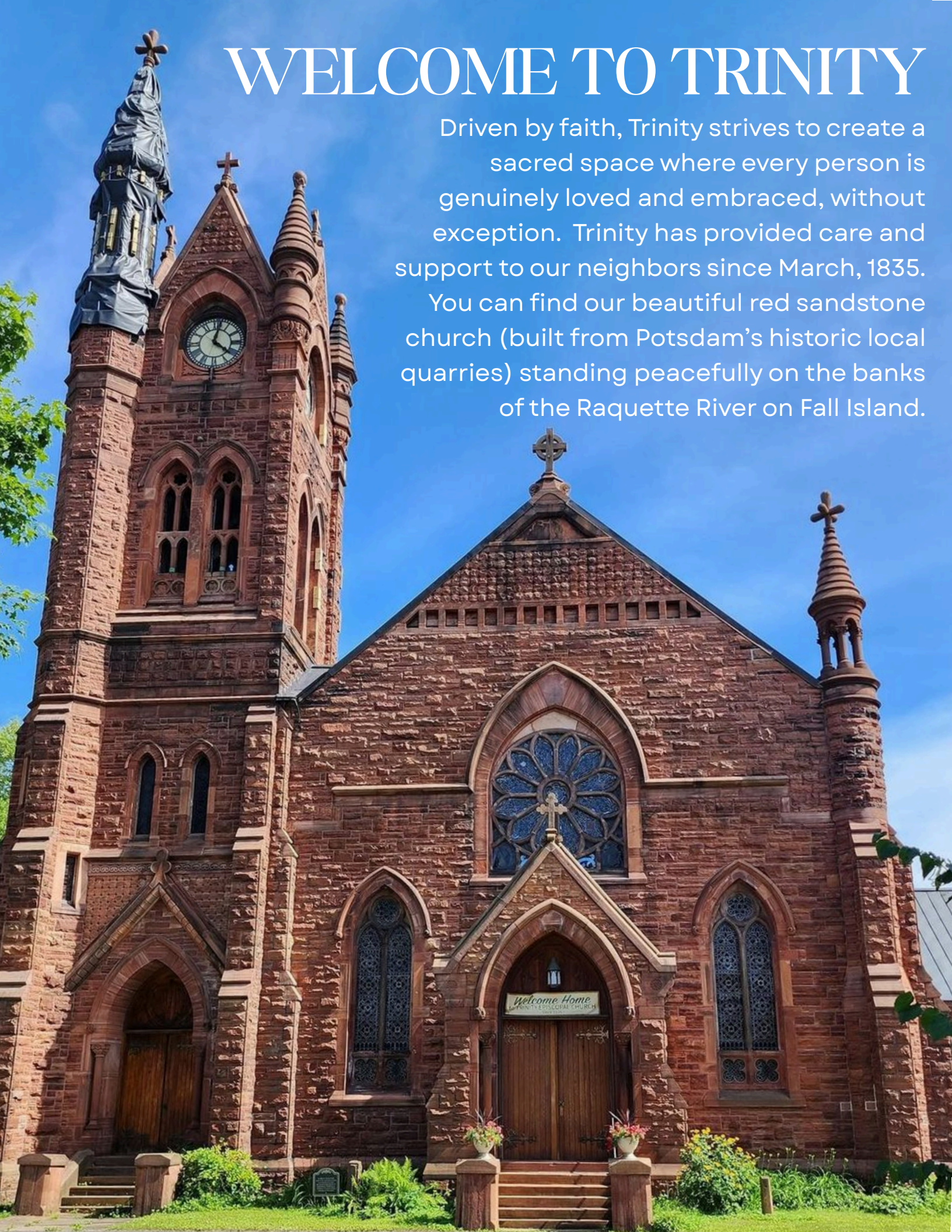
Trinity Church

Potsdam, NY

Parish Profile 2026





WELCOME TO TRINITY

Driven by faith, Trinity strives to create a sacred space where every person is genuinely loved and embraced, without exception. Trinity has provided care and support to our neighbors since March, 1835. You can find our beautiful red sandstone church (built from Potsdam's historic local quarries) standing peacefully on the banks of the Raquette River on Fall Island.

Our Story Today

Trinity is a community where the church does not stop because the pulpit is empty. We are a group of deeply dedicated, flexible, and creative people. Our Wardens and Lay staff step into administrative roles; our Altar Guild seamlessly adapts services for the varied supply clergy; our organist maintains Trinity's rich tradition of musical excellence; and our spiritual life, building and grounds are maintained by our Secretary, Treasurer and Lay teams.

Over the past five years, our parish has navigated the transition of losing two Rectors and receiving the news that our beautiful church of 191 years is in need of repairs. These events did not deter us. The first Rector left in December 2021 after 20 years serving the parish. Our church family grew even though we did not have a rector.

The second was our priest-in-charge (2023-2025) who, with his young family, brought youthful energy and new worship practices. Our attendance continued to improve. We had both a spiritual and financial rebound during his tenure. In August 2025 he was called to serve a community in Texas.

These events have revealed something very important about the parishioners of Trinity Church. We do not see this current time of transition as a setback, but as an opportunity to build upon the momentum from the past five years. We have a group of practiced and highly capable Lay Leaders who will lead us through this transition. We continue to see steady growth; our ministries are active; we are steadily moving forward with our fundraising efforts for the building repairs; and we remain committed to serving Christ as we prepare for our next Rector.

Nurturing Faith Through Action

Trinity might be built on an island in the Raquette River in Potsdam, New York, but we refuse to isolate ourselves. We are part of the “North Country”, specifically a part of St. Lawrence County. While our location is full of natural beauty and fierce community pride, it has deep socioeconomic challenges. The area is largely rural and poverty has long been a problem. Every school in the area qualifies for subsidized meals and even our local college students face food insecurity.

We do not look away from this. Rather, we see this as a call to action. We currently serve a community supper in conjunction with the Presbyterian church on the third Thursday of each month. We view our facility as a community resource. We have a large central gathering area and small side rooms that provide dedicated space for community classes, meetings and regional collaboration.

Trinity Church is dedicated to Christian Formation, recognizing that the development of our understanding deepens faith. We currently have Sunday programs in place for our youngest parishioners from the ages of three to six through the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The atrium was installed in the fall of 2025 and allows children to deepen their relationships with God directed by the Holy Spirit with adults as their helpers. Our older children meet on Sundays with two dedicated teachers supported by parent volunteers. Formation is not just for our younger parishioners, but for the adults as well. We are initiating a group focused on Lectio Divina during the week at Trinity and have had Bible studies and book groups. We are hopeful that our new Rector will help us reestablish mid-week programs for both adults and children and will use their training and extensive knowledge to help us to do that.

WHERE ARE WE
Location and Surrounding Area

This is paradise. The Adirondack Park is to our south and Canada is to our north. Both offer a wide variety of activities. The cosmopolitan hubs of Ottawa and Montreal in Canada, and the 6 million acres of the Adirondack park offer endless cultural and outdoor activities.

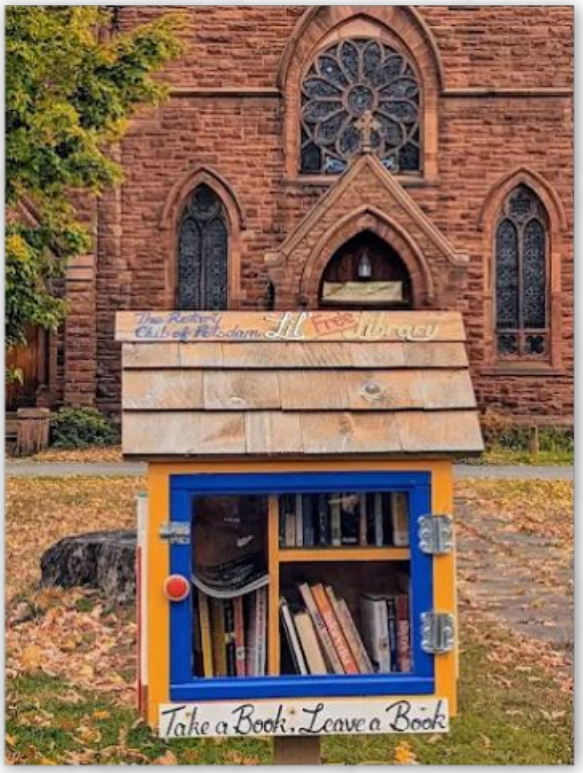
Potsdam is located in New York's North Country region, bordered by the Adirondack Mountains to the south and the Thousand Islands to the north along the Canadian border. The Village of Potsdam is a classic historic college town where outdoor recreational opportunities and cultural activities abound. The region offers some of the best freshwater fishing in the world, as well as a wonderful setting for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing.

Known for the distinctive local red sandstone used in historic structures and churches, Potsdam has a number of buildings on the National Historic Register, including a segment of downtown Market Street and Trinity Church.

Potsdam was recognized as the seventh "collegiest college town" in America in a 2023 Washington Post ranking. As home to both SUNY Potsdam and Clarkson University, our historic municipality was named in the top 10 ultimate college towns in the country, based on the high percentage of college students calling it home (nearly 60% of village residents when class is in session). This culturally active college town environment makes for a vibrant local scene, with numerous athletic, artistic and recreational events drawing residents and visitors to the region each year.

WHERE ARE WE
Location and Surrounding Area

Potsdam is also ranked among the top places to live in New York State by Niche.com, with a high quality of life and welcoming community atmosphere, enhanced by a low cost of living. The Potsdam Central School District educates approximately 1,300 students from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12. A.A. Kingston Middle School is consistently recognized as a School to Watch. The High School is consistently ranked among the top high schools in U.S. News & World Report.



The region's food scene is centered around local agriculture, with the popular seasonal Potsdam Farmer's Market centrally located in a new Amish-designed pavilion near Ives Park. Downtown restaurants and grocers offer locally-grown and raised goods. Unique eateries ranging from vegan and gluten-free offerings to international cuisine and national chains. Village trees are tapped for local maple production, which reaches its sweet heights each spring during sugaring season.

WHERE ARE WE
Location and Surrounding Area

The village is a sustainable place to live, work and play, scoring highly for walkability and above average for bike access making it possible to cycle or walk to everyday destinations with accessible recreation at local parks and trails. Outdoor recreation is just steps away, with beautiful trails for walking, running, strolling, cross-country skiing and mountain biking available within the village or just a short drive away.

Paddlers, anglers and swimmers enjoy the Raquette River, with several municipal boat launches, the beach at Sandstoner Park, and a recreation rental program for canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards.

The Pine Street Arena and Potsdam Recreation program host figure skating, open skate, ice hockey leagues, youth sports programs in soccer, baseball, lacrosse and more, as well as six newly completed outdoor lighted pickleball courts.

Children can scramble on playgrounds at the beautiful Ives Park Playscape, at Sandstone Park and at Lawrence Avenue Elementary School, and play the outdoor musical instruments at Garner Park.

Seeking a New Rector

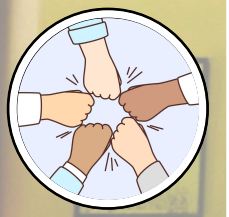
Trinity seeks a Rector who will “shepherd this flock” - a Rector who will walk with us: draw on our different Christian traditions; teach and learn with us; discern and nurture our individual and collective gifts; and see when spiritual comfort and care are needed. Our hope is that they will work with us to grow our existing ministries, will help us reinvigorate those that have slowed and will also draw us to new ministries. Key ministry responsibilities include:

1. Sacraments & Deep Pastoral Care

- The "Priest Things": Administering the sacramental duties of priesthood.
- Relational pastoral care: Providing spiritual formation, comfort, encouragement and counsel
- Visitation: Maintaining a strong, visible presence in the lives of parishioners through consistent home, hospital, and campus visitations.
- Preaching: Drawing from a place of knowledge with humility.

2. Theological Education & Mission

- Teaching and Training about practicing the Christian faith in a distinctly Episcopalian/Anglican tradition, using the Book of Common Prayer, the Daily Office, Anglican music and choral tradition, and liturgy.
- Conducting Confirmation classes
- Demonstrating faith in action by connecting Sunday worship with the rest of the week, inspiring the Parish to live out the Gospel in our local community.
- Supervising Christian Education by providing oversight for existing programs and assist in developing creative learning opportunities for young and old alike including, but not limited to: book and Bible studies, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and Sunday school
- Encouraging mission by refreshing and expanding our mission both in the community and across the globe.



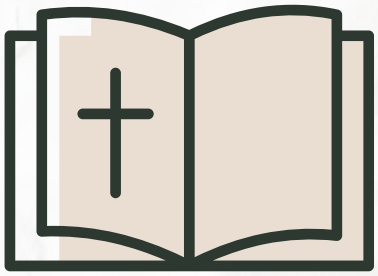
3. Strategic Engagement & Lay Empowerment

- Strengthening College Connection by bringing a vision for engaging with local colleges, students, faculty, and campus ministries.
- Engaging in Gift Discernment & Delegation by harnessing the congregation's natural energy through identifying, nurturing, and activating individual and collective spiritual gifts and being willing to delegate and empower our active Lay Leaders (co-ministry).
- Inviting Deanery & Ecumenical Partnership by working to build strong, collaborative relationships with our sister parishes, neighboring congregations, and the St. Lawrence Deanery.

MINISTRIES AND PROGRAMS

We believe everyone has an important role to play in ministry. Whether through liturgical leadership, community outreach or digital technology, parishioners of all ages are encouraged to share their gifts and talents. Guided by our Vestry, Trinity actively engages in ministries that provide care and spiritual support to our congregation and the community.

Pastoral Care & Spiritual Growth



- Christian Formation: Spiritual growth for all ages includes Sunday School, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, seasonal book groups and study of scripture.
- Lay Eucharistic Visitors: We have actively revived this vital ministry to bring communion, prayer and connections to our sick and house-bound parishioners.
- Music & Worship Ministries: These include the Choir, Altar Guild, Lay Readers, Acolytes, and live-stream Tech Volunteers.
- Stephen Ministry: A dedicated team of trained people provides regular, confidential spiritual care and a sympathetic ear to those facing life's challenges.

Community Outreach & Hospitality

- Monthly Community Suppers: Dedicated Volunteers have provided a free hot meal and fellowship on the fourth Thursday of each month. We currently alternate months with our neighbors at the Presbyterian church, serving over 50 local residents nutritious meals.
- Public Events Team: A group of parishioners organize various events inviting the community to participate. Recently the events include: participating in Potsdam Village's Summer Festival; painting classes; pie and bread sales; Fall Car Show; and a variety of music concerts. Proceeds from these events were donated to the Capital Campaign for repair of the building with a percentage going to the Rector's Closet to help families in need.
- Holiday Support & Giving: A Giving Tree for the Potsdam Holiday Fund organizes gift collection for families in need.

Civic & Global Partnerships

- Community Space Hosting: We open our parish hall and facilities to vital secular and recovery groups.
- Local Charity Support: We provide financial aid and volunteer power to critical local organizations, including Helping Hands (food and emergency aid), Grace House (transitional housing for women in recovery), Renewal House, and Hospice through our Outreach Committee.
- Global Missions: We are beginning to re-engage with Global Mission work. Historically Trinity funded the construction of a school in Madagascar and sent members to diocesan and national mission conferences.
- Cultural & Campus Connections: Located just one mile from SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music, our historic nave serves as a magnificent venue for community concerts. Classically trained orchestral and jazz musicians perform at Trinity throughout the year. This programming echoes the scripture lessons at the heart of Trinity. The music itself has become a powerful way to extend our ministry to people of all ages across the region.