

# Holy Trinity Dec. 22nd & 29th, 2024 Catholic Church and School Separate of the Holy Family

2926 Beaver Ave DSM IA 50310 | 515.255.3162 | holytrinitydm.org

# Taking the Journey TOGETHER



### From Father Mark | December 22nd & 29th, 2023

### Greetings,

This letter will be brief. I just want to wish all of the Holy Trinity family a Merry Christmas. It is coming up on 7 years since I became pastor of Holy Trinity; my home parish. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve in a parish with such a rich history and vibrant faith. I also want to take this opportunity to say thank you to our parish staff, and our school faculty...please express to them your thanks; they do an outstanding job. We also have so many tremendous volunteers; without them the parish would come to a grinding halt. Thanks so much!

A big thanks to all those who made our Christmas Masses so prayerful and joyful; our deacons, Mass coordinators, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, servers, ushers, greeters... and to all of our musicians and singers. Special thanks to Tom Quiner and Eric Sharp for coordinating our musical efforts. Also, a big thanks to Brad Rea and his team of volunteers for decorating our church year around and making it so beautiful for our Christmas season. Thanks also to Bob Zimmerman for repairing our manger barn so that we can continue using this piece built by Fr. Ostdiek.

Finally, thank you to all those who sent cards, gifts and well wishes at Christmas. They were much appreciated!

Merry Christmas, Father Mark Neal





### From the Church | December 22nd & 29th, 2024

**Prayers.** Please pray for the eternal repose of Sharon Holz and for her husband of 60 years, Bob, their daughters and all the Holz Family.

Eternal Rest Grant unto Her, O Lord,
And Let Perpetual Light shine upon Her.
May Her Soul and the Souls of all the Faithful Departed,
Through the Mercy of God,
Rest In Peace. Amen.

**Still Hear.** Sharing Sacred Scripture with Loved Ones in Memory Care. Are you grieving and missing a family member who has been placed in Memory or Alzheimers Care? They are still here and we would love to minister to

We can make brief, peaceful visits and pray the sacred scriptures or Liturgy of the Hours for them. Our loved ones can still hear the still, small voice of the Lord!

To ask us to visit your loved one please call Deacon Troy Thompson (515-447-5707) or Jan Swinton, Parish Secretary (515-255-3162).

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**Rosary.** please join our HT school and parish community in praying the rosary. We'll meet at the Bigelows house (403 42nd Street) at 8 pm on the first Monday of each month for intentions, rosary and fellowship. If you're not familiar with the rosary, come learn. We'll meet on Monday, January 6. Please contact Sarah with questions:

ssullivanbigelow@gmail.com

them.

**Baptism.** Do you want to celebrate your child's baptism at Holy Trinity? Attend the next Baptism Class on Monday January 6 at 6:00 pm. Contact Jan Swinton in the Parish Office at 515-255-3162 ext. 128 to register.

**Do you know of someone?** Do you know one of our Holy Trinity family who is homebound, in a care facility, hospital or hospice and would like to have a visit and possibly share in Holy Communion? Maybe they are not up to having a visitor but would enjoy a phone call, email or letter? If so, please contact our Pastoral Care Minister, Deacon Troy Thompson at <a href="mailto:troyt@holytrinitydm.org">troyt@holytrinitydm.org</a>. 515-255-3162 ext 124 or 515-447-5707.

Advent Retreat. On Saturday, December 14, we had 13 adults of the parish come for our Adult Advent Retreat. We were privileged to have Tom Quinlan, Director of the St. Joseph Evangelization Center, with us to lead our afternoon together. Our theme was Advent: from Hope to Joy! It was a wonderful afternoon that offered time for thoughtful talks, breakouts & sharing, and personal reflection and prayer. We also shared lunch from Palmer's Deli to start our afternoon together. I want to thank everyone for coming out on a cold and icy winter day. A special thank you to Tom Quinlan for sharing his thoughts and insights. We will be hosting our Lenten Adult Retreat on Saturday, March 8, 2025 from NOON-4:30 pm. Be sure to mark your calendars now. We look forward to seeing you then!

**Retreat Participants**: Back Row L to R: Dan Severson, Jean Severson, Bonnie Sirois, Mary Kay Kerns, Tim Stacy, Tom Quinlan

**Front Row L to R:** Cece Ibson, Brenda Heggen, Todd Treese, Mark Sirois, Mary Ellen Winston, Cindy Gross, John Gross



Financial Blessings Ending Week of 12/13/24				
Budget July 2024 through June 2025	\$958,558	YTD Surplus (Deficit)	\$18,293	
YTD Actual Tithing	\$429,645	Tithing for the Week	\$16,282	
YTD Budget	\$422,352	Number of Donations Received	73	



# Holy Trinity Book Club

## Starting January 2025

- Purchase our club's book from Beaverdale Books, Divine Treasures, or Amazon.
- Read three chapters a month.
- Join a discussion time that works for you.

### Thursdays - 8 P.M.

Dates: 1/30, 2/27, 3/27

Location: 4208 Adams Ave.

Host: Kathleen Meradith-Eyers

k.meraditheyers@gmail.com

### Fridays - 9 A.M.

Dates: 1/31, 2/28, 3/28

Location: 3015 40th PL

Host: Sophie Klaus

srfursa@gmail.com

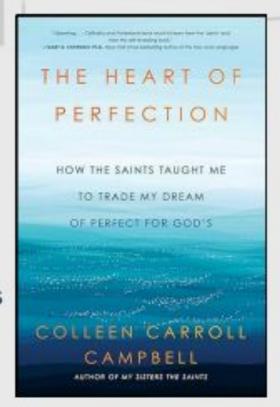
### Saturdays - 11 A.M.

Dates: 1/25, 2/22, 3/29

Location: 2629 38th St.

Host: Meghan Thorne

meghanmc515@gmail.com



Join our email list here!

### From the School | December 22nd & 29th, 2029

**Middle School Interventionist.** Holy Trinity School is looking for a part time middle school interventionist for math and reading. Applicants must have a valid lowa Teaching License.

If you are interested in learning more about this position please contact Monica Morrison <a href="mailto:mmorrison@htschool.org">mmorrison@htschool.org</a>.

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception Hosted by the 7th Grade.** We appreciate our students leading all school masses, especially on feast days!







### **Upcoming Dates.**

• CHRISTMAS BREAK: December 21st-January 5th

CLASSES RESUME: January 6thNO SCHOOL: January 20th

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK: January 26th-31st



**Enrollment.** Parishioner Enrollment started December 1st at the Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools, our students experience nurturing and innovative environments where smaller class sizes foster big dreams.

Plus, with Education Savings Accounts, an education at our schools might be more affordable than you think! All K- 12 Iowa students qualify for an ESA for the 2025-2026 school year.

Parishioner enrollment begins December 1.

- Parishioner priority enrollment December 1
   –January 24.
- General Enrollment opens up January 25.

Schedule your visit today with Mercedies Steinkamp, email her at <a href="mailto:mercedies@htschool.org">mercedies@htschool.org</a>



### DES MOINES REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

A Big Thank You! Jodi Connolly, with Connolly Massage gifted teachers chair massages here at Holy Trinity! It was a great opportunity for 10 lucky staff members to relax for 10 minutes and unwind a little bit before the holidays.

Thank you to those who helped cover throughout the day for the prize winners to get their 10 minutes of relaxation.



# Speaker & Founder of Safe Social Network

Ben Tracy will be speaking with 3rd -8th grade students during the school day.

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 13TH**

There will be a parent presentation in the evening: 7pm-8pm

Ben Tracy speaks to more than 100,000 students, parents, and educators each year about digital citizenship, online safety, and responsible social media use.

He shares his own powerful story about how teenage social media impacted his life and discusses cyberbullying, online predators, the relationship between social media and mental health, drugs on social media, and he encourages students to use technology in a positive way.





### From the Diocese & Community | December 22nd and 29th, 2024

Refresh your prayer life. Saturday, January 4, 6:30 pm Want to start the new year with a more meaningful prayer life? Plan to attend an evening of guided experiences in Benedictine prayer practices led by Brother Paul Richards, a monk of Saint John's Abbey, Collegeville, MN.

Paul has presented his session, Give Us This Day — Benedictine Prayer, in a wide variety of settings, including an ashram in the Bahamas. You'll find his session inspiring, practical, and filled with laughter and good humor. Food and fellowship will follow this one-hour session. Do bring friends!





### Women's Evening of Recollection

Monday, January 13, 2025 6:30-8:30 p.m.

St. Augustin Church | 545 42nd Street, Des Moines

Spend a brief time away from the world to be with Our Lord. The Evening is designed to help you spend time alone with God, to look at your life from His perspective, and find practical ways to serve God amid your ordinary work and family life. A priest will present two meditations based upon the spirituality of St. Josemaria Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei. There will be time for personal prayer, reflection, and confession. The evening will conclude with Benediction.

- 6:30 Confession. Confession will also be available between meditations
- 6:40 Practical Talk
- 7:00 First meditation. Confession. Meditation.
- 8:00 Benediction
- The Women's Evenings of Recollection will take place on the 2nd Monday of each month. No Women's Evening of Recollection in July and December.

Questions: Terry McFarland (630-885-0246). terryannmcfarland@gmail.com



**DMARC.** The DMARC Food Pantry Network continues to serve a growing number of people each year. During the month of October, the Network assisted 28,663 unique individuals becoming the highest monthly total in the nearly 50-year history of the network. DMARC welcomes both food and non-food items such as diapers (large sizes), baby food, personal products, etc. Items may be placed in one of the collection tubs in the collection location at the side entrance of the church. DMARC also welcomes cash donations as they are able to buy items at discounted prices.

Cash donations may be made using the QR code system now in place through the Church office or by the email, holytrinitydm.org/donate. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor inspired by Psalm 91:4 any cash you may give by December 31st will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$250,000. Thank you for giving.

Remembering the Innocents. You are invited to the Feast of the Holy Innocents Prayer Service on Sunday, December 29th, at 2:00 pm. It will be held at the Des Moines Intentional Eucharistic Community, 3306 University. Carmen Lampe Zeitler will bring Reflections as we remember the slaughter of the innocents in Herod's time and raise our prayers to stop the violence against innocent children caused by wars and conflict around the world today.

An offering will be taken to support the Hope Foundation, which provides relief in Gaza, and the After School Arts Project (ASAP), which serves children in the Des Moines area by providing instruction in art, music and drama by artist teachers who volunteer their time. The Service is planned by the Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace, with over 40 co-sponsors. Please join us as we are reminded of this important part of the Christmas story!



### Notes on the Mass | December 22nd, 2024

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Advent** The twofold character of Advent calls us to prepare for the remembering of the Word made Flesh at Christmas, and directs us to wait with alertness for Jesus' second coming.

Reading I: Micah 5:1-4

From you will come forth a savior.

- The prophet Micah preached in and around Jerusalem in the eighth century B.C.
- In today's passage, Micah proclaims that hope will arise from another "city of David," Bethlehem, and not Jerusalem.
- The new king, the new anointed one who would bring salvation, would come like David from Bethlehem, and his kingdom would reach to the ends of the earth.

Reading II: Hebrews 10:5-10

One sacrifice instead of many.

- The reading from the Letter to the Hebrews presents the incarnation of Jesus from a different perspective.
- In today's passage, the author discusses the difference between Jewish sacrifice and the one Christian sacrifice, the death of Jesus.
- Jesus' sacrifice of himself, a sacrifice offered only once, was made possible by his assuming a human body and human existence.

**Gospel:** Luke 1:39-45 Mary visits Elizabeth.

- In today's Gospel, Mary travels to the hill country of Judah, to the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth, where she visits Elizabeth.
- When they meet, Elizabeth proclaims the greatness of Mary's child and John the Baptizer, still in her womb, leaps for joy.
- Luke makes it evident in today's passage, that both mothers and both children are filled with the Holy Spirit.



### Bring Home the Gospel | December 22nd, 2024

### Reading I | Psalm | Reading II | Gospel

Question For The Children How does the Blessed Virgin Mary help you to follow Jesus?

Question For The Youth When have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit?

**Question For The Adults** What role does Mary play in your own spirituality? If you were Elizabeth, how would you greet her at your doorway, if she were to arrive there?

**Activity Of The Week** Plan a time to gather the family together around the Christmas tree. Light the tree and ask each family member to reflect on a time when he or she has known the presence of the Holy Spirit. Allow time for family members to share their experiences.

Saint Of The Week Blessed Elisha of St. Clement, Religious, 1901-1927 Born Theodora Fracasso in Bari, Italy on January 17, 1901, this saint knew from a very early age that she was called to be a nun. In a vision, the young girl, about four years old at the time, saw a beautiful lady walking among the flowers in a garden and then disappearing in a bright ray of light. Theodora's mother explained the vision to her. The child decided then that she was being called to become a nun and devoted her young life to preparation for that calling.

Sent to a school run by nuns, Theodora continued to grow in faith. The night before she was to make her First Communion, she had a vision of St. Teresa of Jesus (St. Teresa of Avila) who told her that she would become a nun just as Teresa had. In later years, Theodora joined her friends in groups to study Scripture, the lives of the saints, and one that she especially liked, The Story of a Soul, the autobiography of St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

Introduced by the priest who was her spiritual director to the Third Order Dominicans, Theodora was accepted as a novice in 1914 notwithstanding her young age. Through the years of World War I, she worked as a catechist and to provide support in whatever way she was able to those around her.

Entering the convent in the Spring of 1920, Theodora took the name Elisha of St. Clement. Besides St. Teresa of Jesus, she also chose St. Thérèse of Lisieux as a model, citing her "little way of spiritual childhood where I felt called by the Lord." Her final vows were taken in February 1925.

Sister Elisha's life in the convent was never easy, but she persevered in each of the roles to which she was assigned. The Mother Superior, who recognized the holiness of this young sister as a novice, placed her at the boarding school for girls run by the convent where she taught embroidery. The headmistress of the school was less understanding and felt that Elisha, who showed her love for her students, was too lenient with the girls. Of strict disposition and lacking the skills to deal with people in any other than an authoritarian manner, the headmistress found fault with most of Elisha's actions.

Eventually transferred back to the convent, Sister Elisha continued her prayerful and loving life. The Mother Superior appointed her as sacristan of the convent, but in January 1927, Elisha suffered a severe bout of influenza which led to frequent headaches and illnesses. All of this suffering the sister accepted without complaint and even refused to take medicine.

In December 1927, Elisha again suffered a severe illness and fever which was presumed to be just another episode in the series. Only on Christmas Eve was a doctor called in to see her. In his judgment, her condition was not serious. The next morning, her condition having worsened overnight, two doctors came to see her and stated that her condition was irreversible. She died at noon on Christmas Day, fulfilling a prediction that she had made sometime earlier that she would die on a feast day.

Blessed Elisha of St. Clement was beatified on March 18, 2006.

**Elisha of St. Clement's message today:** This saint discerned her vocation very early in life, something that most of us cannot do. But, at whatever stage of our life we choose a calling, it should be done with prayer and good judgment.

If you have yet to choose where you are going with your life, ask Blessed Elisha to pray for you.



### Notes on the Mass | December 29th, 2024

### Feast of The Holy Family

**Christmas** During the Christmas season from December 24th until the Sunday after Epiphany, we reflect upon the mystery of love that is made visible in the birth and early childhood of Christ.

Reading I: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Show reverence for God by honoring your parents.

- The Book of Sirach is among the group of writings known as Wisdom Books.
- Today's reading focuses on the duties of children toward their parents.
- Children are to honor their parents as God had ordained through Moses at Mount Sinai.

Reading II: Colossians 3:12-21

Serve the Lord by loving one another.

- The reading from Colossians reminds Christians of their duties toward one another, both in their immediate family and in the wider community.
- Paul instructs family members to remain faithful to the demands of their life-situation.
- In all relationships, forgiveness, love and a positive attitude should prevail.

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

The boy Jesus stays behind in the Temple.

- In today's Gospel, the Holy Family is on a pilgrimage from their hometown of Nazareth in Galilee to Jerusalem in Judea.
- It is the feast of Passover, one of the high feast days on which devout Jews came to the temple to celebrate.
- Luke stresses in the story of Jesus in the temple that even Jesus' parents only come to know Jesus' divinity and his connection to his heavenly Father, through the gift of faith.



### Bring Home the Gospel | December 29th, 2024

### Reading I | Psalm | Reading II | Gospel

Question For The Children Why is it important to obey our parents? Why is it important to obey God?

**Question For The Youth** Jesus was obedient to his parents, even though he was the Son of God. Why is obedience so important? Is it something you struggle with?

**Question For The Adults** How are you, too, called to our Father's house?

**Activity Of The Week** Put the name of each member of the family in a bowl. Ask each family member to draw a name from the bowl and to write a thank you letter to that person for what he or she does for the family. Share the letters with the family.

Saint Of The Week John, Apostle and Evangelist, First Century John and his brother, James, were the sons of Zebedee. Like his father and brother, John was a fisherman on Lake Gennesaret until, with James, he was called by Jesus to follow him. John was the youngest of the apostles. He and James were called "sons of thunder" by Jesus because of their volatile temperaments.

Many events in all of the gospels attest to the fact that John was among those apostles closest to Jesus. Perhaps the best known incident is at the Crucifixion, where Jesus placed his mother, Mary, in the care of John. And he, representing all of us, was commended to Mary as her son.

St. Paul refers to John, along with Peter and James, as "these leaders, these pillars" of the Church in Jerusalem (Gal. 2:9). According to tradition, John went to Rome during one of the early persecutions under Emperor Domitian and miraculously escaped martyrdom by emerging from a cauldron of boiling oil unscathed. He was exiled to the island of Patmos where he began his writing with the Book of Revelation. Later, after the death of Domitian, John returned to Ephesus where he wrote the fourth gospel and three epistles. He died there in about 100, the last surviving apostle and the only apostle who did not suffer martyrdom.

The writings of John are unique among the Evangelists. In many of the events recorded by him, he writes as a playwright would; first setting the stage, then describing the characters, and, finally, presenting the dialog which took place. Three examples of this quality found in his gospel are Jn 4:5-42 (the woman at the well); Jn 9:1-41 (the man born blind), and Jn 11:1-45 (Lazarus raised from the dead).

St. John the Evangelist is often called St. John the Divine in England and in the Eastern Church. A Feast honors this saint on December 27.

**John's message today:** Imagine being one of Jesus' closest friends! Imagine living, working, and sharing your life with the Messiah, traveling where he traveled, witnessing his miracles, listening to his stories. Toward the end of his life, John recorded his experiences as a disciple of Jesus so that we can have an idea of what it was like to know Jesus.

Reading Scripture will help you develop a stronger relationship with Jesus. Start with John's first letter to get an idea
of how much God loves you.



Parish Calendar   December 22nd, 2024							
	<b>Sunday</b> [12/22]	Monday [12/23]	<b>Tuesday</b> [12/24]	Wednesday [12/25]	<b>Thursday</b> [12/26]	<b>Friday</b> [12/27]	<b>Saturday</b> [12/28]
School		No School Christmas Break	No School Christmas Break	No School Christmas Break	No School Christmas Break	No School Christmas Break	
Faith Formation				Christinas 100-2014			Sunday Reading Groups Men (MC) 7:30AM Women (CH) 8:30AM
Adult Faith Formation	Mass 8:30AM & 10:30AM	No Communion Service	Christmas Eve Mass: 4:00PM 6:00PM 10:00PM	Mass 9:00AM			Reconciliation 3-3:45PM Mass 4:30PM
More	Taize Service 5:00PM (CH)		Parish Office Closes at Noon	Parish Office Closed	Parish Office Closed		
CH: Church   101-106: Classrooms   DC: Day Chapel   K: Kitchen   MC: Media Center   PO: Parish Office   SR: Social Room							

Upcoming Mass Schedule, Liturgy Schedule, and Intentions				
[12/22]	8:30AM	Mass	Rachel Dubec	
	10:30AM	Mass	Connie Hellmann	
[12/24]	8:30AM	Mass	Sharon Kurns	
[12/25]	8:30AM	Mass	Shirley Renda	
[12/26]	8:30AM	Mass	No Mass	
	2-9PM	Adoration	No Adoration	
	4:05PM	Rosary		
[12/27]	8:30AM	Mass	NO Mass	
[12/28]	3-3:45PM	Reconciliation		
	4:30PM	Mass	Albert "Skip" Braak	
[12/29]	8:30AM	Mass	For the Parish	
	10:30AM	Mass	Roselea Grassman	

	Upcoming Liturgical I	Ministers and Altar Servers
Saturday	Altar Servers	Maren & Payton Wolfe and Lola & Penelope Carroll
[12/28]	Lectors	Dave Bunkers & Lorraine Riseley
4:30PM	ЕМНС	Team 3
	Music Coordinator	Tom Quiner
Sunday	Altar Servers	Hilari Thibodeau, Kaylee Maloney, Jacob Heikes & Andreo Castro
[12/29]	Lectors	Wayne Johnson & Karen Quiner
8:30AM	ЕМНС	Team 3: MC/Katy Polich
	Children's Liturgy	NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY-NEW YEAR'S
	Music Coordinator	Tom Quiner
Sunday	Altar Servers	Mia & Madelyn Daskalakes and Bridget & Lydia Caswell
[12/29]	Lectors	Tammy Altman & Mark Amadeo
10:30AM	ЕМНС	Team 5: MC/ Mark Amadeo
	Children's Liturgy	NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY-NEW YEAR'S
	Music Coordinator	Eric Sharp





Parish Calendar   December 29th, 2024							
	<b>Sunday</b> [12/29]	<b>Monday</b> [12/30]	<b>Tuesday</b> [12/31]	Wednesday [1/1]	Thursday [1/2]	<b>Friday</b> [1/3]	Saturday [1/4]
School		No School Christmas Break	No School Christmas Break	No School Christmas Break	No School Christmas Break	No School Christmas Break	
Faith Formation	Baptism 4:00PM Baptism 5:30PM			New year			Sunday Reading Groups Men (MC) 7:30AM Women (CH) 8:30AM
Adult Faith Formation	Mass 8:30AM & 10:30AM	No Communion Service	New Year's Eve Vigil Mass 5:30 PM	Mass Solemnity of Mary 9:00AM	Mass 8:30AM Adoration 2-9 PM Rosary 4:05PM	Mass 8:30AM Morning Prayer following Mass	No Reconciliation Mass 4:30PM
More							Baptism 5:30PM

Upcoming Mass Schedule, Liturgy Schedule, and Intentions				
[12/29]	8:30AM	Mass	For the Parish	
	10:30AM	Mass	Roselea Grassman	
[12/31]	8:30AM	Mass	Gregory Austin Ryan	
[1/1]	8:30AM	Mass	Billy McGough	
[1/2]	8:30AM	Mass	William F. McCroy II	
	2-9PM	Adoration		
	4:05PM	Rosary		
[1/3]	8:30AM	Mass	Shan Steinmark	
[1/4]	3-3:45PM	Reconciliation		
	4:30PM	Mass	Albert "Skip" Braak	
[1/5]	8:30AM	Mass	Father Frances B. Ostdiek	
	10:30AM	Mass	For the Parish	

Upcoming Liturgical Ministers and Altar Servers				
Saturday	Altar Servers	Frank & Louie Brett & Joan & Nora Niday		
[1/4]	Lectors	Vonnie Salem & Gary Thull		
4:30PM	ЕМНС	Team 1		
	Music Coordinator	Tom Quiner		
Sunday	Altar Servers	Jack Ernst, Cameron Goode, Sullivan Kelley and Phillip McAndrews		
[1/5]	Lectors	Mark McAndrews & Jeff Nielsen		
8:30AM	ЕМНС	Team 1/MC: Karen Quiner		
	Children's Liturgy	Team B: Katy Polich		
	Music Coordinator	Tom Quiner		
Sunday	Altar Servers	Kellan Murphy & Isaac, Jacob & Lukas Perry		
[1/5]	Lectors	Youth Ministry		
10:30AM	ЕМНС	Team 1/MC: Paul Bush		
	Children's Liturgy	Team 1: Paul Bush & Catie Wilwerding		
	Music Coordinator	Frances Paterik		







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Jeff, Melissa, Vanessa, Marcella & Calvin Gart





· Taking the Journey Together ·