

Nurturing our Faith!

July 16, 2024

Updated *Safe Church, Safe Communities* Policies

At its meeting on June 11, Diocesan Council approved two new policy documents:

- a Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth (which replaces a similar document from 2016), and
- a wholly new Policy for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults.



This fulfills a mandate of The Episcopal Church's 78th General Convention that (i) created a Task Force to develop two "Model Policies" for the protection of vulnerable individuals and (ii) required each diocese to use those models as the basis for its own policies.

The new Diocesan Policies establish general expectations and behavioral guidelines for all ordained and lay people in the Diocese who minister either with young people or with adults whose age, health or living situations make them vulnerable to mistreatment. They include sections on topics such as the public records checks ("clearances") needed for these ministries, the online Safe Church training expected, acceptable child-to-adult ratios, and a list of appropriate and inappropriate behaviors. Both Policies have been posted to the [Safe Church, Safe Communities](#) page of the diocesan website.

In late June, Bishop Ketlen notified senior wardens, clergy in charge and the directors of other organizations such as Calvary Camp that it will now be the turn of vestries and boards to review the new diocesan policies. Many parishes will probably find it straightforward to apply those policies without many adjustments to their current practices. Others may need some help in resolving apparent challenges. A few may even choose to adapt the diocesan policies to better fit their local context – a step that requires the Bishop's approval. Regardless of which path a parish follows, the Diocesan Office is committed to providing advice and assistance. This review process must wrap up by December 31, 2024.

The ultimate goal of this process is, of course, to ensure that all of our parishes and organizations offer safe and welcoming environments for all our members – not only in obedience to legal requirements (though that is important), but also because "respecting the dignity of every human being" lies at the heart of our Baptismal Covenant.



Christmas in July

Vacation Bible School

Church of the Holy Cross
7507 Kelly Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Dates - Monday July 29th through Friday August 2nd
Time - 12:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Ages - 3 1/2-year-olds (turned 3 by 2/1/24) through second graders (completed second grade)

For more information, contact the church office
at 412-242-3209 or holycrosspdo@gmail.com.
[Click here](#) to register



CCNH & St. John's ELCA present:

VBS 2024

On Earth As in Heaven

FREE service focused
bible camp

Aug. 5-9, 2024
5:00-7:30 pm

**Christ Episcopal Church,
North Hills**

Register here: <https://www.christchurchpgh.org/events-at-christ-church/vbs-2024-on-earth-as-in-heaven/>

For more information, contact ellen.seagraves@christchurchpgh.org



Fall 2024 Visitation Schedule and Cycle of Prayer Now Available

Bishop Ketlen's Fall 2024 visitation schedule through the end of the church year, the Last Sunday after Pentecost, is now [available here](#).

The Summer/Fall 2024 Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, through November 24, is [available here](#).

These documents, along with many others, are available on the Diocesan website under the [Resources tab](#).



THE STEVENSON SCHOOL
FOR MINISTRY INVITES
YOU TO A CLASS ON:

THE CELTIC WAY

Discovering Christ in our Midst

MONDAYS
7:30 - 8:30 PM EASTERN
AUGUST 12, 19, 26
ONLINE
THE REV. CANON MARK SCHENEMAN

celtic-way.eventbrite.com
ssfm@diocesecpa.org



Around the Diocese



Bishop Ketlen's Visitation Schedule:

There are no visitations scheduled [until September 15](#).

Parish leadership is reminded to complete a form, available in [PDF](#) or [Word](#), at least two weeks in advance of their visitation.

To schedule time with Bishop Ketlen, contact Andrea Rath at 412-721-0853, ext. 251, or arath@episcopalpgh.org.

Important Reminders

Our November Diocesan Convention feels like it's a long way off but now is the time for parishes to complete their Lay Deputy Certification forms available in [Word](#) or [PDF](#). More information about the 159th Annual Convention, including a list of open positions for election and nomination forms, is available [here](#).



Has your parish been featured in the news?
Please let us know via email at info@episcopalpgh.org
