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# Grounded in Christ *Growing Anew!*

January 22, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write to share with you below a joint letter from our Presiding Bishop, Sean Rowe, and the President of the House of Deputies, Julia Ayala Harris. This letter invites us to consider a number of constructive ways to engage in civic action based on our long, Scripture-based tradition of advocating for justice and human dignity.

Faithfully,



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## Letter from Episcopal Church Leaders on Trump Administration Immigration Executive Orders

January 21, 2025

Dear People of God in the Episcopal  
Church:

Yesterday, Donald Trump was sworn in as president of the United States. We pray that he and all of our elected officials will, in the words of the Book of Common Prayer, have the wisdom and strength to know and to do God's will and be filled with the love of truth and righteousness.



Even as we gave thanks for a peaceful transfer of power, we learned from news reports that the new presidential administration has issued a series of executive orders that are a harbinger of President Trump's pledge to deport undocumented immigrants at a historic scale, restrict asylum, and direct other immigration actions. We read this news with concern and urge our new president and congressional leaders to exercise mercy and compassion, especially toward law-abiding, long-term members of our congregations and communities; parents and children who are under threat of

separation in the name of immigration enforcement; and women and children who are vulnerable to abuse in detention and who fear reporting abuse to law enforcement.

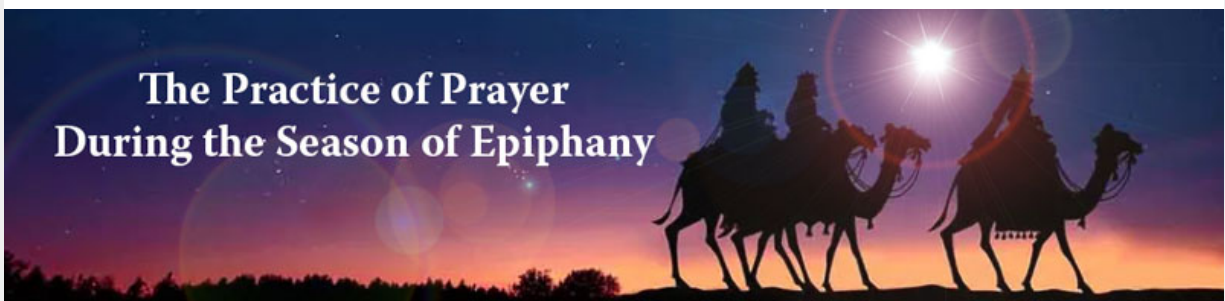
[Read the rest of this important letter here.](#)



God Willing  
and the People Consenting  
The Right Reverend Ketlen A. Solak  
will ordain  
Theodore Arthur Somes, III  
to the Sacred Order of Priests  
in Christ's one holy catholic  
and apostolic Church  
Wednesday, January 22, 2025  
at seven o'clock in the evening  
at  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
1066 Washington Road  
Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania 15228  
Your prayers and presence are requested  
*Clergy: Red Stoles*      *Reception to follow*



The Practice of Prayer  
During the Season of Epiphany



The online Epiphany Prayer Course is about to begin! And, here is what you need to know:

The entire course will be offered online via an easy to register Zoom link [here](#).

It will start at **4 p.m. on Sunday, January 12**, and will meet every Sunday till the end of the Epiphany season on **Sunday, March 2**. Each gathering should last about an hour.

If you don't like to pray, or if you need some encouragement to renew your efforts to pray, or if you are already a faithful person of prayer, your participation is welcome. If a participant has to miss a session, it is okay to pick up on the next session and continue the course.

Please join fellow travelers in this time of learning together as we draw our hearts closer to God and strengthen our ministry partnerships with Jesus and each other.

This gathering is also a wonderful lead up to a diocesan-wide 24-hour online prayer vigil to be held on Ash Wednesday, March 5.

[Click here to register](#)



God Willing  
and the People Consenting  
The Right Reverend Ketlen A. Solak  
will ordain

Jack Roso Brownfield

to the Sacred Order of Priests  
in Christ's one holy catholic  
and apostolic Church

Saturday, February 1, 2025  
at ten o'clock in the morning  
at

St. Michael's of the Valley  
Episcopal Church  
2535 State Route 381  
Rector, Pennsylvania 15677

Your prayers and presence are requested  
*Clergy: Red Stoles      Reception to follow*



## Book & Jewelry Sale at Atonement in Carnegie

The Church of the Atonement, 618 Washington Avenue in Carnegie, will sponsor a Used Book & Jewelry sale on **Friday and Saturday, February 7 and 8, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** with a snow date of Feb. 9, from 1-3 p.m. Call Joyce regarding the snow day at 412-276-0366.

Donations accepted on Feb., 2, 3, & 4 by calling Joyce at 412-276-0366.





## Around the Diocese



### Bishop Ketlen's Schedule:

**January 22:** St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon (Ordination to the Priesthood)

**January 26:** St. Peter's, Brentwood

**February 1:** St. Michael's, Ligonier (Ordination to the Priesthood)

**February 2:** St. Peter's, Blairsville

**February 16:** Emmanuel, Northside

**February 23:** Nativity, Crafton

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](mailto:arath@episcopalpgh.org).



## Parting Shots

Deanna Briody was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests in Christ's one holy catholic and apostolic Church on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at Calvary Episcopal Church in East Liberty. [View this beautiful service on YouTube.](#)





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Bishop Ketlen joined our good friends at St. Stephen's, McKeesport, for her annual visitation on Sunday, January 12.





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A cold, snowy day was made warmer and brighter by the folks at St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg, during Bishop Ketlen's visit on Sunday, January 19.



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