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# Grounded in Christ *Growing Anew!*

February 18, 2025

## Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil

Dear Friends,

I write to invite you to take part in a 24-hour Prayer Vigil on Ash Wednesday. **The vigil will begin at 7 a.m. on March 5 (Ash Wednesday), and end at 7 a.m. on Thursday, March 6.**

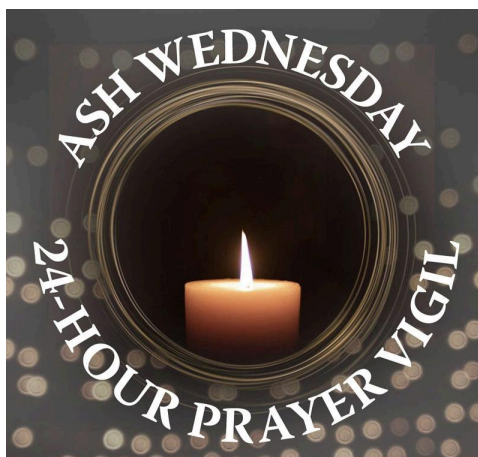
In terms of logistics, the Prayer Vigil will take place online. You will be able to register on Zoom to participate in this virtual Prayer Room with a link that will be available early next week.

The invitation is to set aside at least one hour of your time on that day to pray silently with others in our virtual Prayer Room. Guidelines with suggested topics and resources will be offered to facilitate praying during the vigil.

Please consider participating in this diocesan-wide effort. This is a great opportunity for us to join in uplifting our prayers together to God who delights in listening to us and who is greatly disposed to answering our genuine entreaties.

I want to reassert how these words from Jesus to his disciples in John 14:13-14, are effective in giving us confidence to pray without ceasing: *I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.*

Faithfully,



EAST END PARISHES  
**2025 LENTEN**  
PREACHING SERIES



## **Be Doers of the Word: The Gospel in Action**

6 p.m. Dinner | 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon

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### **Tuesday, March 11**

Preacher: The Rev. Guy Brown  
[Curate at St. Thomas, Oakmont]

**at Calvary** – 315 Shady Ave., East Liberty

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### **Tuesday, March 18**

Preacher: The Rev. Canon Kim Karashin  
[Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh]

**at St. Matthew's** – 336 E 10th Ave., Homestead

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### **Tuesday, March 25**

Preacher: The Rev. Deanna Briody  
[Curate at Calvary, East Liberty]

**at Redeemer** – 5700 Forbes Ave., Squirrel Hill

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### **Tuesday, April 1**

Preacher: The Rev. Jean Chess  
[Retired Deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh]

**at St. Stephen's** – 600 Pitt Street, Wilkinsburg

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### **Tuesday, April 8**

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Asa Lee  
[President of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary]

**at St. Andrew's** – 5801 Hampton St., Highland Park



### **Nativity Launches Search for Next Priest**

[Church of the Nativity](#), Crafton, is searching for its next part-time Priest-in-Charge. View the comprehensive [Parish Profile](#) for information on Nativity's ministry, history,

facilities, and community, as well as a description of what the congregation desires in its next ordained leader.

Applications for this position will be accepted through March 21, 2025. Interested clergy should send their resumé, Office of Transition Ministry (OTM) Portfolio, and letter of interest to Canon Kim Karashin

at [kkarashin@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:kkarashin@episcopalpgh.org). (The letter of interest should describe why you feel called to apply for the position and the gifts you will bring to it.)



Questions about the position may also be directed to Canon Kim.

If you know of any qualified clergy who may be interested in discerning a call to Church of the Nativity, please share with them this opportunity.



## Diocesan Transitions

### New Diocesan Treasurer

**Ms. Rebecca Steiner** joined the diocesan staff on February 1, 2025, as Senior Accountant and Treasurer. Rebecca is originally from Erie, PA, and currently resides in Brentwood Borough. She has over a decade of accounting experience, including in nonprofit organizations. Rebecca can be reached by email at [rsteiner@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:rsteiner@episcopalpgh.org).



### Ordination

**The Rev. Jack Brownfield** was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Ketlen on February 1, 2025. The service took place at St. Michael's of the Valley, Ligonier, where Jack serves as Curate.

### New Call

**The Rev. Chuck Weiss** will serve as Interim Rector at Christ Church, North Hills, beginning March 1, 2025. He is returning to parish ministry on a part-time basis after retiring in June 2023. Fr. Chuck is a native Pittsburgher. Some may remember him from his years of previous lay and ordained ministry in our diocese, including as a youth minister at St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; a director at Sheldon Calvary Camp; and the priest at St. Thomas', Canonsburg. Fr. Chuck most recently served a parish in Delaware, before returning to Pittsburgh with his wife Martha to be closer to family.

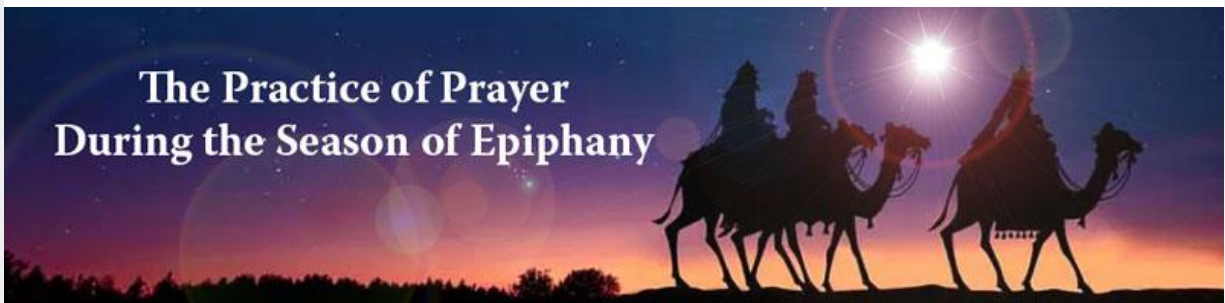
### Retirement

**The Rev. Canon Jim Shoucair** retired from active ministry at the end of January. Canon Jim was ordained to the priesthood in 1999 and served as Rector of Christ Church, North Hills, since 2002. He plans to continue playing an active role in the life of the diocese.

### Other Departures

**The Rev. Catherine “Cat” Munz** will end her time as Interim Priest at Church of the Nativity, Crafton, at the end of February. She has served in that capacity since July 2024 and is stepping away to resume her retirement-season travels. While Nativity searches for its next Priest-in-Charge, **the Rev. Regis Smolko** will serve the congregation as a regular supply priest.

**The Rev. Dr. Bruce Robison** will be stepping down from his role as Vicar of All Saints, Brighton Heights, at the end of February. He has served there since 2020. Bruce is considering this a “re-retirement”; he retired from active ministry and his role as Rector of St. Andrew’s, Highland Park, in 2019. In the weeks ahead, **the Rev. Miguel Carmona** will be serving All Saints as a regular supply priest.



## The Practice of Prayer During the Season of Epiphany

The online Epiphany Prayer Course has begun! 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 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. It's also okay to join as a new participant anytime.

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.

[Click here to register](#)



## Chicken & Biscuit Take-out Dinner at St. Mark’s, Johnstown

[St. Mark’s Episcopal Church](#) is holding a take-out dinner on Saturday February 22, 2025 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at its Parish Hall located at 335 Locust Street in downtown Johnstown.



Each meal includes chicken & biscuits, mashed potatoes, strawberry-spinach salad, and cake. Price is \$10.00 per meal. Take-out only. Meals must be ordered in advance. To order, call (814) 535-6797 or email [stmarks@atlanticbvn.net](mailto:stmarks@atlanticbvn.net). Proceeds benefit St. Mark's ministries.



Join us for

ST. PAUL'S

*Fish Fries!*

MARCH 7  
MARCH 21  
APRIL 4  
4:30 pm - 7 pm

Benefits St. Paul's  
Outreach Ministries

The Lenten Fish Fry season starts very soon at  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1066 Washington Road · Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228

[Online orders](#) end at 4pm, Thursday before the Fish Fry; make sure to click "Edit" when you're at the checkout screen and select a time! Walk-in orders welcome!



## Jazz at Emmanuel

Where the spirited and the spiritual join in a new kind of celebration as only Jazz at Emmanuel can.

March 9 – *Treasures*  
April 13 – *Triumph*  
May 11 – *Tales as Old as Time*

Always on the 2nd Sunday, September through May  
5 p.m. in the Sanctuary

[Emmanuel Episcopal Church](#) 957 W. North Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233



## **Multi-Faith Urban Forestry Summit**

**Recommended by the Social Justice and Outreach Committee**

[Tree Pittsburgh](#), [Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light](#), and the rest of the [Pittsburgh Canopy Alliance](#) is hosting a Multi-Faith Urban Forestry Summit in February. This Summit will be an action-oriented opportunity for faith leaders to learn about offerings from Tree Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light, the Pittsburgh Canopy Alliance, and how to get involved.



The Summit is planned for Monday, February 24 from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the [Pittsburgh Theological Seminary](#). The Summit will include a keynote speaker, a panel discussion, and breakout sessions. Food and beverages will be provided. If you are interested in attending, please [fill out this registration form](#).

## **The Social Justice and Outreach Committee Needs You!**

If you care about matters of justice and would like an opportunity to fulfill your baptismal vow to work for peace and justice, please consider joining the Social Justice and Outreach Committee of the diocese. They meet the first Thursday of each month via Zoom.

Contact Marianne Novy at 412-328-5540 or [mnovy@pitt.edu](mailto:mnovy@pitt.edu) for more information.



## **Association for Episcopal Deacons Triennial Conference**

The Association for Episcopal Deacons (AED) triennial event is being held **June 5-8, 2025** in **San Antonio, Texas** and welcome all deacons and deacon supporters from across

The Episcopal Church and other denominations to “Ignite Change,” the theme of the event.

The Rev. Carter Hawley, Executive Director of AED and Deacon at Trinity Cathedral in Pittsburgh, said: “We encourage deacons to make plans to attend this exciting triennial event, and for bishops, dioceses, and archdeacons to support and help their deacons to be able to attend.” Hawley notes that at this particular time of great change in Church history, the order of deacons is uniquely poised to help guide and support that change.

Learn more [here](#) and at [episcopaldeacons.org](http://episcopaldeacons.org).



ASSOCIATION FOR  
EPISCOPAL DEACONS  
ENGAGING THE DIAKONIA OF ALL BELIEVERS



## Six Steps to Sanity

Six Steps to SANITY Ministry is a safe, confidential environment that offers support and tools to families dealing with a loved one’s substance abuse. The next weekly session is starting at [St. Thomas Memorial Church](#), 378 Delaware Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139, on **Tuesday, February 25 and will run until May 6. Meetings run from 7 to 8:30 p.m.** We invite anyone who is dealing with a loved one’s substance abuse who could benefit from this ministry is invited.



Six Steps to SANITY is a faith-based ministry and support group adapted from the best-selling book, *Setting Boundaries with Your Adult Children* by Allison Bottke, for people who are dealing with addiction in their families. Using the Study Guide workbook, parents and families will learn how enabling and codependency contribute to addiction. Learning and applying these steps with other parents, spouses or other family members will produce healing and sanity in their lives. Registering in advance is required by contacting Deacon Tim Noca at 412-607-8328 or [tnoca@diopitt.org](mailto:tnoca@diopitt.org).



# Hymns and Music of Lent

Thursdays in Lent  
March 6 – April 10  
12:00pm EST  
Instructor: Becky Zartman



This six-session class is an interdisciplinary, high-energy romp through the history of Lenten liturgy, music and spirituality to reveal the humanity behind the hymns.

Classes include:

- Origins of Lent in Scripture, Liturgy & Sacred Music
- Memento Mori: The Lenten Spirituality of John Donne in Music and Poetry
- Lent Operas: Oratorios & Handel's Messiah
- Lent Bangers in Hymnal 1982
- "Sing my tongue the glorious battle": The Story of Venantius Fortunatus
- Psalm Sunday: The Life and Times of Psalm 118

For questions contact [ssfm@diocesecpa.org](mailto:ssfm@diocesecpa.org). [Register here!](#)



## Around the Diocese



### Bishop Ketlen's Schedule:

- February 23:** Nativity, Crafton  
**March 2:** St. David's, Peters Twp.  
**March 5:** Trinity Cathedral (Ash Wednesday)  
**March 9:** All Saints, Brighton Heights  
**March 16:** St. Thomas, Canonsburg

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 Shot

### Emmanuel, North Side, welcomed Bishop Ketlen

The Rev. Don Youse and the parishioners at Church of the Emmanuel on the North Side welcomed Bishop Ketlen on Sunday, February 16, for her annual visitation.



## Parting Quote

"As the political landscape in the United States becomes even more confusing and harder to navigate, we are being called to make decisions here in this place that are firmly rooted in the kingdom of God ... we must remember to keep our eyes focused on Jesus. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we are sometimes walking along, failing even to see the risen Christ is walking right alongside us all the way. "

*--Excerpts from the opening remarks by Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe to the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church, meeting Feb. 17-19 in Linthicum Heights, Maryland. [More here.](#)*



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