



December 20, 2019



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is pleased to make a donation to the Foundation of HOPE in honor of the people and parishes of the diocese.



The [Foundation of HOPE](#) is a local interfaith non-profit with the mission to "Empower incarcerated and released individuals to restore their relationship with their God, rebuild their lives, and reconcile to their communities."

Our best wishes for a blessed Christmas.

+ Jimmy Betsy
Kim+ John+
Jay+ Kathi
Fred Andy Sharon



By the Grace of God

The Right Reverend
Dorsey W. M. McConnell
Bishop of Pittsburgh

will ordain

Geoffrey Swenson Royce

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

Saturday, December 21, 2019
at ten o'clock in the morning

Trinity Cathedral
328 Sixth Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

Your prayers and presence are requested
Clergy: Red Stoles Reception follows



Blue Christmas Service in Franklin Park

St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, is presenting a Blue Christmas service on **Saturday, December 21, at 6:30 p.m.**

This service is for people in our community who are struggling with loss, grief, hardship, and illness in the middle of this holiday season.

[St. Brendan's Episcopal Church](#), 2365 McAleer Road, Sewickley, PA 15143.



All are invited and welcome!



Emergency Training Offered

The Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee of the diocese was recently reinvented to assist parishes in preparing for both natural disasters and man-made emergencies.



One of the committee's first steps is to offer *Stop the Bleed* training in collaboration with UPMC to all interested clergy and lay members of the diocese. This training is credited with saving lives after the

Tree of Life shootings. *Stop the Bleed* teaches basic bleeding control techniques and provides tools which empower the public to respond to life-threatening medical situations.

WHEN?

Saturday, January 11, 2020, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

WHERE?

Calvary Episcopal Church, 315 Shady Ave, Pittsburgh, 15206

COST?

Freewill donation at the door - for refreshments!

HOW DO I REGISTER?

[Click Here to Register](#)

QUESTIONS?

Contact Tim Austin, Committee Co-Chair at austover@gmail.com

Maximum enrollment: 50



Presiding Bishop Curry's Christmas Message 2019

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it," Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael Curry said in his Christmas Message 2019.



ECW Fall 2019 Grants Awarded

Grants for the following organizations were approved at the November 23, 2019, meeting of the Episcopal Church Women:

- Bishop's Discretionary Fund
- The Chapel at UPMC St. Margaret, Aspinwall

- Church of the Advent, Brookline, for community Christmas dinner
- Grateful Hearts Purse Project, St. Francis-in-the-Field, Somerset
- Wilkinsburg Sanctuary Project for Peace - Art and Talent Show, Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill
- Church of the Atonement, Carnegie, Christmas Open House
- Episcopal Relief and Development



--Janet Stephenson, ECW Finance Committee Chair



2020 Diocesan Cycle of Prayer Now Available

Diocesan Cycle
of Prayer
2020

A printable version of the 2018 Diocesan Cycle of Prayer [is available here](#).

This document, along with many others, are available [under the Resources tab](#) on the diocesan web site at www.episcopalpgh.org.



St. Paul's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, will be participating in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, leaving Pittsburgh on January 26, 2021 and returning via Tel Aviv on February 6, 2021.

The tour will be guided by Qumri Pilgrimages, operated by Iyad Qumri, former Canon to the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. Mr. Qumri has guided tours in the Holy Land, where he was born, and where he has raised his family, for 20 years. For a sample itinerary and more, visit www.iyadqumripilgrimages.com. A group from St. Paul's toured with Qumri Pilgrimages in February 2019.



The cost of the trip is estimated at \$4,000 for people sleeping two per room and there are single occupancy rooms available at a slightly higher rate. This includes tours, lodging, meals while there, tip to tour agency, airfare and travel insurance. We will be staying at hotels in Jerusalem and Nazareth during this pilgrimage.

We will begin meeting as a group in the months before the pilgrimage to build community and prepare for the experience.

If you are interested in going, please contact the Rev. Noah Evans at noah@stpaulspgh.org, Rector, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon. The deadline is February 1, 2020.



Commission on Race and Reconciliation Offers Monthly Prayers

The Commission on Race and Reconciliation has developed a series of special prayers calling attention to specific issues still prevalent in our society today that we as a church must be ever mindful of as we work toward making the world a better place for all of God's people.

DECEMBER--a confession:

Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift:

You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us.

We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family.

We have desired to live in freedom, while building walls between ourselves and others.

We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are, while making judgments of others based on the color of skin, or the shape of features, or the varieties of human experience.

We have tried to love our neighbors individually while yet benefiting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression.

Forgive us, Holy God.

Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people.

Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love.

Restore us in your image, to be beloved community, united in our diversity, even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit, Holy and undivided Trinity, now and for ever. Amen.



Around the Diocese

Bishop McConnell's Visitation Schedule:

December 22: Nativity, Crafton

December 24: Trinity Cathedral (Christmas Eve)

January 12: St. Peter's, Brentwood

January 19: St. James, Penn Hills

January 26: St. Paul's, Monongahela

Parish leadership is reminded to complete and submit [this form](#) at least two weeks in advance of their visitation.



Parting Shot

Happy Birthday to Irene Jack as she celebrated her 100th birthday on December 6, 2019. Irene is the matriarch and loyal parishioner of St. Barnabas in Brackenridge.



She is pictured here with the Rev. Frank Yesko and friends from St. Barnabas, Calvary Church and St. Thomas who came to join in this special day.



All submissions to the *Grace Happens* newsletter and the diocesan web site are welcome and should be sent to amuhl@episcopalpgh.org. When possible, the copy should be in a Word document and all original logos, pictures and artwork should be attached separately. Please be sure to include your contact information with any submission.

