



January 16, 2020

## MLK Holiday Gun Buy Back Day



In partnership with the City of Pittsburgh Police Department, Police Chief Scott Schubert, the Episcopal Lutheran Alliance, and Homewood Ministries, the Church of the Holy Cross will sponsor a community non-violence gun buy back event on **Martin Luther King Day, January 20, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

"Be the King: Annual Gun Buy Back Day - Practicing Non-Violence is Priceless" event will feature music, refreshments and the buy back of firearms up to \$100 per gun surrendered - **no questions asked!**

The event takes place on the day we pause to honor the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - "the Apostle of Non-Violence." Because of its historic role in community engagement and outreach, Holy Cross became a logical and highly visible site for this event. "This Gun Buy Back project recognizes that Black Americans are disproportionately the victims of gun violence - more than 85% of black homicide victims are shot and killed by guns. It is imperative that the church be on the front line of caring for and protecting our community," said Reverend Torrey Johnson, the Priest-in-Charge at Holy Cross.

Holy Cross recently was the site of a double homicide that occurred only feet from the doors of the church. Minister Guy Brown, Holy Cross' Outreach Coordinator who is organizing the gun buy initiative at Holy Cross said, "We witnessed the aftermath and impact of the homicide the of two victims right here on the corner of Kelly and Collier streets, the very intersection on which the Church of the Holy Cross sits. Had the episode occurred later in the morning, church members and particularly young children could have been caught in a cross fire. We must do what ever we can to reduce gun violence, and perhaps save a life or two."

Officers from the Pittsburgh Police Department will be on-site at Holy Cross to supervise and manage the gun buy back event.

Holy Cross Church is raising the funds necessary to cover the cost of the buyback and is accepting donations online through the Episcopal Lutheran Alliance at <https://elallianceinc.org/donate>, or by checks mailed to the church.

Holy Cross is located at 7507 Kelly Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15208, in the Homewood South neighborhood. <https://historichcpa.org>

For more information, please contact Minister Guy Brown at 412-242-3209.



## Seeking Members of the Nominating Committee for the next Bishop of Pittsburgh

Our bishop, the Right Reverend Dorsey W.M. McConnell, has announced his retirement date in 2021. In discussions with the Bishop, the Standing Committee has revised the schedule for the election and Consecration of the IX Bishop of Pittsburgh.



January 23, 2021: Special Convention to elect the next bishop  
February 13, 2021: "Snow date" for the election, if needed  
June 5 or 12, 2021: Consecration of the IX Bishop of Pittsburgh

The Standing Committee of the Diocese will appoint a Nominating Committee to search for candidates and present them for final approval by the Standing Committee and ultimately election at the Special Convention. At this time, we ask that you recommend to us the names of any individuals who could capably serve on the Nominating Committee.

More details about the tasks of the Nominating Committee, together with an application form (available by clicking [here for a Word document](#) or [here for a PDF](#)), are available on the Diocesan website at [www.episcopalpggh.org](http://www.episcopalpggh.org).

Application are due by February 1, 2020. In the coming months, please consult the Diocesan website and the Diocesan newsletter, Grace Happens, for news about the process to call our next Bishop of Pittsburgh.



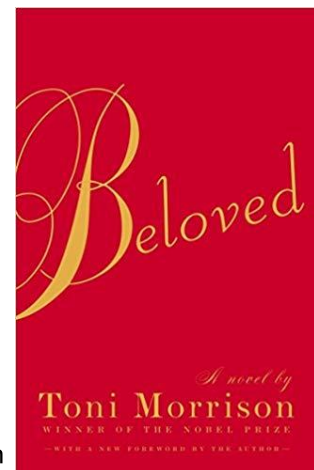
## Read a Book for Lent: *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison

Find a friend to share it with...  
Form a book group in your parish...  
Read it own your own...

For Lent this year, the **Commission on Race and Reconciliation**(CORR) is remembering author Toni Morrison, who died last August at the age of 88. She was the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature for her writing and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama in 2012.

Her work is "a prose so precise, so faithful to speech and so charged with pain and wonder that the novel becomes poetry," said John Leonard, former Executive Editor of the New York Times Book Review.

More information about how to incorporate this amazing book into your Lenten practices will be coming soon from the CORR.



## Sheldon Calvary Camp 2020



Established in 1936, Sheldon Calvary Camp (SCC) is located on the scenic shores of Lake Erie in Conneaut, Ohio. SCC is a summer camp for children ages 7-16 and families. Our staff is composed of young adults ages 17 and older, an experienced supervisory team and camp directors. Many of our staff members are former campers who want to share their experiences with others.

**Coed Camp and Stars & Stripes** - These are week long sessions for boys and girls ages 8-16 offering a full recreational camping experience. Campers spend days engaged in activities such as swimming instruction, fine arts, tennis, athletics, archery, and experiential education. Nine campers of similar ages live together in each cabin under the guidance and supervision of two counselors. Each day ends with campfire or chapel.

**Day Camp** - This program runs from 9am-4pm daily for boys and girls ages 7-12 during the 4th of July week. Campers participate in small group activities including swimming, games, crafts, and nature!

**Ready, Set, Camp!** - This 4-day, 3-night program is geared toward younger campers ages 7-12. It offers the same activities of Coed Camp but is designed for children and parents who may be apprehensive about a whole week away from home or challenged to fit in a full week of camp into their summer schedules. Campers can explore and enjoy the complete camping experience, just for a shorter period of time!

### 2020 Camping Sessions

**Coed I: June 14-20**

**Day Camp: June 29-July 3**

**Coed II: June 21-27**

**Coed III: July 5-11**

**Stars & Stripes: June 28- July 3**

**Coed IV: July 12-25 (two weeks)**

**Ready, Set, Camp!: June 28- July 1**

**Coed V: July 26-August 1**

For more information, please visit [www.calvarycamp.org](http://www.calvarycamp.org) or call (440) 593-4381.



## New Zealand Night Prayer Community Common Prayer Service

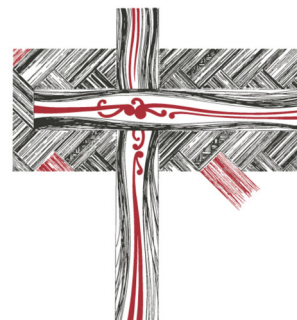
As part of their Community Common Prayer Series, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 335 Locust Street, in downtown Johnstown is offering a "New Zealand Night Prayer" service **at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 19.**

The offering of prayer in the evening, often called Compline, has sometimes been described as the 'goodnight prayer of the Church'. It rounds off the day and prepares us for a quiet night. As the psalmist wrote:

*I lie down in peace and take rest my rest  
for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.*

"Night Prayer" is the order of Compline from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, the common prayer book for the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. They, along with The Episcopal Church, are members of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Free refreshments and conversation will be available following the service. All are welcome.





For more information: call 814-535-6797, visit [saintmarksjohnstown.com](http://saintmarksjohnstown.com) or contact the Rev. Nancy Threadgill at [revnancy-stmarks@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:revnancy-stmarks@atlanticbbn.net)



## Engage in the 2020 U.S. Census!

2020 is way more than an election year! The Episcopal Church is an official partner for the [2020 Census](#) with the U.S. Census Bureau! Watch Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry's video below explaining why the U.S. census is important and why you should get involved.



As an official partner, The Episcopal Church can help make the census count as accurate as possible. 132 federal programs plus private businesses, state, and local initiatives [depend on census data](#) for effective distribution of resources, while congressional seats are apportioned according to the census count.

Religious denominations and institutions are well-placed to reach historically hard-to-count populations, a critical goal of the Census Bureau. Research shows that someone is more likely to take the census if they hear about it from someone they trust.

For information on how to engage in 2020, including a useful census engagement toolkit and a Vote Faithfully 2020 toolkit, visit the [civic engagement page](#) on The Episcopal Church website at <https://episcopalchurch.org/OGR/civic-engagement>.



## Around the Diocese

### Bishop McConnell's Visitation Schedule:

**January 26:** St. Paul's, Monongahela  
**February 9:** All Souls, North Versailles  
**February 16:** Emmanuel, North Side  
**February 23:** Atonement, Carnegie

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



All submissions to the *Grace Happens* newsletter and the diocesan web site are welcome and should be sent to [amuhl@episcopalpgh.org](mailto: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.



Like us on Facebook