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Grounded in Christ *Growing Anew!*

February 26, 2025

A Letter from the Bishop Regarding Diocesan Staff

Dear friends,

It is with great joy that I write to announce that the Rev. Canon Joann Saylor is joining our diocesan staff as Canon to the Ordinary for Mission, Vitality, and Administration. Canon Saylor will also function as Chief of Staff. She is looking forward to beginning her tenure with us beginning April 1.

Canon Saylor is coming to us from the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, where she serves as Canon for Mission Amplification. A significant part of her current role is to lead a team of five missionaries who actively support the planting of new Episcopal communities throughout the Diocese of Texas. In addition, she is a licensed CPA. Her background and experience are extraordinarily well suited for our new staff position.



While Canon Saylor has been a Texas resident for decades, I was happy to learn that she was born in Pittsburgh. This fun fact seems to confirm that Pittsburghers who move away eventually sense a call to return to the Steel City.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to God, who has answered my prayer and the prayer of others by providing us with such a gift. I look forward to having Canon Saylor in our midst in a few short weeks. When the time comes, please join me in offering her a warm welcome.

Faithfully,



Ash Wednesday 24-Hour Prayer Vigil

Dear Friends,

Ash Wednesday and our Lenten season begins in a week! And, it is [time to register](#) for our 24-hour Diocesan-wide Virtual Prayer Vigil!

This virtual vigil on Zoom starts at 7 a.m. on March 5 (Ash Wednesday), and ends at 7 a.m. on Thursday, March 6. And so, there are lots of hourly opportunities to pray.



The time to register is upon us. You can do so through the link included below. Our aim is to have small groups praying during each hour of these 24 hours. Guidance on how to pray, as well as suggested topics to pray about, will be sent to those who register.

I cannot stress enough the urgent need for us to pray in earnest about all sorts of things. There is so much for us to pray about. While prayer is at the heart of our ethos of worship, specific and dedicated times of prayer are effective in allowing for a greater release of God's power in the world. Hence, this well-known admonition to *Pray without ceasing* from the apostle Paul (1 Thess. 5:17) emphasizes the value of being persistent in reaching out to God in prayer.

Faithfully,

[Register Here for the Prayer Vigil](#)

