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# Grounded in Christ *Growing Anew!*

March 18, 2025

## Save the Date: Ministry Celebration Day

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Ministry Celebration Day, to be held on **Sunday, May 18, 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, North Hills.**

This celebration will feature a ministry fair with tables highlighting our ministries together with plenty of time set aside for fellowship and exploring our diverse ministries with time set aside for worship.

A catered dinner will be served. Much more information including a full agenda and registration details (only for hospitality planning) will be available very soon.



If your parish ministry would like to be represented at the fair, please [fill out this form](#).



## Diocesan Transitions for March, 2025

### Joining Diocesan Staff

**The Rev. Canon Joann Saylor**s will join the diocesan staff on April 1, 2025, as Canon to the Ordinary for Mission, Vitality, and Administration. She is relocating from Houston, Texas, where she has served as Canon for Mission Amplification for the Episcopal Diocese of Texas.



In conjunction with Canon Joann's arrival, **Canon Kim Karashin** will assume the role of Canon to the Ordinary for Transitions and Clergy & Congregational Care.

### New Call

**The Rev. Chuck Weiss** began serving as Interim Rector at Christ Church, North Hills, on March 1. He is returning to parish ministry on a part-time basis after

retiring in June 2023. Chuck remains canonically resident in the Diocese of Delaware, where he served prior to returning to Pittsburgh.

### Ended Calls

**The Rev. Catherine “Cat” Munz** concluded her time as Interim Priest at Church of the Nativity, Crafton, at the end of February. She served in that capacity since July 2024. While Nativity searches for its next Priest-in-Charge, **The Rev. Regis Smolko** is serving the congregation as a regular supply priest.

**The Rev. Bruce Robison** stepped down from his role as Vicar of All Saints, Brighton Heights, at the end of February. He 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. **The Rev. Miguel Carmona** is serving All Saints as a regular supply priest.

### Returning to Ministry

**The Rev. Todd Brewer** was restored and returned to active ministry as a priest in The Episcopal Church on January 1, 2025. Todd and his family live in Jersey City, New Jersey, while remaining canonically resident in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He currently serves as managing editor of the Mockingbird Ministries website.

**The Rev. Norman Erb-White** was restored as a priest in The Episcopal Church on February 20 and has since been added to the diocese’s roster of supply clergy. Norman and his family reside in Ambridge.



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 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



## **Garden Grants Available Again this Spring**

These last few days of February and early days of March have been either a warm sunny prom-ise or a chilly blast with snowflakes flying. What to expect, it's Pittsburgh! Punxsutawney Phil predicted an late spring, but groundhogs have been known to be mistaken after being yanked early in the morning from a cozy warm den. We can only have faith that spring is on its way!



Once again, the diocesan Social Justice and Outreach Committee (SJO) encourages each parish to consider creating or sustaining a church vegetable garden. Gardening is a wonderful outdoor activity offering easy socialization, great fresh air, and much-needed fresh produce for local food pantries and neighbors. So grab those seed catalogs from your mailboxes, and start planning your planting strategy. Once again in 2025, the SJO Committee will offer grants to fund church garden initiatives. For the last ten years, the diocesan SJO Committee has offered a few (4-8) small grants each year to support the efforts of creating and sustaining parish-based vegetable gardens. In 2024, five established gardens received funding: St. Brendan's (Franklin Park), Holy Cross (Homewood), St. David's (Peters Township), Shepherd's Wellness (Bloomfield), and All Saints (Brighton Heights).

Much more information including the application and instructions are available at [www.episcopalpgh.org/garden-grants-available-again-2025/](http://www.episcopalpgh.org/garden-grants-available-again-2025/)



## ECW Spring 2025 Grant Applications Available

The Diocese of Pittsburgh's Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will be making outreach grants in the Spring.

The ECW particularly seeks to support hands-on ministries that help children, adults and families in need of assistance with food, nutrition, health care, housing, education and counseling.

The grants are primarily designed for ministries within the diocese and with the goal of even distribution across all districts. It is hoped that these small grants will enable the continuation of existing ministries on the local level. However, the ECW will continue its policy of also awarding grants to some national and international ministries such as Episcopal Relief & Development.



[Click here for the grant application and submission instructions.](#) Applications for the Spring 2025 grants must be submitted before Friday, May 2, 2025.



## ECW Spring 2025 Scholarships Available

The Episcopal Church Women established the Memorial Membership Fund to aid students with educational grants. The fund was begun in 1927 to be used for two missionary training scholarships. In the 94 years of its existence, the scope of the fund has widened to include nursing, theology and other humanitarian fields of study.



Funds are raised through gifts from individuals or groups in memory of a loved one or friend. This money is invested and the interest used for the granting purposes.

Each applicant must:

- be an Episcopalian in good standing (active) in a parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh,
- have completed one year of college or the equivalent,
- be pursuing education in either church or humanitarian related fields,
- submit an application, including a letter stating goals and need, and
- submit a reference letter from their parish priest.

The Memorial Membership Committee will consider each request based on individual need and circumstances. Scholarships are completely unencumbered and may be used as needed to aid the recipient in achieving their educational goals. Each eligible applicant is able to apply once a year for three years.

**The applications must be received by Friday, May 2, 2025.** The application form with submission instructions is [available by clicking here](#).

For additional information please contact Betty Duckstein at [ducksteine@yahoo.com](mailto:ducksteine@yahoo.com)



# Midweek Holy Eucharist

## Wednesdays, 12pm

*healing prayers follow the service  
for those who desire them*

St Andrew's Episcopal Church

5801 Hampton Street, PGH

[www.standrewspgh.org/wednesday](http://www.standrewspgh.org/wednesday)



**Recommended by the  
Social Justice & Outreach Committee (SJO)**

## End Gun Violence: PA Advocacy Day

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

PA State Capitol Harrisburg



**What is Advocacy Day?** Advocacy Day is an annual day of visibility and advocacy in Harrisburg, where partners and constituents from across the commonwealth gather to meet with legislators, wear orange shirts and be a visible presence throughout the capitol, and hold a rally, filling the steps of the capitol.

This year we will be advocating for Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs), Secure Storage, Universal Background Checks, Lost & Stolen Firearm Reporting, Ending Untraceable "Ghost Guns" and 3-D Printed Firearms, and \$80 million in Community Violence Intervention (CVI) funding in Gov. Shapiro's FY25 Budget.

If you are interested in attending or have questions, please contact Marilyn Mulvihill, a member of the SJO, at [mimi15143@yahoo.com](mailto:mimi15143@yahoo.com). A bus departing from Station Square is planned along with other carpooling options.

A packet with more information is [available here](#).



**7:00pm  
March 21  
St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon**

**Join us for a Book Talk and a  
live recording of the podcast  
"And Also With You"!**

1066 Washington Road,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228



Come to St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, on Friday March 22st as the Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail shares about her new book, "God Didn't Make Us to Hate Us". This book is a first-of-its-kind devotional for the disenchanted, disillusioned, and deconstructed.

We will also have a live event for the podcast "And Also With You" which will feature Q&A, games, and more. [Register here.](#)

**Refining to Shine:  
A Lenten Morning Retreat**

*What can you let God refine so that  
you can shine?*

Led by the Rev. Laura Di Panfilo  
and the Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail

**Saturday  
March 22  
9am-12pm**

1066 Washington Road,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228



Lent is a season of penitence and reflecting on our mortality — but that doesn't mean it is a time to think less of ourselves or beat ourselves up for falling short. Instead, it is an opportunity to deliberately invite God to transform our hearts, to embolden us to tell and be transformed by the truth, to ask God to help us in a new start, to ask God to give us courage to be loving, kind, justice-seeking, and bridge-building. As the great hymn "How Firm a Foundation" goes, it is a time for God to consume our dross (old-timey word for rubbish) and to refine our gold. Lent is a time we ask God to make us shine!

So in that spirit, come spend a morning reflecting on what you need to lay down so that God can polish you up and shine. We will sing some hymns, hear a short teaching from Rev. Lizzie expanding on themes of forgiveness, freedom, and mercy as found in her new book, *God Didn't Make Us to Hate Us*, and spend the lion's share of time in creative reflection, art-making prayer, and contemplation.

[Register here.](#)



## **Nativity, Crafton, Searches For Their 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.



## Around the Diocese



### Bishop Ketlen's Schedule:

**March 23:** *House of Bishop's Meeting*

**March 30:** St. Thomas, Oakmont

**April 6:** St. Brendan's, Franklin Park

**April 13:** All Souls, North Versailles

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

### **'A funeral for the pandemic': Shadyside church dedicates Sunday service to mourn and heal, 5 years on**

Calvary, East Liberty, was featured in an article in Sunday's TribLive. [Read this excellent article here.](#)



--Photo by Jack Troy, TribLive

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## From WJAC-TV: Johnstown pastor offers 'ashes to go' service as local Christians kick off Lenten season

"While some attended a traditional mass service, others may have missed the opportunity and received their ashes in a different way. One local Johnstown reverend offered "ashes to go" at Central Park." See <https://wjactv.com/news/local/johnstown-pastor-offers-ashes-to-go-service-as-local-christians-kick-off-lenten-season>



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## All Saint's, Brighton Heights, welcomed Bishop Ketlen

The Rev. Miguel Carmona and the parishioners at All Saints, Brighton Heights, welcomed Bishop Ketlen on Sunday, March 9, for her annual visitation.



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