





The Diocese of Pittsburgh was well represented at Synod this year by (L to R) Dr. Joan Gundersen, Bishop Ketlen, Steve Stagnitta, and the Rev. Canon Eric McIntosh.



## Diocesan Transitions

### Retirements

**The Rev. Robin Jarrell** retired from active ministry on April 30. Robin served as the Priest-in-Charge of St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, since May 2022. She intends to remain in the Pittsburgh area.



**The Rev. Bill Geiger** will be retiring from active ministry effective July 1, 2025. Bill is the Rector of Christ Church, Indiana, where he has served since 1999. The Feast of the Ascension on May 29 will be Bill's last service celebrating and preaching at Christ Church. He will return to the parish on Sunday, June 29, for *A Service for the Ending of a Pastoral Relationship and Leave-Taking from a Congregation* led by Canon Kim Karashin. Bill and his wife Kate plan to remain resident in Indiana, PA, following Bill's retirement.

### New Call

**The Rev. Canon Nancy Suellau** began serving as Interim Priest at St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, on May 1. Nancy, a retired priest, is licensed to serve in Pittsburgh while remaining canonically resident in the Diocese of Florida, where she previously served.



**FLEA MARKET**

ST. PETER'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH,  
BRENTWOOD

ALL ITEMS \$10 OR LESS!  
PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT ST. PETER'S & A LOCAL CHARITY



**SATURDAY, MAY 24 9 AM - 3 PM**

4048 Brownsville Rd. Pittsburgh PA 15227

For more information, email [info@stpetersbrentwood.org](mailto:info@stpetersbrentwood.org)  
or call 412 - 884 - 5225



## Rogation Day Procession & Service in Kittanning

**Thursday, May 28**

Join friends for a time-honored tradition of blessing the fields and offering prayers for God's abundant provision. All are welcome—families, friends, farmers, gardeners, and neighbors!

### Schedule

11 a.m.

Procession departs from the church lawn, weaving through our historic downtown streets.

11:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist and Rogation Prayers in the sanctuary.

12:15 p.m.

Blessing of seeds, soil, and tools on the front steps.

What to Bring? Gardening tools or seed packets for blessing.

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

112 N. Water Street, Kittanning, PA 16201

For more information, call (724) 543-5402

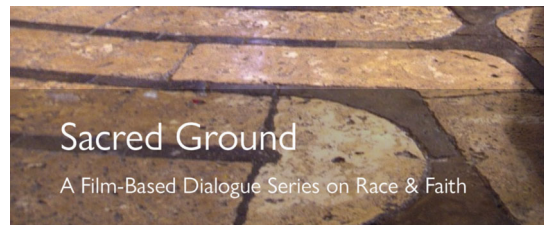
or visit [www.saintpaulskittanning.com](http://www.saintpaulskittanning.com)

**Come, walk, pray, and give thanks for the gifts of creation!**



## ***Sacred Ground* Dialogue Sessions Starting Soon**

*Sacred Ground* is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.



In the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the *Sacred Ground* sessions are presented by our Beloved Community Initiative (BCI) and coordinated by our BCI Program Manager, [Shahnaz Alam Denlinger](#).

A new 9 week Level 1 course, available both in-person and online, will be starting on Thursday, May 29, at 6 p.m. at St. Thomas in Oakmont.

A new 7 week Level 2 course, also available both in-person and online, will be starting on Wednesday, May 14, at 6 p.m. at St. Thomas.

**[Much more information is available here.](#)**



# RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

COMPETENTLY,  
COMPASSIONATELY AND  
FAITHFULLY

*Help end the silence. Reserve your seat by 5/20/25*

**SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2025**  
**10 AM - 3 PM**

GUEST PANEL INCLUDES  
LOCAL MAGISTRATE | SHELTER WORKER |  
THERAPIST | LOCAL PASTOR

HOT CATERED LUNCH INCLUDED  
\$10 PER PERSON

AN EVENT FOR ORDAINED AND  
LAY MEMBERS



**SOUTHWESTERN  
PENNSYLVANIA  
SYNOD**  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH IN AMERICA

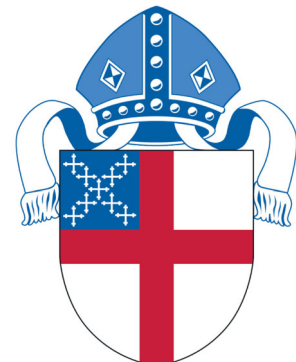
HOSTED BY THE CHURCH IN  
SOCIETY COMMITTEE

**WORKSHOP LOCATION: TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**2500 BRANDT SCHOOL RD | WEXFORD, PA**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION VISIT**  
<https://www.swpasynod.org/calendar/dv2025>



## **Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe writes letter on Episcopal Migration Ministries**

[Episcopal News Service] The Episcopal Church, according to a letter issued May 12 by Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe, has declined the Trump administration's request to participate in the fast-tracked immigration of Afrikaners, part of the white minority in South Africa that formerly governed the country until the end of the extreme racial segregation of apartheid in 1994. EMM has not assisted any new arrivals since early this year, when the Trump administration halted the broader federal resettlement program indefinitely.



Millions of people worldwide are identified by the United Nations as refugees escaping war, famine or religious persecution in their home countries. EMM has resettled nearly 110,000 such refugees over nearly 40 years, but “in light of our church’s steadfast commitment to racial justice and reconciliation and our historic ties with the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, we are not able to take this step” of assisting the Trump administration in resettling Afrikaners, Rowe said after consulting with Anglican Archbishop Thabo Makgoba of Cape Town.

Read the complete letter from Presiding Bishop Rowe [here](#).

Read the complete article from Episcopal News Service [here](#).



## Upcoming Offerings from the Stephenson School for Ministry

### Jesus, Church, and Powers

Today is a time of war, increasing violence, climate crisis, political confusion, and economic anxiety. Ephesians 6:12 tells us that “our struggle is ... against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness.” But what or who are these rulers, authorities, and

powers? In this course, we will explore various ways of answering that question with the help of contemporary biblical scholars, theologians, and Christian ethicists. This course will be offered **via Zoom on Mondays from 2-3 p.m., May 19 to July 28**. [More information and registration here](#).



### Biblical Hebrew for Old Testament Interpretation

This 14-week online class introduces biblical Hebrew for the sake of Old Testament preaching, teaching, and personal study. Students will learn the Hebrew alphabet, essential Hebrew grammar, and important theological vocabulary, and they will become

familiar with online tools and resources. The course will meet on Wednesday afternoons from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Zoom, May 21 to August 20. [More information and registration here](#).



## Around the Diocese



## Bishop Ketlen's Schedule:

**May 18:** Christ Church, North Hills

**June 8:** St. Barnabas, Brackenridge (*Pentecost*)

**June 15:** Trinity Cathedral, Pittsburgh (*Trinity Sunday*)

**June 22:** Redeemer, Squirrel Hill

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

### Dark to Light in Oakmont!

The major storm that passed through the area on Tuesday, April 29, caused major damage and left most on the area without power for days.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Oakmont worked with the Verona Methodist Church to provide a free take-out dinners on Wednesday, April 30, **The team worked tirelessly, in the dark working with flashlights**, to prepare, pack, and deliver meals to those who could not leave their homes while others served those who came to the event.

More than 150 meals were distributed! A special thanks goes to the Verona Methodist Church for inviting us to participate.

*--Wilma Gaughan, member of St. Thomas*





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### **Holy Cross Celebrates 150 Years!**

The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, our former Presiding Bishop, was the Keynote Speaker at a grand 150th anniversary celebration of Holy Cross, Homewood, on Friday, May 9, at Churchill Country Club. Pictured is Bishop Curry, Bishop Ketlen, and the Rev. Charles Fischer. Many more pictures will be available in a future *Grace Happens*.



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### **Cheers to 100 Years in Mt. Lebanon!**

Bishop Ketlen and Scott Solak joined the Rev. Noah Evans and the Rev. Sarah Irwin to help celebrate St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon's 100th Anniversary. *Here's to 100 more!*



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### **Breakfast With the Bishop**

Bishop Ketlen shared some fellowship and breakfast with a group of clergy on Thursday, May 1, in Ligonier. Our bishop hosts breakfast gatherings with clergy regionally on a regular basis.



L to R: The Rev. Jeff Murph, St. Thomas, Oakmont; The Rev. Bill Geiger, Christ Church, Indiana; The Rev. Arthur Dilg, Retired; Bishop Ketlen; The Rev. Nancy Threadgill, St. Mark's, Johnstown; The Rev. Marjorie Bevans, St. Michael's, Ligonier; The Rev. Deacon Cynthia Gainer, St. Bartholomew, Scottdale.

### **Bishop Ketlen Visits Christ Church, Indiana**

The Rev. Bill Geiger and the wonderful folks at Christ Church, Indiana, welcomed Bishop Ketlen for her visitation on Sunday, May 4.





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