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January 14, 2026

## Celebrating Absalom Jones and Bishop Barbara Harris

The graphic is a vertical rectangle with a dark background. At the top, it features two portraits: Absalom Jones on the left and Barbara Harris on the right. To the right of Barbara Harris is a vertical strip of colorful, geometric patterns. Below the portraits is a large, curved banner with a gold border. Inside this banner, the text 'THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH' is written in gold, uppercase letters. Below that, 'A Celebration of the Lives of' is in white, uppercase letters, followed by 'Absalom Jones &amp; Barbara Harris' in a gold, cursive font. At the bottom of the banner is a small white shield with a red cross and a blue cross. Below the banner are two smaller portraits: The Rt. Rev. Ketlen A. Solak on the left and The Rev. Charles L. Fischer, III on the right. In the center, a large orange circle contains the text 'SATURDAY February 7, 2026 1 PM' in white, uppercase letters. At the very bottom of the graphic is a horizontal strip of colorful, geometric patterns.

The Rt. Rev. Ketlen A. Solak  
Celebrant

The Rev. Charles L. Fischer, III  
Preacher

Trinity Cathedral, 328 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15222

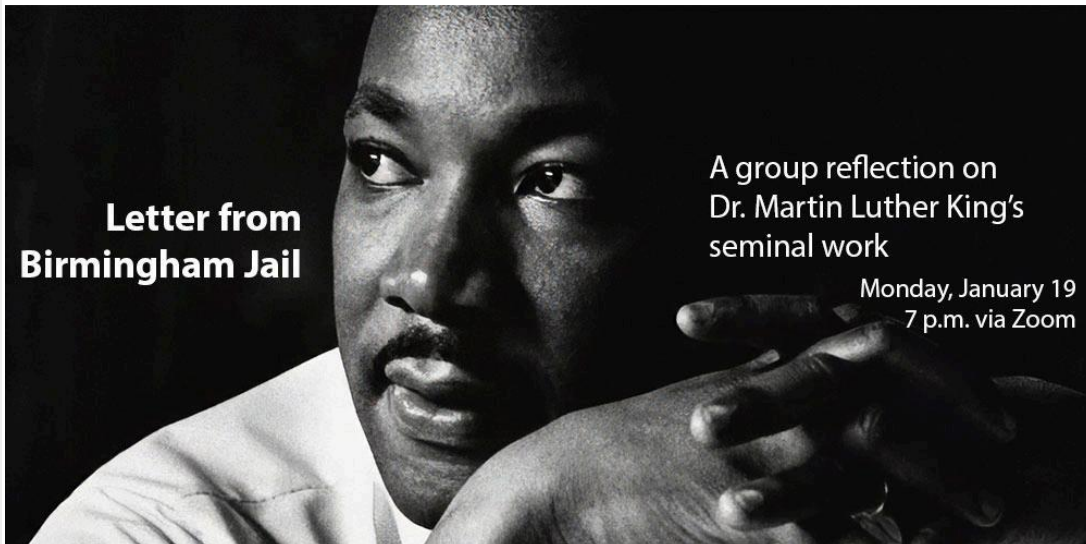
Welcome all and join us at Trinity Cathedral for a Celebration and Eucharist of the lives and ministries of the Rev. Absalom Jones and the Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris on Saturday,

February 7, at 1 p.m.

[Absalom Jones](#) was the first African American to be ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church in 1802. [Barbara Harris](#) was the first woman to be ordained a bishop in the Episcopal Church, and in the Anglican Communion, in 1989.

The Celebration will feature **the Right Rev. Ketlen A. Solak**, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, as celebrant and **the Rev Charles L. Fischer, III**, Vice-President for Seminary Advancement at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Priest-in-Charge, The Church of the Holy Cross, Homewood, as the preacher.

So we can best plan for hospitality and light refreshments, [please register here](#).



Please join the **Commission on Race and Reconciliation** and the **Social Justice and Outreach Committee** for a thoughtful commemoration of the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on **Monday, January 19 at 7 p.m.**

We will reflect together on Dr. King's seminal work, Letter from the Birmingham Jail, widely regarded as one of his most powerful writings and a foundational text in the ongoing struggle for justice. It is in this letter that Dr. King offers the enduring reminder: "Justice too long delayed is justice denied." This document remains a cornerstone of the Civil Rights Movement and a significant contribution to American history.

A Zoom discussion will be held at 7p.m. on Monday, January 19, at 7 p.m. Please register at [www.episcopalpgh.org/mlk-birmingham-jail/](http://www.episcopalpgh.org/mlk-birmingham-jail/)

Participants are encouraged to read [Letter from the Birmingham Jail](#) in advance. The "Letter from Birmingham Jail" [infographic](#) on Course Hero also provides helpful context and background information.

For additional information, please contact the Rev. Canon Eric McIntosh at [emcintosh@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:emcintosh@episcopalpgh.org) or Marilyn Mulvihill at [mimi15143@yahoo.com](mailto:mimi15143@yahoo.com)



## Six Steps to Sanity

Six Steps to SANITY Ministry is a safe, confidential environment that offers support and tools to families dealing with a loved one's substance abuse. The next weekly session is

starting in the Guild Room at [St. Thomas Memorial Church](#), 378 Delaware Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139, on **Tuesday, February 24** and will run until **April 28**. Meetings run from **7 to 8:30 p.m.** We invite anyone who is dealing with a loved one's substance abuse who could benefit from this ministry is invited.

Six Steps to SANITY is a faith-based ministry and support group adapted from the best-selling book, *Setting Boundaries with Your Adult Children* by Allison Bottke, for people who are dealing with addiction in their families. Using the Study Guide workbook, parents and families will learn how enabling and codependency contribute to addiction. Learning and applying these steps with other parents, spouses or other family members will produce healing and sanity in their lives. Registering in advance is required by contacting Deacon Tim Noca at 412-607-8328 or [tnoca@diopitt.org](mailto:tnoca@diopitt.org).



## Christmas Cookies, Carols & Cocoa in Homewood



Holy Cross Episcopal Church was filled with Christmas anticipation and the joyful energy of children during Christmas Cookies, Carols & Cocoa, a free, family-focused gathering for families in the Homewood community on December 20, 2025. Children delighted in decorating Christmas cookies, listening to Christmas music, and making ornaments. The event was coupled with the Church's Annual Christmas Toy Giveaway, with more than sixty families welcomed into a warm and festive space.

Thanks to the generosity of volunteers and donors, dozens of families received Christmas breakfast "to-go" bags to enjoy together on Christmas morning. The event offered not only a fun and memorable holiday experience but also a meaningful connection, creating space for families to be welcomed and supported during the Christmas season.

This gathering reflects the heart of the Episcopal Education Initiative, which seeks to build relationships with families and imagine new, accessible pathways of education, care, and formation for children in Homewood.



We are particularly grateful for the support for this event from the Anti-Racism & Social Justice Committee at St. Paul's Mt. Lebanon. Your continued prayers, encouragement, and partnership as this work unfolds are also greatly appreciated.

Those interested in learning more about the Episcopal Education Initiative or exploring ways to be involved are warmly invited to reach out to the Rev. Charles Fischer [rcfischer@gmail.com](mailto:rcfischer@gmail.com) or Eileen Sharbaugh [sharbaugh@verizon.net](mailto:sharbaugh@verizon.net).



## Around the Diocese



### Bishop Ketlen's Schedule:

**January 18:** St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg

**January 25:** St. Peter's, Brentwood

**February 1:** Nativity, Crafton

**February 8:** St. Thomas, Canonsburg

Parish leadership is reminded to complete a form, available in [PDF](#) or [Word](#), at least two weeks in advance of their visitation.

Bishop Ketlen's visitation schedule for January – August, 2026 is [available here](#).

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for January – August, 2026, is [available here](#).

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

### St. Stephen's, McKeesport Welcomed Bishop Ketlen

On Sunday, January 11, Bishop Ketlen visited St. Stephen's, McKeesport, and the Rev. Dr. Moni McIntyre. Bradley Megela was confirmed and Karen Danes and Gina Maria Hackett were received into The Episcopal Church.



Has your parish been featured in the news? Do you have an event or content to share?  
Please let us know via email at [info@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:info@episcopalpgh.org)