



Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

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2024 Bishops' Annual Appeal launches in Lent

March 10 suggested as
Bishops' Annual Appeal
Ingathering Sunday

As the 2024 Bishops' Annual Appeal launches, the bishops invite everyone to join in deepening covenants formed as the Diocese of Massachusetts: A goal of \$200,000 has been set for the 2024 appeal, in support of shared mission as a diocesan community committed to being disciples of Jesus, seekers of justice and protectors of creation.

The bishops have asked clergy and wardens to **promote the Bishops' Annual Appeal locally** and to consider designating the *fourth Sunday in Lent, March 10*, as Bishops' Annual Appeal Ingathering Sunday. Materials are being mailed directly to church offices and also are available at www.diomass.org/bishops-appeal.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Brian Raiche, Development Consultant (braiche@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 515).

Lenten devotional program offered jointly in MA & VT

A **joint Lenten-Easter devotional is being offered in the dioceses of Vermont and Massachusetts** on the theme of "Baptism and Collaboration in the Body of Christ." It features lay, ordained and monastic voices reflecting on the season's daily Scripture readings and the various "Will you..." questions of the baptismal covenant. The devotional will be available for download for individual, small group or congregational use, and will be posted, along with additional Lenten program offerings, at www.diomass.org/Lent-2024.

In complement, **weekly online worship and conversation gatherings** will be hosted by the Diocese of Vermont's Green Mountain Online Abbey on *Thursday evenings, Feb. 15, 22 and 29, March 7, 14 and 21, and April 4, from 5:45 to 7:45 p.m.*, via Zoom [here](#). All are welcome. RSVPs to the Rev. adwoa Wilson are appreciated: awilson@diovermont.org.

Good Friday liturgical resources authorized for trial use

The bishops have authorized a set of **resource materials for use on Good Friday**, including a proposed liturgy for trial use and a translation of the Passion Gospel, available in English and Spanish. "Given the difficult history of Jewish-Christian relations and the contemporary rise in anti-Semitism, the ways in which Jews are portrayed in the Holy Week liturgy is an important issue," the bishops said in commending the resources, available online [here](#).

Registration remains open for the final sessions, in March, of the 2024 Clergy Professional Development Days that include a **workshop on how to avoid anti-Judaism in preaching and worship during Holy Week**, led by the Rev. Dr. Dan Joslyn-Siemiatkoski. All clergy are encouraged to take advantage of this workshop. See page 3 for more information, and find registration [here](#).

2024 Leadership Report & Delegate Certification requested by March 1

Electing Convention: May 18
Annual Convention: Nov. 9

The Leadership Report and Lay Delegate Certification Form are distributed annually to collect updated church and lay leadership contact information. Congregations are asked to submit the Congregational Leadership Report within 10 days of their annual meeting as required by diocesan canons ([Canon 2.2](#)) and no later than *Friday, March 1*.

The Leadership Report, which includes a link to the 2024 Diocesan Convention Delegate Certification Form, is available [here](#).

The information provided through this report is critical to **make sure that important diocesan information reaches congregations' current leaders** in the upcoming year. It is imperative that congregations submit delegate data in a timely manner this year, as the convention to elect a new bishop is scheduled for *Saturday, May 18* at Trinity Church in Boston.

The annual Diocesan Convention takes place on *Saturday, Nov. 9* at the Marriott Boston Quincy hotel in Quincy

FOR INFORMATION: *The Rev. Margaret Lias, Administrator for Governance and Grants* (mlias@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).

Parochial Reports due by March 1

The online **filing site for the 2023 Parochial Report is open.**

Parochial Reports are due to the Diocese of Massachusetts from its congregations by *Friday, March 1* and must be submitted on the filing site. **This information is used to calculate each congregation's assessment.** The Episcopal Church's General Convention Office sent an e-mail to congregation leaders with instructions on Dec. 21, 2023; see also the Parochial Report information page on the General Convention website, [here](#), for forms and instructions. A video walk-through is available [here](#) to assist those who are new to the process or need a reminder on how to navigate the filing site. If log-in help is needed, e-mail parochialreports@diomass.org.

This year, the General Convention Office released a **new web-based app that helps tally** items on the Parochial Report relating to **church services and attendance**. Read more about it [here](#).

The Parochial Report is the oldest, continuous gathering of data by The Episcopal Church. Interested in vital information on your congregation? The General Convention Office provides online tools for exploring Parochial Report trends, including 10-year history of attendance, pledge and plate income and membership for individual Episcopal churches. Find the tools [here](#).

The diocesan **Congregational Consultants can help**. The Congregational Consultants have recordings of past instructional sessions they've offered on all sections of the Parochial Report, as well as other aspects of congregational leadership. Click [here](#) for more information. Requests for consulting services may be directed to Edward Rewolinski and Betsy Blagdon at dioconsultants@diomass.org.

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- **Electronic assessment payments:** Congregations can now sign up to make their assessment payments electronically. This will reduce delays associated with sending payments by check through the mail. The diocesan Treasurer's Office is asking all congregations to sign up to make electronic payments by completing the encrypted online form available [here](#). Those who are interested in also receiving diocesan payments electronically (such as grant payments) can check a box on the form to indicate that preference. *FOR INFORMATION: Tom Hamel, Controller (thamel@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 307).*

- The **Absalom Jones Service** has been rescheduled to *Sunday, April 7 at 4 p.m.* at St. Cyprian's Church in Roxbury. Bishop Alan M. Gates will preside, and the Rev. James Hairston will preach. Questions may be directed to the Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries (jbntagengwa@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).

All are welcome for **Choral Evensong commemorating the consecration of Barbara C. Harris**, offered by All Saints Parish in Brookline on *Sunday, Feb. 11 at 5 p.m.* Byron Rushing will be the guest preacher. A light reception will follow. Contact [All Saints Parish](#) with any questions.

- The **pilgrimage** to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center on *Thursday, March 7* is being relocated to Plymouth, due to temporary closure of the museum for renovations. Details, as they are made available, will be posted [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries (jbntagengwa@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 400).

- **Preaching Climate Justice in Lent:** This free webinar on *Tuesday, Feb. 20, 10-11:15 a.m.*, will suggest ways in which Lenten texts provide preachers an opportunity to shape sermons that offer hope to congregations, engage their imagination and inspire them to take action for climate justice. The webinar, led by the Rev. Dr. Jim Antal and the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, is being co-sponsored by the two Episcopal dioceses in Massachusetts and the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ. Register [here](#).

- Registration is open, [here](#), for the final sessions in the series of **2024 Clergy Professional Development Days**.

Part I is a workshop on how to avoid anti-Judaism in preaching and worship during Holy Week, led by the Rev. Dr. Dan Joslyn-Siemiatkoski. All clergy are encouraged to take advantage of this workshop. Part II is a Safe Church Review session which fulfills the refresher requirement, along with attendance at a Part I workshop and completion of assigned online training, for those clergy who are due for one this year. The final sessions take place on

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Monday, March 4 at St. Gabriel's Church in Marion; and Tuesday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 13 on Zoom.

Clergy who are unsure if they are due for Safe Church renewal this year may contact Jennifer Garrett at jgarrett@diomass.org.
FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

- The annual diocesan **Clergy Conference** will be held Monday-Tuesday, April 29-30 at the Devens Common Center in Devens. This year's featured speaker will be Debie Thomas, minister of life-long formation at St. Mark's Church in Palo Alto, Calif., columnist and contributing editor for *The Christian Century* and author of *Into the Mess and Other Jesus Stories*. Registration details to come.

- The Office of Youth Ministry looks forward to celebrating with congregations these upcoming diocesan youth gatherings.

Pre-Confirmation Retreats for youth confirmands (grades 8-12) have been scheduled for *Friday-Sunday, March 8-10* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. (find registration [here](#)), *Saturday, March 16, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at Grace Church in Newton (find registration [here](#)); and *Saturday, Nov. 16, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.*, via Zoom (registration to come). Find the **2024 Confirmation schedule** [here](#).

Save these dates, details to come: An **Acolyte Festival** is being planned for *Saturday, April 6, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.*, at the Church of the Holy Spirit Mattapan. A **Commissioning Service for Church Youth Educators and Mentors**, on *Saturday, Oct. 12, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston, is also in the works, envisioned as a special occasion for the diocesan community and bishops to acknowledge, express gratitude and uplift the ministry of persons working with young people.

The **Diocesan Youth Council** is now meeting monthly. Those who minister with youth are encouraged to continue sharing recommendations of high schoolers seeking leadership opportunities. FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Yolanda Rolle, Missioner for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (yrolle@diomass.org).

- Upcoming **online book discussions** are open to all:

- *Thursday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.*: *A Child of Apartheid: A Memoir of a Colored Capetonian*, with the author, the Rev. Noble Scheepers (details and registration [here](#));

- *Wednesday, March 13 at 7 p.m.*: *Lit by Lightning: The Life of Jim Thorpe* by David Maraniss, offered by the Province I Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network (register [here](#)); and

- *Wednesday, March 20 at 7 p.m.*: *The General's Son: Journey of an Israeli in Palestine* by Miko Peled, a Province I gathering open to all in the New England dioceses (register [here](#)).

FOR INFORMATION: Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (mgardner@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 403).

- **“A Stolen Beam: Essential Conversation and Spiritual Reflection on Reparations for Descendants of Slaves in the U.S.”:** Under the auspices of Episcopal City Mission, Dr. Constance Holmes and the Rev. Steven Bonsey will be offering Stolen Beam over seven sessions on *Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m., April 8 through May 20*. This course of educational engagement and personal reflection, originating from the Jewish Community of Amherst, focuses on the legacy of African enslavement and 400 years of anti-Black racism to what was stolen and what may be owed. It examines the historical case for reparations; global and national precedents for reparations; practical proposals for national and local reparations; and theological reflections on reparations from Jewish and Christian sources. A course overview is available for viewing [here](#). Find registration [here](#); registrations will be accepted through March 1. *FOR INFORMATION: Derek Wong, Episcopal City Mission (dwong@ecmteam.us).*

- The **Boston Episcopal Charitable Society marks its 300th anniversary this year.** Established in 1724 by a group of Anglicans in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, the Boston Episcopal Charitable Society provides supplemental financial assistance to individuals in Episcopal congregations in the Diocese of Massachusetts through their clergy.

Requests for one-time grants can be made by clergy on behalf of individuals and families associated with their congregation who are facing difficult times due to job loss, illness or financial hardships. The society also makes a limited number of block grants annually to congregations that are located in areas of greater need. Find more details [here](#).

Clergy of congregations in the diocese are encouraged to let the society know about members of their congregation who would benefit from the society’s help.

FOR INFORMATION: Nina Faragher, Boston Episcopal Charitable Society Administrator (boston.episcopal.1724@gmail.com).

CHURCHWIDE:

- The deadline to apply for the next round of Episcopal Church **Becoming Beloved Community grants** is March 1. About \$200,000 is available for new and existing projects that help increase engagement in racial justice, healing and reconciliation. Find application information [here](#).
- The Episcopal Church’s **Task Force on the Care of Creation and Environmental Racism** is offering an **additional round of grant funding** for up to eight projects that seek to bolster creation care and environmental justice work. Find more information [here](#) and apply by March 22 [here](#).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Jan. 20 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard an update from Bishop Alan Gates.

Voted to approve the following Diocesan Council members to the Executive Committee: The Rev. Dr. Matthew Cadwell, Connie Melahoures, Tom Phillips and Jack Wolfe.

Voted to endorse the appointment of Denise Shea, Celia Bailey-Ochoa and the Rev. Joseph Mumita to the Budget Committee.

Voted to endorse the appointment of the Rev. Stephen Voysey as the assistant treasurer of the diocese.

Voted to affirm that the Budget, Strategy and Governance Committee continue its work in 2024, and report back to Council no later than the September 2024 Council meeting.

Voted to approve the Diocesan Whistleblower and Conflict of Interest policies as written.

Next Council Meeting: *Thursday, Feb. 15, 6 p.m., via Zoom.*

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Margaret Lias, Administrator for Governance and Grants (mlias@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 229).

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

Please direct inquiries about this report to the [regional canons](#).

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Cadwell has been appointed vicar of Christ Church (Old North) in Boston after having served as vicar-in-charge since November 2020.

The Rev. Libby Catania began as interim rector at St. Christopher's Church in Chatham on Jan. 10.

The Rev. CJ Coppersmith completed his time as curate at St. Paul's Church in Newburyport on Sept. 10, 2023, and began as assistant rector at Trinity Church in Concord on Sept. 11.

The Rev. Peter Feltman-Mahan will begin as rector of the Church of the Messiah in Woods Hole on Feb. 12.

The Rev. Alan Hesse will begin as rector of St. John's Church in Sandwich on March 1.

The Rev. Ginger Solaqua began as priest-in-charge at St. Anne's Church and St. John's Church in Lowell, as of Jan. 16.

The Rev. Tamra Tucker has completed serving at The Crossing, and will begin as priest-in-charge of St. Mary's Church in Dorchester on March 31.

DEACONS ON THE MOVE:

None at this time.

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Central RegionRegional Canon Gregory Perez
gperez@diomass.org**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**BURLINGTON, St. Mark's Church
NEWTON HIGHLANDS, Parish of St. Paul
NORWOOD, Grace Church
SHARON, St. John's Church**RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**BOSTON, St. Stephen's Church
BROOKLINE, St. Paul's Church
ROXBURY, St. Cyprian's Church**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:** None at this time.**CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** (Apply directly to parish.)
None at this time.**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** Contact the regional canon.
None at this time.**INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** Contact the regional canon.
None at this time.**OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:**BROOKLINE, All Saints Parish: [Family Minister](#)
CAMBRIDGE, Christ Church: [Curate/Assistant Rector](#)
WABAN, Parish of the Good Shepherd: [Assistant to the Rector](#)**Northern and Western Region**Regional Canon Martha Hubbard
mhubbard@diomass.org**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:**DANVERS, All Saints Church of the North Shore
READING, Church of the Good Shepherd**RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**FRAMINGHAM, St. Andrew's Church
HUDSON, St. Luke's Church
LYNN, St. Stephen's Memorial Church
ROCKPORT, St. Mary's Church
SHIRLEY, Trinity Chapel
WESTFORD, St. Mark's Church**CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:** None at this time.**CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** (Apply directly to parish.)[AYER, St. Andrew's Church](#) 2/3 time[HOLLISTON, St. Michael's Church](#) 1/2 time**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** Contact the regional canon.
WESTON, St. Peter's Church full-time**INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:** Contact the regional canon.
None at this time.

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Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell
koconnell@diomass.org

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

SWANSEA, Christ Church

RECTOR SEARCHES**CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

CHATHAM, St. Christopher's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES: *(Apply directly to parish.)*

[BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church](#) 1/2 time

[HINGHAM, Parish of St. John the Evangelist](#) until Feb. 16

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*

ATTLEBORO, All Saints' Church 1/4 time

BROCKTON, Grace Chapel 1/2 time

FALL RIVER, St. Luke's Church 1/8 time

HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church full time

MARSHFIELD, Trinity Church full time

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*

None at this time.

Clergy Supply List: To request a copy of the most up-to-date Clergy Supply List, e-mail Jocelyn Collen, Administrator for Congregations and Development, at jcollen@diomass.org.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of the month. The deadline for the March issue is **Wednesday, Feb. 28 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.

Find the newsletter **deadline schedule for 2024** [here](#).