



Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / www.diomass.org
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**Inauguration Eve Vigil
invites all to prayer for
justice and peace**

“Love Casts Out Fear: An Inauguration Eve Vigil” will be offered on *Sunday, Jan. 19 at 5 p.m.* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. All are invited to join Bishop Julia E. Whitworth and other diocesan and Episcopal Peace Fellowship leaders, in person or via [livestream](#), for this prayer service, to hold sacred space for leaning into our Christian faith, which tells us that love casts out fear, that we stand with the marginalized and that love in practice looks like justice and peace. Registration is requested, [here](#). Childcare will be available on site, if registration is received by Jan. 14.

**Ministry Discernment
Conference to offer
broader focus this year**

Registration is open, [here](#), until Jan. 29, for the annual Ministry Discernment Conference, which has a new focus in 2025: “How Is God Calling Me? A Day of Resources for Vocations of All Kinds.” Everyone who is interested in discerning calls to ministry in the church and in the world, both lay and ordained, is invited to gather at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston for the Ministry Discernment Conference on *Saturday, Feb. 1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.*

This gathering, jointly hosted by the Commission on Ministry and the St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer, will feature Bishop Julia E. Whitworth’s reflections on discernment, a panel discussion with people serving in a variety of Christian vocations and an introduction to resources for individual reflection, communal discernment in congregations and churchwide discernment programs. After lunch, participants will be invited, in smaller groups, to learn more about the programs that most interest them.

People who want to learn about the ordination process in the Diocese of Massachusetts are especially encouraged to attend, along with their sponsoring clergy, potential parish discernment committee members and family members.

The cost to attend this event is \$25 (with financial assistance available if the fee is a hardship). Pre-registration is required.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Edie Dolnikowski, Canon for Ordained Vocations (edie@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 514).

**Help sessions scheduled
for completing newly
modified Parochial
Report**

Online filing of the Parochial Report for 2024 opens on Jan. 6 and is to be completed by the canonical deadline of March 1. Because of new modifications to the Parochial Report, clergy and lay leadership may want guidance. To that end, in early January, Canon to the Ordinary Bill Parnell and Chief Financial Officer Deb Thomas will host Zoom sessions for those responsible for filling out the Parochial Report. Dates, times and Zoom link access for those January sessions—along with a supplemental form to collect additional

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information needed in order to calculate congregational assessments—will be e-mailed to clergy, wardens, treasurers and parish administrators. Questions about the January sessions may be directed to Canon Parnell (bparnell@diomass.org).

The diocesan Congregational Consultants will follow up with additional online gatherings to provide support during February.

They will present a session on how to fill out the **financial portion** of the Parochial Report using techniques that can make the task easier and quicker, while providing meaningful information to Episcopal leadership, diocesan staff and the congregation itself. This one-hour Zoom session will be held on *Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 9 a.m.* ([register here](#)) and again on *Saturday, Feb. 8 at 9 a.m.* ([register here](#)). The **non-financial portions** of the Parochial Report will be covered in a one-hour Zoom call on *Thursday, Feb. 13 at 9 a.m.* ([register here](#)) and again on *Saturday, Feb. 15 at 9 a.m.* ([register here](#)). These sessions will be recorded for later access.

Questions about the February sessions may be directed to the Congregational Consultants coordinators, Betsy Blagdon and Edward Rewolinski (diiconsultants@diomass.org).

NEWS & EVENT NOTES:

- **Leadership Report process for 2025:** As soon as possible in the new year is when congregations need to submit their annual Leadership Report, which includes the Diocesan Convention Lay Delegate Certification Form. Congregations are asked to submit their Leadership Report within 10 days of their annual meeting as required by diocesan canons (Canon 2.2) and no later than *Friday, March 1*.

Be on the lookout for communiqués regarding the Leadership Report process. The information provided through this process is critical to ensure that important diocesan information reaches congregations' current leaders in the upcoming year.

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

- The diocesan community's prayers and presence are invited for the upcoming **ordination to the priesthood** of the Rev. Molly Minnerath on *Saturday, Jan. 11, 10:30 a.m.*, at [St. Paul's Church in Bedford](#). Please contact the church about service details.

- The [St. Paul Center for Theology and Prayer](#) invites all to "**Creatio ex Amore and the Mission of the Church Now**"—an online seminar with the moderator of the World Council of Churches, Bishop Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, *Saturday, Jan. 11, 9-11 a.m.*

In this time of climate crisis, what difference does faith make? How does our understanding of God, and the meaning of God's creating work, ground and equip us to pray, serve and act in this time? This seminar aims to deepen capacity to preach and teach

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that “God creates out of love,” and enliven participants for working with their faith communities for God’s purposes.

Registrants may choose to explore advance readings, and will be invited to a follow-up conversation, hosted by the Rev. Dr. Kapya Kaoma, Rector of Christ Church, Waltham, author and theologian, expanding participants’ grounding in this topic with wisdom from African Christian theology of creation.

Find details and registration [here](#). Contact tspc@diomass.org with any questions.

- The **annual Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast** takes place on *Monday, Jan. 20* at the Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport (Ensemble Ballroom). Professor, author and activist Angela Davis will be the keynote speaker. Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

For 55 years, St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church and Union United Methodist Church have collaborated to present this memorial breakfast in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The partnership is an incorporated nonprofit organization, which also recognizes extraordinary contributions to diversity and inclusion efforts through service and scholarships.

- **Winter Dinner for BIPOC Episcopal Community:** Come together for fellowship with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) siblings in Christ from across the diocese. The BIPOC Support Committee of the diocesan Racial Justice Commission invites all BIPOC Episcopal clergy and lay people to dinner on *Sunday, Jan. 26, 5-7 p.m.*, at the Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin in Boston. RSVP online [here](#) by Jan. 22.

Please share this invitation with others in this community who would enjoy participating, or, forward names and e-mail addresses so that an invitation can be extended directly.

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

- Registration for the **first two sessions in 2025 of the Clergy Professional Development Day** is now open [here](#). These sessions are scheduled on:

- *Thursday, Feb. 27* at St. Peter’s Church in Weston:

- Part I Workshop, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

- Part II Safe Church Review, 1-3 p.m.

- *Tuesday, March 25* at St. Andrew’s Church in Marblehead:

- Part I Workshop, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

- Part II Safe Church Review, 1-3 p.m.

Participants in the Part I workshop session offered through Braver Angels and facilitated by Bishop Mark Beckwith and the Rev. Dr. Daphne Burt, Braver Angels Massachusetts Coordinator, will learn ways to understand the values and concerns of those

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who differ politically, consistent with the call to be ambassadors of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:19-20). Braver Angels is committed to teaching skills for listening carefully, looking for common ground and sharing views to connect rather than create more misunderstanding, all toward the goal of learning how to disagree better in these polarized times, build bridges across divides and share beliefs in ways that support community building and transformation.

All clergy are encouraged to take advantage of the Part I workshop regardless of Safe Church status. Clergy due for a Safe Church refresher in 2025 should attend both the Part I workshop and the Part II Safe Church/Title IV review session, and will receive an e-mail communication later in the month with details regarding other 2025 requirements to be completed. Clergy may choose to attend the segments in any order and combination. Dates for a third in-person meeting and a Zoom meeting will be announced soon.
FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Administrator and Event Coordinator (jgarrett@diomass.org).

- All diocesan clergy are invited to save the date for the annual **Clergy Conference**, which will take place at the Devens Common Center in Devens. The conference will be returning to a three-day format and will take place *Monday, April 28-Wednesday, April 30*. More information and registration will be announced soon.
FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Administrator and Event Coordinator (jgarrett@diomass.org).

- **“Baptized: Opening the Gift”** is an online class created and taught by the Rev. Joyce Scherer-Hoock, Director of Children and Family Ministry at Trinity Church in Topsfield, that equips clergy, directors of religious education and lay leaders in orienting and preparing families for Baptism, Confirmation or Reception. It provides a curriculum that can also be used more generally as an adult series for the entire congregation.

The upcoming class consists of four 90-minute sessions on *Tuesdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28, 1-2:30 p.m.* on Zoom. Click [here](#) for a video description. Click [here](#) to register.
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Joyce Scherer-Hoock (JLSHOOCK@gmail.com).

- **“Bedtime Chapel” Family Prayer Podcast:** Finding that, in a world of competing demands, it is challenging to connect with Jesus as a family, Deacons James and Natalie Thomas have created “Bedtime Chapel” to support parents and caregivers to raise faithful families. Bedtime Chapel provides a five-minute nightly prayer service with short Scripture reading, and a weekly Bible study. It extends an invitation to join a community of families connected by prayer, a love of God and a commitment to serve: “Pray with us wherever you listen to podcasts.”
FOR INFORMATION: Deacons James and Natalie Thomas (bedtimechapel@gmail.com) or www.bedtimechapel.com.

CHURCHWIDE:

- The [Episcopal Path to Creation Justice](#) community invites participation in an **online gathering with the Rev. Kathryn Beilke from Beyond Plastics**. This organization focuses on removing plastics from the planet, and provides training opportunities designed to support and introduce community leaders to local activism work. It takes place via Zoom on *Tuesday, Jan. 7, 6:30-8 p.m.* E-mail episcopalcreationpath@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.
- The Faith Formation Network of the New England dioceses that comprise Province I of The Episcopal Church has announced that it is combining its **annual formation conference** with [Forma](#) to offer “the best of both worlds.” The conference, titled “Come Away Together,” will be held *Jan. 27-30* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., and will gather colleagues from across New England over four days to meet and connect with provincial colleagues and participate in Forma workshops and content, as well as have opportunities for informal sharing and learning. Hear from Province I colleagues in [this one-minute video](#) about attending the conference, and find registration information [here](#).
- The **Episcopal Church Foundation is now accepting 2025 applications to its Fellowship Partners Program**. The program supports lay and clergy leaders, empowering them with resources for advanced academic studies and specialized ministries that strengthen The Episcopal Church’s mission and impact. The Fellowship Partners Program aims to nurture leaders at a formative stage, enabling them to contribute in meaningful ways to the church’s growth and future. The deadline to apply is *March 11*. Find more information about the program and how to apply at www.ecf.org/programs/fellowship-partners-program.

GRANTS & LOANS:

- The Church Home Society has launched a three-year pilot grant program, allocating up to \$40,000 a year to support **youth ministries in Episcopal churches**. Grant awards will be between \$1,000 and \$2,000. Applications (form available [here](#)) are due the last day of the month, through April 2025, and they will be reviewed at the following monthly board meeting.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Actions from the Dec. 19 Diocesan Council will be reported in the February issue.

Next Council Meeting: *Saturday, Jan. 25*, Retreat at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Duxbury.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Margaret Lias, Coordinator 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](#).

Central Region

Alewife and Charles River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Gregory Perez gperez@diomass.org

Boston Harbor and Neponset River deaneries: Contact Regional Canon Kelly O’Connell koconnell@diomass.org

Northern and Western Region

Regional Canon Gregory Perez gperez@diomass.org

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Kate Bast began serving as priest-in-charge of Trinity Church in Marshfield on Dec. 30.

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

None at this time.

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

ROXBURY, St. Cyprian’s Church
SHARON, St. John’s Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

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

[NORWOOD, Grace Church](#)

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

DORCHESTER, All Saints’ Parish, Ashmont

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

BURLINGTON, St. Mark’s Church *part-time*

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS: *Contact the regional canon.*

None at this time.

CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:

LAWRENCE, Grace Church
SOUTHBOROUGH, St. Mark’s Church

RECTOR SEARCHES

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

LYNN, St. Stephen’s Memorial Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

ROCKPORT, St. Mary’s Church

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

None at this time.

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

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

DANVERS, All Saints Church of the North Shore *1/2 time*

INTERIM PRIEST APPOINTMENTS:

None at this time.

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*Continued from page 6***Southern Region**

Regional Canon Kelly O'Connell

koconnell@diomass.org**CHURCHES INITIATING DISCERNMENT PROCESS:***None at this time.***RECTOR SEARCHES****CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:**

SWANSEA, Christ Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:*None at this time.***CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:** *(Apply directly to parish.)*[BUZZARDS BAY, St. Peter's Church](#) 1/2 time**CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:***None at this time.***PRIEST-IN-CHARGE APPOINTMENTS:** *Contact the regional canon.*

ATTLEBORO, All Saints' Church 1/4 time

FALL RIVER, St. Luke's Church 1/8 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, or to be added to it, 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 February issue is **Wednesday, Jan. 29 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.Find the newsletter deadline schedule for 2025 [here](#).