



## NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2026 Volume 1

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### **Watch Emmanuel online, learn more, and donate!**

By scanning the QR Code or going to the web address below, you can find out more about who we are and what we're doing. You will find links to Facebook and YouTube to see our livestream or watch it later. You will also find ways to donate easily and quickly to Emmanuel, either through Venmo or Tithely. Your presence and support are very important to us, and crucial to making sure we are always here for you.

<https://linktr.ee/emmanuelwr>



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### **Upcoming/Ongoing & Special Events - Mark Your Calendar!**

***Please worship with us any/every Sunday at 10 AM and, after the service, join us for hospitality and refreshment.***

- Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10 AM: Service of Morning Prayer, followed by Fellowship Hour and
  - Rehearsal for all who wish to sing in the choir on Easter Sunday.
  - It is also the deadline to sign up for reading parts in the Palm Sunday Passion.
- Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM: Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist at Emmanuel, Blessing and Procession of the Palms and reading of the Passion.
  - The final Lenten Adult formation session will take place after the service and fellowship.
  - Deadline to submit names with Easter flower donations (form is on page 4 and in the church).
- Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 PM Service of Tenebrae at St. John's/St. James, 31 Lenox St, Roxbury. A contemplative liturgy of song, prayer, mediation and psalms sponsored by the "seven sister churches."
- Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday at St. Michael's, Milton with Holy Eucharist with Foot Washing and Solemn Stripping of the Altar.
- Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 PM Good Friday Liturgy at Emmanuel
- Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM Easter Vigil at Church of the Holy Spirit, Mattapan when we celebrate the Light of Christ returning to the world at the first feast of Easter with lighting of the Easter Fire and listening to the Story of Salvation.
- Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM Festival Holy Eucharist followed by an Easter Egg Hunt and refreshments at Emmanuel

- If anyone is curious about adult Baptism, Confirmation or Reception, please contact Fr. Jon as soon as possible.
- Service of Morning Prayer: Sundays April 12<sup>th</sup>, April 26<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10 AM, followed by fellowship time
- Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>: Feast of Pentecost with a Service of Holy Eucharist
- Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>: Bishop Visitation! Rt. Rev. Mary D Glaspool visits Emmanuel. Details will be provided later this spring.
- Watch for future announcements. Our Events Committee is planning a couple of other events including our annual Parish Picnic and another new late spring/early summer event – stay tuned!

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### Deanery & Diocesan News and Events

- Several of our Neponset River Deanery friends are hosting mid-week Lenten quiet hours and we are invited. See page 5 for days and locations.
- We are excited that we will again this year experience Holy Week with some services at Emmanuel and others with friends at other nearby parishes! (Schedule and locations are on page 6.) It is always inspiring to experience worship in different ways and in different settings!
- Our Diocesan Bishop has published new information and a link to support the Immigrant Legal Emergency Fund (see page 7 for details).
- Our Diocese is offering several valuable monthly information sessions on various topics via Zoom. Upcoming sessions include: More information with Zoom access details are available at: [Calendar of Events | Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts \(diomass.org\)](#)
  - Tuesday, 3/24 5PM-6PM “Cyber Security: Learn how to protect your parish from cyber threats, phishing, data breaches, and vulnerabilities”. [2026 Monthly Information Session Series: March – Cyber Security | Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts \(diomass.org\)](#)
  - Tuesday, 04/21/2026 - 5:00pm 6:00pm “Communications, Witness & Engagement: Strengthening parish storytelling, digital presence, messaging, and engagement”. [2026 Monthly Information Session Series: April – Communications, Witness & Engagement | Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts \(diomass.org\)](#)
  - Tuesday May 19th 5PM – 6 PM 2026 Monthly Information Series: “Trustees of Donations” [2026 Monthly Information Session Series: May – Trustees of Donations | Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts \(diomass.org\)](#)
  - Tuesday June 23rd 5PM-6PM “Property Stewardship: Best practices for parish buildings, repairs, insurance, and long-term planning.” [2026 Monthly Information Session Series: June – Property Stewardship | Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts \(diomass.org\)](#)

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### For those interested, ways to act through prayer and other means

**Emmanuel Lenten Mite Box Drive:** A traditional part of Lenten discipline is the daily offering in a Mite box. Folks can make their own or pick one up from the table in the church. You are invited to prayerfully make a daily offering at home throughout Lent and to then bring your Mite boxes to the Easter Day Offering. Funds donated through the Lenten Mite Box effort will be used for Emmanuel’s Clergy Discretionary Fund, which

allows Fr. Jon to discreetly donate to individuals or organizations in need. If you are not familiar with the Mite Box, it is based on the story of the widow's mite:

**Mark 12:38-44**

As Jesus taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on." (Source: *Lectionary.net*)

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**We pray for peace and reconciliation at home, throughout Ukraine, the Middle East and everywhere in the world. We pray for those impacted by earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados, fires, floods, and acts of terror or violence.**

***Do you want a way to respond as an Episcopalian to the United States' Attack on Iran?*** The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations has a simple way, with suggested language, to write to your Senators and Representatives: [www.votervoice.net/EPISCOPAL/Campaigns/134780/Respond](http://www.votervoice.net/EPISCOPAL/Campaigns/134780/Respond). The website also has other resources and causes for which you can advocate.

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To read Bishop Julia's most recent letter with examples of those helped with the Immigrant Legal Emergency Fund donations, see page 8. **To join others across our Diocese with donations to the Immigrant Legal Emergency Fund: [DONATE NOW](#)**

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We pray for those in sorrow, anguish, fear, despair and for those who are sick, especially for those named in this week's Order of Service. We also pray for all who travel, that their journeys may be safe, rejuvenating and filled with the knowledge of God's presence.

**Our prayers truly help, as they keep us mindful of God's love for us and his miracles.** If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please be in touch with The Rev. Jonathan Eden, Priest-In-Charge ([therev.jonteden@gmail.com](mailto:therev.jonteden@gmail.com).) If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact him at: 617.798.0770.

## EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS TO EMMANUEL



If you wish to contribute toward our Easter flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, we are gratefully accepting donations through Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, to ensure that your names are listed in the Easter Bulletin.

Please mark your donation as “Easter Flowers.” If you have any questions, please see/contact Gail Halpin-Evans (ghe9876@aol.com).

**My Easter flower donation is in loving memory of:**

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**Donated by:**

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**My Easter flower donation is in honor of:**

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**Donated by:**

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# DROP-IN LENTEN QUIET HOURS



a collaborative Episcopal offering  
Open to All

TRINITY  
STOUGHTON  
414 SUMNER ST.

**MONDAYS 10:00a-12:00p**  
Sanctuary open  
Silent activities provided

GRACE CHURCH  
NORWOOD  
150 CHAPEL ST.

**WEDNESDAYS 12:00-1:00p**  
Sanctuary open  
Silent activities provided

- sand mandalas
- devotionals
- crafts
- prayer beads

ST. PAUL'S  
DEDHAM  
59 COURT ST.

**WEDNESDAYS 9:00a-4:00p**  
Sanctuary open

ST. JOHN'S  
SHARON  
23 HIGH ST.

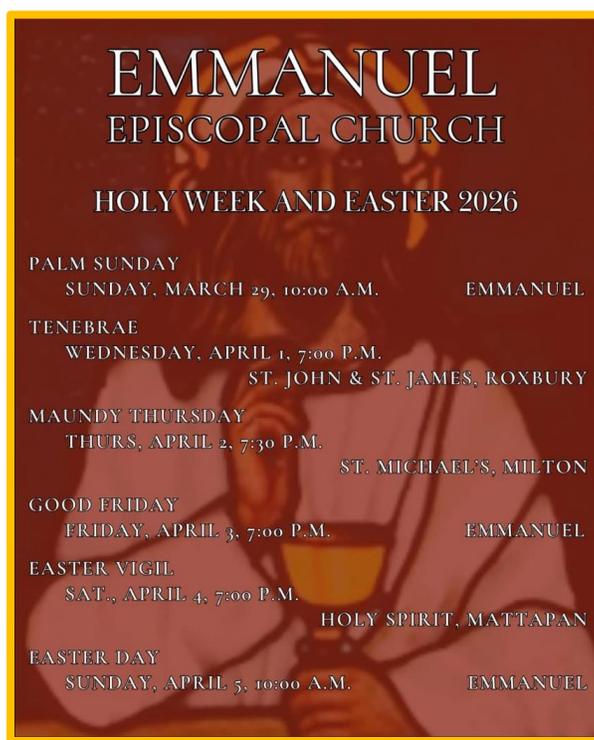
**WEDNESDAYS 7:00-8:00p**  
Chanted Compline

EPIPHANY PARISH  
WALPOLE  
62 FRONT ST.

**THURSDAYS 12:00-1:00p**  
Sanctuary open

beginning Wed. February 18th

# HOLY WEEK AND EASTER PLEASE JOIN US!



**Palm Sunday**, March 29, 10:00 a.m.

*Emmanuel Church*

Blessing of the Palms, Procession of the Palms, Reading of the Passion

**Tenebrae**, Wednesday April 1, 6:30 p.m.

*St. John & St. James Church, Roxbury*

Contemplative liturgy of song, prayer, meditation, and psalms, sponsored by “the seven sister churches,” the historically black congregations of our Diocese

**Maundy Thursday**, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

*St. Michael's, Milton*

Foot washing (All are invited to wash and be washed!), Holy Eucharist, Solemn Stripping of the Altar

**Good Friday**, April 3, 7:00 p.m.

*Emmanuel Church*

Good Friday Liturgy with Sermon

**Easter Vigil**, Saturday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.

*Church of the Holy Spirit, Mattapan*

Lighting of the Easter Fire, listening to the Story of Salvation, celebrating the Light of Christ returning to the world--the first feast of Easter

**Easter Sunday**, April 5, 10:00 a.m.

*Emmanuel Church*

Festival Holy Eucharist followed by an Easter Egg Hunt and refreshments!  
Jesus Christ is risen today!

St. Michael's Church  
112 Randolph Avenue, Milton  
617-698-1813  
[www.stmichaelsmilton.org](http://www.stmichaelsmilton.org)

Church of the Holy Spirit  
525 River Street, Boston  
(617) 298-0577  
[www.chsmattapan.org](http://www.chsmattapan.org)

Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
21 Stratford Street, Boston  
(617)-323-1440  
[www.emmanuelwr.org](http://www.emmanuelwr.org)

St. John St. James Church  
31 Lenox Street, Boston  
(617) 445-8843  
[stjohnstjamesroxbury.randombasket.com/](http://stjohnstjamesroxbury.randombasket.com/)

## March 2026 Lenten Letter from Bishop Julia: Immigrant Legal Emergency Fund Update

Beloved,

In November, our diocese launched an **Immigrant Legal Emergency Fund** to provide urgent assistance directly to those in need in our worshipping communities. Thanks to your generosity, **we have raised over \$185,000**. More importantly, **we have provided nearly \$140,000 in emergency grants** to some forty-eight individuals and families in seventeen different worshipping communities across our diocese. I want to share some of how this fund has helped people facing existential threats and fear:

- A single mother in one of our congregations suddenly lost winter heating assistance due to new federal restrictions limiting the availability of even local funds to immigrants. Although she has legal status here, she was barred from receiving assistance. Our diocesan fund has enabled her to heat her home for the winter.
- After an ICE raid to his workplace left him unable to return to work, an immigrant in our community lost a job he had held for almost two decades. Our fund helped him to cover rent during a difficult transition period. He has now found long-term support and has been able to stay in his apartment.
- A South Sudanese immigrant came here as a child and has since built a vibrant life -- studying biotech, raising children, and working as an EMT. Due to a policy change, he was set to lose his Temporary Protected Status and faced deportation to a country of which he has no memory, that is torn by ethnic conflict, and where he would be targeted due to his ethnicity. The Emergency Fund covered the legal fees for his asylum application.
- A Guatemalan immigrant and mother of two faced a crisis when her husband was detained soon after she had given birth to their child. He was moved to a detention facility in Texas, where she has struggled to contact him. Our diocesan fund has covered the legal fees needed to find him and file necessary appeals, while also helping to cover rent for the young mother.

These are only a few examples of the many lives being touched by your generosity. Even on days when the risks faced by immigrants are not on the front page, their needs grow.

**So, I ask: are you able to contribute to the Immigrant Legal Emergency Fund?  
If you gave before, would you consider making another contribution?**

Every gift, large or small, is significant and meaningful. Every gift is an act of welcome and justice in the name of a God who calls us to love our neighbor. You can give – including setting up recurring payments -- online by using the button below.

[\*\*Donate Here\*\*](#)

I also ask you to join me in praying for all those in our diocesan community who are living in fear. And to those of you directly affected in this moment, you are not alone. Your diocesan family stands with you, prays for you, and will continue to support you in whatever ways we can.

Gratefully,  
The Right Reverend Julia E. Whitworth,  
Bishop Diocesan