



NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2026 Volume 1B

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>



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.

- Saturday, April 4th, 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 5th, 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 12th, April 26th and May 31st at 10 AM, followed by fellowship time
- Sunday, May 24th: Feast of Pentecost with a Service of Holy Eucharist
- Sunday, June 21st: 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!

(scroll down for more)

Deanery & Diocesan News and Events

- We are excited that to again experience Holy Week this year with some services at Emmanuel and others with friends at other nearby parishes! (Schedule and locations are on page 4.) 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 6 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 \(diomass.org\)](#)
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 - 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*)



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.

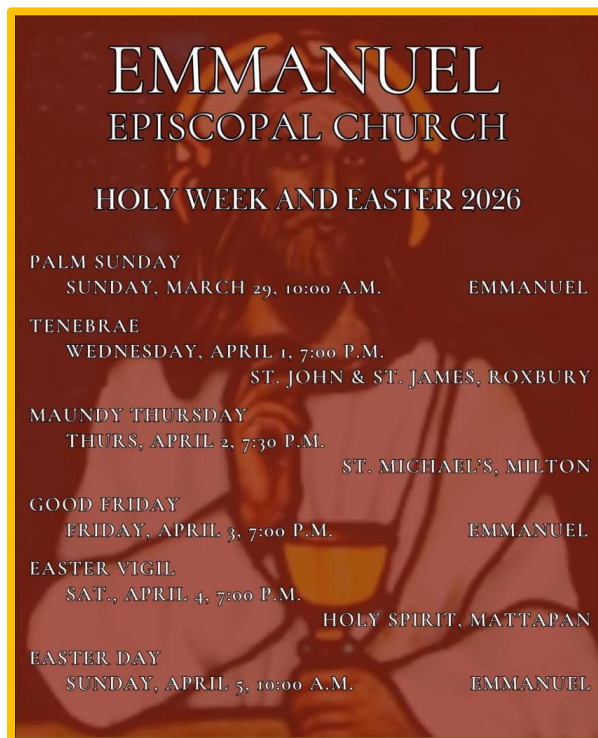
Do you want a way to respond as an Episcopalian to the United States' Attack on Iran? The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations has a simple way, with suggested language, to write to your Senators and Representatives: www.votervoice.net/EPISCOPAL/Campaigns/134780/Respond. The website also has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

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](#)**

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.) If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact him at: 617.798.0770.

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 followed by an Agape meal

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

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

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
21 Stratford Street, Boston
(617)-323-1440
www.emmanuelwr.org

St. John St. James Church
149 Roxbury Street, Boston
(617) 445-8843
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