



NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2026 Volume 2B

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.

- Service of Morning Prayer: Sundays April 12th, April 26th and May 31st at 10 AM, followed by fellowship time
- The next meeting of Emmanuel's Vestry will be at 7 PM on Monday, April 27th.
- If anyone is curious about adult Baptism, Confirmation or Reception, please contact Fr. Jon as soon as possible.
- Sunday, May 24th: Feast of Pentecost with a Service of Holy Eucharist
- Sunday, June 21st: Bishop Visitation! Rt. Rev. Mary D Glasspool 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!

Other News

What a special Lent, Holy Week and Easter Day we experienced this year! Lent us a time of prayerful contemplation when we buried the Alleluias and worshipped without shiny objects in the church. After service, we enjoyed our Lenten Series led by Fr. Jon and focused on our Baptismal promises. We were challenged to remember others each day with our Mite boxes, offered at the Easter Service for the Clergy Discretionary fund, which allows Fr. Jon to help those in need.

We again had the opportunity to worship on other spaces, with other parishes throughout Lent with invitations to their quiet times.

We journeyed through Holy Week, beginning with our own Procession of the Palms, Reading of the Passion, and Holy Eucharist, followed by our final Lent 2026 Adult formation session on Palm Sunday. Wednesday of Holy Week we experienced a Tenebrae service of readings, palms and light extinguishing with several other parishes at St. James St. Johns in Roxbury. We were warmly welcomed by the St. Michael's, Milton for their Maundy Thursday Eucharist, which included beautiful music, foot washing and concluded with stripping of the altar. The service was followed by an Agape meal of a variety of soups. Emmanuel's Good Friday service included the solemn procession of the large wooden cross. The evening of Holy Saturday, we traveled to Church of the Holy Spirit, Mattapan for Easter Vigil with the lighting of the new fire and pulling back the altar black curtain to reveal the hidden light and beauty, renewal of our baptismal promises and Holy Eucharist.

Emmanuel's Easter Day was a joy-filled celebration of the Resurrection. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful gift of music of organ, flute and our adult and youth choir. Lenten mite boxes were included in the offering. The service was followed by fellowship time in the parish hall and the children had fun with the indoor egg hunt. In addition to the MANY who helped clean and set up the church and decorated the Parish Hall, a shout out to Lesley and Michelle for our restroom makeover. Thanks also to our teen outdoor cleanup crew: Eddy, Grant & Ronny, who made our flower beds so pretty and to all our youth and young adult Easter Bunny Assistants: Max, Thomas, Eddy, Grant, Ronny, and Seraiah who brought sheer joy to our young egg hunters. THANK YOU to ALL, young and mature, lay and clergy, who worked so hard both in front of and behind the scenes!



Good Friday



He is Risen!!!



Alleluia!!!

Deanery & Diocesan News and Events

- Our next Neponset River Deanery Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13th location to be announced. Our annual grant requests, due by May 4th, will be reviewed and decided at this meeting.
- Our Diocesan Bishop has published new information and a link to support the Immigrant Legal Emergency Fund (see page 5 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 is 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 \(diomass.org\)](#)

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



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.

March 2026 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