



# DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California

News for the week of December 8, 2020



## 2020 Christmas Message

“Joy to the world! The Lord is come. In your hearts, in your homes, in your lives, prepare him room,” Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael Curry shared in his Christmas Message 2020.

The recording of the Presiding Bishop’s message is [here](#).

2020 BISHOP'S PARTNERSHIP

*Book of Dreams*



A SEASON OF GIVING TO THE  
MINISTRIES THAT HELP US  
MAKE DISCIPLES,  
RAISE UP SAINTS, AND TRANSFORM  
COMMUNITIES FOR CHRIST.

**The Bishop's Partnership Book of Dreams is off to a great start. In just six days we have received more than \$4,000 in donations.**

**This weeks highlighted dreams:**

### ***Archdeacon's Fund for Education***

To provide financial support for postulants and candidates in our diocese who are studying to become deacons in the Episcopal Church.

### ***Camp Fire Roundtable for Unmet Needs***

To assist homeowners in rebuilding by gathering and deploying the resources of businesses, contractors, and faith organizations.

### ***Camp Living Waters***

To provide six Camperships to families who cannot otherwise afford the \$200 registration fee, including low-income and foster families.

[Click here to read more about these and the other dreams.](#)

**DONATE NOW**

## **Bishop Megan's Virtual Visit**



### **A visit to St. John's, Chico**

Bishop Megan worshipped from home with the St. John's parish and participated in the Zoom coffee hour. She shared the story of St. Nicholas and even got to greet him from across the centuries!

**Trinity Cathedral News & Upcoming Events**

**Trinity Cathedral's - Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols  
Saturday, December 19th for Cathedral and Diocesan Congregations**

Please join in a "virtual" choir for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, to be livestreamed on Saturday, December 19. All submissions should be in by Saturday, December 12, 2020.

We hope to have singers from all around our Diocese joining the Cathedral for virtual choir. [Visit the virtual choir web page here for more information.](#)

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**Ordinations to the Sacred Order of Priests, December 18, 2020**

Join us online at 6pm for the ordination of:

**Grace Flint**

**Portia Hopkins**

**Libby Vincent**

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Invitation to Join a Pastorela

**Grace, St. Helena** is creating a virtual Spanish-language Christmas pageant (*pastorela*), and would love to include neighbors from around the Diocese of Northern California! It will be a very simple lessons and carols format, with costumed children enacting the different moments of the nativity as it is read (usually but not always by children). This year, families and individuals are invited to record a reading/enactment/prayer/song at home and send it in by December 18.

They will knit them together to create the pageant, which will air on Christmas Eve, with a chance for the children to interact over Zoom afterwards. If you or someone from your community would like to participate, please sign up using the form below by **December 12**. You will be emailed a full bulletin including your part, instructions for returning it via dropbox, and a photo/video release form, plus your link and invitation to view and participate on Christmas Eve!

For questions, email the [Rev. Amy Denney Zuniga](#)

[Sign up here.](#)

**Episcopal Relief & Development**

## Match Challenge

Episcopal Relief & Development launched the organization's annual [Year-End Match Challenge](#) on November 5. Thanks to a generous group of donors, all donations to the agency between now and December 31 will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$765,000. [Read more here about the ERD Year-End Match Challenge.](#)

## Episcopal Relief & Development Supports Response to Hurricane Eta in Central America

Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting partners in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua as they respond to the devastation caused by Hurricane Eta. They are providing food, shelter, bedding and other emergency supplies to communities that have been impacted. [Read the press release here.](#) Photo Courtesy of the Episcopal Diocese of Nicaragua

## The Gospel Of Mark | Epiphany 2021



Begin 2021 with the Gospel of Mark! The Good Book Club returns to read the earliest and shortest of the four gospels, starting Friday, January 1, 2021, through Shrove Tuesday, February 16.

Mark opens with words from the prophet Isaiah: "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you," and indeed the gospel itself serves as a messenger for the life and ministry of Jesus. Written around 65-75 CE, Mark proclaims the good news that Jesus is the messiah and Son of God.

Make plans now to join Forward Movement and partner organizations from across the Episcopal Church to encounter the risen Lord through the Gospel of Mark.

[Sign up to receive updates](#) on the Gospel of Mark. [View and download the readings.](#)

## Resources and Links

Episcopal Relief & Development offers a [new digital prayer tool](#), bringing together prayers from many sources and the opportunity to share prayers with others.



## Virtual Men's Retreat, Saturday, December 12 from 2:30 - 6PM

**Praying with Thomas Merton During Seasons of Darkness** hosted by Faith Cameron Park and Rev. Daniel London, Christ Church, Eureka.

During this Saturday afternoon retreat learn about the life, theodicy, and theodical spirituality of the Trappist monk, Thomas Merton; and explore ways that his wisdom can help us pray honestly during our own seasons of darkness.

[For more information click here.](#) [To register click here.](#)



**Get Prepared** - Whether it's an earthquake, wildfire, flood, or COVID-19, Listos California wants everyone to get ready and stay safe. Working with you to establish resilient communities and build a new culture of disaster preparedness for all Californians. Listos California offers resources for you and your family. Visit their website [here](#).

[Online resources for people in recovery](#)



To submit news/events, please email [communications@norcalepiscopal.org](mailto:communications@norcalepiscopal.org). The submission deadline is the Wednesday before the Tuesday publication.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
*Making Disciples, Raising Up Saints & Transforming Communities for Christ*  
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