



XXXIV

January 2025

ISSUE #1

CLERGY NEWS

REMINDER FOR CLERGY:

- **Clergy Reflection Day is on Thursday, January 16, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Christ Church, 18 W Wright St, Pensacola, FL.** Join us for a day of fellowship, reflection, and conversation about our vows as ordained clergy to lead our people into this new year. [REGISTER HERE.](#)

HAPPENING #62 FOR 9TH-12TH GRADERS - REGISTER NOW!

All church leaders are encouraged to invite any 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th graders in their congregation to learn more about Happening, a spiritual retreat weekend for high schoolers led by their peers with the supervision of adult advisors. **To request postcards for your youth group, send an email to jenn@diocgc.org. Or [DOWNLOAD POSTCARD](#) to print and share with teens and parents.**

Please include the below information in your newsletters and announcements. Contact Happening Coordinator Meghan Johnson at meghantj02@gmail.com with questions.

January 31 - February 2, 2025 | Beckwith Camp & Conference Center, 10400 Beckwith Ln, Fairhope, AL

The Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast presents Happening #62 for all 9th-12th grade students! Happening is a Christian experience presented BY teens FOR teens. Through videos, skits, talks, and more, you'll see how God and faith fit in with the flow of high school life. Happening is designed to help youth feel the love of God through community. We hope, at the end of the weekend, you'll go home knowing how to continue growing a relationship with God. It's a weekend full of fun, games, sharing, surprises, and most of all, spiritual renewal and empowerment. To learn more about Happening and to register, visit www.diocgc.org/happening

UPDATE 54TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The 54th Annual Diocesan Convention will be held **February 21-22, 2025**, at the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center, hosted by Christ the King, Santa Rosa Beach.

All delegates should be registered no later than January 24. [REGISTER HERE.](#)

The Pre-Convention Meeting will be held on Zoom on Thursday, January 30, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Prior to the meeting, registered delegates will receive an email with the link to join. All clergy, lay, and youth delegates are asked to attend this informative meeting. Bishop Russell will give details about what to expect, budget highlights will be discussed, and we will go over electronic voting.

All published communications and other important details regarding the convention can be found on our website at www.diocgc.org/2025-diocesan-convention.

NEW 2024 PAROCHIAL REPORTS DUE (Filed in 2025)

Remember that 2024 Parochial Reports are due March 1, 2025. This is only one of two items that are canonically required by TEC so please complete it timely. The Parochial Report is found online at: <https://reports.dfms.org>. Beginning January 6, each church will have access to this site with their unique login (an email) and password. If you need your login ID again, please contact the diocesan office and we can provide. Instructions, blank forms, and a helpful screencast can be found at: <https://www.generalconvention.org/pr-workbook-and-instructions>.

A reminder that your reports are due online using the DFMS Filing website; paper documents are not accepted. If you wish, you can use the blank PDF version of the form as your working document; but it will need to be entered online for it to be officially submitted as complete.

Instructions reference: <https://www.generalconvention.org/pr-workbook-and-instructions>

CONGREGATION PLEDGE FORMS MAILED

The annual pledge request was mailed to all churches. The mailing includes a message from the Bishop that we ask to share with your vestry. The mailed hard copy includes your individual pledge form with the past two years of plate/pledge data. We ask that your contribution be a ten percent (10%) tithe of the most recent full year Operating Revenue (plate/pledge) as reported on your annual Parochial Report. If you believe that the most recent filed Parochial Report (completed in 2024 for the calendar year 2023) does not fully reflect your current financial status, use the comment section on the form to provide additional information. Please do your best in meeting your annual pledge commitment for 2025; most of the annual diocesan mission / ministry budget (88%) is through your direct financial contributions. Thanks again for your support.

IMPUTED INCOME REPORTS SENT DEC. 10

Although the diocese provides this information to your employer, we want you to be aware of this additional income. It is important that you confirm with your employer both the figure provided in the letter mailed and the imputed income figure your employer will include on your Form W-2. Questions? Call Kim in the diocesan office. Section 79 of the Internal Revenue Code requires that employers calculate imputed income for employees who receive group term life insurance coverage in excess of \$50,000. Clergy and Lay employees who have this type of group term life insurance coverage are required to pay taxes on the value of that insurance coverage in excess of \$50,000. We have done the calculations for you and will mail them to all affected church employers.

UTO FUNDS RECEIVED TO DATE

The following 2024 UTO funds have been received to date to be reported in the Diocesan Journal. If you believe your balance is incorrect or is missing, please contact Kim the diocesan office at kim@diocgc.org.

St. Peter's, Bon Secour \$252

St. Matthew's, Chipley \$419

St. Paul's, Daphne \$2,132

Nativity, Dothan \$484

St. Mary's, Milton \$422

St. Paul's, Mobile \$3,452

St. Jude's, Niceville \$482

Christ Church, Pensacola \$455

St. Andrew's, Mobile \$230

PAST DUE 2023 CHURCH AUDITS

Reminder that annual church audits for the year ending 2023 are due to the Diocese in September 2024. This is one of the very few canonical requirements that all Episcopal churches need to complete. An updated audit checklist and directions can be found on the Diocesan website at: <https://www.diocgc.org/administrative-resources> An audit checklist was developed to assist and guide any church with an Audit Committee and to help identify and track those processes that may need strengthening. Any questions, please contact the Administrator at dwright@diocgc.org or call the office at 850-434-7337.

STEWARDSHIP MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM TENS

2024 password: Ephesians 5:2 (Note: a username is no longer required)

Annual pledge campaign materials are available on the TENS website: This year's theme is "Walk in Love: Annual Pledge Campaign". Resources include: Graphics and Logos in many common formats; Customizable letters from Clergy, Stewardship Committee, and Wardens; Customizable pledge / promise cards, etc. All churches have access to TENS materials as they are included in our diocesan membership. The login credentials change each year for members. LOGIN at: <https://www.tens.org/>.

RESOURCE: LAY LEADERS DIRECTORY

The list of Lay Leaders who have been canonically certified as Lay Worship Leaders and Lay Preachers is available on the diocesan website. We have provided this list for many of our smaller parishes that have occasional need of assistance when supply clergy are not available. Bishop Kendrick and Dean Joy Blaylock work in conjunction with those who are invited to lead worship or preach at a church different than their own. This has been found to be a joyful fruit of the Lay School as it deepens the bonds of relationship and ministry across our diocese.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dean Joy Blaylock at joyblaylock@diocgc.org. You can find the Lay Leader list here: <https://www.diocgc.org/lay-ministry>.

UPDATE CLERGY REMINDER: NEW ASSIGNMENT FORM

CPG has recently been running into a few issues with clergy / employers that have not submitted or updated employment / compensation changes with CPG. You are responsible for submitting your updates to CPG. This has implications for clergy pensions and can take a fair amount of effort to fix during transitions / retirement. Note that CPG sends all clergy an annual statement about your compensation, credited service accrued, etc.; if you see anything needing to be fixed / updated, this form needs to be completed and sent to CPG timely. Remember, clergy / employers need to submit this form to CPG when:

- A cleric employment status has changed, including retirement, they begin a new assignment, change employers, etc.
- A cleric's or lay employee's compensation changes, including when a one time payment is made

You can find the CPG form at: <https://www.diocgc.org/administrative-resources> or call Kim at the diocesan office.

ONLINE SAFEGUARDING / RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Our Safeguarding system uses a program from Presidium Academy. You can find links and guidelines on the diocesan website at: <https://www.diocgc.org/administrative-resources>. Each church must identify church Administrators; Admin's can be added to the system by contacting the Diocesan Office. These Admins will add their church members to the Academy system and generate "invitations" to those needing to take Safeguarding modules.

1. **To Sign Up for new Safeguarding system:**
E-mail the Safeguarding Online Administrator assigned to your parish.
2. Your designated church Administrator will facilitate your access to Praesidium Academy by generating an "invitation email" which will be sent to you from donotreply@praesidiuminc.com.
3. Fill in the required information (including your desired password).
4. Click Accept Invite.
5. You will be redirected to the login screen - please log in with your email address and the password you just created.
6. You can now proceed to find and complete the required modules.

If your coursework is over 4 years old, it will be considered dated/expired and may not have been moved over into your new account. If you have any questions, please contact Dwight Babcock or Mary Poss at 850-434-7337.

CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION (as of 1/1/2025)

[Dothan, Nativity](#)

Receiving names; interim in place

[Mobile, Trinity](#)

Receiving names

[Panama City, Holy Nativity](#)

Receiving names; interim in place

[Panama City, St. Andrew's](#)

In process

Please do not contact the openings directly. For information, please contact the Rev. Ashley Freeman, Canon to the Ordinary, at ashley@diocgc.org.

INSURANCE UPDATES

Please visit our website for additional insurance info:

- [Congregational Resources](#)
- [Risk Management & Insurance Basics for Religious Organizations \(recommended\)](#)
- [Safety and Insurance Handbook for Churches \(recommended\)](#)

LINK TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE DIOCESAN EMAIL LIST

We would be so grateful if you would consider adding the link below to your regular church communications and on your websites so that members can subscribe and stay connected to news from around the diocese. Thank you! [SUBSCRIBE TO DIOCESAN COMMUNICATIONS](#).

MUSIC LICENSING

If your church offers music during services, it is important to follow all copyright guidelines, which include maintaining a license to perform, broadcast, or print copyrighted music. Review your church's licensing agreements, and be sure to add the streaming option if you are broadcasting services online.

Recommended licensing companies include [One License](#), [Christian Copyright Licensing International](#)(CCLI), [Christian Copyright Solutions](#).

NEW VESTRY MEMBERS? SUBMIT UPDATES TO THE DIOCESAN OFFICE

Annually, we request churches to update their leadership directory for the diocesan database. The update is especially important to report changes in vestry membership. Please submit your completed form, linked below, as soon as possible. Thank you! Direct questions to jenn@diocgc.org. [CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY FORM](#)

CYCLES OF PRAYER FOR DIOCESE AND PRISON MINISTRY

Congregations are invited to include both our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer and our Prison Ministry Cycle of Prayer in their Prayers of the People, newsletters, and/or bulletins, www.diocgc.org/cycle-of-prayer.

UPCOMING DIOCESAN EVENTS Stay up-to-date on diocesan events by bookmarking our calendar: <https://www.diocgc.org/calendar-of-events>.

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Workshop: Racial Reconciliation Sacred Conversations	Jan 11	Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile Details & Registration
Clergy Reflection Day	Jan 16	Christ Church Parish, Pensacola Details & Registration
Standing Committee Meeting	Jan 21	Duvall Center
Cursillo Musician's Workshop	Jan 24	Beckwith Details & Registration

Pre-Convention Meeting	Jan 30	ZOOM Link will be emailed to registered clergy and lay delegates prior to mtg
Happening #61 (for 9th-12th graders)	Jan 31-Feb 2	Beckwith Details & Registration
54th Annual Diocesan Convention	Feb 21-22	Destin-Ft. Walton Beach Convention Center Details & Registration
2025 Men's Conference	Feb 28- Mar2	Beckwith Details & Registration

BISHOP RUSSELL'S SCHEDULE

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Visitation	Jan 5	Epiphany, Crestview
Panama City Clericus luncheon	Jan 9	Panama City Beach
COM Nominee Final Interviews	Jan 10 - 11	Beckwith
Visitation	Jan 12	Holy Nativity, Panama City
College for Bishops Search Committee mtg	Jan 13	ZOOM
Clergy Reflection Day	Jan 16	Christ Church, Pensacola
College for Bishops Board mtg	Jan 16 pm	ZOOM
Lay Worship Leader class	Jan 18	St. Jude's, Niceville
Visitation	Jan 19	St. Francis, Dauphin Island
Standing Committee	Jan 21	Duvall Center
Florida Bishops mtg	Jan 23	ZOOM
Visitation	Jan 26 am	St. Andrew's, Panama City
Visitation	Jan 26 pm	St. Patrick's, Panama City
Wednesday Visitation	Jan 29	St. John's, Monroeville
Pre-Convention mtg	Jan 30	ZOOM

DIOCESAN CONVENTION TIMELINE

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Resolutions to Amend Canons Due	Nov 23	CLOSED
Registration opens online	Nov 23	www.diocgc.org/2025-diocesan-convention
Delegate Elections & Certification Due	Dec 23	Use online registration FORM
General Resolutions Due	Jan 7, '25	Submit using this FORM
Commission and Committee Reports Due	Jan 24	Submit to jenn@diocgc.org
Standing Committee Nominations Due	Jan 24	Submit using this FORM
Registration for Clergy & Delegates closes	Jan 24	
Pre-Convention Meeting	Jan 30	ZOOM Link will be emailed to delegates prior to meeting
Diocesan Convention (hosted by Christ the King, Santa Rosa Beach)	Feb 21-22	Destin-Ft. Walton Beach Convention Center

Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
Green Sheet 2024
Treasurer's Report - December 2024
(Please Note: Report reflects funds received as of 12/31/2024)

Congregational Pledges	MTD Actual (2024)	YTD Rec'd (2024)	YTD Budget Variance	Annual Pledge (2024)
Pledges				
Andalusia, St. Mary's	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	(\$5,000)	\$12,000.00
Apalachicola, Trinity	\$1,674.00	\$20,000.00	\$0	\$20,000.00
Atmore, St. Anna's	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00
Atmore, Trinity	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,200)	\$1,200.00
Bay Minette, Immanuel	\$275.00	\$4,920.70	\$621	\$4,300.00
Bon Secour, St. Peter's	\$509.30	\$6,649.35	(\$1,139)	\$7,788.00
Brewton, St. Stephen's	\$1,258.20	\$19,281.45	(\$132)	\$19,413.00
Cantonment, St. Monica's	\$0.00	\$4,500.00	\$2,000	\$2,500.00
Chickasaw, St. Michael's	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00
Chipley, St. Matthew's	\$400.00	\$4,800.00	\$0	\$4,800.00
Citronelle, St. Thomas	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$50)	\$50.00
Coden, St. Mary's	\$0.00	\$5,704.00	\$0	\$5,704.00
Crestview, Epiphany	\$500.00	\$3,000.00	\$0	\$3,000.00
Daphne, St. Paul's	\$2,500.00	\$27,500.00	(\$2,500)	\$30,000.00
Dauphin Isld, St. Francis	\$1,040.00	\$12,490.50	\$0	\$12,490.00
DeFnk Spgs, St. Agatha's	\$449.33	\$5,196.78	(\$53)	\$5,250.00
Destin, St. Andrew's	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	(\$2,000)	\$8,000.00
Dothan, Nativity	\$9,166.66	\$55,000.12	\$0	\$55,000.00
Enterprise, Epiphany	\$3,494.00	\$11,800.00	\$60	\$11,740.00
Eufaula, St. James'	\$1,275.00	\$15,300.00	\$0	\$15,300.00
Fairhope, St. James'	\$10,567.54	\$112,139.12	(\$17,861)	\$130,000.00
Foley, St. Paul's	\$5,814.78	\$33,957.00	\$0	\$33,957.00
Ft. Wltn Bch, St. Simon	\$4,554.33	\$54,652.00	\$0	\$54,652.00
Greenville, St. Thomas	\$1,770.00	\$20,584.35	\$1,184	\$19,400.00
Gulf Breeze, St. Francis	\$1,045.00	\$11,267.50	\$839	\$10,429.00
Gulf Shores, Holy Spirit	\$2,812.50	\$33,750.00	\$0	\$33,750.00
Jackson, St. Peter's	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$200	\$1,800.00
Laguna Beach, St. Thomas	\$0.00	\$4,035.32	(\$1,752)	\$5,787.00
Lillian, Advent	\$771.00	\$9,254.00	\$2	\$9,252.00
Magnolia Spgs, St. Pauls	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$0	\$25,000.00
Marianna, St. Luke's	\$3,333.30	\$10,000.00	\$0	\$10,000.00
Milton, St. Mary's	\$1,693.50	\$6,774.00	\$0	\$6,774.00
Mobile, All Saints'	\$1,666.67	\$20,000.04	\$0	\$20,000.00
Mobile, Christ	\$3,483.33	\$41,799.63	\$0	\$41,800.00
Mobile, Good Shepherd	\$1,300.00	\$15,600.00	\$0	\$15,600.00
Mobile, Redeemer	\$1,500.00	\$8,713.70	(\$1,756)	\$10,470.00
Mobile, St. Andrew's	\$0.00	\$3,095.00	(\$754)	\$3,849.00
Mobile, St. John's	\$957.30	\$12,815.61	(\$484)	\$13,300.00
Mobile, St. Luke's	\$0.00	\$3,333.66	(\$16,666)	\$20,000.00
Mobile, St. Paul's	\$32,500.00	\$195,000.00	\$0	\$195,000.00
Mobile, Trinity	\$2,933.30	\$17,600.00	\$0	\$17,600.00
Monroeville, St. John's	\$343.12	\$3,666.41	(\$9,668)	\$13,334.00
Navarre, St. Augustine's	\$333.34	\$4,000.00	\$0	\$4,000.00
Niceville, St. Jude's	\$2,434.00	\$29,208.00	\$2	\$29,206.00
Ozark, St. Michael's	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$0	\$1,400.00
Pnma City, Holy Nativity	\$3,327.50	\$39,930.00	\$0	\$39,930.00
Panama City, St. Andrew's	\$1,164.00	\$15,516.75	(\$4,483)	\$20,000.00
Panama City, St. Patrick's	\$320.25	\$3,704.92	\$705	\$3,000.00
Panama City Beach, Grace	\$1,166.92	\$14,003.04	\$0	\$14,003.00
Pensacola, Christ	\$23,750.00	\$130,500.00	\$0	\$130,500.00
Pensacola, Holy Cross	\$2,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$0	\$24,000.00
Pensacola, Holy Trinity	\$899.04	\$10,788.53	\$0	\$10,789.00
Pcola, St. Christopher's	\$6,115.00	\$73,380.00	\$0	\$73,380.00
Pensacola, St. Cyprian's	\$2,250.00	\$3,000.00	(\$286)	\$3,286.00
Pensacola, St. John's	\$3,500.48	\$10,000.00	\$0	\$10,000.00
Pt St. Joe, St. James'	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,500)	\$1,500.00
Robertsdale, St. John	\$135.00	\$1,620.00	\$0	\$1,620.00
SRB, Christ King	\$0.00	\$50,614.63	(\$4,385)	\$55,000.00
Troy, St. Mark's	\$1,370.00	\$16,450.00	\$0	\$16,450.00
Wewahitchka, St. John's	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0	\$2,000.00
Total Pledges	\$148,353	\$1,284,296	(\$66,057)	\$1,350,353