



Greetings from Peter Saros

2026 is Looking Like it will be a Crucial Year for the Future of the Bronx

With our Bishop fully in place with most of the staff appointed that he needs, it is time to look to the future of our congregations. In some dioceses there is a top-down approach, with the Diocese developing a plan for the future and as situations and opportunities arise “The Plan is Executed.” With the direction of our diocese with Bishop Heyd as our lead Bishop, he has encouraged, and the councils of the diocese have endorsed, a style of leadership from the congregation “local” up. The plan and many of the decisions are developed in partnership with the local leadership. This does not mean that there are not situations where decisions on the diocesan level are not made, some situations are so detrimental that a decision is made at the diocesan level, where there is no other functional way. But even in these situations, local leadership is involved in determining a plan for the future of the ministry affected.

An example of this may be St. Peter’s Church, Westchester Square. The church barely functioned for around five years, few if any services were held and most of the members drifted away, some joining surrounding congregations, some pulled out all together. The diocese moved in and took over the operations of St. Peter’s. In many dioceses the buildings may have been sold, and the funds would go to the diocese. The diocese in this case realized the potential of St. Peter’s and its location and has begun a redevelopment of the ministry, referred now as Resurrection at St. Peter’s. A priest has been called to work with the few who were still around and many who had left are now beginning to return.

Another example is Trinity Church, Morrisania, which closed a couple of years ago at the congregation’s request. The diocese made some needed safety repairs, and the rectory was reopened as temporary housing for migrants. The program has worked well and now the diocese has an offer to sell all the property. This diocese once again will invest the funds from the sale in a new endowment, possibly nearly three million dollars, that will be for the benefit of the South Bronx IPC. Over a century the church’s ministry will continue to support ministry in the South Bronx. We are promised that any sale of property from the closing of a church will be designated to the IPC where the church was located.

When St. Martha’s Church closed a few years ago, the building was giving to the Haitian Church of the Good Samaritan, which rented church space for years and now has their own church. Once again ministry in the location continues.

St. David’s, St. Edmund’s and St. Simeon’s churches of the South Bronx have consolidated into one congregation, All Saints’ Church. In consolidation all the assets of the three congregations are transferred to the new church. So, All Saints’ owns four locations, three church locations and a Health Center.



Peter Saros

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please use this link:**

**Email Signup - Episcopal Diocese of New York
(dioceseny.org)**



A development plan is finalized that will use the three church locations to build some 240 affordable apartments, a new church, parish facilities, rectory and two community centers. All Saints' is now growing in numbers, has enough leaders to operate a church and with the development will have new buildings, a multi-million-dollar endowment replacing three small congregations, deficits and deteriorating buildings. This plan has given new life and possibilities for membership. The diocese recognizes the All Saints' Church plan as a model for collaborative church ministry.

These are just some of the changes and opportunities that are happening now in the Bronx. More issues and opportunities will naturally rise up over the next few years, but we now have a process as we meet with our Bishop and his staff to plan the future of the Episcopal Church. Some may cause some pain, some may create great joy, but we are in a partnership in managing our Bronx Episcopal Church.

All our congregations and their leaders are invited together to collaborate, problem solve and dream of how we do God's work in our part of the Vineyard. New ministries can be developed, new ways to work with our youth, new ministries for our local communities, all in partnership with our Bishop and our Diocese.

Having your church represented by a clergyperson, if you have one assigned by the diocese, and two lay delegates, three if there is no clergyperson. We encourage that the same people come each time, unless they cannot, to help build the relationships among all our congregational leaders. Make sure your church is part of this.

BISHOP HEYD ANNOUNCES THE FORMATION OF A SHARED SERVICES COMMITTEE

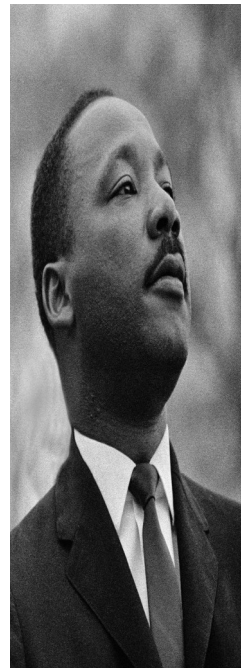


The committee will explore ways the diocese can help find ways the churches can share with each other services, such as administration and ministries. A Video showing the announcement at our recent Saturday Bronx Meeting is available at [Shared Services Announcement on Vimeo](#)

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY SERVICE WAS A SUCCESS

This year's celebration held at the Church of the Holy Nativity was a great success with over 200 participating either in person or online. You can still see the service and hear the preacher, the Very Rev. Winnie Varghese by going to the following links <https://youtu.be/iKoL4bAxS7M> full program: <https://vimeo.com/1156328109/e51167349a?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>
Sermon: <https://vimeo.com/1156129238/a1d40a5f54?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>
We thank Holy Nativity, the Northwest Bronx IPC, the Bishop and the Dean for celebrating and preaching.

MLK SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS DISTRIBUTED All recipients of the scholarships have now received their funds. In next month's Newsletter we will publish the names of the students. We thank all those who participated in our fundraisers, all the congregations who took up a collection and those who contributed at the MLK Service, mailed in their donation or donated online. You can still make a contribution online at [Donate Now | The Episcopal Diocese of New York](#)



“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.”

MLK SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING EVENTS

The Fundraising Committee is hard at work on this year's fundraising events:

Annual MLK Scholarship Spring Brunch

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2026

Place: The Church of the Holy Nativity

Time: 11am - 3pm

Price: \$80 Adults * \$30 (children under 12 years)

Raffle Drawing will take place on April 18 at the Spring Brunch

Donation: 2 for \$10 (Five prizes)



We encourage each church to send a parishioner to join the MLK Fundraising Committee or a liaison to organize ticket sales at your congregation. Please contact us: Bronxepiscopalchurch@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE for our first boat ride which will take place on
August 15, 2026
2 PM to 6 PM
Tickets: \$100

All proceeds will go to The Bronx Council's MLK Scholarship Fund.

DONATION AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

The Bronx Council now has Zelle!!

Zelle your donations and payments to Bronxepiscopalchurch@gmail.com

OR

Make checks payable to **THE BRONX COUNCIL**

(Be sure to write in the memo on the check, what the money is for and the church affiliation)

MAIL CHECKS TO:

The Bronx Council
c/o St. Luke's Church
777 East 222nd Street



**"History, despite
its wrenching
pain, cannot be
unlived, but if
faced with
courage, need not
be lived again."
Maya Angelou**

Notes from the Bronx Wide Day Conference on the Future of the Bronx Episcopal Church.

Representatives from each church participated in our Bronx Wide Day Conference, however we want to ensure that each parishioner is kept informed with all the latest information and regular updates on the progress. The more everyone knows, the stronger the results will be.

WHAT WE HEARD: BRONX-WIDE LISTENING SUMMARY 1/31/26

1. Core Strengths (What Is Giving Life)

Across congregations, there is a deep spiritual and communal foundation:

- ◆ Strong histories, resilience, and faithfulness across generations
- ◆ Congregations experienced as home and family
- ◆ Vibrant worship, music, children's engagement, and outreach
- ◆ Cultural and linguistic diversity as a lived reality, not an aspiration
- ◆ Openness to innovation, experimentation, and new partnerships
- ◆ A clear sense that God is calling congregations toward more—not just survival, but spiritual growth and vitality
- ◆ This is not a fearful system. It is a hopeful one with real assets.

2. Core Pressures (What Is Weighing Heavy)

The concerns consistently point to capacity strain:

- ◆ Small and shrinking congregations with financial stress
- ◆ Aging infrastructure and complex property challenges
- ◆ Leadership fatigue and over-reliance on a few people
- ◆ Weak succession planning (lay and clergy)
- ◆ Youth disengagement and difficulty retaining young adults
- ◆ Language and cultural barriers across congregations and systems
- ◆ A perceived disconnect between diocesan structures and parish realities
- ◆ Lack of clarity, transparency, and consistent accountability
- ◆ These concerns cluster around systems, structures, and support, not commitment.

3. Shared Longings (What People Are Hoping For)

The wishes are remarkably aligned in all our Bronx congregations:

- ◆ Growth in discipleship, membership, and engagement
- ◆ Moving from survival to vitality
- ◆ Youth and lay leaders meaningfully integrated into leadership
- ◆ Clearer, healthier processes for consolidation and collaboration
- ◆ Shared resources and stronger financial sustainability
- ◆ Better property support and local investment
- ◆ Clear communication, trust-building, and transparency from the Diocese
- ◆ A stronger, more relational bridge between congregations and diocesan leadership
- ◆ This is a call for shared responsibility and shared imagination.

4. From the newsprints

LIKES

- ◆ Long history of congregations
- ◆ Vibrant community life
- ◆ Strong sense of home and family
- ◆ New programs and openness to innovation
- ◆ Readiness to grow and experiment
- ◆ Interest from others to join ministry
- ◆ Intergenerational activities
- ◆ Engagement with new ministry partners
- ◆ God calling congregations to new and deeper things
- ◆ Not just “staying alive,” but growing spiritually
- ◆ Diversity of home languages
- ◆ Cultural diversity within congregations
- ◆ Sunday School

Continue on page 5.....

4. From the newsprints (cont'd)

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LIKES

- ◆ Children's engagement
- ◆ Healthy worship life
- ◆ Music ministry
- ◆ Outreach ministries
- ◆ Cultural staff supporting engagement across generations
- ◆ Consolidation and collaboration among churches (where happening)
- ◆ Desire to engage younger generations
- ◆ Willingness to connect with neighboring churches
- ◆ Growth in social engagement and discipleship
- ◆ Resilience, stability, and dedication of older members

5. CONCERNS

- ◆ Small and shrinking congregations
- ◆ Financial instability
- ◆ Money pressures
- ◆ Old buildings needing major repairs and maintenance
- ◆ Property management challenges
- ◆ Lack of children / difficulty keeping children engaged
- ◆ Youth disengagement and young adults leaving and not returning
- ◆ Language barriers
- ◆ Leadership fatigue
- ◆ Small group of leaders carrying too much responsibility
- ◆ Succession planning (especially lay leadership)
- ◆ Governance challenges
- ◆ Accountability
- ◆ Lack of transparency
- ◆ Lack of resources
- ◆ Lack of youth ministry support
- ◆ Difficulty connecting congregations across race, class, ethnicity, and region
- ◆ Weak connection between congregations and the Diocese
- ◆ Lack of clarity around diocesan leadership structures (e.g., IPC)
- ◆ Need for transition and succession planning
- ◆ Multi-site management challenges
- ◆ Overall needs of parishes not being adequately addressed
- ◆ Feeling the "gap" between diocesan structures and parish realities

6. WISHES

- ◆ Growth in membership and engagement
- ◆ Deeper discipleship
- ◆ Social engagement rooted in faith
- ◆ Improvement and clarity around consolidation processes
- ◆ Healthier, more sustainable congregations
- ◆ More intentional collaboration across churches
- ◆ Youth integrated into leadership
- ◆ Greater lay involvement and shared leadership
- ◆ Embracing change with faith and courage
- ◆ Sharing resources across congregations
- ◆ Greater financial stability
- ◆ More funding and stronger endowments
- ◆ Better property management support
- ◆ Clearer communication and transparency from the Diocese
- ◆ Accountability structures that build trust
- ◆ Transition and succession planning support
- ◆ Bridging the gap between Diocese and congregations
- ◆ Stronger intergenerational ministry
- ◆ Churches are becoming more visible and relevant in their neighborhoods
- ◆ Moving from survival to vitality



Bronx Calendar

Sat., Feb. 14, 10:30 am Absalom Jones Celebration – Cathedral
[2026 Blessed Absalom Jones Celebration - The Episcopal Diocese of New York](#)

Fri., Feb. 20, 7:30 pm – Holy Nativity - [Poetry Night](#)

Sat., Feb 21, 11:00 am – St. Andrew's – [Prayer Breakfast](#)

Sat., Feb. 21 Good Shepherd - Altar Guild Prayer Breakfast, \$40

Sat., April 18, 11:00 am Bronx Council - Spring Brunch - at Holy Nativity

Fri., June 19 Good Shepherd - Annual Fundraising Dinner Dance Eastwood Manor.
Tickets \$150 Contact 914-568-9914

Sat., August 15, 2:00 – 6:00 pm Bronx Council - Summer Boat Ride

Upcoming Bronx Meetings

Mon., Feb. 16, 7:00 pm – Fundraising Committee of the Bronx Council
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3109240523> Dial in: 929 205 6099 ID: 310 924 052

Thurs., Feb. 19, 7:00 pm – South Bronx IPC
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3985613118> Dial in: 646-558-8656 ID: 398 561 3118

Diocesan Events

Online Morning Prayer - The Diocese of New York. You can register for the 8:00 am service at <https://diocesenyc.org/online-morning-prayer>

Union of Black Episcopalians Membership Application [UBE](#)

Social Concerns Commission Advocacy and Action Committee website
[Advocacy & Action Committee – of the Episcopal Diocese of New York \(diocesenyc.org\)](#)

New York Summer Youth Conference
[New York Summer Youth Conference | Learn More Today](#)

Episcopal Church
[Immigration Action Toolkit – The Episcopal Church](#)



New York Episcopal Federal Credit Union – Fair, affordable financial services for our parishes, communities and the underserved. For information please visit their website

[Home - New York Episcopal Federal Credit Union \(nyefcu.org\)](#)

or email: contact@nyefcu.org or call: (212) 960-7100.

Bronx Online Worship

(If you would like your online services included, please send us the link)

◆ All Saints'

384 East 160th Street - Sundays at 9:15 am
1905 Morris Avenue - Sundays at 11:00 am

[Zoom by Computer or App:](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82306952498>

One tap mobile +16465588656,82306952498#

Zoom by Phone: Dial in Number: 646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 823 0695 2498 Passcode: 1111

Evening Prayer & Bible Study

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

By Phone: 646-558-8656 Meeting ID: 840 1976 7718

By Computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8401976771>



◆ Good Shepherd

Sundays at 10:00 am

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84828150835?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84828150835?pwd=RytWSINpQmd0ei80TjNmTlpQVE5Jdz09)

[pwd=RytWSINpQmd0ei80TjNmTlpQVE5Jdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84828150835?pwd=RytWSINpQmd0ei80TjNmTlpQVE5Jdz09)

Meeting ID: 848 2815 0835 Passcode: 4401

One tap mobile +16468769923,,84828150835#,,,,*4401# US (New York)

◆ Holy Nativity

3061 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx NY 10467

All are invited to join us for: Holy Eucharist at 10:15 a.m. in person

Every Sunday or via: Conference call #: 667-930-8557 Pin # 7541861

◆ St. Andrew's

[St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Bronx | Facebook](#)

◆ St. James'

Worship From Home — [St. James Church, Fordham \(stjamesfordham.org\)](http://stjamesfordham.org)

◆ St. Joseph's

Prayers Monday to Friday at 12noon via teleconference 425-436-6344 Passcode 509898#

◆ St. Luke's

To View the Service Online

• Click on [St. Luke's Facebook page](#)

Please note that you do not need your Facebook account to view the service.

• To listen to the service, call (978) 990-5293

and enter Access Code 194519

• To participate with video, click on Free Conference Call and select "Join the online meeting"

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Low Mass & Bible Study 9:30 am

Online Bible Study 7:00 pm

Please contact the church office for the Zoom login

718-882-3060

◆ St. Margaret's

Sundays at 9:00 am - Morning Prayer

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm - Evening Prayer

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3985613118>

Dial in number: (646) 558-8656

Meeting ID: 398 561 3118

◆ Christ Church Riverdale

Holy Eucharist Rite II with choir 11:00 a.m.

[Watch Here](#) [Bulletin](#) [Insert](#)

Mondays & Thursdays

[Online Evening Prayer](#) 7:00 p.m.

Bronx Interparish Councils (IPCs) E-mail Addresses and Websites

East Bronx

- 1. The Church of the Atonement**
atonementbronx@optonline.net
- 2. The Haitian Church of the Good Samaritan**
revsamowen@gmail.com
<http://www.haitiangoodsam.org/>
- 3. St. Andrew's Church**
StAndrewsEpisBx@hotmail.com
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Bronx | New York NY | Facebook
- 4. St. Joseph's Episcopal Church**
stjosephsepc@aol.com
<http://www.stjosephsepcbbronx.org/>
- 5. St. Luke's Church**
stlukesbronx@gmail.com
<http://www.stlukesbronx.com/>
- 6. St. Peter's Church (Westchester Square)**
StPetersBronx@gmail.com

South Bronx

- 1. All Saints' Church**
allsaintsbronx@gmail.com
- 2. Grace Church (West Farms)**
gecwf@outlook.com
<http://www.gracewestfarms.org>
- 3. St. Ann's Church**
office@stannsbronx.org
<http://www.stannssouthbronx.org/>
- 4. Misión de San Juan Bautista**
Sjmission@gmail.com
- 5. St. Margaret's Church (Longwood)**
smecbx@verizon.net
<https://stmargaretsbx.episcopalny.org>
- 6. St. Mary's Ghanaian Church**
stmarysghanaian@yahoo.com
<http://www.stmarysghan.org/>
- 7. St. Paul's Church**
HScott1052@aol.com

Northwest Bronx

- 1. Christ Church Riverdale**
office@christchurchriverdale.org
rector@christchurchriverdale.org
<https://www.christchurchriverdale.org/>
- 2. The Church of the Good Shepherd**
office@churchofthegoodshepherdbronx.org
<http://www.thechurchofthegoodshepherdbronx.org/>
- 3. The Church of the Holy Nativity**
dahlin29@hotmail.com
- 4. The Church of the Mediator**
info@churchofthemediator.org
<http://www.churchofthemediator.org/>
- 5. St. James' Church (Fordham)**
saintjamesfordham@gmail.com
<http://saintjamesfordham.org/>
- 6. St. Stephen's Church (Woodlawn)**
ststephenswoodlawn@gmail.com



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

