



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of* SPOKANE

News & Notes | March, 2026

ARTICLE FROM THE BISHOP'S PEN

This past month, I enjoyed watching the Winter Olympics. As a kid, I dreamed of one day being on the Olympic basketball team — but of course, that was not to be. For one thing, I didn't devote nearly enough time to practice for such a dream! What impresses me most about Olympic athletes is their dedication — their tireless work and willingness to give everything they have to improve in their chosen sport.

It's the same with the best musicians, actors, and artists: a devotion to continual practice. It is the practice that makes the performance possible.

We have now entered the season of Lent, and in many ways, Lent is all about our *Christian practice*. It's an opportunity to return to the basics of our faith and to re-engage in the spiritual disciplines that enable us to "perform" as followers of Jesus. Not "perform" as in pretending or acting, but performing in the sense of *living out* our

baptism day by day — staying faithful even when the path feels dark and hope seems distant, and continuing our devotion when life is bright and joyful.

It's easy to slip away from those practices — to pray less often, to spend less time with Scripture, to sleep in on Sundays and miss worship. It's easy to grow impatient with our neighbors, to speak ill of those who irritate us, or to hold too tightly to what we have. Lent calls us back — back into the spiritual practices that strengthen our faith and hone our spiritual muscles so that we may live fully as disciples of Jesus.

Some people choose to give something up for Lent; others choose to take something on. I say: do what helps you draw closer to Jesus and builds up your spiritual strength. If you're wondering where to begin, the words from our Ash Wednesday service and the vows of our Baptismal Covenant offer a good place to start.

May this season of Lent lead you to the joy of Easter — renewed in your faith, strengthened in your spiritual life, and filled with the love of Jesus.

Faithfully,

+Gretchen

IMPORTANT THINGS COMING!



Time to gather

Please join us for Spring Gathering Day where we'll take a deep dive into our corporate and personal prayer life through the Daily Office.

[Register Here](#)

Grants available

Could your congregation use a little extra money for growth and development?! Applying is easy! Click the box below.

[Apply Today!](#)

Applications OPEN!

Join in the opportunity for your congregation to begin or enhance their work in building bridges and healing divides in their communities.

[Click Here to Apply](#)



High schoolers!

Come hangout over Zoom on Sunday evenings for this confirmation class!



Clergy Conference

Join us for a time of rest, renewal, and connection as we gather under our diocesan theme, "Sing to the Lord a new song," and welcome +Rob Wright as our guest speaker!

[Register Today](#)



DIO CON | Pasco, WA

Save the date for Diocesan Convention in Pasco, WA and make sure to book your room ahead of time!

[Learn More Here](#)

[More Info Here](#)

HERE'S THE NEXT 3 MONTHS

MARCH

5 - Wardens and Treasurer's Zoom Meeting

8 - Bishop's Visitation
St. Paul's | Cheney, WA

15 - Bishop's Visitation
St. Timothy's | Yakima, WA

21 - Spring Gathering Day

29 - Bishop's Visitation
St. Luke's | Wenatchee, WA

29 - Bishop's Visitation
Methow Episcopal |
Winthrop, WA

APRIL

2 - Wardens and Treasurer's Zoom Meeting

5 - EASTER
Bishop at The Cathedral

19 - Bishop's Visitation
Grace Episcopal | Dayton,
WA

26 - Bishop's Visitation
St. Anne's | Omak, WA

MAY

3 - Bishop's Visitation
St. James | Cashmere, WA

7 - Wardens and Treasurer's Zoom Meeting

10 - Bishop's Visitation
St. Paul's | Kennewick, WA

29 & 30 - Council Meeting

24 - Bishop's Visitation
Holy Trinity | Sunnyside, WA

31 - Bishop's Visitation
St. Lukes | Coeur D Alene, ID



CANON'S CORNER

Camp Cross Update

Cn. Alex Flannagan

Winter Cross was an incredible weekend—full of energy, community, and meaningful moments. There’s so much to celebrate and even more on the horizon at Camp Cross.

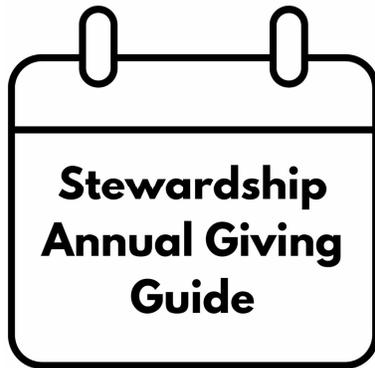


Summer is just around the corner! Staff applications are open, camper registration launches soon (with a \$50 bring-a-friend discount), and the full summer schedule is now available. A brand-new labyrinth project is coming during Labor of Love (May 15–20), and four beautiful new cabins and a retreat house will be ready in July—with opportunities for congregations to help furnish and sponsor rooms.

Exciting growth, new opportunities, and a vision for the future. Check out the full article by Cn. Alex on our website by clicking the link below!

[Full Article Here](#)

ANNUAL GIVING GUIDE 2026



Find monthly ideas for approaching your annual giving campaign throughout the entire year. Looking for the full year guide, find it here: [Stewardship Annual Giving Guide](#).

In **March**, it's a great time to plan out the annual giving calendar for the remainder of the year and think through what considerations and work this involves. Consider the following:

- Open staff and lay leadership input and creative conversation on theme, content, and schedule of the annual giving plan.
- Design the calendar, goals, and materials that will be needed throughout the year.
- Send thank yous to congregants who have made annual pledges.

THINGS HAPPENING AROUND THE DIOCESE

Invitation: Join the Vocational Discernment Team

The Commission on Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane invites lay members of our parishes to consider serving on the Vocational Discernment Team. This vital ministry walks prayerfully alongside individuals discerning a call to ordained ministry, offering guidance, listening, and support throughout the process. Team members commit to confidentiality, unbiased listening, and prayer, and will receive training and ongoing support. Serving on the VDT is a meaningful way to nurture emerging leaders, support the life of the Diocese, and deepen your own faith journey. To learn more, contact the Diocesan Office, a member of the Commission on Ministry, or your parish priest.

[Apply Here!](#)