



Highlights of diocesan news in printable format — April 17, 2024

If you have email, you can sign up to receive *The VOICE Online*, currently published every other Wednesday.  
Visit: [dioceseofnewark.org/subscribe](https://dioceseofnewark.org/subscribe)

---

## From the Bishop

### Introducing the School for Ministry

*This is a transcript of a video message.*

This is Bishop Hughes in the Diocese of Newark. And I am excited to let you know that the School for Ministry in the Diocese of Newark that we have been dreaming about, thinking about, doing research on, praying over, planning for, has finally come into being, and in May, we will offer classes for the first students in the School for Ministry.

Primarily, the School for Ministry is set up to help train deacons. We've run into situations where deacons sometimes had to wait a year or two in order to finish their classes, despite the best efforts of all the people involved in training deacons. So we needed something that we could, that was a little bit more streamlined that would work for them.

And along the way to thinking about what deacons needed, we started asking ourselves what lay people needed? How do they need to be trained for ministry? Let me just stop for a minute and talk about that word, "ministry." It's a word we use often in the church, and very often we think it's only about ordained people. But everyone has a ministry. Some of my favorite churches, in their bulletin when they list all the people that, who serve in the church, they'll have the name of the rector, the name of the organist, and say what they do. And then it'll say, "Ministers," next to it, "Every

member of this church." That is what ministry is about. Ministry is our serving God and God's people in the unique and particular way that each of us is called. Some of us do that in church every Sunday. Some of us also do it in the workplace, or we do it at school, or in our communities, or in our households, wherever we happen to be. We are always called by God to be serving God's people, and that is ministry.

So the School for Ministry is to help all kinds of people, not just people called to ordained ministry, but also to help lay people who are called to ministry. Primarily, our focus, initially anyway, is going to be on helping lay people who serve in churches in some way. And the example that always comes to mind for me, that was a major motivation in our thinking about the School for Ministry, was a lay person, who in her parish very often reads sermons on the Sundays where there is not a priest or someone to preach. She reads sermons, like from Sermons that Work, or that a priest has left for them to use, or a priest from a neighboring church has offered for them to use. And she's comfortable reading those sermons. And she said, "One day, I would really like to be able to preach a sermon that I've written." She goes, "I think I could do this. But I don't feel confident about my studying scripture, and then figuring out how to talk to a congregation about what I've studied."

Well, this is something that people who preach, learn how to do. Nobody wakes up in the morning saying, "I'm gonna preach for the first time today,

I'm just gonna go do it." Same way, a doctor doesn't wake up in the morning, before they've gone to medical school and say, "Today, I'm just gonna go to the hospital and operate on somebody." Teachers have to go to be a student teacher, before they learn how to teach. Everybody's got to learn more about what their gift is, before they can use it in their fullest. And the School for Ministry is going to help people who are called to ordained ministry, but also lay people who are called to serve in particular ways in our church and beyond.

I'm very excited about it. The first sessions are open to people who have already been in this process, and who are doing some work along the lines of preparing to get ready to serve in their parishes, either as ordained people, or as people who are licensed to serve in a parish.

So, keep your eyes open. There will be an opportunity for you to learn more about the School for Ministry. There's information in this publication of The VOICE this week, but there will be more information coming. And, keep your eyes open for people around you. If you've got a friend who you think could potentially be a good preacher, tell them, "You should go take that class." If you have a friend who you think would be a good worship leader, tell them, "There's a class for you." Encourage each other, to learn more about how you can serve God and serve God's people in the church and beyond the church.

## About the Diocese of Newark School for Ministry

Bishop Hughes has established a School for Ministry for the Diocese of Newark, to better support and help form members of the diocese for their particular ministries. The School for Ministry has been charged by the bishop to develop two primary modes of training: first, to train those preparing for ordination to the Diaconate and, second, to train lay ministers for licensed lay

ministries, such as Worship Leader, Preacher, and Pastoral Leader.

Bishop Hughes appointed Dr. Laura E. Moore in August 2023 as the Director of the School for Ministry. Dr. Moore earned a Th.D. in Liturgical Studies from the General Theological Seminary in 2011 and is the author of *From Easter to Holy Week: The Paschal Mystery and Liturgical Renewal in the Twentieth Century*. She has served as an adjunct instructor at the General Theological Seminary and Drew University and is a member of the North American Academy of Liturgy. She also serves as the Parish Administrator for All Saints Episcopal Parish in Hoboken.

At present, those currently in the diaconal formation process have already undertaken much of their formation. The program for training deacons will initiate once the next cohort of those discerning a call to that order are ready for formation. The School for Ministry will take the place of previous local training for deacons in this diocese. The School for Ministry is not currently providing formation for those who are seeking ordination to the priesthood (and who would be ordained as deacons transitionally along the way). Those in the priesthood ordination process generally attend one of the seminaries in the Episcopal Church, whether in person or hybrid.

For many years, Worship Leader training has been very ably led by the Rev. Audrey Hasselbrook of St. James, Upper Montclair, and Gail Barkley of Trinity and St. Philip's Cathedral. Our diocesan community owes them a debt of gratitude for their dedication to this work over these years, especially for the support they provided for Worship Leaders during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have not had diocesan training for lay Preachers in recent years and have not provided Pastoral Leader training at all. The School for Ministry will provide opportunities to support each of these ministries.

Dr. Moore has been working on the structure and program for the School and is finalizing an initial

curriculum for this year, relying on resources available from the Iona Collaborative of the Seminary of the Southwest, the Episcopal Preaching Foundation, and resources within our diocese. Training for Worship Leader, Preacher, and Pastoral Leader is ready to begin and is available for registration for those who are nominated by their clergyperson or, in the absence of clergy, by their warden.

Please visit the School for Ministry page to learn more about these opportunities and specific information about registration, dates of training, and costs for training.

## Happening at Our Congregations

### Food pantry expands mission under new name

Last September, we shared the story of the food pantry at Holy Communion, Norwood. Eight months later, that food pantry is launching an expanded mission under a new name.

Aware that their space for storing and distributing food is limited, “We wanted to give families more than just food,” says Joanne Scalpello, Holy Communion’s senior warden and co-director of the food pantry.

“The families are hungry for food and information – and we want to help them get out of the cycle of needing a food pantry.”

They reached out to the Bergen County Office of Food Security for speaker recommendations, then tested the waters with a “Smoothies and Exercise” presentation last fall, before they became busy with their annual Thanksgiving and Christmas food pantry events. This past February – “Heart Month” – they hosted a nurse who did blood pressure screenings. Both “popup” events were well received by food pantry clients.

After the success of this soft launch, they decided they’d found their way forward. On Saturday, April 20, they will celebrate their food pantry’s new identity as The WholeSum Pantry, a name chosen to reflect that they are striving to serve the whole person, not just food needs.

They’ve already held their first “official” popup event in March, with a speaker from the Bergen County Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services. The Northern Valley Education Association provided lunch and students babysat the children while the parents attended the presentation, which included lunch.

Going forward, they plan to augment their two monthly “food pantry” days with a third date for a “popup” presentation, as speakers are available. They’re currently in talks with a local dentist about a presentation on dental care.

“I am finding the more ‘out there’ the pantry is becoming,” says Scalpello, “the more people want to help us.”

## Diocesan Announcements

### Clergy ministry transitions

Ordinations to the Vocational Diaconate, Saturday, April 13 at Trinity & St. Philip’s Cathedral:

- The Rev. Deacon Jackie McLeod
- The Rev. Deacon Annie Pike