



MERCER

School of Theology

Episcopal Diocese of Long Island

65 Fourth Street, Garden City, NY 11530

A Resource and
Learning Center
supporting
One diocese
One mission.

2017-2018

Program Catalog

Workshops

Courses

Seminars

Lectures



LOOK, HERE IS THE LAMB OF GOD

www.mercerschool.org

Welcome to the Mercer School of Theology, a Resource and Learning Center for the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island.

Preparing for Ordination... Since its inception in 1955, Mercer has offered a program of academic preparation for ordained ministry. As the number of prospective ordinands declined in the early 1990s, the school was forced to reinvent itself several times to adapt to a changing context driven by globalization, economic volatility, increased vitality in lay ministry, social networking, and online technology. For Academic Year 2017-18, we will present rich new refresher and continuing education programs for our clergy and laity and complete the final phase of academic preparation for three diaconal candidates scheduled to be ordained in January 2018. As we do this, we will be reviewing and refining our existing offerings to more closely align our education and training with the changing shape of theological education in our diocese and in the church at large.

Illuminating the Word... This coming year, in partnership with the Cathedral of the Incarnation, Mercer School presents "A Year with the Saint John's Bible." Deemed "one of the extraordinary undertakings of our time" by the *Smithsonian Magazine*, the Saint John's Bible is the first completely handwritten and illuminated Bible produced in the same manner employed by medieval monks centuries ago. It was commissioned in 1998 by the Benedictine Monks of St. John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota, with a mission to ignite the spiritual imagination of believers throughout the world and to illuminate the word of God for a new millennium. Visit saintjohnsbible.org for the history of this magnificent work.

Gospels & Acts, the sixth volume of the Saint John's Bible, will be on display at the Cathedral in Garden City. Seminars will be co-sponsored by the Mercer School as we share the volume through Bible study and theological exploration.

Expanding programming... The Mercer School also sponsors two important educational opportunities which have been operating in our diocese for some time. *Education for Ministry (EfM)* and *Diocesan Church Development Institute (DCDI)* are multi-year learning programs where clergy and laity work together with mentors to develop new solutions for the work of the church. These are described more fully in the calendar of events.

The training events listed in this calendar are only a few of the programs we hope to schedule across the diocese. Safe Church, Racism Awareness and lay leadership workshops are being planned for additional locations outside of the Diocesan Center in Garden City. We urge you to visit www.mercerschool.org and the Diocese website www.dioceseli.org often for information as these plans are completed.



Ted Gerbracht
Director of Academic Programs



Diane Muscarella
Director of Operations

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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The Right Reverend Lawrence C. Provenzano, Bishop of Long Island
Dr. Ted Gerbracht, Ph.D., Director of Academic Programs (ext. 117)
Mrs. Diane Muscarella, Director of Operations (ext. 140)
Canon Charles Egleston,
Historiographer/Librarian/Archivist (ext. 139)
Mrs. Aissa Hillebrand,
Media Specialist and Safe Church Coordinator (ext. 150)

FALL AND SPRING OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Tuesday through Saturday

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Monday through Friday

Registration for all courses and workshops must be received no later than one week prior to the event. **To register, visit www.mercerschool.org.** The Mercer School reserves the right to charge late fees or to cancel classes due to insufficient enrollment. Payment in full must accompany all registrations. No refunds will be given for non-participation.



MERCER

School of Theology

Episcopal Diocese of Long Island
A community of learning and faith formation.

Fall/Spring Semester 2017-2018 Offerings

August

Eucharistic Visitor Training

[LL]

Date: Saturday, August 19, 2017

Time: 9 am – 12 noon

Location: Mercer School of Theology

This workshop will prepare those nominated by their clergy to act as Lay Eucharistic Visitors to those hospitalized, or confined to rehabilitation and nursing institutions, as well as the homebound. Content will include Eucharistic theology, role-playing for Eucharistic visits, and required SHE training. Those who participate in this workshop, with their rector/clergy-in-charge's support, can then be licensed by the Bishop's Office as Lay Eucharistic Visitors.

For registration, assure first that you are sponsored by your parish clergy, then contact Diane Muscarella at 516-248-4800, ext. 140 or dmuscarella@dioceseli.org.

There is no fee for this event.

79th General Convention July 5-13, 2018 Austin, TX

The Episcopal Church's General Convention is held every three years, and is the bicameral governing body of the Church. It is comprised of the House of Bishops, with upwards of 200 active and retired bishops, and the House of Deputies, with clergy and lay deputies elected from the 109 dioceses and three regional areas of the Church, at more than 800 members.

For more information, contact the General Convention office at GCoffice@episcopalchurch.org.

September

Opening of the Academic Year in the Diocese of Long Island

[P]

Date: Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Time: 6 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

A convocation is a venerable tradition that marks the commencement of each new academic year by a gathering of students, teachers, and church and community members interested in and committed to lifelong learning. Beginning with Evening Prayer in the Chapel, the meeting will include a review of plans for the current academic year, and foster a conversation about the future direction of our academic programs.

Our shepherd for the meeting will be **The Right Reverend Geralyn Wolf**, Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Long Island. In 1995 Bishop Wolf was elected the twelfth Bishop of the Diocese of Rhode Island, where she served for 17 years. During that time, she was the liturgist for the House of Bishops. Bishop Wolf has also done extensive work in urban ministry, especially with soup kitchens, thrift shops, and the homeless. Her book, *Down and Out in Providence*, was a result of spending thirty days as a homeless person.

There is no fee for this gathering.

For complete course description www.mercerschool.org

Course codes: [P] = OPEN to the PUBLIC

[C] = CLERGY

[LL] = LAY LEADERS

[BI] = BY INVITATION

Church Development Institute: Training clergy and lay leadership in congregational development best practices

Dates: Sept 29-30, 2017; Dec 1-2, 2017
Feb 2-3, 2018; April 27-28, 2018

The Diocesan Church Development Institute (DCDI) is a leadership training program focused on developing the spiritual community and organiza-



tional life of congregations. We equip leaders to serve their congregations through a highly integrated training experience that engages participants in the issues and dynamics that they face as leaders. DCDI is a program for clergy and lay leaders who de-

sire to transform their congregations by making them stronger, healthier, more deeply rooted in Anglican spirituality, more responsive to God, and more effective in their communities.

The program is grounded in the disciplines of pastoral theology, ecclesiology, congregational studies, organizational behavior, organizational culture, group development, and leadership studies. It looks at the development of the congregation as a community of faith with a unique identity, purpose, and dynamics which can be understood, assessed, and improved using the knowledge and methods of organization behavior and development.

The program provides 110 hours of instruction delivered in eight weekends over the course of two years. The participants become a learning community and delve into the interplay between systems and culture. In the first year, participants explore healthy and missional-shaped congregational systems.

This program builds learning not only on the parish level but across the diocese. Over the two years you will work closely with other people from across the diocese so that you will make new friends and find new partners and resources for your ministry. Participants must be willing to make the commitment for two years, do the assigned reading, and complete the projects.

For more information, contact the Rev. Elizabeth Tunney at etunney@dioceseli.org.

The Mercer Library

The library houses one of the most extensive collections of theological materials in the New York area. Visitors are welcome to browse the collection online at <http://mercer.tlcdelivers.com:8080/#section=home>.

See page 13 for more information.

Interim Clergy Meetings

[C/BI]

Date: Beginning September 26 and meeting eight times throughout the year.
November 14; December 19; January 30;
February 20; April 12; May 15; June 26

Time: 12 noon – 2 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

Facilitators: Dr. Lena Mullings and the Rev. Canon Tom Orso.

An ongoing group of clergy currently serving parishes in transition.

For more information, contact the Bishop's Office.

Youth Pre-Convention

[LL/BI]

Date: Saturday, September 30, 2017

Time: 10 am – 3 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

This Pre-Convention conference will include food, games and fellowship with other teens. Youth will learn more about Diocesan Convention and how they can participate. As a part of this, youth will think about what issues matter to them and what they may want to share and tell the Bishop and other delegates. Come make new friends and join the powerful and faithful voice of youth in our Diocese!

For more information, contact Myra Garnes, Canon for Youth & Young Adult Ministries at 516-248-4800, ext. 118 or mgarnes@dioceseli.org.

Youth delegates should register online no later than Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at www.dioceseli.org/youthpreconvention.

School for Ministry

[LL/BI]

Date: Saturday, September 30, 2017

Time: 8:30 am – 5 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

The Diocese of Long Island is committed to quality preparation of men and women for service to church and world as vocational deacons or as priests. This ordination formation community meets for learning and prayer throughout the year.

Some School for Ministry courses, as noted in Mercer communications throughout the year, may be open to other interested learners.



EfM in the Diocese of Long Island

Education for Ministry, affectionately known as EfM, is a four-year ecumenical program designed to prepare you for lay ministry within the diverse contexts of contemporary life.

The curriculum is centered on theological reflection, which is the artful spiritual discipline of putting our life experiences into conversation with the living God of our faith. It's a practical skill that will provide a way for you to experience greater meaning in your day-to-day life and a more tangible sense of God's loving presence in the world.

This program is modeled on the seminary experience; students sign up one year at a time for the four-year program. The program grants a certificate at the completion of the four years and 18 Continuing Education Units for each year's work. There are EFM groups meeting currently throughout the diocese.

More details, including sample lessons, can be found on-line at: <http://www.sewanee.edu/EFM/EFMContents.htm>

To REGISTER, or for more information, please email John Musco, the Diocesan Coordinator: johnmusco@gmail.com or visit the Mercer website www.mercerschool.org and click on Programs/EFM.

October

Fall Clergy Day

[C]

Date: Tuesday October 3, 2017

Location: Mercer School of Theology

For further information, contact the Bishop's Office.

This gathering is for the clergy of the Diocese.

Godly Play Training Module I: Sacred Stories

[P]

Date: Saturday October 7, 2017

Time: 8:30 am – 5:30 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

The goal of this training is to equip persons to be Godly Play storytellers and door persons through an extended spiritual growth experience and an intensive professional training event.

For more information, contact Ted Gerbracht at 516-248-4800, ext. 117 or tgerbracht@dioceseli.org.

The Bargains & Blessings of Thrift Store Ministry

[P/C/LL]

Workshop sponsored by Episcopal Ministries of Long Island

Date: Saturday, October 7, 2017

Time: 9:30 am – 3 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

This informational workshop will highlight best practices in thrift store ministry and share innovative approaches being used by several vibrant stores within the diocese. There will be valuable information for parishes who are looking to expand or reinvigorate their thrift store, and parishes who want to explore this as a possible ministry in the future.

Space is limited.

For more information or to register, contact Franca Floro, EMLI Program Director at 516-248-4800, ext. 149 or ffloro@dioceseli.org.

Did you know that Safe Church is available online?

Though in-person Safe Church training is required in almost all cases, there is the ability for those previously trained to renew their training online.

This requires each parish to have an online administrator who will be in charge of maintaining that parish's Safe Church records.

If your parish does not have an online administrator and wishes to set one up, you should designate a person, then contact Diocesan Safe Church Coordinator Aissa Hillebrand at 516-248-4800, ext. 150 or ahillebrand@dioceseli.org.

Safe Church Training

[P]

Date: Saturday, October 14, 2017

Time: 9 am – 3:30 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

Open to the public

This course repeats Saturday, December 2, 2017.

Topics covered include the legal, ethical, and theological foundations for the prevention of sexual abuse or harassment and the development of safe working and learning places. New church employees and lay leaders are encouraged to register for these workshops. The training is required for vestry and church staff, including Sunday School teachers and all parishioners who work with children. Safe Church workshops are offered in English and Spanish throughout the academic year, both at Mercer School and throughout the diocese.

Class size is limited. There is no fee for this event.

Lunch will be provided.

Pre-registration required.

School for Ministry

[LL/BI]

Date: Saturday, October 14, 2017

Time: 8:30 am – 5 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

See the full description of this gathering under the date of September 30.

Turning Points: Clergy Circle

[C/BI]

Date: Third Tuesdays, October to April
beginning October 17, 2017

Time: 10 am – 1 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

Each year the Diocese of Long Island provides a series of meetings to assist new clergy, as well as those new to the diocese, to prepare to minister well in New York State. The series meets on the third Tuesday of each month throughout the academic year.

Inclusion in this group is by invitation.

“Life of Moses” A Five Week Conversation in Scripture Offering

[P]

Date: Wednesday October 18, 2017, weekly
through November 15, 2017.

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

Instructor: Rev. Canon Bruce Griffith

Join Canon Griffith for a five-week study of *The Life of Moses* by the great 4th century theologian and mystic Gregory of Nyssa.

Nyssa takes us through a brief reading of the Moses story, and then launches us into the allegorical interpretation of scripture in which the story of Moses becomes a metaphor for the deepening of the spiritual life.

Session 1 will be an introduction to the life and work of Gregory of Nyssa and how the Bible was read in his place and time. Sessions 2 through 5 will deal with the evolution of Moses' life as he seeks greater clarity in his experience of God, concluding with his deeply mystical experience in the cloud at Sinai.

Each session will include ample time for discussing and questioning how we come to know God more deeply. Landscape, personality, climate, culture and the deepest human emotions and desires all come into play when we inquire into *The Life of Moses*.

Copies of *Gregory of Nyssa: The Life of Moses* in the Classics of Western Spirituality series are available in paperback from Amazon. A limited number of copies will be available at class. Reading the text will mean reading about 25 pages per week for the last four weeks.

To register, contact the Cathedral at cathedral@incarnationgc.org or the Mercer Website.

Racism Awareness Program (RAP) [P]

Date: Thursday, October 19, 2017

Time: 10 am – 4 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

This course repeats on Feb 24, 2018 and May 20, 2018.

Awareness of racism and response to it in our individual lives and in our communities remains as crucial as ever to the health of both Church and society. Participants will be led from an awareness of discrimination to an understanding of racism and other forms of oppression on the personal, interpersonal, institutional and systemic levels.

Pre-registration required.

What is Racism Awareness Program (RAP)?

This is a required training according to the canons of the Diocese of Long Island, Canon 4, Section III: "Education Training on Anti-Racism. All members of the clergy, and all seminarians, candidates for Holy Orders, and all employees and lay leadership of the diocese or of parishes, missions, chapels, or other diocesan units, shall attend training as approved by the Bishop, on issues of anti-racism in church and pastoral relationships."

Participants will be led from an awareness of discrimination to an understanding of racism and other forms of oppression on the personal, interpersonal, institutional and systemic levels.

Parish Communicators Day [P]

Date: Saturday, October 21, 2017

Time: 9 am – 4 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

If you are involved with communicating the mission and stories of your parish—whether that be via newsletter (electronic or print), a website, social media, or by other means—you are a parish communicator! All parish communicators are invited for a day of workshops and fellowship to improve skills, share ideas, and network with other communicators across the diocese.

Pre-registration required.

**ANNUAL CONVENTION
of the Diocese
November 10 & 11**

November

School for Ministry [LL/BI]

Date: Saturday, November 4, 2017

Time: 8:30 am – 5 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

See the full description of this gathering under the date of September 30.

Safe Church Training Bilingual (Spanish Language) Session [P]

Date: Saturday, November 4, 2017

Time: 9 am – 3 pm

Location: St Mark's Church, 33-50 82nd Street,
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Open to the public

This course repeats Saturday, December 2, 2017 in English at Mercer School.

Topics covered include the legal, ethical and theological foundations for the prevention of sexual abuse or harassment and the development of safe working and learning places. New church employees and lay leaders are encouraged to register for these workshops. The training is required for lay leaders and church staff, including Sunday School teachers and all parishioners who work with children.

Class size is limited. There is no fee for this event.

Lunch will be provided.

Register by phone at St Mark's Church 718-639-8893.

Altar Guild Quiet Day [P]

Date: Saturday, November 18, 2017
Time: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm
Location: Chapel of the Good Shepherd,
Mercer School of Theology

Guest Presenter: The Right Rev. GERALYN WOLF

A time apart to prepare for Advent.

Bag lunches can be purchased for \$10.00 or you may bring your own. Dessert & beverage provided.

For information and registration, contact Ms. Jane Ames, President at 516-921-0580.

School for Ministry [LL/BI]

Date: Saturday, November 18, 2017
Time: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Location: Mercer School of Theology

See the full description of this gathering under the date of September 30.

Turning Points: Clergy Circle [C/BI]

Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2017
Time: 10 am – 1 pm
Location: Mercer School of Theology

See the full description for this gathering under the date of October 17.

THANKSGIVING DAY
Thursday, November 23

Saint John's Bible:
An Introduction for Clergy and Lay [C]

Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2017
Time: Clergy 1 pm; Lay 7pm
Location: Cathedral of the Incarnation

Led by: Tim Ternes, Program Director for Saint John's Bible

Tim Ternes will lead a special introduction to The Saint John's Bible, geared towards members of the clergy. The Saint John's Bible is the first illuminated, handwritten Bible since the medieval period, and an international team of calligraphers and artists spent fifteen years creating it. Though the team used medieval techniques, the illustrations incorporate modern elements such as DNA strands, images from the Hubble telescope, and satellite photos of the Ganges River. A Heritage Edition of the Gospels Volume will be on exhibit at the Cathedral from November through May.



For more information, visit www.incarnationgc.org/grow/adult-ed or register at the Mercer website.

Illuminating the Word
with Saint John's Bible [P]

Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2017
Time: 7 pm
Location: Mercer School of Theology

Led by: Tim Ternes, Program Director for Saint John's Bible

Join scholar and speaker Tim Ternes as he introduces The Saint John's Bible to the Cathedral of the Incarnation and the surrounding community. The breadth and scope of The Saint John's Bible has been compared to that of The Sistine Chapel. It is the first illuminated, handwritten Bible since the medieval period, and an international team of calligraphers and artists spent fifteen years creating it. Though the team used medieval techniques, the illustrations incorporate modern elements such as DNA strands, images from the Hubble telescope, and satellite photos of the Ganges River. A Heritage Edition of the Gospels Volume will be on exhibit at the Cathedral from November through May.



For more information, visit www.incarnationgc.org/grow/adult-ed or register at the Mercer website.

ADVENT BEGINS December 3

December

Church Development Institute: Training clergy and lay leadership in congregational development best practices [LL]

Date: December 1-2, 2017

See the full description for this gathering under the date of September 29-30.

Safe Church Training [P]

Date: Saturday, December 2, 2017

Time: 9 am – 3:30 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

See the full description for this gathering under the date of October 14.

This course repeats Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018.

Class size is limited. There is no fee for this event.

Lunch will be provided.

Pre-registration required.

Advent Series: Illuminating the Word with Saint John's Bible [P]

Date: Wednesdays, December 6th through 20th, 2017

Time: 7 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

Led by: The Very Rev. Michael Sniffen,
Dean Cathedral of the Incarnation

The Very Rev. Michael Sniffen will lead a three week exploration of the powerful images of Advent in the Saint John's Bible.

A light supper in the refectory will be provided.

Registration required.

Visit www.incarnationgc.org/grow/adult-ed



School for Ministry [LL/BI]

Date: Saturday, December 16, 2017

Time: 8:30 am – 5 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

See the full description for this gathering under the date of September 30.

Turning Points: Clergy Circle [C/BI]

Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Time: 10 am – 1 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

See the full description for this gathering under the date of October 17.

January

Conversations in Scripture [P]

Date: Wednesdays, January 10th through 31st, 2018

Time: 7 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

An opportunity to read through Scripture, enjoy fellowship, and have a light discussion about the Bible.

Visit www.incarnationgc.org/grow/adult-ed

Eucharistic Visitor Training [LL]

Date: Saturday, January 13, 2018

Time: 9 am – 12 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

See the full description for this gathering under the date of August 19.

For registration, assure first that you are sponsored by your parish clergy, then contact Diane Muscarella at 516-248-4800, ext. 140 or dmuscarella@dioceseli.org.

Pre-registration required.

There is no fee for this event.

Turning Points: Clergy Circle [C/BI]

Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Time: 10 am – 1 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

See the full description for this gathering under the date of October 17.

**Preaching the Lectionary in Lent,
Holy Week, and Easter** [C]

Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Time: 9 am – 3:30 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

In cooperation with the ELCA Metropolitan NY Synod. Prepare to preach the holy seasons of Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

Guest presenter TBA.

Fee: \$50. including lunch.

For more information or registration, contact the Mercer Office.

Registration closes on January 10.

**Trinity Institute 2018 “Values in
Action” Video Conference** [P]

Date: Friday, February 2, 2018 –
Saturday, February 3, 2018.

Location: Mercer School in Garden City as a
partner site with Trinity Wall Street

The Gospel calls us to reconciliation. A focus on values can help us reach beyond political and ideological divides so as to form partnerships for common goals that matter. Through values alignment, rather than prescriptive structures of behavior, we can gain a greater understanding of others with whom we might otherwise disagree. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will preach the opening sermon, and Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow*, will be one of the speakers. People attending the program have the benefit of the entire program, along with the means to interact with each other and with the speakers.

For more information please go to
<https://www.trinitywallstreet.org/education>

**The Responsible Church:
Treasurer’s Workshop** [LL]

Date: Saturday, January 20, 2018

Time: 9 am – 3 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

The Treasurer’s Workshop addresses the principal responsibilities and tasks of a parish treasurer. Speakers include the Rev. Jerry Keucher, priest-in-charge of Saint Mary’s Church, Brooklyn, and former Treasurer of the Diocese of New York, along with Peter Robey, Director of Finance for the Diocese of Long Island.

Fee \$20 including lunch. Space is limited.

For information contact Diane Muscarella at
516-248-4800, ext. 140 or dmuscarella@dioceseli.org.

Pre-registration required.

February

**Church Development Institute: Training
clergy and lay leadership in congregational
development best practices.** [LL]

Date: February 2-3, 2018

See the full description for this gathering under the date of September 29-30.

Winter Clergy Day [C]

Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Time: 9:30 am – 3 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

For more information, contact the Bishop’s Office.

This gathering is for the clergy of the Diocese.

**ABSALOM JONES DAY
Celebration
February 10**

ASH WEDNESDAY February 14

Safe Church Training [P]

Date: Saturday, February 10, 2018

Time: 9 am – 3:30 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

See the full description for this gathering under the date of October 14.

This course repeats Saturday, April 7, 2018.

Class size is limited. There is no fee for this event.

Lunch will be provided.

Pre-registration required.

ECW Quiet Day for Lent [P]

Date: Saturday February 17, 2018

Time: 10 am – 3 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

A day apart for reflection and prayer during Lent.

For information and registration, contact Lois Rodney, ECW President at 718-723-6050.

Turning Points: Clergy Circle [C]

Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Time: 10 am – 1 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

See the full description for this gathering under the date of October 17.

Lenten Series: The Light of Christ in Saint John's Bible [P]

Date: Wednesday, February 21 – March 21, 2018

Four Wednesdays

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

Led by: The Very Rev. Michael Sniffen,
Dean Cathedral of the Incarnation

Following a light meal in the refectory, the Very Rev. Michael Sniffen, Dean of the Cathedral of the Incarnation, will lead an in-depth look at the images of Christ's journey to the cross in The Saint John's Bible.

*For more information,
visit www.incarnationgc.org/grow/adult-ed*



Racism Awareness Program (RAP) [P]

Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018

Time: 10 am – 4 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

See the full description for this gathering under the date of October 19.

This course repeats on May 19, 2018.

Pre-registration required.

March

Commission on Ministry - Discernment Day [LL/C/BI]

Date: Saturday, March 3, 2018

Time: 9 am – 12 noon

Location: Mercer School of Theology

This day is for those persons exploring a call to ordained ministry. Pre-registration is required and no aspirant may attend without his/her parish priest.

For information and registration, contact the Commission on Ministry through the Bishop's Office.

Eucharistic Visitor Training [P]

Date: Thursday, March 8, 2018

Time: 6-9 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

See the full description for this gathering under the date of August 19.

For registration, assure first that you are sponsored by your parish clergy, then contact Diane Muscarella at 516-248-4800, ext. 140 or dmuscarella@dioceseli.org.

There is no fee for this event.

Building Community Summit [P]

Date: Saturday, March 10, 2018

Time: 9 am – 4 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

Community: *The experience of belonging; feeling of being related to and a part of something; friendship, hospitality, conviviality*

A church community can serve as a powerful agent for change. This day long summit, developed and presented jointly by **Episcopal Ministries of Long Island** and the **Mercer School of Theology** will explore the topic of community building and the structures and systems of formation required to build them. Through a variety of workshops, attendees will have an opportunity to reflect on the deeper question of how we can transform the isolation and self-interest within our communities into connectedness and caring for the whole.

Themes for the day include:

- Being able to uncover and leverage individual gifts and community assets
- Shifting our focus; from problems to possibility, from fear to generosity, from scarcity to abundance
- Exploring inclusive community engagement; means and methods that foster relationship and connection

Invited speakers will deepen our understanding on various topics and several ministry partners who are using their parish strengths to create stronger connections within the community will also be profiled.

Join us for this day of learning how to build a more flourishing church community.

For more information, or to be added to the EMLI mailing list to receive registration materials, contact Franca Floro, Program Director, Episcopal Ministries at 516-248-4800, ext. 149 or ffloro@dioceseli.org.

HOLY WEEK Palm Sunday, March 25 – Easter, April 1

Vestry & Wardens Day [C/LL]

Date: Saturday, March 17, 2018

Time: 9 am – 3 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

This day will engage church Wardens and Vestry members in a lively reflection on their responsibilities as office-holders at the church. A broadened perspective will seek to uncover new possibilities both for the local church and for those in leadership positions. The Rev. Jerry Keucher, priest-in-charge at Saint Mary's Church, Brooklyn and formerly Treasurer of the Diocese of New York, along with Peter Robey and staff of the Diocese of Long Island Finance Office, will lead the day.

Fee: \$20 including lunch. Space is very limited.

For information contact Diane Muscarella at 516-248-4800, ext. 140 or dmuscarella@dioceseli.org.

Please register by March 10.

Pre-registration required.

Turning Points: Clergy Circle [C/BI]

Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Time: 10 am – 1 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

See the full description for this gathering under the date of October 17.

April

Safe Church Training [P]

Date: Saturday, April 7, 2018

Time: 9 am – 3:30 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

See the full description for this gathering under the date of October 14.

This course repeats Saturday, June 16, 2018.

Class size is limited. There is no fee for this event.

Lunch will be provided.

Pre-registration required.

Turning Points: Clergy Circle [C/BI]

Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Time: 10 am – 1 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

See the full description for this gathering under the date of October 17.

Commission on Ministry Opening Event for Seekers

Date: Thursday, April 26, 2018

Time: 6 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Mercer Library

The evening is the next step in discernment for those exploring a call to ordained ministry. Seekers and their companions meet with the Commission on Ministry for orientation and scheduling of the year's journey.

For more information, contact the Bishop's Office.

Church Development Institute: Training clergy and lay leadership in congregational development best practices [LL]

Date: April 27-28, 2018

See the full description for this gathering under the date of September 29-30.

May

Clergy Conference 2018 [C]

Date: May 1-3, 2018

The annual Clergy Conference of the Diocese of Long Island invites the deacons, priests, and bishops serving in the Diocese to gather for prayer, learning, and fellowship. The location of the Conference and information on theme and leader(s) will be provided to all clergy in a timely manner. Registration information will also be provided at that time. The Conference provides a unique moment annually of enrichment and celebration for those who serve the Church as ordained leaders.

For information, contact the Bishop's Office.

The Annual Robert Farrar Capon Lecture [P]

Date: Thursday, May 3, 2018

Time: 6 pm Reception; 7 pm Lecture

Location: Mercer School of Theology

Science & Faith in Harmony: Creation, Science, and The Saint John's Bible

Presented by: Anton M. Koekemoer, Ph.D.,
Hubble Astronomer

Dr. Koekemoer is a research astrophysicist with the Hubble Space Telescope and has been on its scientific staff for over 20 years. His main research interests include the formation and growth of galaxies and black holes in the early universe and across cosmic time. He is also a committed Christian whose faith plays a central role in his life, and he considers the universe to be one of the ways in which God has chosen to reveal His glory to humankind, so that is possible for our Christian faith to be reconciled in harmony with our scientific understanding of the universe.

*For more information, visit
www.incarnationgc.org/grow/adult-ed
or the Mercer website.*

Racism Awareness Program (RAP) [P]

Date: Saturday, May 19, 2018

Time: 10 am – 4 pm

Location: Mercer School

See the full description for this gathering under the date of October 19.

Pre-registration required.

Parish Administrators Day [LL/BI]

Date: Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Time: 9:30 am – 3 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

Parish administrators and bookkeepers are once again invited to join together for fellowship and appreciation. This day, which is repeated by popular demand, will help the attendees to step back to allow God to speak and nourish their souls. Provided with gratitude for the commitment, skill, and daily effort of parish administrators across the Diocese of Long Island.

For information and registration visit the Mercer website or call 516-248-4800, ext. 140.

**Baccalaureate Service
“Mass on the Grass”**

Date: Saturday, May 19, 2018

Time: 11 am

Location: Cathedral of the Incarnation

Please join the entire diocese in recognizing and blessing our high school seniors as they prepare to transition to their next phase of life. This will be an opportunity to thank our seniors for their gifts, talent and service in their parishes and our diocesan ministries. Seniors will have time to connect with friends from across the diocese and learn about campus ministries and our Episcopal ministries for young adults.

For more information, contact Canon Myra Garnes, Director of Youth Ministry at 516-248-4800, ext. 118.

June

Safe Church Training [P]

Date: Saturday, June 16, 2018

Time: 9 am – 3:30 pm

Location: Mercer School of Theology

See the full description for this gathering under the date of October 14.

Class size is limited. There is no fee for this event.

Lunch will be provided.

Pre-registration required.

**How to Host a Safe Church
Training at Your Parish?**

There are instances in which trainings may take place off-site of the Mercer School Campus. There are a number of trainers authorized by the Diocese of Long Island to travel to your parish and lead an onsite training session. In total, trainings usually last between 4-5 hours accommodating no more than 40-50 people. The trainer's fee is \$400. Parishes may not charge participants for these sessions, so you may want to partner with a neighboring parish to share the cost. During sessions, a member of clergy, staff, or vestry should be available for pastoral purposes or if any questions or concerns regarding your specific parish context arise.

Parish training sessions will be listed online on the diocesan and Mercer website's calendars, and are open to all members of the diocese. Host parishes handle the registration process, and may give priority to their own parishioners.

If you are interested in this option, please email Safe Church Coordinator Aissa Hillebrand at ahillebrand@dioceseli.org

THE REV. J. CLARENCE JONES LIBRARY of the Mercer School of Theology

Except when the library space is being used for meetings, it is open when the offices of the Mercer School are open, typically, 9 am – 4 pm Tuesday through Friday and 8:30 am – 2 pm on Saturday. Circulation is by application. The library's website is <http://Mercer.tlcdelivers.com:8080/>. The library's ebook website is <http://mercerebooks.lib.overdrive.com/>. To ensure that the space is and will be open, potential visitors should contact the library director Charles Egleston at 516-248-4800, ext. 139 or cegleston@dioceseli.org.

The Rev. Jones (1859-1942) was rector of St. Mary's Church, Brooklyn from 1899 until 1936. He was an Examining Chaplain and a member of the Standing Committee remembered by Bishop De Wolfe for "His firm convictions that the Church of Christ will long be felt in the life of the Diocese. As an Examining Chaplain, he had the opportunity of impressing the candidates for Holy Orders with the deep significance of our faith and its spiritual reality."

The collections of the library are chiefly historical.

**Check the Mercer School
website calendar for updated
info and events.**

www.mercerschool.org

WORSHIP AND STUDY

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd lies at the heart of the Mercer School. Attendance at Chapel services is a vital expression of the corporate life of the Mercer community as well as a means of assisting each individual in his or her spiritual formation. It is hoped that all who study at Mercer will avail themselves of the Chapel and its services and will assist in their conduct.

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd

- ◆ Is always available for quiet meditation and prayer
- ◆ Is open to groups wishing to gather together to pray morning/evening or other prayer services

A rota of faculty and Mercer students who volunteer to assist in the conduct of services in the Chapel as lectors, leaders of the intercessions, and acolytes/lay Eucharistic ministers is posted near the beginning of each semester. Changes are the responsibility of the individuals concerned.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Since members of the faculty and students at Mercer come from many locations throughout the Diocese, occasions when the weather is threatening or hazardous will vary within the area. Each instructor will have the responsibility of deciding whether or not to cancel his or her class in the event of inclement weather and the instructor will make every effort possible to contact students in the event that such a cancellation takes place.

Note that whenever the Bishop's Office is closed due to poor weather, Mercer School will close as well.

When cancellation becomes necessary Mercer School will make every attempt to communicate the news to all those registered for any affected gathering. Please assure that in registering, your contact information is provided and is correct and up-to-date.



*God, who created all peoples in your image,
we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and
cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening
circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those
who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love
is made perfect in our love for all your children; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

— *Prayer for the Diversity of Races and Cultures,*
Book of Common Prayer (1979)

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