



Parish Resources for Resisting Racism

With tears in our eyes and Christ in our hearts, we must do everything we can to confront and dismantle the structures and systems that allow such injustices to occur.

Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutiérrez, Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Not just an issue or a cause, anti-racism is a spiritual practice, a life's work. For white people especially, it involves unlearning and changing long-held patterns of privilege that harm people of color. For all of us, it requires creating communities committed to racial honesty, support and healing.

The Anti-Racism Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania suggests the following ways to pray, learn and live into a practice of racial justice and repair.

Pray

Pray their names. Nearly every month this year at least one person of color has died or has been gravely harmed at the hands of police.

Include their names in the Prayers of the People. Click the links to learn their stories.

[William Green](#) (Jan. 27)

[Keith Collins](#) (Jan 30)

[Ahmaud Arbery](#) (Feb. 23)

[Manuel Ellis](#) (March 3)

[Breonna Taylor](#) (March 13)

[Steven Demarco Taylor](#) (April 18)

[Sean Read](#) (May 6)

[George Floyd](#) (May 25)

[David McAtee](#) (June 1)

[Rayshard Brooks](#) (June 12)

[Jacob Blake](#) (Aug. 23)

Bring it to liturgy. The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music of the Episcopal Church. has created these [Prayers of the People and Confession](#).

Celebrate the feast days of saints of color, such as **Absalom Jones**, (Feb. 13), the first black priest in America and the founder of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia. **Pauli Murray** (July 1), a champion of civil rights, was the first Black woman priest in the Episcopal Church.

Find lists of black saints [here](#) and [here](#).





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Learn

Participate in diocesan anti-racism trainings. The Diocesan Anti-Racism Commission offers an annual series of trainings to help parish staffs and members begin their work in racial justice. The trainings are mandatory for diocesan clergy. Visit the [Racism and Reconciliation page](#) of the diocesan website to find the next scheduled training. The series includes:

- **Introduction to Systemic Racism.** Explores the multi-layered manifestations of systemic racism in the United States. After taking this prerequisite session, the remaining four trainings can be taken in any order.
- **Racism and History.** Explores how systemic racism was created over time through laws, policies and practices and how our society has been shaped by them.
- **Racism and Institutions.** Explores the ways in which racism manifests in American institutions such as education, healthcare, finance, employment, entertainment, housing, mass media and religion.
- **Racism and Active Accountability.** Considers the ways in which we may be actively accountable for identifying, resisting and responding to the racism that shows up in our lives and the institutions that we lead.
- **Racism and Identity.** Explores the ways in which systemic racism informs personal identity, behaviors and outcomes.

White people can begin to develop new habits of anti-racist awareness and action with the [21-Day Challenge](#), which offers resources for daily learning and action.

Engage your parish in ongoing racism education. Two exceptional resources from the Episcopal Church include [Becoming Beloved Community...Where You Are](#) and [The Sacred Ground Dialogue Series](#).

Start a reading and discussion group. The Anti-Racism Commission has multiple copies of the following books to get started: *How to be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi; *Living into God's Dream* by Catherine Meeks; *Waking up White* by Debbie Irvin; *White Fragility* by Robin DeAngelo. For information on these and other titles contact ARC co-chair, Rev. Lynn Hade at rectoradvent4@gmail.com.

Find resources on responding to racist violence at episcopalchurch.org.





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Engage

A life practice of racial justice and healing requires transformation on every level, from the individual to our national and global systems. That means investing our resources and time in creating institutions that are racially just.

Get out the Vote. Our elected officials on all levels help determine whether our public institutions governing areas such as education, justice, and health are racially equitable and just. Choosing just representatives is essential to a just society. *Vote Faithfully: An Election Engagement Toolkit*, put out by the Office of Government Relations of the Episcopal Church, provides a variety of resources for voter mobilization and advocacy in 2020. Find more on their [website](#).

Evaluate the level of racial justice in your local community. A google search will indicate whether your police are outfitted with body cameras or whether your city or town currently employs evidence-based police de-escalation trainings, writes blogger Corinne Shutack in *75 Things White People can do for Racial Justice*. [See the rest of her suggestions here](#).

Connect the dots on the current moment. Go deeper into spiritual formation around tough issues of race and faith with the video series, [Finding Brave Space with Dr. Meeks](#), produced by the [Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing](#) in Atlanta, GA.

Do the inner work work. In her article, "[What can White People Do?](#)", Philadelphia-based race educator, Ali Michael, suggests White people learn the names and stories of people of color who have died at the hands of police, check in on friends of color when incidents happen, and ask some deep personal questions on race in their own lives.

Blogger Taharee Jackson offers additional ideas in her blog post, "[I'm White and I'm Outraged by Ahmaud Arbery's Murder. Now What?](#)"

Create Healing Spaces for Black, Indigenous and People of Color. The Office of Black Ministries of the Episcopal Church offers a curriculum on Healing from Internalized Oppression. For more information, contact the Rev. Ronald C. Byrd, Missioner for Black Ministries, rbyrd@episcopalchurch.org.

Take the next steps. The Anti-Racism Commission can help your clergy and leaders further the work of anti-racism at your parish. For more information contact Canon Toneh Smyth, tsmyth@diopa.org.

