

# TIDINGS



October 2024

Newsletter of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Danville, CA

Stewardship season is upon us. Each of you have various levels of engagement with the process. Some of you are very “bought in” to the spirituality of stewardship, and it is a pillar of how you express your faith. Some of you are in the “gotta eat your brussels sprouts” category, so you do it because it helps out the church and you honor your commitments. Some of you think, why should the church be always asking for money?

Just start where you are. See if God has new things to show you in volunteering and money. Regardless of which bucket you fit in, there is always room to grow spiritually by committing to something outside of yourself. In the realm of practicality, your generosity allows for a mission and ministry to happen in this place we love. You should have received our stewardship chair's introductory stewardship letter by now. If you haven't, let us know so that we can update our information.

## Vital + Thriving Update

Your vestry had a Vital + Thriving discernment retreat a few weeks ago to pray about our community. We listened for the Spirit in order understand where God is leading us. We came up with a “missional challenge.” This challenge is big, and it asks to seek out community partners and church members to ‘sniff out’ the areas of renewal and restoration that God is already working on.



This is not traditional outreach. In a traditional version of outreach, we “care for” others.” Outreach is central to who we are and is wonderful. With this missional challenge below, we are seeking who we can “partner with.” This might lead to outreach and it might not, but the goal is to build community ties beyond our church walls. It could include the schools, civic organizations, non-profits, other faith communities. It is an attempt to find the broad view of *who* we are and *why* we are.

**St. Timothy's Missional Challenge** is to cultivate our community and campus to be an even more restoring oasis and sanctuary from the pressures faced by individuals and families in Danville and the surrounding areas.

We are a blessed community, yet there are very high expectations around work, education, and caregiving.

All these factors contribute to stress and mental health struggles. We want to be a place for rest and renewal, promoting the idea that personal worth is not defined by achievement.

We want to support mental health, engage the pressing loneliness that young and old feel. We want to foster a healthier, more balanced approach to life that counters the culture of overachievement -- with God's help. Simple right?

## FALL OVERVIEW

*For more information on these events, keep flipping through this edition of the Tidings and watch for the weekly Thursday email.*



### **Stewardship Begins**

September 29 Sunday - both services  
(Church)

### **Diocesan Listening Session on**

**Zoom** with Bishop Rios

October 3 Thursday

6:30 - 8:30pm

*(MUST pre-register to get personal link)*

### **Movie Night - Inside Out 2**

October 4 Friday

4th - 8th graders

6 - 8pm (Youth Room/PH)

### **League of Women Voters**

October 6 Sunday

11:30am (Church and livestream)

### **St. Francis & Pet Blessing**

October 6 Sunday

2pm (Patio)

### **Tarantula Hike**

October 13 Sunday

5pm (Mitchell Canyon)

### **Covenant Sunday & Lunch**

October 20 Sunday

**ONE** service only at 10am

Lunch served after church

### **Deanery Youth Group**

October 20 Sunday

1 - 3pm (Grace, Martinez in Parish Hall)

### **Diocesan Convention**

October 25-26 Friday / Saturday

(Grace Cathedral)

### **Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing**

October 27 Sunday

2pm (Parish Hall)

### **All Saints' Sunday**

November 3, Sunday

Necrology at both services

### **HiCap Presentation**

(Health Insurance Advocacy Program)

November 3 Sunday

11:30am (Church and livestream)

### **Advent Begins!**

December 1 Sunday

### **Christmas Box Packing**

December 7 Saturday

(Parish Hall or offsite)

### **St. Nicholas and Photos**

December 8 Sunday

During and after services

(Church, Parish Hall, Patio)

### **Rector's Open House**

December 8 Sunday

5 - 7pm (Rectory)

### **Teddy Bear Tea**

December 14 Saturday (Grace House)

### **Christmas Eve Schedule**

December 24 Tuesday

3pm and 7pm

### **Christmas Day Schedule**

December 25 Wednesday

# WIND IN THE TREES AND GRATITUDE

A strange sound was coming from above my head; looking up, I saw wind moving through the leaves of trees. There was not a breath of air on the ground, but far above my head, limbs bowed and leaves shook making a loud shuffling sound I had never heard. Out of nowhere, air struck my face, and a cool downdraft of air made me quiver from head to toe; fall was coming. A few clouds, changing temperatures, more summer and it is fall. The earth turns, the moon rises and life changes. In the moment I felt that cold drought of air I felt myself overwhelmed with gratitude for life itself. It seems a simple thing, to not be surprised by change, but I am surprised. The feelings of loss and longing, anger and disappointment, and joy and grief, are contained in the everyday challenges of broken coffee cups and skinned elbows.



Embracing change with an attitude of gratitude is my prayer today - simply be present in every moment, letting go of anxiety that leads me away from Christ's freedom. God is seeking us out—. When I try to practice being in each moment I see the laughter of a running child, feel the sorrow of a young woman crying in my arms, and feel the whisper of Love in a squeezed hand. God, help me to see your wounds in our wounds, your sorrow in our sorrow, your longing for us in our longing for you. Christ, walk with me this new season, when the leaves litter the ground, the nights grow longer, and darkness conceals the path to move forward. May my gratitude lead me deeper into your heart.

## QR CODES

Let's make life easy! If you are new to QR codes, see instructions below. To use a QR code, you can scan it with your phone's camera and follow the instructions that appear on your screen:

1. Open your phone's camera app
2. Point the camera at the QR code
3. Tap the notification or banner that appears on your screen
4. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish the process



**Listening Session**  
with  
Bsp Rios  
Registration  
& Zoom  
Link



**Parish Calendar**



**2025 Pledge Form**



**Giving**  
(St. Timothy's  
via Breeze)



**Volunteer**  
at  
Loaves &  
Fishes



**Donate**  
Rise Against  
Hunger



**Register**  
Rise Against  
Hunger

## FAITH THROUGH THE TIMES by SALLY JESS

Since John's fall in July, we I have not been able to worship in person. We do join you every Sunday online, and Pastor Susan has brought Communion to us. On her last visit, we talked about faith, and she asked me to write an article.

When I was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in a small San Joaquin Valley town during World War II, my Dad joined the Navy. He was assigned to a unit at Quonset Point, Rhode Island. Dad told me I was in charge of my mother and my young sister until he could send for us.

I was overwhelmed and felt a need for help. That is when my faith journey began. One Sunday, some friends asked me to go with them to the Episcopal Church, which met in rooms above the Montgomery Ward store on Main Street. The priest that day explained the Liturgical Seasons. The order and predictability opened my eyes and gave me a sense of peace I had never experienced. My faith journey began that day.

I prayed when my Dad was flying in battles in the Pacific and gave thanks when he came home. Again, my faith had held me together during those difficult years.

On the first weekend in my first year at Cal, I had a blind date. I told my roommate, "I'm going to marry that guy." Well, that guy was John, and we were married in Christ Church, Alameda, two days after graduation. Our faith was enhanced by being confirmed there during our engagement.

John served three years of Navy active duty on a destroyer—six months in the port of Long Beach and six months at sea. My faith was tested again. He returned home just ten days before our daughter was born.

Several corporate moves for John required me to apply for an out of state teaching credential, take the National Teacher's Exam and take additional college courses at night to prove I was qualified to teach outside of California. My faith held me together.

We returned to California and when we retired, we settled in Danville. Our close friends,



Jane and Tom Trittipio, told us we had to join them and become members of St. Timothy's Church. Our faith had brought us "home."

During the last thirty years, we have served on the Vestry, headed six Stewardship campaigns, restarted the Endowment effort and organized Foyer Groups.

I have faith for a bright future for St. Timothy's Church.

# DIOCESAN STRATEGIC VISION PROCESS



## **Discerning God's Future for the Diocese of California: Strategic Vision Process Gets Underway**

Last year, the Executive Council of the Diocese of California established a Strategic Vision Committee (SVC) to foster long-term planning for adaptive change in response to the challenges and opportunities facing our Diocese.

The SVC is working collaboratively with Bishop Austin to co-create a strategic vision plan. This work invites the active participation of the wider diocesan community as we prayerfully and joyfully discern God's promised and preferred future for our Diocese.

We are all in this together, and your involvement is essential to our success.

Strategic Vision Process FAQ: [diocal.org/strategic-vision-process/](https://diocal.org/strategic-vision-process/)  
Strategic Vision Committee: [diocal.org/strategic-vision-committee/](https://diocal.org/strategic-vision-committee/)

## **Upcoming Listening Session**

**Tuesday, October 3**

6:30 – 8:30pm

**[Online Zoom Meeting](#)**

Spanish interpretation will be available at all meetings, and written materials from each session will be translated into Spanish, Mandarin, Tagalog, and Tongan.

We will present initial learnings from our Listening Sessions at this year's Diocesan Convention on October 25 and 26.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



**TO HOPE AND ACT  
WITH CREATION**



Our children continue to celebrate the Season of Creation and hear stories about God's love for people and all of creation. We are growing our special plants to bring home and share. During this season of harvest, we are also thinking about all the people who help to grow our food. We will talk about saints, including Saint Francis, Saint Clare, and a few other familiar and unfamiliar saints.

Every Sunday when we light our candles, our children get excited; they are always reflecting the light of Christ.

# YOUTH MINISTRY

We would like to invite all 4th - 8th graders for pizza, foosball, and movie.

Maybe your 5th grader is too sophisticated for Inside Out 2, but this is the most complex and interesting "kids" movie they will watch in a long time.

**Deanery Youth  
Group**

**Sunday  
October 20th  
1 - 3 pm**

at Grace Church  
Martinez

More information to come

**INSIDE  
OUT 2**

**YOUTH  
MOVIE NIGHT**

Join us for pizza and a movie!  
**4th - 8th graders**  
Meet in the Youth Room

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4  
6 - 8 PM**

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

# AUGUST YOUTH GROUP



# HOT DOGS & TRIVIA PARTY





**ICE CREAM SOCIAL  
HELPERS**



# NASA AMES RESEARCH CENTER TOUR

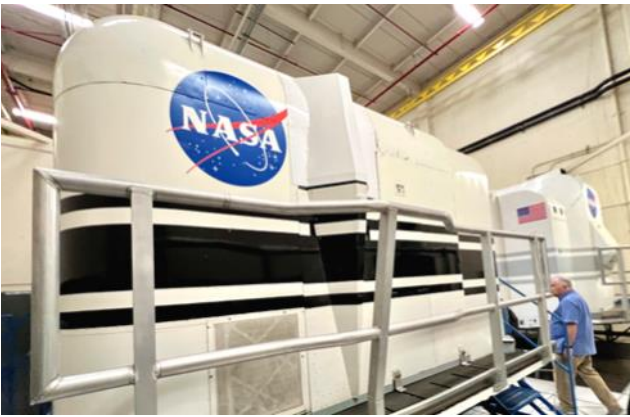
As a donation to FOTH, Debbie and Rob Koteskey hosted a group of parishioners for a fantastic tour at NASA Ames Research Center, where Rob has the privilege to work as an Aircraft Pilot and Senior Advisor. The tour included 4 stops: The Vertical Motion Simulator (VMS), NASA Ames Flight Operations Division, The National Full Scale Aerodynamics Complex (NFAC) and Lighter Than Air Research. **Thank you Rob and Debbie!**

<https://www.nasa.gov/aeronautics/what-is-the-vertical-motion-simulator/>

<https://www.nasa.gov/centers-and-facilities/ames/testing-on-the-ground-before-you-fly-wind-tunnels-at-nasa-ames/>

<https://ltaresearch.com>

*\*Stay tuned for more amazing opportunities that might be donated to the 2025 FOTH!*



# RISE AGAINST HUNGER



## Meal Packing Event

Sunday, October 27, 2024  
2:00 – 4:00 pm  
St. Timothy's Parish Hall

**We need donations to purchase the supplies and  
80 volunteers to package the meals.**

The annual Meal Packing event is a fun, hands-on way to help those suffering from hunger. Volunteers package meals through an assembly-line process that combines rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and vitamins to create fortified, shelf-stable meals. The meals are distributed by the non-profit Rise Against Hunger to areas of food insecurity and disaster sites world-wide.

### How Does a Meal Packing Event Work?

Rise Against Hunger brings the supplies and equipment, we recruit volunteer workers and donations for the supplies. Each volunteer can package 200 meals, or approximately \$75 worth of supplies in 2 hours. We encourage everyone to participate and donate what you can towards the cost of the meals. Donations are not required to participate.



Invite Family and Friends

We have a job for all ages – Standing & Sitting Jobs Available  
(Youth under 13 will work with an adult)

Register & Donate Now: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/StTimothys2024>

Registration also available on Sundays

Make checks out to St. Timothy's, put Rise Against Hunger in the memo line.

Contact: Joann Oliver, [joannmarieoliver@gmail.com](mailto:joannmarieoliver@gmail.com)

# LOAVES & FISHES



The following *Loaves and Fishes* work day notice is **NOT** part of our roster of volunteers for the Martinez Dining Room on the second Tuesday of every month. Let Leslie Firth know if you would like to be included on our Martinez roster of 14 people. Only six people can come on our Tuesday work day.

Loaves & Fishes, Martinez – 9.10.2024

Dave S., Lisa K., Ron T., Holly T., Leslie F., Betty M.

Contact: Leslie Firth ([lesliefirth@comcast.net](mailto:lesliefirth@comcast.net))

## **Loaves and Fishes could use help with volunteers in the Walnut Creek Trinity Center Dining room.**

*This is an opportunity for anyone who would like to volunteer to work on their own at the L & F dining room in Walnut Creek on available days. It is so much closer than Martinez.*

**There are open spots that can be filled, but Fridays need the most help. Here is the shift information and responsibilities:**

Shift time: 10:30am-1:30pm

Location: 1888 Trinity Ave, Walnut Creek

(located inside the Trinity Center/ Parking is located in the big lot across the street)

Dining Room Volunteers work closely with staff and other volunteers to perform the following duties:

Light food preparation: green salad, fruit salad, bread/butter

Serve meal in to-go containers

Assist in clean up

Other duties that may also be assigned include unloading vehicles when donated groceries arrive, rolling silverware, replenishing meals from the kitchen, etc.

The volunteer must be able to stand between 3-4 hours, lift up to 25 pounds. Volunteers must wear closed toe shoes, long pants, and shirts that do not fully expose your arms, and long hair must be tied back.

To sign up for a shift please follow this [link](#) and select the Walnut Creek Dining room. Then enter your first name and email at the top of the page. If you have any issues with signing up for a shift or have any questions, please email me directly at [kai@loavesfishescc.org](mailto:kai@loavesfishescc.org)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**

# VOTING RESOURCES



**October 6<sup>th</sup> | 11:30-1:00**

*Offered by New Episcopal Women ("NEW")*

The League of Women Voters will join us again to give a nonpartisan overview of ballot measures. They do NOT endorse candidates. They DO explore the complexities, funding and facts behind measures on the ballot. They are a grassroots organization promoting: ways to make democracy work; criminal justice reform; housing and homelessness reform; and climate change and sustainability issues.

To quote Jefferson's 1789 letter to Richard Price, "... wherever the people are well informed they can be trusted with their own government; that whenever things get so far wrong as to attract their notice, they may be relied on to set them to rights."

Please join us in our efforts to be well informed and to secure sources of reliable and fact-based information. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Lisa Guevara Perry [Lisa@PMCAPP.com](mailto:Lisa@PMCAPP.com).



## **Diocese of California: Getting "souls to the polls" in 2024**

In the words of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, "It is a Christian obligation to vote, and more than that, it is the church's responsibility to help get souls to the polls." Helpful resources to help navigate

election season in prayerful, practical ways:

[Vote Faithfully Election Engagement 2024 Toolkit](#)

[2024 Faithful Voter Reflection Guide](#)

[A Season of Prayer: For an Election](#)

### ***Other Voting Resources***

#### **SRVUSD Board of Trustees**

Saturday, October 5  
4 - 5:30pm

Areas 2 & 3 Candidate Forum  
Must pre-register  
Click [HERE](#)

#### **Vote Your Conscience**

Thursday, October 10  
7pm, zoom

Must pre-register (Email  
[thelotts@gmail.com](mailto:thelotts@gmail.com))

## **Ballot Party CA, Alameda & Contra Costa County, Local Measures**

**October 17, 2024  
7:30 - 9 p.m.  
(Zoom Webinar)**

Do you understand the propositions and measures on the 11/5 ballot? Ballots will be mailed out by 10/11. Join us for unbiased informational review.



Sponsored by St. Clare's Episcopal Church  
(Pleasanton) with Genesis of CA



Advance Registration Required  
here: <https://tinyurl.com/57papzdb>

# OCTOBER BOOK GROUP

## OCTOBER 20th Horse

**“A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history...”**

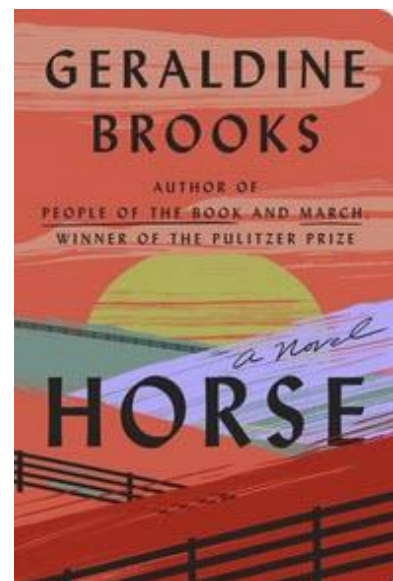
Are you interested? Join the members of the St. Timothy's Book group to discuss Horse by Geraldine Brooks in the Overby Library in Grace House after the 10:00 am church service on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

This novel discusses the relationship of one of the greatest racehorses in American flat racing history - Lexington with his black enslaved groom. That part of the story is set in the pre-Civil War south. The horse and his groom were immortalized by a young artist. The portrait of the horse is owned by the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

A second part of the novel follows the search in the mid 1950's by a gallery owner for information about the pre-Civil War painting of the horse and his groom.

Finally, in 2019, we meet a Smithsonian scientist from Australia and Theo, a Nigerian American art historian, who meet when they research the bones of “the Horse” and the history of the role that Black horsemen had in the early days of flat racing in the United States. It's an engrossing story and historically accurate.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/lexington-one-of-the-greatest-race-horses-of-all-time-comes-roaring-back-to-life-180980132/>



# HiCap PRESENTATION



**November 3rd**

11:30-1:00

offered by New Episcopal Women (“NEW”)

HiCap or the Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program provides non-sponsored information about Supplemental Medicare Insurance programs. They cover health insurance, managed care programs and prescription drug programs. These are often known as Medicare Part B, Part C and Part D supplemental coverage. If you are over 65 or approaching your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday in the next year or two, you should consider learning about their services. Choices made in your health insurance during this period can have a lasting impact on later coverage and costs.

Their services are free and unbiased.

One-on-one assistance is available from registered health insurance counselors. Sponsored self-interested counselors may offer you a “free lunch” but you can wind up paying for it in excess fees and inferior coverage.

**October 15 – December 7 is Open Enrollment for Medicare.**

You can also change Medicare plans in the month preceding your birthday (which, depending on the time of year, can cause you to forfeit your deductible year-to-date contributions if changing providers).

Please join us in our efforts to be well informed and to secure sources of reliable, unbiased, and fact-based information.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Lisa Guevara Perry  
[Lisa@PMCAPP.com](mailto:Lisa@PMCAPP.com).

## DIOCESE OF CALIFORNIA UPDATES



### EpiscoProm

Join us for EpiscoProm, Episcopal Impact Fund Night of Light 2024!

**Saturday, October 19**

**6:00 pm**

**The City Club of San Francisco**

Taking a page from the high school kids... here is our PROMPOSAL\*, delivered by the Rt. Rev. Austin K. Rios, to you...

<https://youtu.be/qM98R-dc5EA>

**Buy your tickets now!**

### Please fill out this survey!

The Revs. Kevin and Annalise Deal are exploring organizing a two-week immersive experience in Xela, Guatemala for clergy and laity to learn Spanish, to take place next summer. **No Spanish language knowledge is required!**

The total cost, including flights, meals, lodging, and five hours of one-on-one tutoring every weekday, would be about \$2,000. Please complete the survey if interested.



# VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

September 18, 2024

The Vestry met on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 6:30pm In Grace House.

## MOTIONS:

- The Vestry unanimously approved the August Vestry meeting minutes, the reports and documents submitted by the treasurer, and several submitted rector and commission reports submitted prior to the meeting.
- The Vestry unanimously approved to commission Karen A, Rev. Todd, and Scott M to compose a job description, make an offer, and craft a letter of agreement for the part-time facility position.

## PARISH FINANCES:

### **St. Timothy's Danville Treasurer's Report** **Financial Summary for August YTD, 2024**

	Actual	Budget
Total Income	\$523,403	\$489,467
Total Expenses	<u>\$546,340</u>	<u>\$575,585</u>
Net Operating Income	(\$22,937)	(\$86,118)

## • Non-Recurring Action Items:

### a. Minor damage to Redwoods

1. Karen A. noticed tools, ropes, and trash near the redwoods on the east side of the campus. Upon further investigation it was discovered that boys, probably from the neighborhood, had built a fort in the tree, causing potential damage to the tree as well as creating a safety issue themselves.
2. The local authorities were called, and the boys were confronted. The area was cleaned up, the lower platform was dismantled, and the boys were told to discontinue their project.

## • Discussion Items

### a. Facility Part -Time Staff

**MOTION:** It was moved by Eric, seconded by Liz, and passed unanimously to commission Karen A., Rev. Todd, and Scott M. to compose a job description, make an offer, and craft a letter of agreement for the part-time facility position.

### b. Vital + Thriving Retreat

1. The Vestry Retreat was scheduled on August 24, 2024. From that meeting came the following Mission Statement compiled & written by Eric Parnell.

### 2. **St. Timothy's Missional Challenge**

In our community of Danville and surrounding areas, we recognize many people experience grueling work schedules along with significant duties of raising families and/or caring for aging parents. The culture places a high value on performance and

over-achievement which can lead to a myriad of physical and mental health problems. We want to offer an alternative, an oasis, which springs from our faith. Put another way, we want to demonstrate to our culture that it's ok to take time out and rest and even that one's worth is not based on achievement. This spans generations as youth in our area are often under enormous pressure to get top grades, participate in myriads of activities, all to get into the best colleges in the country.

Accordingly, we have the following general goals:

1. Cultivate rest and renewal in a busy culture.
2. Support mental health
3. Address loneliness
4. Encourage listening to one another as a means of support.

• **FYI**

- a. Earthquake Insurance – anticipate a large increase this year
- b. Pest Control
  - Rev. Susan has been commissioned as our liaison to investigate our current method of campus pest control. The Vestry's aim is to make it environmentally friendly.

Parish members are welcome to attend Vestry meetings. The next meeting is on Wednesday October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:30 in the Conference Room in Grace House.

The minutes of the Vestry meeting will be filed in the Parish Office after they are approved by the Vestry. Submitted by Kris Manning, Vestry Clerk

## CONTACT US

**The Rev. Todd Bryant** - Rector  
(925) 837-4993 x114  
Rector@SaintTimothysDanville.org

**The Rev. Susan Geissler-O'Neil** - Associate Rector  
(925) 837-4993 x113  
Sgeissleroneil@SaintTimothysDanville.org

**Myles Ellis** - Director of Music  
(925) 837-4993 x115  
MusicDir@SaintTimothysDanville.org

**Facilities** (Volunteer)  
(925) 837-4993 x111  
Facilities@SaintTimothysDanville.org

**Steve Zimmerman** - Bookkeeper  
(925) 837-4993 x116  
Bookkeeper@SaintTimothysDanville.org

**Dick Firth** - Treasurer (Volunteer)  
(925) 837-4993 x117  
Treasurer@SaintTimothysDanville.org

**Kimberly Bryant** - Parish Administrator  
(925) 837-4993 x110  
Parish@SaintTimothysDanville.org

**Carleen Carns** - Pledge Secretary (Volunteer)  
Pledges@SaintTimothysDanville.org



THE DIOCESE OF  
**CALIFORNIA**

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE BAY AREA

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<https://www.diocal.org/news-events/past-diocesan-newsletters/>