

Diocesan Response to Operation Epic Fury

February 28, 2026

Dear People of God:

From Psalm 122

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *

May they prosper who love you.

While others write long letters decrying the failure of men, I call this Diocese to the discipline of prayer. Specifically, that the sanctity of life will be recognized and honored by all involved in the war that commenced today in the Middle East. It is our prayer that our world leaders may finally come to grips with the presence of real evil in the world.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio articulated how the priority of our President is to operate “with precision” when responding along-side Israel and Saudi Arabia. The focus of the allied leaders who authorized today’s actions specifically targeted those individuals as well as facilities that have for the past 47 years been the largest proponent of state sponsored terrorism and theocratic human rights injustices.

We, too, as the Church are to respond with precision while employing every resource gifted to the Church by God Himself.

Know your congressional representation and pray for them by name. Pray for your Iranian and Jewish neighbors by name. Then, fill our churches and saturate the walls with the prayer and petitions of the Baptized. Intentionally exchange time away from social media, cable news networks, and ideological websites with time before altars, even if in silence and alone.

I am calling on us to deploy our Christian, moral and sacramental voices. All other voices that spew rhetoric are to be considered distractions when it comes to addressing the God and Father of us all. This is why I write to the beloved of my Diocese while refraining from lending my voice to a vortex of political positioning.

We condemn Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement; the evil actions of state sponsored terrorism, their religious doctrines, beliefs and teachings. We affirm and worship our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of Righteousness, the Prince of Peace. We surrender body, mind and soul to Holy Mother Church. We will not compromise.

This is what evangelism looks and sounds like.

Numerous members of my friends and family have served honorably in uniform. I have brothers-in-law and now a son-in-law who served our Country bravely, honorably and sacrificially. Our men and women of peace approach altars and drink deeply from sacramental grace to ensure freedom and holiness prevail. These individuals are the ones to whom we entrust tremendous power and the responsibility of deterrence. We have raised them up, trained them, equipped them and now commend them to be the Godfearing warriors they are.

We are a fallen race, redeemed only by the blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, there will forever be a single superiority in the world when it comes to ethical, moral and military might. If not us, then who?

Pray for all those who wear the uniform of peace-loving nations that we may achieve peace through strength and that the strength we command may be exerted only by those who have a sense of God's abiding presence with them wherever they may be. (BCP pg. 823)

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

For Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love; So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. Amen. (BCP pg. 815)

For the President of the United States and all in Civil Authority

O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to thy merciful care, that, being guided by thy Providence, we may dwell secure in thy peace. Grant to (Donald) the President of the United States, (Jay) the Governor of this State, and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do thy will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in thy fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen. (BCP p. 820)

For those in the Armed Forces of our Country

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to

face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP pg. 823)

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