

Addressing the Addiction Crisis: A Pilgrimage of Prayer

*God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them (Genesis 1:27)*

Save the Date: October 22nd

Our objectives

- to offer **our prayers** for those who suffer from addiction and their families;
- to **reduce the barriers** standing between people and the treatment they need, with a special focus on reducing the sense of stigma associated with getting help;
- to **raise awareness** of the extent of the crisis in our communities and the impact it has on the lives of those suffering from addiction and their families; and
- to **show our support of community organizations** working to curb the impact of addiction on the community.

October 22

- Services to be led **around the county** at 12pm on Sunday, October 22.
- The **coordinating team can help** with fliers, bulletin inserts, and signs (contact Trinity Episcopal Church in Lenox at 413/637-0073).
- The **county wide rally** will be held at St. Joseph's Parish (Roman Catholic) at 2pm on Sunday, October 22. The service and rally will be hosted by Cathedral of the Beloved, the prayer and feeding ministry to the homeless community in Pittsfield. The rally will be followed by a meal and a discussion of addiction led by Dr. Jennifer Michaels

Additional Events

- Narcan (naloxone) training for clergy and faith leaders at Trinity Parish House (88 Walker Street, Lenox) on Tuesday, October 17 at 10:30am.

Talking Points

- Stigma and shame are some of the most significant barriers between people suffering from addiction and the treatment they need.
- Clergy and faith communities need to do more to show people that everyone deserves treatment and help.

Hope
&
Healing

*in
Berkshire
County*

- By supporting our friends and hosting 12 step groups, individual churches and congregations have done incredible work, but we have an important role to play when we speak with one voice on the issue.
- We know that addiction and substance related disorders are present in all of our communities, even when we might not see it.
- Addiction cuts across all our communities, so we want to show solidarity across the county as well.
- People who feel isolated and alone are much less likely to seek treatment. We want to show people that they are not alone.
- From the perspective of the faith communities, this is about fundamental human dignity. All of us are worthy of love because all of us have been created by God. The Scriptures tell us that everything that God created is good, so we are all good, no matter our decisions or circumstances.