FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2026 DAY OF PRAYER
FOR THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF CLERGY AND MEN AND WOMEN RELIGIOUS

September 9, 2026

DOWNINGTOWN, Pa. – The fourth annual Day of Prayer for the Health and Wellness of Clergy and Men and Women Religious will take place on **Friday, October 16, 2026**. This annual event offers a sacred space of prayer and reflection for those who have dedicated their lives to God and the service of others, while encouraging renewal of mind, body, and spirit. It is also an opportunity for the faithful to offer their support and encouragement for the well-being of clergy and religious, and to grow in understanding of the unique challenges they face in their vocations. This Day of Prayer offers a moment of stillness to remember that our Church Ministers are loved and appreciated by the faithful and, most importantly, our God.

This year's Day of Prayer schedule includes:

- **9:00 a.m.** – Morning Prayer, Adoration and Benediction (Led by Father David Brzoska, MDiv., MA, SS)
- **9:30 a.m.** – Keynote Address: Most Reverend, Shawn McKnight
- **9:45 a.m.** – Panel Discussion: "Vocational Wellness: Clergy and Religious on Practices and Perspectives for a Healthy, Flourishing Life" (Moderated by Erik Ranstrom, Ph.D.)
- **10:15 a.m.** – Taizé Prayer Service (Led by SJVC's Spiritual Care Team)
- **10:45 a.m.** – Welcome Video: Learn more about our mission from Staff, Board Members, and Friends.
- **11:00 a.m.** – Holy Sacrifice of the Mass (Celebrant: Father David Brzoska, M.Div., MA.SS., Homilist: Deacon Tim Lynch, MS)

All events will be live-streamed on SJVC's website. (All times are Eastern Daylight Time.) To learn more and to download the Day of Prayer media kit, visit: www.sjvcenter.org/dayofprayer.

As part of this year's observance, SJVC is once again offering **Mass Intention cards** to honor individual members of the clergy and religious life. Each honored individual will receive a personalized card, and their names will be placed at the altar during the Day of Prayer Mass.

All are encouraged to participate by watching the livestream, offering prayers during daily devotions or Mass, and sharing their support on social media using the hashtag **#SJVCdayofprayer**. Ministries and individuals can also display the **Day of Prayer logo** and link to the official landing page to help spread awareness.

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About Saint John Vianney Center

Saint John Vianney Center is a licensed and accredited residential behavioral health and addictions treatment and resource center serving clergy and men and women religious worldwide. The exemplary facility, staff, and resources distinguish SJVC as the premier center fully equipped to help ministers of the Church get and stay healthy in mind, body, and spirit.

Day of Prayer

Date: Friday, October 16, 2026,

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (EDT) – Live Steamed

The fourth **Day of Prayer for the Health and Wellness of Clergy and Men and Women Religious** will be held on October 16, 2026. Organized by Saint John Vianney Center, the premier behavioral health and addictions treatment center in the United States for clergy and men and women religious, the day is designed to provide spiritual support to our church ministers who tirelessly serve our Church and the people of God. The day will also serve as a powerful reminder of the significance of self-care, healing, maintaining a strong spiritual foundation, and promoting a supportive environment for men and women who serve us through their vocations.

Meet Our President



David Shellenberger, RN, BSN, serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Saint John Vianney Center. In this role, he works to increase awareness of the Center's prevention and educational services, as well as its assessment and behavioral health treatment programs.

David served as Chief Operating Officer at SJVC since 2014 and has worked at the center since 2008. Previously, he was the Chief Nursing Officer responsible for all clinical practice and medical care performed by the nursing department. Past positions also included Infection Control and Patient Safety Officer and Director of the Complex Extended Stay Program. David helped develop the weight management and wellness program at the Saint John Vianney Center which assists residents with weight loss and healthy living through diet, education, treatment, and emotional and spiritual support. David also provides workshops for SJVC as part of our outreach services. Topics include Stress Management, Health, Wellness and Weight Management. He is also a proud member of the Catholic Speakers Organization.

David has over 15 years of administrative experience in various health care settings including Beaumont at Bryn Mawr in Bryn Mawr, PA, and HCR Manor Care in Pottstown, PA. He received his BSN from York College of Pennsylvania and maintains his RN license through the State of Pennsylvania.

Day of Prayer Suggested Interview Questions

1.) Why did Saint John Vianney Center start the Day of Prayer for the Health and Wellness of Clergy, and Men and Women Religious?
2.) What are some of the challenges clergy and religious face today?
3.) How can the faithful support clergy and religious through this day?
4.) What do you hope people will take away from participating on October 16?



Social Media Posts and Logo

Post 1:
Our Clergy and Men and Women Religious give their lives in service, often unseen, but never unnoticed by God. On **October 16**, join Saint John Vianney Center for the **Day of Prayer for the Health and Wellness of Clergy and Religious.** Live Stream events begin at 9:00 a.m. (EDT). Let's lift them up with love and gratitude. Register at www.sjvcenter.org/dayofprayer #SJVCdayofprayer

Post 2:
Save the date: October 16!
Join us in prayer for our Clergy and Men and Women Religious who serve us so faithfully. The **#SJVCdayofprayer** is a time to honor our Church Ministers and remind them they are fully known and loved by God. Learn more and Register at www.sjvcenter.org/dayofprayer

Post 3:
Clergy and Men and Women Religious face the same stress, anxiety, and burnout like everyone else, but often in silence. On **October 16**, join Saint John Vianney Center's Day of Prayer to pray for them and learn more about how to support their ministry. Register at www.sjvcenter.org/dayofprayer #SJVCdayofprayer

Day of Prayer Logo: Download the Day of Prayer Logo (above) by visiting our landing page at www.sjvcenter.org/dayofprayer and click on "Display the Day of Prayer logo on your website". We invite you to link the logo to our landing page where visitors can find updates on the Day of Prayer and join us for the Live Streamed events October 16, 2026.

For more information, please contact Darek Raguza, Director of Mission Advancement, Saint John Vianney Center 610-518-2083 - draguza@sjvcenter.org