

## **Greensburg Bishop Edward C. Malesic statement on Texas church shooting**

*Nov. 6, 2017*

“Jesus said, “My house shall be a house of prayer.” Sadly, yesterday, the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, was also turned into a house of horror. My prayers, and those of the faithful in the Diocese of Greensburg, are with our Christian brothers and sisters who have become the victims of another senseless tragedy. May the Lord give his comfort to all those who have now suffered from the loss of life and happiness. We can never become numbed to the continuing stream of outrageously violent crimes that show such a lack of respect for the lives of our fellow human beings. We will continue to teach and proclaim that every person is created in God’s image. Jesus said, ‘Be not afraid,’ and so we will continue to confront the darkest places in our nation and our world with the love and mercy of God. While prayer must always be the Christians’ first response to darkness and tragedy, our society must also seriously address the access that violent persons with serious mental health issues can have to high-powered assault weapons.”