



The Diocese of Springfield

E-NEWSLETTER

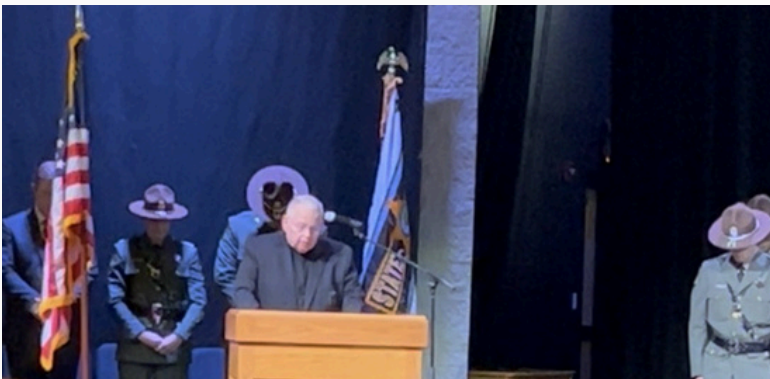
August 2025 - The Week of VII Pentecost

Descent from the Cross, Vasily Perov c. 1833-1882

Canon Wells Speaks at 150th Illinois State Troopers Class Graduation

Since 2018, Canon David Wells has served as a Chaplain for the Illinois State Police. In that role he has been called upon to share his ministry in many and various ways, whether that be welcoming classes of new cadets, meeting a staff member in the hallway and being asked to talk for a moment, or being called to a Central/Southern Illinois emergency or trauma.

Recently a joyous occasion took place when the Canon was asked to give the Invocation and Benediction at the 150th Graduating Class of Illinois State Troopers. It was with gratitude and pride that he blessed and watched 95 young men and women be commissioned as troopers to serve and protect the citizens of Illinois.



UPCOMING:

- 8/01 - The Feast of Saint Joseph of Arimathaea
- 8/06 - The Transfiguration of Our Lord
- 8/08 - The Feast of Saint Dominic
- 8/11 - The Feast of Saint Clare of Assisi
- 8/13 - The Feast of Jeremy Taylor
- 8/15 - The Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin
- 8/20 - The Feast of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux
- 8/25 - The Feast of Saints Saint Bartholomew the Apostle
- 8/28 - The Feast of Saint Augustine of Hippo
- 8/29 - The Feast of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist



Association of Professional Chaplains Conference

The Very Rev. Sherri Black

Many of you know me as Priest-in Charge of Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in West Frankfort; I am also the Dean of the Hale Deanery in the southernmost part of the Diocese. I've been a priest in this Diocese since 2008, and I am also a full-time hospital chaplain, serving at Herrin Hospital in Herrin, IL since 2011. As a board certified chaplain, I am required to complete 50 hours of continuing education each year to maintain my certification. In June, I had the opportunity to attend the Association of Professional Chaplains annual conference in Minneapolis. In doing so, I accumulated 17.5 hours towards my CE requirement in just two and a half days.

I attended this conference regularly up until COVID in 2020 when everything was canceled. This year was my first opportunity to attend since then. I've always enjoyed the collegiality of spending time with fellow chaplains from all across the country and various ministries. As I am presently taking classes on palliative care chaplaincy, I especially appreciated some of the workshops offered in this field to increase my knowledge. I attended many other workshops and plenaries.

Perhaps my favorite part of attending this conference, though, was spending time with the members of the Association of Episcopal Chaplains. Every conference we have a denominational breakfast, and beyond this many of us go out to dinner or

otherwise spend time together. I've made some lasting friendships with these colleagues! I've been on the Executive Committee of the Association of Episcopal Chaplains for six years; two years as president elect, two years as president, and I'm just finishing two years as immediate past president. It's been an honor to serve my Episcopal sisters and brothers in these capacities.

I truly enjoyed the opportunity to attend this conference, and the ability to enjoy continuing education. I heartily encourage my diocesan colleagues to look for opportunities to gather, to learn, and to grow in knowledge around your vocation and ministry.

New Signs at Chapel of St. John the Divine

New welcome signs were installed at the Chapel of St. John the Divine in Champaign recently. The four signs, designed by parishioner John Paul Buzard and constructed in his organ building shop, are installed at the edges of the church and program building, and at the corner of Wright and Armory Streets to provide maximum visibility for pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Due to the Chapel's prominent location on the U of I campus, additional banner signage was also installed by Rector Sean Ferrill and Parish Warden Chris Guyotte highlighting our association with the wider Anglican Communion.



Educational Supplies Needed at St. John's

St. John's Episcopal Church in Decatur is beginning a Christian Education program for early learners (ages 2 to approximately 8). This program will utilize a lot of Montessori supplies similar to those found in the Godly Play Foundation Curriculum. Specifically, they are in need of art supplies, books, learning and educational toys, and any Montessori-based learning items. If you have any items that you would like to donate, contact Emily Cole at 217-412-9338 to coordinate pick up in the Decatur area.

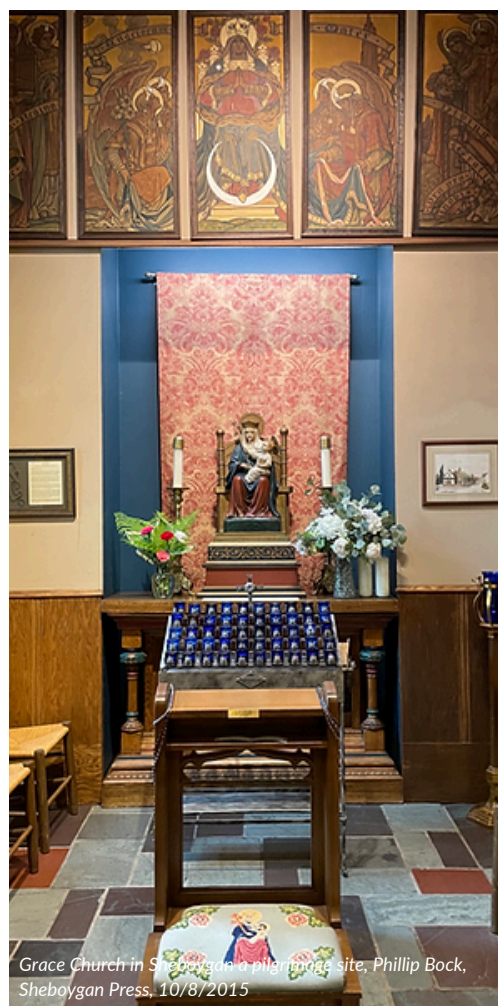


Descent from the Cross, Vasily Perov c. 1833-1882

Our Lady of Walsingham American Proto-Shrine

During the Week of IV Pentecost, Bishop and Mrs. Burgess traveled to Grace Church in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Bishop Burgess has been invited by Fr. William Bulson, the Rector of Grace Church and Master of the Guardians of the American Proto-Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, to serve as Episcopal Visitor of the Shrine. Over the course of the last few years, renewed attention is being given to the American Proto-Shrine to include regular devotions and an annual pilgrimage in October. The Guardians protect and increase devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham at the Proto-Shrine through daily prayer and through the ministries of pilgrimage, healing, hospitality, and education.

The Shrine within the north transept of the Neo-Gothic Church is beautifully maintained and open for prayer, votive Masses, and meditation. The entire experience of Grace Church Sheboygan is one intended on drawing you into their history while including you in the devotions of the Church today. Being an Anglican proto-shrine, the Daily Offices are regularly said, as is expected by our prayer book Calendar and clock.



Grace Church in Sheboygan a pilgrimage site, Phillip Bock, Sheboygan Press, 10/8/2015



In 1061, the Lady Richeldis de Faverches, lady of the manor near the village of Walsingham, Norfolk, England, was taken in spirit to Nazareth. There, Our Lady asked her to build a replica, in Norfolk, of the Holy House where she had been born, grew up, and received the Annunciation of Christ's impending birth. Lady Richeldis immediately constructed a house, 23' 6" x 12' 10", according to the plan given to her. Its fame slowly spread and in 1150 a group of Augustinian Canons built a priory beside it. Its fame continued to grow and for centuries it was a point of pilgrimage for all classes and the recipient of many expensive gifts.

By order of King Henry VIII during the Reformation in 1538, the House was stripped of its valuables and its statue of the Virgin taken to London to be burned. The present statue of Our Lady was enshrined in Walsingham in 1922, beginning an era of renewed pilgrimage and cooperation at the shrine between Catholics and Anglicans.

In 1929 the parish priest, Fr. A. Parker Curtiss, launched the installation of the first exact copy of Our Lady of Walsingham at Grace Church. Since that time, there have been daily prayers said at our American Proto-Shrine referencing the prayer requests brought by our parishioners and by the many annual pilgrims that visit every fall when the Grace Walsingham Pilgrimage is held. For more information on the Grace Church Walsingham Pilgrimage, [click here](#).

The Bread Monk in Alton

The Episcopal Parish of Alton is excited to welcome Fr. Dominic Garramone, the Bread Monk of public television fame, for a special lunch and presentation! Tickets are \$40 per person and include lunch. Tickets are very limited and will go fast! You can scan the QR code and click "Bread Monk" for purchase of your tickets, call the Church office at 618-465-9149, or email the Church at <https://episcopalalton.org/contact/>.





Postulants Attend Summer Course at Nashotah House Theological Seminary

Postulants Len Harris (L - Church of the Redeemer in Cairo) and Jeff Wenzel (R - The Cathedral of St. Paul the Apostle in Springfield) took part in the week-long residential portion of the four-week intensive course on Practical Liturgics for the Parish Priest taught by The Reverend Dr. Matthew Olver, Senior Lecturer in Liturgics. The goals of this course are “to prepare those intending to serve as priests in the Anglican tradition in all aspects of liturgical priestcraft. We will focus on the principles undergirding Western ceremonial and its application to Anglican liturgies, along with vestments, the furnishings of a church, the liturgical calendar, and lectionaries. The centerpiece of the course will be the celebration of the Mass in all its possible varieties (sung and spoken, *ad orientem* and *versus populum*, traditional and contemporary language), along with Christian initiation (baptism and confirmation), Holy Matrimony, Christian Burial, and the special liturgies of the liturgical year.” Two weeks of course readings are expected ahead of attending the residential portion with a week of project completion once the student returns home.

Students who register for the summer term are expected to participate in the complete rhythm of seminary life, including regular chapel worship, community happenings, and dining together in the refectory.

Len is a hybrid student taking online courses offered by Johnson University in Knoxville, Tennessee and intensive course offerings on the campus of Nashotah House. He is discerning a call to the Vocational Diaconate. Jeff is an Anglican

Studies student pursuing an MDiv. degree at United Lutheran Seminary in Germantown, Pennsylvania discerning a call to the Sacred Priesthood.

Please continue to pray for an increase of properly-discerned vocations within our Church and Diocese.



“O God, who didst lead thy holy apostles to ordain ministers in every place: Grant that thy Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may choose suitable persons for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and may uphold them in their work for the extension of thy kingdom; through him who is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”
(BCP pg. 205)

Cursillo 40 Registration

Registration for Cursillo XL (40) is still open until August 15th. The time is right to make that invitation! An informational brochure is available for [print and download here](#), and applications are available on the Diocesan website's [Cursillo page](#). [Click here](#) for a number of great videos to share with someone you know who is considering the weekend.



UTO News

Many thanks to the thirteen churches in the Diocese of Springfield for their Spring 2025 Ingathering Gifts, totaling \$3,973.09. Blessings to all, Joyce C. Wright (Diocesan UTO Coordinator)

Please include those in our Diocese who are pursuing Holy Orders in your prayers:

Danny Shuler, Postulant, St. Thomas, Salem
Andrew Mead, Postulant, Trinity, Lincoln
Zach Buscher, Postulant, Trinity, Lincoln
Jeff Wenzel, Postulant, The Cathedral Church of St. Paul the Apostle, Springfield
Len Harris, Postulant, Church of the Redeemer, Cairo

To find more information on Province V news and programs from The Episcopal News Service, ([click here](#)) and find the “News & Other Publications” header.

You can visit our website to check out the most up-to-date prayer calendar ([click here](#)) or our diocesan calendar ([click here](#)) with feasts and other events listed for around the Diocese.



Christ in the House of Martha and Mary, Johannes Vermeer c. 1655



The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Illinois

