

The Diocese of Springfield

# E-NEWSLETTER

August 2026 - The Week of VII Pentecost

Jan van Dornicke, *The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist*, ca. 1515–1520. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Public Domain.

## Episcopal Church Camp Review

*by Jeremiah Ratliff, Camp Coordinator*

If there was one word that could be used to summarize and describe Episcopal Church Camp of Illinois 2026 it would be: **SUCCESSFUL!**

The Lord Our God blessed us the entire week with (mostly) cooperative weather and cooler temperatures, no accidents or illnesses (heat related or otherwise), a healthy ratio of volunteers to campers, and joy, smiles, laughter, and the love of Christ that echoed throughout the hills of Camp Wartburg! This year, while smaller and different than years past, was viewed as a gift by campers and volunteers alike.



## UPCOMING:

- 8/1 - Joseph of Arimathaea
- 8/3 - Joanna, Mary, and Salome
- 8/6 - The Transfiguration of Our Lord
- 8/8 - Dominic
- 8/11 - Clare of Assisi
- 8/13 - Jeremy Taylor
- 8/15 - Saint Mary the Virgin: Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- 8/20 - Bernard of Clairvaux
- 8/24 - Saint Bartholomew the Apostle
- 8/26 - Simeon Bachos
- 8/28 - Augustine of Hippo
- 8/29 - The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist





There were 19 campers, 14 volunteers, and several invited guests from all across the Diocese. From as far north as Christ the King in Normal to as south as Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Cairo, all corners of our Diocese were represented in our few but faithful numbers. We had a total of 10 Alphas (younger campers) and 9 Omegas (older campers), all of which experienced fun summer activities like rock wall climbing, team building challenges, archery, creek walking, fishing, and swimming during our recreational time. During our daily Eucharist Services, Compline Campfires, and time with Spiritual Directors, they experienced thought-provoking homilies, reflections, challenges, and devotions throughout the week as we unpacked what it means to be a follower of God in pursuit of "Higher Ground."

While there were many phrases of joy and praise that I heard throughout the week, what that told me this year was a smashing success was at least four campers (two Alphas and two Omegas) indicated on their feedback form: "[We] wish camp was another week longer!" In this Camp Coordinators opinion, not only did ECCI 2026 provide the space for all to experience the spiritual practice of retreat and reconnection with our Creator, but it also embodied the words of Jesus in Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."





## Spring Hats Update

Thanks to the participation of many from around the Diocese, Bishop Burgess sent a gift of \$370 to Contact Ministries in Springfield on behalf of the Diocese of those that wore hats to their parishes on Mother's Day this year. Contact Ministries is a non-profit, faith-based organization providing free services to impoverished mothers, families, and individuals in the Springfield area. 74 hats were accounted for by photo submission. Keep an eye out for next year's invitation to participate in this annual tradition!



## Putnam Family Trust Grant

The people and vestry of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Mt. Carmel are pleased to announce a grant opportunity for the missions and parishes of our diocese, funded through the generosity of the Putnam Family Trust. These grants are designed to provide support in either Community Mission, Buildings & Grounds, or Evangelism & Church Growth. The deadline is September 8, 2026. For an application packet, email [click here](#).

# Invitation to Cursillo 2026

by Dawn Jung



Is God asking you to step out in faith today? Trust God is at work; remember it is God who gave us this promise in Psalm 37:24, "though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down, for the Lord upholds him with His hand." God will honor a person who depends on Him to lead and guide. He will light your path. Rectora Dana Harris has selected the theme Stepping Out in Faith for Springfield Cursillo XLI and offers this prayer.

*Heavenly Father,*

*You are my refuge and my strength. You see the road ahead when I cannot, and You hold my future in Your hands. Today, I choose to place my trust in You, even when the way feels uncertain. Fill my heart with courage to take the steps You are calling me to take. Quiet the voice of fear and doubt and replace it with assurance of Your promises. Remind me that I do not walk alone – Your Spirit goes before me, beside me, and within me.*

*When I feel weak, be my strength. When I am unsure, be my wisdom. When I am weary, be my rest. Help me to see challenges as opportunities for Your glory to shine through my life. Lord, I surrender my plans to You, Knowing that Your ways are higher and Your timing is perfect. I step forward in faith, not because I have all the answers, but because I know You are faithful and true.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Trust God is at work during Episcopal Cursillo Ministry weekends. Join Dana and her team on October 1-4 at Toddhall Retreat Center in Columbia, Illinois for Cursillo XLI. This step could be pivotal to advancing your faith journey. Information about the weekend may be found at [episcopalcursilloministry.org](http://episcopalcursilloministry.org) under "documents for downloading". Registration forms [can be found here](#) and are due by August 21, 2026. For additional information, contact Rectora Dana Harris at [dana\\_harris64@yahoo.com](mailto:dana_harris64@yahoo.com) or Dawn Jung at [dawnjung@juno.com](mailto:dawnjung@juno.com).



**100% MATCH  
NOW AVAILABLE  
FOR ALL GIFTS**

## **All Donations Now Matched Dollar for Dollar**

Endorsed by Diocesan Council and Trustees, Bishop Burgess will be matching all donations made to the Diocesan Appeal from now and November 1 (up to \$40,000) from funds left to his discretion by previous generations of faithful giving. All donations received during this time will receive a one-to-one match. It is his hope that this will motivate a final wave of sacrificial giving that will push the project to its completion and the total \$250,000 goal. To read more about the progress on the Appeal and how you can double the impact of your generosity, click the [here](#).



## **United Thank Offering Spring Ingathering**

Many thanks to all churches and parishes for your UTO 2026 Spring Ingathering gifts. Supporting the UTO ministry is vital to all Anglican communities throughout the world. Hope everyone is enjoying Summer! The total United Thank Offering 2026 Spring Ingathering is \$3,211.95.



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.



*Benedetto Coda, Saint Claire of Assisi, 1515-1520, oil on panel, Walters Art Museum, Baltimore. Public domain (CC0).*



The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Illinois

