

The Diocese of Springfield

# E-NEWSLETTER

January 2025 - The Week of II Christmas



Master of the Antwerp Adoration, Public Domain

## Pre-Lenten Clergy Retreat

Bishop Burgess extends his invitation to all Diocesan clergy to join him for the 2025 Pre-Lenten Clergy Retreat at King's House Retreat & Renewal Center on the campus of Our Lady of Snows National Shrine in Belleville. This two-day/two-night residential retreat is scheduled for Monday, February 24th (late afternoon) through Wednesday, February 26th (lunch), one week ahead of Ash Wednesday and the observance of a holy Lent (BCP pg. 265). This intentional time away together will offer opportunity for rest, worship, the sacrament of Confession, collegial fellowship, and spiritual reflections.

Based on the recommendation of Diocesan clergy, Bishop Burgess has asked Dr. Ryan Burge to prepare and offer three spiritual reflections addressing our location and an ever-changing Christian landscape. The reflections have been titled:



Dr. Ryan Burge, Nicole Fields Photography

## UPCOMING:

- 1/01 - The Holy Name of our Lord
- 1/06 - The Epiphany
- 1/13 - The Feast of Saint Hilary of Poitiers
- 1/17 - The Feast of Saint Antony of Egypt
- 1/18 - The Confession of Saint Peter
- 1/21 - The Feast of Saints Agnes and Cecilia of Rome
- 1/25 - The Conversion of Saint Paul
- 1/27 - The Feast of Saint John Chrysostom

- How the Episcopal Church Fits into the Shift of the Larger American Religious Landscape
- The Survey of Non-Religious America: Four Types of “Nones” and How Non-Religious People Find Purpose and Meaning (based on recent research funded by a Templeton Foundation grant)
- *Now the Green Blade Riseth From the Buried Grain: Good News About Religion in America*

Dr. Ryan Burge is an associate professor of political science at Eastern Illinois University. He is the author or co-author of four books including *The Nones*, *20 Myths about Religion and Politics in America*, and *The Great Dechurching*. He has written for the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *POLITICO*. He has also appeared on *60 Minutes*, where Anderson Cooper called him "one of the leading data analysts of religion and politics in the United States." He was a pastor of an American Baptist Church for over seventeen years in Mount Vernon, Illinois.

Licensed and canonically resident clergy (active and retired) will receive registration information immediately after the start of the new year. Parishes and missions are asked to support this time of spiritual growth and renewal by allowing the time and funding necessary for their resident clergy to participate. Partial scholarships are available based on communicated need. If canonically resident priests or deacons find they cannot attend, the courtesy of requesting dispensation from Bishop Burgess is expected by Friday, February 7th.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship at the parish and mission level. Your faithfulness allows us to have expectations of our clergy that strengthen us as a Diocese and benefits each congregation where they serve.







## Episcopal Church Women Church Retreat

The Diocese of Springfield Episcopal Church Women will host a Lenten Retreat from March 21st through the 23rd at Toddhall Retreat and Conference Center in Columbia, Illinois. The keynote speaker will be The Rev. Dr. Gayle Fisher-Stewart. Rev. Stewart served as Triennial Chaplain during the General Convention in Louisville, KY. The retreat theme will be "Women Growing in Spirit, and Truth." Registration for the retreat will be sent to all Churches and Parishes in the Diocese. For more information, contact retreat co-chairs Carol McCrary at [troub71@yahoo.com](mailto:troub71@yahoo.com) or Joyce C. Wright at [jcwright117@gmail.com](mailto:jcwright117@gmail.com)



### UTO News

Fifteen churches participated in the United Thank Offering 2024 Fall Ingathering. Many thanks to all congregations for your support to the UTO Ministry. Total Fall Ingathering \$3,463.21.

## Celebration of New Ministry in Alton

The Office of the Bishop extends an invitation to the faithful people of the Diocese to join The Episcopal Parish of Alton in Alton, IL for the seating of The Reverend Garron Daniels as rector Thursday, January 30th at 5:30 PM.



## Women's Group Christmas Gathering

The Women's Group at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Springfield held their annual Christmas gathering on Tuesday, December 10, 2024. The women had a festive luncheon followed by several rousing games of bingo. The group was glad that Denise Burgess was able to join us this year. The Women's Group meets monthly for Mass followed by a luncheon and program. At every gathering donations are collected that provide funding for a project at the Cathedral decided by the women at their May luncheon. Last year the donations, as well as additional monies donated by the parishioners, were used to enhance the landscaping in the Columbarium by replacing the old mulch with decorative rock.







## Upcoming Events at Nashotah House Theological Seminary

### Encountering God: The Art of Iconography is an opportunity for prayer, fellowship, and instruction in iconography

This week-long retreat invites participants to “enter into the long and rich Christian tradition of iconography... In addition to the practice of iconography, we will explore its history and theology, with instruction from Dr. Lauren Whitnah, Dean of Nashotah House; Dr. Jim Watkins, Affiliate Professor of Theological Aesthetics at Nashotah House; and Dr. Robyn Wrigley-Carr, Associate Professor in Spirituality and Spiritual Care at the University of Divinity in Australia. Open to iconographers of all skill levels, this retreat will guide beginners every step of the way while also offering more advanced instruction to those with more experience.” This event will be held from June 16-20, 2025. For more information or to register, [click here](#).

### James Lloyd Breck Conference on Monasticism and the Church

In recognition of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Anglican writer Evelyn Underhill, this conference “seeks to investigate Underhill’s mystical theology to discover how she understood the role of monasticism in the history and spirituality of the Church and how every Christian can be a single-minded mystic.” This event will be held from June 18-20, 2025. For more information or to register, [click here](#).

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

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.



John Chrysostom, St. Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church, Dayton, OH, Public Domain



The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Illinois

