



The Diocese of Springfield

E-NEWSLETTER

January 2026 - The Week of I Christmas

The Conversion of Saint Paul, Jacopo Tintoretto, c. 1544

Episcopal Parish of Alton Visits Sewanee Theological Seminary

Published in the Sewanee Theolog Gazete: Issue No. 55

The Rev. Garron Daniels, T'23, spent a couple of days in Sewanee last month on a parish retreat with eleven parishioners from the Episcopal Parish of Alton in Alton, Illinois.

Fr. Garron shared this with us, "This retreat was entitled "Renewal in the Mountains: A Sewanee Retreat". The retreat was all about slowing down, centering ourselves in Christ, and learning what it may mean to have a rule of life. Retreat members from the Episcopal Parish of Alton stayed at The Ayres Center for Spiritual



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UPCOMING:

- 1/01 - The Holy Name of our Lord
- 1/06 - The Epiphany
- 1/10 - William Laud
- 1/17 - Antony of Egypt
- 1/19 - Confession of Saint Peter the Apostle
- 1/20 - Fabian
- 1/21 - Agnes and Cecilia of Rome
- 1/26 - Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle
- 1/27 - John Chrysostom
- 1/28 - Thomas Aquinas

Development. The Retreat Group prayed the daily office, discussed a Rule of Life, tried some different prayer practices, and visited different parts of the Sewanee community to see what a Rule of Life looks like. The group visited the Community of St Mary, All Saints' Chapel, and the School of Theology.

Sewanee is not just a great place to gain an education, but a place where laity and clergy alike can grow into their faith through the classic beauty of the Anglican tradition."



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Mt. Carmel Putnam Grant Distribution

Representatives from five missions and parishes of the Diocese met at the Effingham Episcopal Fellowship Mass on December 10th with Fr. David Knox of Trinity, Mattoon serving as celebrant and preacher. Grants from the Putnam Trust, shared by the people of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Mt Carmel, were distributed to five of the seven congregations receiving this year's monies. Churches



receiving grants included Albion, Alton, Cairo, Centralia, Effingham Episcopal Fellowship, Mattoon, and Morton, with grant amounts ranging from \$2,500 to \$15,000. Funds will be used for windows, signage, roof repair, vicarage renovation, and for the support of outreach/evangelism initiatives.

4th Day Mini-Retreat : March 13-14, 2026

Make plans now to fellowship with your Cursillo friends at the Friday evening through Saturday lunch event at St George's Church in Belleville. We'll have time to visit, sing, snack, and learn more about what God is doing in our ministry. A modest registration fee will cover supplies, snacks, as well as breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Local Cursillistas will offer lodging at their homes to make this economical for out-of-town guests. Watch for registration instructions in our email newsletter. If you are not receiving the periodic newsletter, please respond [here](#). For questions about the mini-retreat, contact [Bob Vaughn](#).



Cursillo Retreat 2026

The next Cursillo weekend is scheduled for October 1st through the 4th, 2026 and will once again be hosted at the beautiful Toddhall Retreat Center in Columbia, Illinois. Please consider joining for these three days as an investment in your future and a chance to help fulfill God's intention for His world. [Click here](#) to download a fillable participant's application.

Looking for a Reunion Group to Try?

The blessing of a regular group reunion is at the core of 4th Day Life. Those that have been in group for a while can testify how the framework nurtures our spiritual growth and encourages apostolic action. We can help find a group to try. Let us know how we can help [here](#).

Episcopal Church Camp Open Position

The Camp Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield is seeking a Camp Coordinator for its summer camp. Camp is held for one week each year at Camp Wartburg near Waterloo, IL and is for school-age youth. The purpose of this position is to coordinate and manage the program and its human resources and strategic operations. This contractual position offers \$5,000 per year. Those interested should submit a statements of interest, qualifications, and a resume to: Camp Committee, Episcopal Diocese of Springfield, 821 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62704 or by email to administrator@episcopalspringfield.org. For more information, view the Episcopal Church Camp page on the Diocesan website by [clicking here](#).



Diocesan Appeal

With the support of Standing Committee, Finance Committee, and Diocesan Council, an Appeal is being extended with the target goal of raising \$250,000 from parishes, missions, communicants, and friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield, to be gifted for the work that God in Christ is doing in Central and Southern Illinois. Meeting this goal will allow us to direct \$150,000 in the rehabilitation of St. James Memorial Chapel in Marion, with the remaining (roughly) \$100,000 to be distributed in a matching grant format in interest of capital improvements at the parish and mission level. To view further information on the Appeal and to donate, [click here](#).

Apply for a UTO Grant

The focus of the UTO Grants for the 2026-2029 triennium is focused on Justice and Bridging Divides, with an emphasis on Amos 5:24, “But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” Grant information and application available at unitedthankoffering.com. For more information, contact the UTO Diocesan Coordinator, Joyce Wright at jcwright117@gmail.com.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

National Shrine of Our Lady of Snows in Belleville, IL

February 11-13, 2026

(Wednesday afternoon through Friday lunch)
The week before Ash Wednesday

Guest speaker - Fr. John Ander Runkle
The Theology of Sacred Space

Pre-Lenten Clergy Retreat Reminder

This is a reminder to all clergy to mark your calendars for the 2026 Pre-Lenten Clergy Retreat, hosted at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Snows in Belleville, IL. Due to limited availability at the retreat center, this year's retreat will be held Wednesday afternoon through Friday lunch the week before Ash Wednesday (February 11, 12 and 13) instead of the typical Monday afternoon through Wednesday lunch schedule. Please mark your calendars now in preparation to join.

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.



The Adoration of the Magi, Edward Burne-Jones, c. 1904



The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Illinois

