



The Diocese of Springfield

E-NEWSLETTER

March 2025 - The Week of VIII Epiphany

Pre-Lenten Clergy Retreat 2025

The Clergy of our Diocese gathered for their annual Pre-Lenten Clergy Retreat at King's House at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Snows in Bellville. Beginning with Mass at the beautiful Shrine church on The Feast of St. Matthias (February 24th), the two-day, two-night retreat focused on fellowship, worship, renewal, reconciliation, and education. Dr. Ryan Burge offered three retreat addresses centered on statistical trends that are driving evangelical priorities of the church today. Dr. Burge is an American political scientist, statistician, and for 17 years until Summer 2024, an American Baptist pastor. An Associate professor at Eastern Illinois University, he is best known for his work on religion in the United States. 60 Minutes has termed him one of the "leading data analysts on religion



Photos by Fr. Parker Asplin

UPCOMING:

- 3/05 - Ash Wednesday
- 3/07 - The Feast of Saints Perpetua and Felicity
- 3/12 - The Feast of Saint Gregory the Great
- 3/15 - The Feast of Saint Vincent de Paul
- 3/17 - The Feast of Saint Patrick of Ireland
- 3/18 - The Feast of Saint Cyril of Jerusalem
- 3/19 - The Feast of Saint Joseph
- 3/20 - The Feast of Saint Cuthbert
- 3/25 - The Annunciation of Our Lord



Photos by Fr. Parker Asplin

and politics” within the United States. Also joining our Diocesan clergy was Fr. Peter Speropulos, who was invited by Bishop Burgess to serve as retreat Confessor. Fr. Speropulos has served as associate rector of The Church of St. Michael & St. George in St. Louis since August 2017. The retreat was well attended and appreciated by those making the time and effort to attend. To the benefit of all, quite a few retired clergy participated, adding a depth of vocational grounding. Bishop Burgess extends his deep-seated appreciation toward all our parishes and missions for their faithful and sacrificial stewardship which invites such offerings, intended for the wellness of our clergy and their growth in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.



Photos by Fr. Parker Asplin

The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat (Mark 6:30-34).

St. Michael's 25th Building Celebration

The saints at St. Michael's (111 O'Fallon Troy Road, O'Fallon IL 62269) in O'Fallon will be hosting their Twenty-Fifth Building Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, March 30th at 10:00 AM with Holy Eucharist officiated by The Rt. Rev. Bishop Brian K. Burgess. All in attendance are invited to join in a fellowship meal immediately following the service. For those

interested in joining the service and meal, RSVPs are expected by Sunday, the 23rd of March.



Presiding Bishop Announcement



Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe has released a statement regarding his vision of church realignment. His announcement was released on February 20th, 2025 and discusses his plans for restructuring both the finances and staffing of the church at large. "It's time to reorient our churchwide resources—budgets and staff—to support dioceses and congregations on the ground where ministry happens. To build on what dioceses and diocesan partnerships already do better than the churchwide structure and use churchwide resources to strengthen those ministries." To read more about Bishop Rowe's vision for realignment, click [here](#).



3rd Annual Saint Benedict Conference

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The Cathedral Church of St. Paul and the Order of Christ the Savior are co-hosting the Third Annual Saint Benedict Conference on May 28th and 29th. This special event is the only continuing education event on Anglican Deliverance Ministry in The Episcopal Church and will feature presentations such as *Perspectives on Deliverance and Spiritual Warfare from the East and West* to *The Anglican Rite of Exorcism: Ancient Liturgy for Today's World*. After the conference, three postulants will be received as Novice Dominican Friars in a special Novitiate Mass. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to spend in spiritual direction and confession, the daily office and Holy Eucharist, and lunch will be provided. For more information, contact education@anglicanocs.org or visit www.anglicanocs.org.

ECW Lenten 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, IL. The keynote speaker will be The Rev. Dr. Gayle Fisher-Stewart, who served as Triennial Chaplain during the General Convention in Louisville,

KY. The theme of this year's retreat is Women Growing in Spirit, and Truth. Those planning to attend are encouraged to bring a poem, story, song, or skit to share on Friday evening. For further information or questions, contact retreat co-chairs Carol McCrary at troub71@yahoo.com or Joyce C. Wright at jcwright117@gmail.com.



PROJECT RESOURCE

Project Resource 2025

The Project Resource Stewardship Conference, hosted by The College for Bishops, will take place again this spring from March 9th through April 6th. Project Resource equips parish stewardship teams with strategic training and flexible resources to design and execute annual stewardship campaigns which can be replicated and adapted in future years. Project Resource is dedicated to fostering cultural and systemic advancements around stewardship as a ministry in the Episcopal Church. For further details and registration, please visit <https://project-resource.org/spring2025>.



UTO Spring Ingathering

Letters will be sent out to all churches and United Thank Offering Coordinators the week of March 10th for the UTO Spring Ingathering. All blessings during the Lenten Season!

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.



Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Public Domain



The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Illinois

