



The Diocese of Springfield

E-NEWSLETTER

May 2025 - The Week of II Easter

Ascension, John Singleton Copley c. 1775

Spring Hats for Mother's Day

Bishop Burgess would like to once again extend an invitation to the women of our Diocese to wear their finest spring hats this coming Mother's Day (Sunday, May 11th). All participants are asked to submit a picture of themselves featuring their hats to communicator@episcopalspringfield.org. For every hat worn with documented picture, Bishop Burgess will donate \$5 to Contact Ministries; a non-profit, faith-based organization providing free services to impoverished mothers, families, and individuals in the Springfield area. The Diocesan office donated \$250 for last year's participation and looks forward to being exceedingly generous this year.



UPCOMING:

- 5/01 - The Feast of the Apostles Saint Philip & Saint James
- 5/02 - The Feast of Saint Athanasius of Alexandria
- 5/08 - The Feast of Saint Julian of Norwich
- 5/09 - The Feast of Saint Gregory of Nazianzus
- 5/22 - The Feast of Saint Helena of Constantinople
- 5/24 - The Feast of Jackson Kemper
- 5/26 - The Feast of Saint Augustine
- 5/29 - Ascension Day
- 5/31 - The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF SPRINGFIELD



Diocesan Center Signage Updates

The Diocesan Center, being designed as a round building, presents a few challenges to those visiting the Bishop or his staff. It was decided to install directional signage that welcomes and then moves people throughout the Diocesan Center. As the rear entrance acts as the main entrance, the Diocesan shield was added as a point of reference to those pulling into the parking lot. Taking into consideration how many doors present themselves when entering that rear door (6 in total), we marked each office and room according to its function. This is not only a priority of extending hospitality, it is a safety issue. It is in the better interest of fire codes to identify interior hallways and the other outside rear door as the mechanical room for those responding to emergencies, especially after regular business hours. The Diocesan Center staff worked with ACE Sign Company of Springfield to ensure a long-lasting, professional look at a low cost. Thank you to all who support the mission of their home parish/mission as it allows us to be mindful of the treasure granted to our Diocese on South Second Street in Springfield.

Relic Service at The Episcopal Parish of Alton

Sunday, April 6th marked a service of Evening Prayer for the Greek members of the Episcopal Parish of Alton. 21 family members gathered together for fellowship and prayer, and a special blessing was extended to three caretakers of a



generational relic that will be traveling to a monastery in Greece to return it home. The relic is the skull of Holy New Martyr Lazarus of Bulgaria encased in silver. The family reports that the original monastery that housed the relic was destroyed and in the rush of its collapse, the monks distributed the relics amongst themselves and others for safe keeping. The now-rebuilt monastery was unaware until recently that they were still missing one of their relics, which will soon be finding its way home.



Episcopal Church Women's Lenten Retreat

The Episcopal Church Women of The Diocese of Springfield Lenten Retreat was held from March 21st through the 23rd at Todd Hall, Columbia IL with “Women Growing in Spirit and Truth” as the retreat theme. It was a joyous gathering led by Rev. Gayle Fisher-Stewart from the Diocese of Washington, DC. Our gracious retreat leader was dynamic! The Saturday morning workshop focused on truth, faith, awareness, listening and sacred rest and gave participants the time to interact with the retreat leader and others. An afternoon service of healing was led by Rev. Gayle Fisher-Stewart and was inspiring to all during the season of Lent. Saturday evening included a sing-along program, providing attendees the opportunity to lift up their voices in praise and thanksgiving. Morning Prayer, Compline and a social hour were also included in the retreat. Attendees toured the lovely grounds of Todd Hall for prayer and meditation. The retreat ended Sunday morning with Eucharist at St. Cecilia Chapel led by Retreat Chaplin Rev. Mollie Ward with music provided by Rev. Sherry Black. All women in the Diocese are invited to attend next year's lenten retreat, which will be held at Todd Hall (date to be announced later).

Tending the Vineyard Conference

Clergy and lay leaders are invited to join Tending the Vineyard, a conference hosted by The Living Church and St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church. Speakers will include top thinkers and pastoral voices in leadership, mentoring, evangelism, and spiritual nurture. Topics will include growth and

decline, leadership development, global perspectives, and agrarian and monastic wisdom on work, place, and community. The conference includes an optional lunch to discuss recent Episcopal Church restructuring plans with the Rev. Steve Pankey (VP, House of Deputies). Whether you are seeking parish renewal or personal refreshment, you'll enjoy stimulating keynotes, conversations, great food, quality time with colleagues, and Q&A with experts and mentors. For more information on the conference or to get tickets, [click here](#).



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. 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.



UTO News

The UTO Ministry team hopes that everyone had a joyous Easter. Now that Easter is over, it is time to get out the blue boxes and envelopes for the United Thank Offering Spring Ingathering. Please plan to schedule your ingatherings during the month of May. Thank you for your continued support of the UTO Ministry.

Register for Episcopal Church Camp 2025

The dedicated Episcopal Church Camp of Illinois team is well on the way to planning another wonderful week of camp for the summer of 2025 and now is a great time to take advantage of the early-bird discount. Those interested in sending their children or sponsoring a child for next year can view prices and [register here](#). Church Camp will be at Camp Wartburg in Waterloo, IL June 22 through 28, 2025. Sponsors should complete one form per child. Scholarships are available by request to be considered to your parish rector, priest-in-charge, deacon, or directly to Canon Wells at canon@episcopalspringfield.org. Those seeking scholarships are encouraged to bring a friend.

The 148th Annual Synod

The 148th Annual Synod for the Diocese of Springfield will be held from October 24th-25th at the Holiday Inn & Suites location in Bloomington, IL, and will be hosted by the saints of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. More information will be posted on the Diocesan website as available. To read the Bishop's Address from the 147th Synod or to view the Diocesan slideshow, [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.



Visitation, Jacques Daret, c. 1435



The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Illinois

