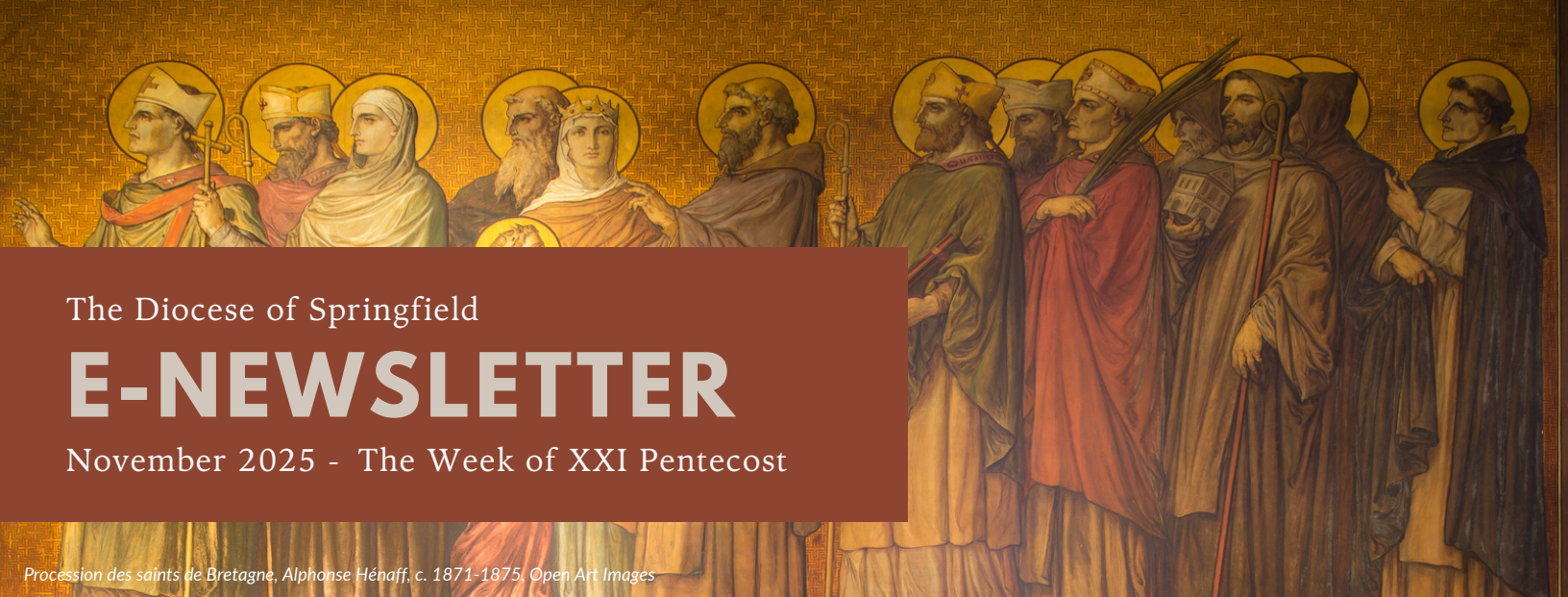




The Diocese of Springfield

E-NEWSLETTER

November 2025 - The Week of XXI Pentecost

Procession des saints de Bretagne, Alphonse Hénaff, c. 1871-1875, Open Art Images

148th Annual Synod Thank You

Thank you to all those who contributed to make the 148th Annual Synod of the Diocese of Springfield a success, particularly to the laity and clergy of the Northern Deanery and their Dean, Fr. Danté Anglin. Thank you also to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Bloomington and their rector, Fr. Reeves, for hosting a beautiful service of Holy Eucharist in recognition of St. James of Jerusalem.

To view the 2025 Synod Slideshow featuring moments from around our Diocese, to read the Bishop's Address, and to review election results, [click here](#).



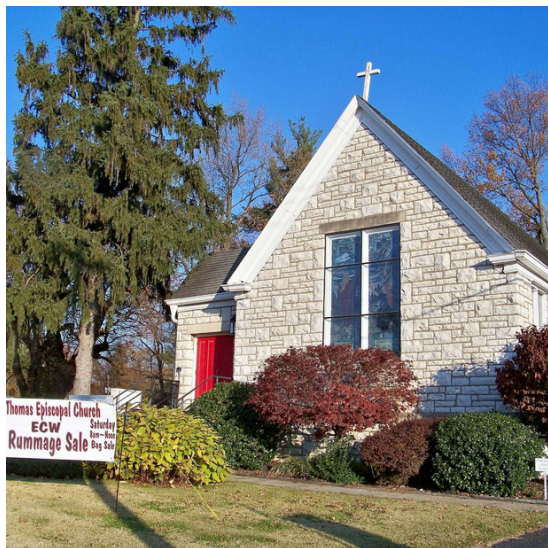
UPCOMING:

- 11/01 - All Saints' Day
- 11/07 - The Feast of Saint Willibrord
- 11/08 - The Feast of Saint Ammonius
- 11/10 - The Feast of Saint Leo of Rome
- 11/11 - The Feast of Saint Martin of Tours
- 11/14 - The Consecration of Samuel Seabury
- 11/18 - The Feast of Saint Hilda of Whitby
- 11/20 - The Feast of Saint Edmund
- 11/22 - The Feast of Clive Staples Lewis
- 11/27 - Thanksgiving Day

Lightning Strikes St. Thomas'

By Elizabeth Shuler, Clerk for St. Thomas Episcopal Church

In the early evening of Friday, April 4th, Salem was sent a deluge from the heavens that resulted in 6-7 inches of rain falling in a few hours, causing the streets to flood along with several lightning strikes. Friends from across the country were contacting us to check if we were OK after the Weather Channel featured the storm that evening. It wasn't until Sunday morning when St. Thomas' organist went to turn on the organ did we realize just how much damage St. Thomas received. The organ, elevator, chair lift, sound system, internet, and phone system were all blown from a lightning strike. Contact was made to the Church Insurance Company of Vermont, and things started to move. All of these items have



been newly replaced after the \$1,000.00 deductible was applied. It has been an arduous process (for example, the postal service losing a \$27,000.00 check for the down payment on the new organ), but the St. Thomas congregation is so pleased. The next time there are grumbles about paying those insurance premiums, remember that in an instance of a lightning strike, your church could lose everything.

National Cursillo Conference

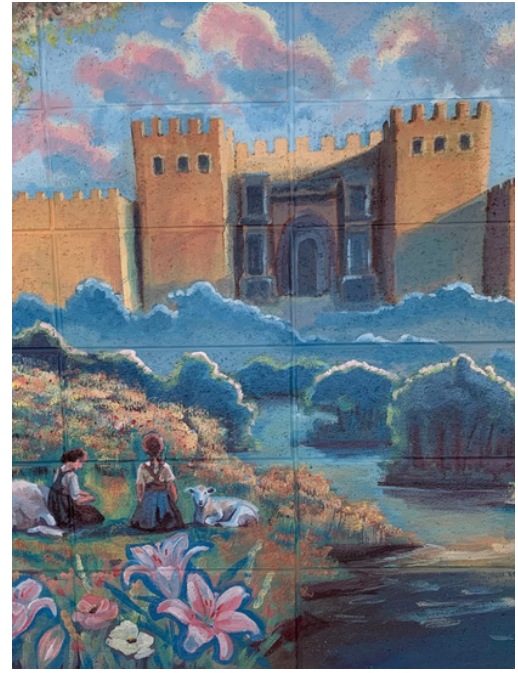
Bishop Burgess attended the National Cursillo Conference held October 29th through 31st at ToddHall in Columbia. Each year the National Board meets within the Diocese of their Chair. As Bob Vaughn of St. George's in Belleville serves as the National Chair this year, the Conference was held within our Diocese.

Cursillo (Cur-SEE'-yo) is a Spanish word meaning "short course". Cursillos de Christianidad is the full title of the movement. This phrase literally means a short course of lectures in Christian living, but it is not intended to simply refer to a course of instruction (lectures). Rather, it means a short running course (such as St. Paul's admonition to run the good race). It is something to experience, not just to understand intellectually. The first Cursillo Weekends were developed in the Roman Catholic Church in Majorca, Spain. Cursillo was brought to the United States by Spanish airmen who were stationed at air bases in Texas in the late 1950s. The first official Cursillo Weekend in the Episcopal Church (in English) was conducted with help from Roman Catholic sponsors in the Diocese of Iowa. The significance of Cursillo in the Episcopal Church is its role as a catalyst for spiritual revitalization and deeper lay ministry, helping individuals to grow in their faith through a structured weekend and ongoing community support.



Bishop Burgess welcomed Bishop Glenda Curry (Alabama XII) and Bishop Kee Sloan (Alabama XI) to the Diocese of Springfield. Both bishops have assumed leadership roles within this ministry on behalf of the Presiding Bishop and the House of Bishops. He also welcomed many diocesan secretariats throughout the Episcopal Church. These Cursillo ministry leaders came together to pray, praise God, offer mutual support, and to strengthen the ministry entrusted to their care and oversight.

De colores.



Christ the King Mural

On Sunday, October 26th at Christ the King, Mother Mollie Ward blessed a mural painted by Greta Springer in memory of Linda Smith. Linda served the church in many ways, including teaching Sunday School. To honor Linda's dedication to the Sunday School, the Vestry approved the commission of the mural using funds gifted in Linda's name. Sunday School leader Debbie Nelson and Vestry member Diane Hambleton met with Greta and together decided on a theme of Jesus and the children for the seventeen-foot mural. The artist worked several months to complete the painting, which far exceeded all expectations. Following the blessing of the mural, a reception was held to show our appreciation for Greta Springer's work.

ECC Open Postion

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, Illinois. The Camp is for school-age youth. The purpose of the Camp Coordinator 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 Steet, 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](#).

St. Paul's, Pekin Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pekin, Illinois (343 Buena Vista Ave, Pekin, IL) will be hosting a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Saturday, December 6th at 3:00 P.M. with a cookie reception to follow and a freewill offering collected.



A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Saturday, December 6th, 2025
3:00 p.m.
Cookie reception to follow

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
343 Buena Vista Ave, Pekin, IL 61554
A freewill offering will be taken up.



Choral Evensong
Christ the King Sunday November 23rd
5pm @ St Paul's (10 E 3rd St)
Reception after service sponsored by the
Priory of St Louis the Crusader (SMOTJ)

Service of Choral Evensong at St. Paul's in Alton

The Episcopal Parish of Alton will be hosting a service of Choral Evensong on Christ the King Sunday, November 23rd at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (10 E 3rd St., Alton, IL) at 5:00 P.M. with a reception to follow sponsored by the Priory of St. Louis the Crusader.

Emmanuel New Curate

Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church in Champaign is pleased to announce the hiring of a new curate. The Rev. Joseph (“Joe”) Roberts, graduate of Nashotah House, is currently a deacon in the Diocese of Dallas. He will be coming to Champaign-Urbana with his wife Cassie and their three children, Jacob, Logan, and Holly. Deacon Joe will be ordained priest at St Matthew’s Cathedral in Dallas on November 30. He will be with us early in the New Year. Please pray for Joe and his family and the Emmanuel parish during this exciting time of transition.



Pre-Lenten Clergy Retreat

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.

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](#).



Parochial Report

The Episcopal Church's newly released 2024 Parochial Report analysis presents a new approach to churchwide data collection, providing a broader look into the life of congregations and churchwide programs, initiatives, and activities that happen each week. The Parochial Report is the oldest, most continuous gathering of data by The Episcopal Church. To view the 2025 Parochial Report, [click here](#).

Mt. Carmel Putnam 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. This grant is funded through the generosity of the Putnam Family Trust—faithful Episcopalians and Mt. Carmelites. This grant is designed to support parishes and missions in one of three ways: through community mission, building and grounds, and evangelism and church growth. Those interested in applying can reach out to Fr. Mike Clark at fathermikesjtb@gmail.com to receive an application.



United Thank Offering News

Many thanks to the nine churches and parishes who have submitted their 2025 Fall Ingathering Gifts. To date, the amount totals to \$3,068.68, including \$119.82 which was collected from the Blue Boxes at the 148th Annual Diocesan Synod.

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.

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.



St. Martin Dividing His Cloak, Anthony van Dyck, c. 1599-1641, Picryl



The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Illinois

