

The Diocese of Springfield

E-NEWSLETTER

October 2026 - The Week of XVIII Pentecost

Zanobi Rosi, Vision of the Centurion Cornelius, c. 1626. Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.



Trinity Lincoln Restoration Project

After months of planning, grant applications, estimates and coordination, work on Trinity's restoration project finally began on Monday, September 21st. Kreiling Roofing of Peoria began roof and gutter repairs over the baptistry, and windows were carefully removed the following week and taken to Jacksonville, IL for restoration. The roofing and gutter work is being coordinated with the masonry work by Otto Baum. It is wonderful to see this important project move from planning to action! Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we restore our church.



UPCOMING:

- 10/01 - Saint Therese of Lisieux
- 10/05 - Saint Francis of Assisi
- 10/07 - Saint Birgitta of Sweden
- 10/12 - Saint Philip
- 10/15 - Saint Teresa of Avila
- 10/17 - Saint Ignatius of Antioch
- 10/19 - Saint Luke the Evangelist
- 10/20 - Saint Cornelius the Centurion
- 10/23 - Saint James of Jerusalem
- 10/28 - Saint Simon and Saint Jude

TIF Grant Award from the City of Marion

The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield has been notified that it was awarded a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) grant from the City of Marion, Illinois totaling \$5,043.50. This award is based on the property rehabilitation work already accomplished (Phase I) on the campus of St. James' Chapel. TIF is not a federal program; it is enabled through specific legislation passed by individual state governments. Nearly all 50 states have enacted statutes that allow local governments to create TIF districts. Illinois state law allows units of local governments to designate areas within their jurisdiction as TIF districts. This financial award to our Diocese will be applied to the Capital Improvement Appeal fund that we are currently inviting donors to participate in.

The Marion City Council voted to approve 15 FY-2027 TIF grant applications submitted through 08/06/2026 after a motion from Commissioner Webb. "I'll make a motion to approve the FY '27 TIF grant applications received through 08/06/2026," Commissioner Webb said before the measure passed on a roll-call vote with Commissioners Patton, Webb and Stecklen and Mayor Absher voting in favor; Commissioner Barwick was recorded as absent.

The awarding of this grant goes much further than assisting us in achieving our capital improvement goals in Marion. It stands out as indication that as a religious organization, the Diocese of Springfield remains eligible for further grant consideration as we move forward with our renovation priorities on the campus of James' Chapel.

Working with Jennifer Olson, Director of Economic Development for the City of Marion, Erin Anglin completed the grant application on our behalf, compiling all necessary supporting documentation of expenditures already applied to the outward beautification priorities of our Chapel property in Marion. As we move forward with Phase II and III of this capital improvement priority, we plan on applying for additional TIF grant funds, maximizing the amount of work that we can accomplish in interest of property maintenance, evangelism and outreach.

"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple. (Psalm 27:4)"





Fall House of Bishops

Bishop Burgess spent September 22nd through the 29th at Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas attending the 2026 Episcopal Church Fall House of Bishops Meeting. 110 dioceses and specialized jurisdictions were represented by active, resigned and retired bishops, including those bishops-elect who have received the canonically required consents. The week was spent discussing church planting, theological education, the future of the Church regarding the reach and influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and drafting a pastoral message to the wider Episcopal Church ([read here](#)). Time was budgeted for a schedule of regular worship, fellowship, provincial gatherings, class dinners, affinity group meetings, and opportunities to be in conversation with our Presiding Bishop. On Friday, September 25th, the House was addressed in person by Dame Sarah Elizabeth Mullally, the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury who took a detour flight to Southeast, Texas immediately ahead of her planned engagements in the Northeast.



Attending House of Bishops meetings is foundational to the episcopal vocation entrusted to Bishop Burgess. These gatherings of bishops serve as a visible sign of unity, proving that diverse local bodies answer to a shared apostolic mission.

Group Photo L-R: West Virginia, Nevada, Chicago, Iowa, Pittsburg, South Carolina, Springfield, Upper South Carolina



3rd Annual Dawgs 4 PAWS

The Episcopal Parish of Alton - Alton, IL

The Episcopal Parish of Alton will be hosting their third annual Dawgs 4 Paws fundraising event on Sunday, October 4th from 2:00-4:00 PM. Folks are invited to come and enjoy live music, food vendors, pet blessings, and more.

Our Lady of Walsingham

Church of the Holy Trinity - Danville, IL

Church of the Holy Trinity in Danville will honor Our Lady of Walsingham with devotions on Sunday, October 4, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. Prior to the liturgy, a Rosary will be recited at 2:40 p.m.

The original shrine at Walsingham was destroyed at the time of the Reformation. At the beginning of the twentieth century it was rebuilt, due to the inspired leadership of the Anglican vicar of Walsingham, Fr. Hope Patten. He revived devotion there to Mary under the title of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Today it is where Anglican, Roman Catholic, and other Christian pilgrims from around the world continue to find inspiration and guidance at the Shrine Church, Holy House, and Slipper Chapel.

All faithful of the Diocese are invited to join us and make this spiritual pilgrimage.



Keynote Speaker for 149th Annual Synod

Bishop Burgess is pleased to announce that Mr. Jeremiah Ratliff has agreed to address the 149th Annual Synod as Keynote Speaker. Jeremiah is our recently contracted Camp Coordinator and he has a great deal to share about our most recent successes as well as his vision for our summer camp program moving forward.

This is a reminder that the 149th Annual Synod of the Diocese of Springfield will be hosted in Alton, Illinois from October 23-24th. More information will be available soon. Photos for the synod slideshow are now being received and can be submitted to Bethany Buscher at communicator@episcopalspringfield.org



All Donations Now Matched Dollar for Dollar

Endorsed by Diocesan Council and Trustees, Bishop Burgess will be matching all donations made to the Diocesan Appeal from now and November 1 (up to \$40,000) from funds left to his discretion by previous generations of faithful giving. All donations received during this time will receive a one-to-one match. It is his hope that this will motivate a final wave of sacrificial giving that will push the project to its completion and the total \$250,000 goal. To read more about the progress on the Appeal and how you can double the impact of your generosity, click the [here](#).

Please include those in our Diocese who are pursuing Holy Orders in your prayers:

Andrew Mead, Postulant, Trinity, Lincoln
Zach Buscher, Postulant, Trinity, Lincoln
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.



Francesco Unterperger, Santa Teresa d'Ávila, before 1776. MART, public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.



The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Illinois

