



# CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## Cathedral Offers Opportunities to Pray Before the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration *Sharing Time With the Lord*

St. Teresa of Calcutta once wrote, “Nowhere on earth are we more welcomed or loved than by Jesus in the Eucharist. To be alone with Jesus in adoration and intimate union with Him is the Greatest Gift of Love — the tender love of Our Father in Heaven.”

That invitation to be with Christ in the Eucharist is available each week at the Cathedral of St. Peter through two opportunities for Holy Hour — Tuesdays from noon to 1 p.m. and Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Thursday Holy Hour was established three years ago at the request of Msgr. Myler following his retirement, and the Tuesday Holy Hour was added in 2025, expanding opportunities for parishioners to



spend quiet time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

“Adoration is a great time for peace and quiet in prayer,” Fr. Godfrey says. “Prayer has to be both speaking to God and listening to Him.

Adoration permits both easily. Having the consecrated host visible in the monstrance helps us remain more focused, and benediction is truly a blessing for all.”

On Tuesdays, books are provided so those gathered can pray Midday Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours together. The remainder of the hour is spent in silence before the Eucharist.

Thursday’s Holy Hour includes exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, quiet time for prayer, and the opportunity for confession, before

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# Learning to Grow in Faith This Spring — *One Season at a Time*

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**E**ach spring, change begins almost unnoticed. A tree that looked lifeless weeks before shows small buds along its branches. Grass slowly returns. Gardens that appeared empty begin to stir again. Growth happens quietly, and only with time do we recognize how much has changed.

The spiritual life often unfolds in the same way.

Many of us hope faith will grow quickly. We want stronger prayer, deeper trust, or clarity about God's direction in our lives. When progress feels slow, it is easy to wonder whether anything is happening at all. Yet God rarely works through sudden transformation. More often, He forms us gradually through ordinary faithfulness.

Much of spiritual growth takes place beneath the surface. A person who returns to prayer after a long absence may not immediately feel

different. Someone trying to be more patient or generous may still struggle day to day. But just as roots develop before leaves appear, God is at work even when results are not yet visible.

Stewardship helps us see this growth more clearly. God has entrusted each of us with a life meant to be cultivated. The time we spend with Him in prayer strengthens our relationship with Him little by little. The abilities we use in service — whether visible or quiet — allow faith to extend beyond ourselves and bless others. Even our financial gifts, offered faithfully through the parish, become part of something larger than we can see, supporting the Church's mission and helping faith take root in other lives.

Spring also reminds us that growth sometimes requires letting go. Gardeners trim branches not to harm the plant but to help it thrive. In our

own lives, growth may mean releasing habits or distractions that keep us from giving God our attention. These moments can feel uncomfortable, yet they create space for new life.

Perhaps the most reassuring lesson of spring is patience. No one expects a garden to bloom overnight. Growth follows rhythms built into creation itself. God works with the same patience in us, shaping our hearts over time through steady faithfulness rather than dramatic change.

When faith feels slow or progress uncertain, we can trust that God is still working. Every prayer, every act of service, and every generous response to His blessings matters more than we realize.

As Christian stewards, our task is not to force growth but to remain faithful — tending what God has entrusted to us and trusting that, in His time, He will bring forth fruit.



*A Letter from Our Cathedral Rector*

## Answering God's Call with Gratitude and Trust

Dear Parishioners,

As many of you now know, on March 13 the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, appointed me to serve as the next Bishop of the Diocese of Belleville. Since that announcement, I have been deeply grateful for the many prayers, messages, and words of encouragement I have received from throughout our diocesan family.

I want to begin by expressing my sincere thanks to the Holy Father for the confidence he has placed in me by calling me to shepherd this beautiful flock. I am also grateful to Cardinal Christophe Pierre, Cardinal Blase Cupich, and Archbishop Michael McGovern for their guidance and support during these past weeks. When the Church asks a priest to take on a new mission, the most fitting response is simply one of trust. I accept this responsibility as part of God's plan and with a willingness to serve His people in whatever way He asks.

This appointment is particularly meaningful to me because this is the Church that first formed me in the faith. I have been part of the Diocese of Belleville since I was nine months old, when my family moved to Salem. My parents were deeply involved in the life of our parish, and from an early age I came to know the witness of diocesan priests and religious sisters who served our communities so faithfully. Those experiences helped shape my vocation and my love for the Church.



Over the past year, serving as diocesan administrator has allowed me to travel widely throughout southern Illinois. In every place I have visited, I have encountered warm welcomes and a vibrant faith lived out in parish life. Once again, I have been reminded of something I have known all my life — that Christ is truly present in the people of this diocese. You are my people, and I have always loved this Church and its faithful.

I also know that no bishop carries out his ministry alone. The life of the Church is built on the faith, generosity, and collaboration of all the baptized. I ask you to continue praying for me in the weeks ahead as I prepare for my episcopal ordination and installation on May 1.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and your families. I look forward to continuing our journey together as we seek to follow the Lord faithfully and strengthen the life of the Church throughout southern Illinois.

Peace,

*Fr Godfrey OSB*

Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB  
Cathedral Rector

# The Serra Club Answering the Call to

The Serra Club is a Catholic organization of lay people dedicated to supporting and promoting vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Jim Wachtel is secretary of the Serra Club of St. Clair County, an affiliate of Serra International, which the Vatican recognizes as the only global lay apostolate for vocations in the Catholic Church.

“It started in the United States in 1935,” Jim says. “Our Serra Club in Belleville started in 1947. We’re club number 35. We have about 44 members. Now, there are a thousand clubs in the world. We provide financial help to the diocesan vocation office. For instance, they print posters of the seminarians every year. We pay for that.”

The Serra Club carries out its work through three main missions.

“Our primary mission is that we foster and promote vocations to the priesthood and support them in their sacred ministry,” Jim says. “The most important thing we do is pray. This is the most praying bunch I’ve ever been involved with. We pray every single day. We have a

special prayer for an increase in vocations. We have the 31 Club. Every member chooses one day a month to dedicate all their actions and prayers for an increase in vocations. We do a Holy Hour once each month at the Poor Clares Monastery in Belleville.”

Members are also assigned one hour each week to pray for various vocation directors, and they encourage all members to make a regular Holy Hour of adoration part of their spiritual lives.

“We have a program called Adopt a Seminarian and a Novice,” Jim says. “For all seminarians and novices in our diocese, we assign our members to pray for them and communicate with them, send them notes. At Christmas, people send a little gift.”

As a major project to promote vocations, Serra members also help coordinate visits for between 500 and 600 diocesan students each year — from fifth through eighth grade and high school juniors. Boys visit a seminary, while girls visit a religious community of sisters.

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*Fr. Levi James at his Ordination Mass wearing the chasuble presented to him by the Serra Club*

# Serra Club: to Support Vocations

“We don’t put any pressure on them,” Jim says. “We’re just offering another option.”

For many young people, it is one of the few opportunities they have to see religious life up close.

“The second thing, we encourage and affirm all priests and all consecrated religious,” Jim says. “Every year, we give a real nice priest picnic. We do a yearly dinner for the deacons and their wives. We also have a party for the sisters.”

They also take part in the Affirmation Card Ministry.

“We send cards to all active and retired priests and deacons on the anniversary of their ordination, thanking them for their service,” Jim says. “We send a card to the nuns on the day they took their vows, and to any of the sick of the clergy. When we’re fortunate to have a young man going to be ordained, the night before, we give a nice dinner party for him and his family, honoring them. We give a gift, usually a chasuble vestment.”

Their third mission focuses on the spiritual lives of Serra members themselves.

“The third part of our mission is to assist all Serra members to recognize and respond in their own lives to

God’s call to holiness in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit,” Jim says. “We have two meetings a month, the first and third Fridays of the month at 11 o’clock. Every meeting begins with Mass. We’ll have a short business meeting, then a speaker, usually a priest or religious. We always have something to educate us about the Church.”

Currently, meetings are held at Corpus Christi Church in Shiloh.

“We are desperate for priests,” Jim says. “When I joined in 2001, we had about 100 active priests. Today, we’ve got about 40. We still have hundreds of parishes. You get ten miles out of Belleville, and you come into these little burghs. The Serra Club knows the power of prayer and encouraging vocations in the Church.”

*Learn more about our local Serra Club, including a list of events and how to join, by visiting [serrastclair.org](http://serrastclair.org). For specific questions, contact Jim Wachtel at 618-444-9289 or [wachteljim@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wachteljim@sbcglobal.net).*

## Cathedral Offers Opportunities to Sit Before the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration *continued from front cover*

concluding with Benediction.

“Since stewardship of time is the willingness to make a good return on the 24 hours God gives us each day, this beautiful and quiet time of prayer is a great opportunity,” Fr. Godfrey says. “Considering the tithe, applied to time — 1,440 minutes per day. Factor out eight hours of sleep and eight hours of work, and that leaves 480 minutes. Ten percent is 48 minutes. How do we do in using our time for God, offering Him what belongs to Him?”

At its heart, adoration is about deepening one’s relationship with God. Time spent with Him in the Blessed Sacrament allows that relationship — and love for Him — to grow stronger.

Many who begin attending adoration regularly discover it becomes an essential part of life, a quiet source of peace they do not want to miss.

“I believe most of us are grateful for the peace adoration brings,” Fr. Godfrey says. “The practice can also bring about new questions, hopes, and ideas, and long-sought answers to prayer.”

*Anyone is welcome to come into the Cathedral for any part of the Holy Hour on Tuesday from 12 to 1 p.m. or Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m.*

# The Mission and Ministry of a Bishop

## *How the Church is Guided Through Teaching, Sacramental Leadership, and Pastoral Care*

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**W**hen Catholics hear that a priest has been appointed a bishop, many understand that it is an important moment in the life of the Church but may not fully know what changes with that appointment or what a bishop's role actually involves.

A bishop is a successor to the Apostles. From the earliest days of the Church, the Apostles entrusted leadership to those who would continue teaching, sanctifying, and governing the Christian community after them. Through the laying on of hands and the prayer of ordination, that apostolic ministry continues today in bishops throughout the world.

In simple terms, a bishop serves as the chief shepherd of a diocese, which is a geographic area made up of many parishes, schools, ministries, and Catholic institutions. While a pastor is responsible for the life of one parish, a bishop carries pastoral responsibility for the entire local Church entrusted to his care.

His role centers on three essential responsibilities: teaching, sanctifying, and governing.

As teacher, a bishop safeguards and proclaims the faith. He helps ensure that Catholic teaching is handed on faithfully through preaching, catechesis, and pastoral guidance. He speaks to the needs of the Church in his diocese while remaining united with the Holy Father and the universal Church.

As sanctifier, a bishop oversees the sacramental life of the diocese. He ordains priests and deacons, administers the Sacrament of Confirmation, and ensures that the liturgy is celebrated reverently and faithfully. In a particular way, he helps strengthen the spiritual life of both clergy and laity.

As governor, a bishop provides pastoral leadership and practical oversight. He assigns priests, supports parish life, guides diocesan ministries, oversees Catholic education, and helps steward the resources of the Church responsibly. His decisions affect not only

administration, but also the spiritual direction and mission of the diocese.

A bishop is also called to be a visible sign of unity. He gathers the faithful, clergy, and religious into communion with the wider Church and encourages them to live their baptismal call with faith and generosity.

While the title carries authority, the heart of the vocation remains service. Like every ordained minister in the Church, a bishop is called first to imitate Christ the Good Shepherd — leading with humility, charity, and a deep concern for souls.

For the Cathedral parish family, this moment carries particular meaning as we congratulate Fr. Godfrey Mullen on his appointment as the next Bishop of Belleville, with gratitude for his faithful priestly service here at the Cathedral of St. Peter and prayers for him as he begins this new chapter of leadership in the life of the Church.





## *Celebrating the Easter Season*

**E**aster Sunday falls this year on April 5. But even when the glorious day comes to a close and we soon look towards the springtime days of May, remember that Easter is far from over — the celebration of the greatest feast day of the Church year continues for the next 50 days.

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate Christ rising from the dead, following His gruesome passion and death. On that glorious Sunday — three days after He died — Christ fulfilled His promise, “Destroy this temple and I will rebuild it in three days” (Jn. 2:19) and the promises of the Old Covenant, “I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers. They will strike at your head while you strike at their heel” (Gen. 3:15).

Through His resurrection, Jesus broke the chains of sin and death, opening for us the way to eternal life. Yet, His mission was not yet over. He was back with His disciples, showing them that what had been promised to their fathers had been fulfilled.

“Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things” (Lk. 24:46-48).

Yet, again, there is still more.

After all, Jesus is not still walking the earth, showing us Himself, is He?

Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended to His Father’s right hand. That day falls on May 14 this year, but the Feast of the Ascension is a movable feast and will be celebrated this year on May 17. And 50 days after Easter, the Father sent His Spirit, just as Christ promised He would. And with that (the feast we now celebrate as Pentecost, which falls on May 24 this year), Christ’s salvific mission was accomplished, and it is with the celebration of that great feast that we conclude the Easter season — a season of joyful recognition of the salvation Christ won for us.

Having been beaten and killed for our sins, Christ rose from the dead, breaking the bonds of sin. Then, after He ascended to His rightful place in heavenly glory, the Lord sent the Spirit, and now, armed with the power of the Spirit, the Church serves as the sacrament of salvation on Earth — offering us sanctifying grace (a share in the life of Christ Himself) through the sacraments.

As you can see, the Easter season offers us a time to commemorate some of the most important events in the

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# CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

200 W. Harrison St. • Belleville, IL 62220  
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## Celebrating the Easter Season *continued from page 7*

history of salvation. In fact, it can rightly be called the most important season of the Church year, for it is now — during these 50 days — that we celebrate the fruits of Christ's sacrifice.

Today, though Christ has won the victory over sin, we are all still living in a tainted world. We still feel the effects of sin because we do not yet fully partake of the fruits of Christ's victory. That we will only know when (and if) we, by the grace of God, enter eternal glory in the heavenly kingdom.

Let us all take the time this Easter season to thank God for the gift of salvation. Spend time reflecting on how much we have opened our hearts to the grace He pours upon us. May we all be more aware of the glory Christ has won for us, and, in so doing, willingly detach ourselves from the fruits of this world so that we may be more receptive to the fruits of His grace.



### **MASS TIMES**

*Saturday: 4:00 p.m. | Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m. | Weekdays: Monday-Friday 6:45 a.m., Thursday 12:00 p.m.*

### **SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (CONFESSIONS)**

*Monday-Friday: 7:15-7:30 a.m. | Thursday: 6:00-7:00 p.m. | Saturday: 3:00-3:45 p.m.*

### **ADORATION**

*Tuesday 12:00-1:00 p.m. | Thursday 6:00-7:00 p.m.*