



Most Reverend Louis Tylka

Diocese of Peoria
Office of the Bishop

**ST. PATRICK (HISTORIC ST. PATRICK)
IN BLOOMINGTON**

May 18, 2024

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As we celebrate the great Solemnity of Pentecost, we recall the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and the birth of the Church. This gift of the Holy Spirit continues to be poured out upon the Church and upon us. I chose Pentecost intentionally as the day when we reach an important milestone in our two-year Growing Disciples planning process with the announcement about our parishes and churches. Thank you for your participation, your feedback, and your advice which have helped me make the decisions that are announced today.

I spent time in further prayer, study and discernment over the recommendations that were made to me by the extensive process of consultation which occurred. I have reached the following decision regarding St. Patrick.

I have decided to appoint your pastor, Fr. Jeffrey Stirniman, as pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Corpus Christi and St. Patrick in Galesburg, effective July 1. I invite you to express your gratitude to him for his dedicated service to your parish community. Your new pastor will be Fr. Steven Loftus, who will also serve as pastor of Holy Trinity. Please welcome him warmly. Fr. Peter Okola, AJ will remain at your parish as parochial vicar.

While there is no change to the structure of your parish, I am asking every parish to engage in a process of renewal. In cooperation with Holy Trinity Parish, I ask your pastor to arrange a schedule of four weekend Masses. Every parish is asked to evaluate its schedule of Masses, its programs of pastoral care and evangelization. I challenge every parish to be more intense in cultivating disciples. More information about this call to become a more vibrant parish will be released in the coming months.

The implementation phase will begin in all parishes on July 1, 2024. I ask for your continued prayers and continued cooperation as we work together to strengthen and renew our Diocese in this new apostolic age. Know that I pray for you daily. May the Holy Spirit bless all our efforts to Grow Disciples.

Venerable Archbishop Sheen - pray for us!

Peace and Prayers,

✚ Most Reverend Louis Tylka
Bishop of Peoria

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