



Most Reverend Louis Tylka
Diocese of Peoria
Office of the Bishop

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH IN PEORIA

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 Sacred Heart Parish which also serves St. Joseph Church.

While Fr. William Miller and Fr. Thomas Gibson will remain your pastor and parochial vicar, I have decided to appoint Fr. Luke Spannagel as pastor of St. Philomena in Peoria, effective July 1. I invite you to express your gratitude to him for his dedicated service to your parish community. Your parish will also be served by the parochial vicars at St. Jude, Peoria, who will assist with Masses as needed. St. Bernard Church will no longer be in use.

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 the Cathedral, I ask your pastor to arrange a schedule of five 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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