



BELLEVILLE DIOCESE

flocknote



A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP GODFREY



School bells are ringing again. Children in some parts of the country have already spent their first week in the classroom (yikes!). The principals of our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Belleville met last week. It all points to this new beginning of another school year. New second graders will look forward to and learn about First Holy Communion. Seventh and eighth graders will be finding out all about the gifts of the Holy Spirit in preparation for Confirmation. And all our students have the benefit of a new beginning, a potential reset, to grow in grace and in learning, while becoming more solid on the path of being disciples of Jesus.

While many have children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, or nieces and nephews who are going to school, the time of the harvest is worthy of reflection for all of us. Starting kindergarten or turning 90 – every moment presents the possibility of new life, new grace.

So, what new life do we need? As you know, the new life of disciples is a four-lane highway. The disciple's response to the gifts God lavishes upon us is rightly **hospitality, prayer, formation, and service**. All these lanes of living faithful discipleship are a type of welcoming the other, the Word of God, the Tradition of the Church, and the one in need. Surely, no matter our age or station in life, we can all recognize that selfishness is never congruent with the gospel and that denying

ourselves, taking up our cross, and following the Lord is the way of the faithful.

As students learn their lessons each day, we are all called to learn the lessons of Jesus, to be open, to welcome the wisdom of the Most High.

When we gain wealth, sometimes we can forget that every good gift comes from the Father. When we attain independence, we might neglect the fact that our faculties for independent living came from Almighty God. When we find ourselves less needy, we too easily ignore the truth that no matter how satisfied we are in life, there is still and always will be a dependence on God's mercy.

And so, along with a welcoming heart and mind, necessary for all Christian discipleship, is the foundation of our Catholic faith: thanksgiving for and with Christ. *The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows* (*Sacrosanctum Concilium* 10). The fountainhead of the Church's liturgy is the Eucharist, the central act of thanksgiving.

So, whether we're in school or not, our task at this important time of year is clear: we are to be **grateful disciples, welcoming disciples, joyful disciples** of the One who took up His cross for our salvation. If we see any selfishness in our lives, let's cast it aside. If we see any hatred or bigotry towards another, let's have that removed. If we won't welcome, let's learn the way.



Pope Leo XIV
Prayer Intention
for the month of August

**For evangelization
in the city**

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.



STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Through the Eyes of the First Disciples

In today's world, it is easy to become distracted. Work, family responsibilities, technology, and the constant busyness of life can pull our attention in many directions. In the midst of it all, we sometimes lose sight of the One who is meant to be at the very center of everything — Jesus Christ.

This is why it helps to look back at the first disciples. By walking with them through the Gospels, we can better understand what it means to be a disciple and how we are called to live as faithful stewards today.

One day on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, Simon Peter and his brother Andrew were busy fishing when Jesus called out to them: "*Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men*" (Mt 4:19). Fishing was not just their occupation — it was their livelihood, their identity, their way of life. Yet when Christ called, they left everything behind.

Luke's Gospel makes the radical nature of discipleship even clearer: "*If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple*" (Lk 14:26). Jesus is not calling us to reject our families, but to understand that true discipleship requires complete selflessness. Nothing — not even our closest relationships — can come before Him.

Still, Peter and Andrew didn't hesitate. Matthew tells us simply: "*At once they left their nets and followed him*" (Mt 4:20). No lengthy deliberation. No second-guessing. Just a wholehearted yes.

Soon after, the disciples gathered with Jesus on a mountainside and received His teachings — the Beatitudes, the call to be salt and light, the command to pray, fast, and give alms. Jesus urged them to depend entirely on God: "*Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides*" (Mt 6:33).

Strengthened by this encounter, the disciples set out to proclaim the kingdom: "*As you go, make*

this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give" (Mt 10:7-8). Their lives were transformed, and they went on to transform the world.

Jesus also promised them a reward: "*Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me*" (Mt 10:40). Through their faithfulness, the apostles drew countless souls to Christ. Today, we honor their witness as saints who now enjoy the eternal reward of heaven.

What does this mean for us? If we long for the same eternal reward, we too must embrace a life of discipleship — a life of stewardship. That means giving the Lord our time by making prayer a daily priority. It means offering our talents— whether fishing nets, teaching skills, or a gift for music — for the glory of God and the good of others. And it means sharing our treasure, recognizing that where we place our resources, we also place our hearts (Mt 6:21).

Just as He did on the shores of Galilee, Christ is calling us by name today. He walks the streets of our towns, inviting us to follow Him. The only question is: how will we respond? May our answer be as immediate, courageous, and faithful as Simon and Andrew's — a resounding yes to the life of discipleship and stewardship.

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 15

Not obligatory since it falls on a Saturday



BACK TO SCHOOL

Lord our God,

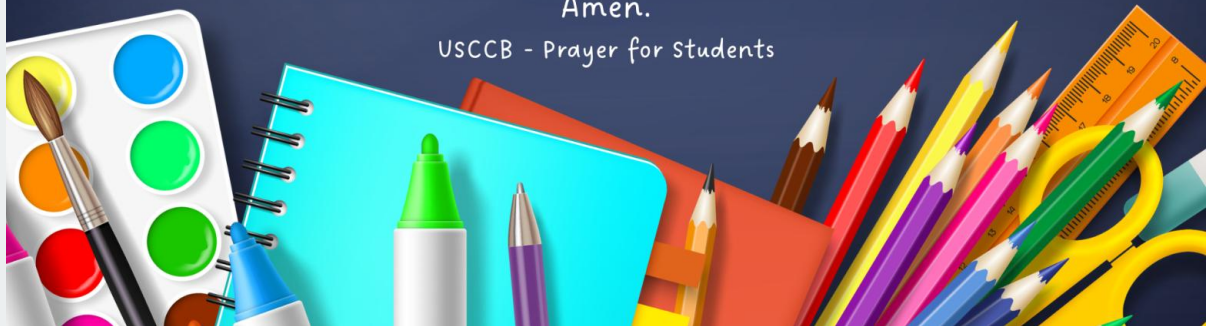
In your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe.
Send your spirit upon these students and fill them with
your wisdom and blessings.

Grant that they may devote themselves to their studies
and draw ever closer to you, the source of all knowledge.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

USCCB - Prayer for Students





BEATIFICATION OF
ARCHBISHOP
**FULTON J.
SHEEN**

CelebrateSheen.com

PEORIA EVENTS

Tuesday, September 15

9-Day Novena Begins
Novena of Holy Hours
Cathedral of St. Mary | 7PM

Tuesday, September 15 -

Wednesday, September 23
9-Day Novena of Holy Hours
Cathedral of St. Mary | 7PM

Saturday, September 19

Family Holy Hour & Tours
Cathedral of St. Mary | 10AM - 12PM

Sunday, September 20

Anniversary Mass of Sheen's Ordination
Cathedral of St. Mary | 3PM

Friday, September 25

Masses of Thanksgiving | 9AM, 11AM, 1PM, 3PM
Parish Talks | ST. JUDE, ST. PHILOMENA, ST. THOMAS
Sheen Awards Gala, Peoria Civic Center | 6PM

Saturday, September 26

Masses of Thanksgiving
Byzantine Divine Liturgy
Cathedral of St. Mary

ALL EVENTS REQUIRE TICKETS



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CelebrateSheen.com

ST. LOUIS EVENTS

Wednesday, September 23

**Vespers at the Cathedral
Basilica of St. Louis - 5 PM**

Private event.

Live stream available.

Thursday, September 24

Expo at The Dome at America's Center

8 AM - 7 PM

Adoration & Confession

9 AM - 12 PM, 4:30 PM - 6 PM

Pre-Mass Show - 10 AM

Beatification Mass - 2 PM

The Dome at America's Center

Live stream and broadcast available.

Veneration of Relic - 4-6 PM

ALL EVENTS REQUIRE TICKETS

Seeking Volunteers for The Beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

An historic moment for the Catholic Church in the United States that will bring together

thousands of pilgrims from across the country to celebrate the life and legacy of one of America's most beloved Catholic evangelists. This extraordinary event in St. Louis, Missouri, will only happen once, and we are looking for volunteers to help make it a joyful and welcoming experience for everyone who attends.

Whether you have a few hours or several days to give, there are a variety of volunteer opportunities available before and during the celebration.

Beatification Mass & Expo

Thursday, Sept. 24, The Dome at America's Center, St. Louis, MO

To volunteer, go to. celebratesheen.com/vol



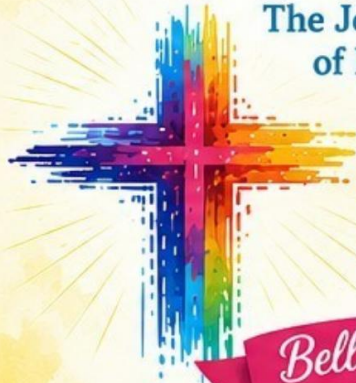
Click [HERE](#) for a parish picnic near you!



Faith Formation

Cursillo in *Christianity*

The Joyful Proclamation
of Being Christian!



Belleville Diocesan

2026

Cursillo
Weekends



King's House

At Our Lady of the Snows
Belleville, IL



*Men's
Cursillo*

August 20-23,
2026



For More Information Contact:

Debbie Blume

Precursillo Chairperson



618-806-6951



dblu@sbcglobal.net

Visit our website:

Bellevillecursillo.org

PAUL J. KIM

Catholic Speaker

SEP 9 - ST. CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH, O'FALLON, IL
DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM, TALK AT 6:30 PM
A GUIDE TO CATHOLIC ADULTING

SEP 10 - GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL WATERLOO, IL
SOCIAL AT 5 PM, TALK AT 7 PM
LIFE IS SHORT, ETERNITY IS FOREVER

No RSVP Needed. Free & Open to the Public

2 EVENTS



Young Adults

Young Adult Group

ROSARY

AND FELLOWSHIP

SATURDAY
AUGUST 15
8:30 AM

ROCK SPRINGS PARK
1428 E 3RD ST
O'FALLON, IL 62269



St. Clare Young Adults

FIRST TUESDAY

Join other young adults for Adoration at 6:00 pm at St.
Clare on the first Tuesday of each month. Join us at
Global Brew after!





Diocese of Belleville
**YOUNG ADULTS
PRESENTS**

BIBLES AND BREWS

**THURSDAY,
AUGUST
27**



with Fr. Joel Seipp

**FOR YOUNG ADULTS
AGES 21 - 35**

Location: Slips Hideaway

2063 Marina Drive Murphysboro, IL, United
States, Illinois 62966
7 PM



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Diocese of Belleville Young Adults

