



**Most Reverend Louis Tylka**  
Diocese of Peoria  
Office of the Bishop

**ST. JOSEPH IN BRIMFIELD**

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. Mary of the Woods, St. Joseph, St. Dominic, and St. John the Baptist.

St. Mary of the Woods in Princeville, St. Joseph in Brimfield, St. Dominic in Wyoming, and St. John the Baptist in Bradford will be merged to become one parish, with a primary worship site at St. Mary of the Woods in Princeville. St. John the Baptist in Bradford will not be in use. Masses will continue during the process of implementing this change which is expected to be completed over the next 24 months.

In the meantime, Fr. Corey Krengiel will remain pastor of St. Mary of the Woods in Princeville. I have decided to promote Fr. John Baptist Uwigaba from administrator to pastor of St. Dominic in Wyoming and St. John the Baptist in Bradford, effective July 1. I have decided to assign Fr. John Verrier as parochial vicar at St. Malachy in Rantoul, St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Thomasboro, St. Lawrence in Penfield, and St. Charles Borromeo in Homer, effective July 1. I invite the parishioners at St. Joseph to express your gratitude to him for his dedicated service to your parish community. I have decided to appoint Fr. Deogratias Mpewo as administrator of St. Joseph in Brimfield. Please welcome him warmly.

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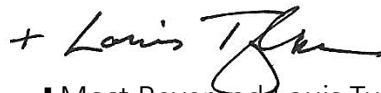
The implementation phase will begin in all parishes on July 1, 2024. I ask Fr. Krengiel to lead the implementation effort in cooperation with Fr. John Baptist and Fr. Deogratias. In order to adapt to this merger of parishes, it will be necessary to determine the new Mass schedule. I ask you to work with your priests to arrange a schedule of four weekend Masses between the three churches of the parish.

I am asking every parish to engage in a process of renewal. 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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis Tylka". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

✦ Most Reverend Louis Tylka  
Bishop of Peoria