



Cathedral

WEEKLY

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SHARE IN THE GLORIOUS FREEDOM OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD | FR. BRIAN ALFORD

Cathedral WEEKLY

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
NINTH BISHOP
OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

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PAROCHIAL VICAR

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524 East Lawrence Springfield, IL 62703
Cathedral Parish Office: 217-522-3342
Website: www.spicathedral.org

Mass Times: Saturday - 4:00pm; Sunday - 7:00am, 10:00am, & 5:00pm
Weekday Masses: Monday through Friday - 7:00am & 5:15pm; Saturday - 8:00am
Reconciliation: Monday through Friday - 4:15pm-5:00pm; Saturday - 9:00am-10:00am & 2:30pm-3:30pm; Sunday - 4:00pm-4:45pm
Adoration: Tuesday & Thursday - 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Diocesan Victim Assistance is available. For the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, please call 217-321-1155.

Please remember that if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a nursing home or home-bound, to contact the Parish Office or Sr. Francella at 217-522-3342 x 142.

Welcome to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception!

On behalf of our bishop, the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, our parishioners, deacons, and priests, we welcome you to the mother church of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

The seat of the diocese was moved to Springfield from Alton in 1923. In the same year, "Old St. Mary's" church of Immaculate Conception Parish was named as the pro-cathedral of the new diocese until this cathedral church was built and dedicated in 1928. Currently, our diocese comprises twenty-eight counties in central Illinois, serving over 140,000 members of the Catholic faithful.

We hope that your visit to our Cathedral is one of grace and beauty and that you feel at home in the mother church. We also hope that you will find this edition of the *Cathedral Weekly* to be both informative and spiritually enriching. May God bless you and yours!



Share in the Glorious Freedom of the Children of God

When I was a newly ordained priest, I spent a fair amount of time teaching in the Catholic high school connected to the parish to which I was assigned. At the end of one of the classes, one of the students commented to me that I had said a certain phrase multiple times during the class. She did not mean to be disrespectful and I realize that she must have felt comfortable enough with me to share the feedback, so after some initial defensiveness, I felt grateful to know my tendency to repeat things.

That incident early on in my ministry has made me more self-aware, which is a good thing. And I find that when I reflect on my preaching, I notice a theme that I keep repeating, not so much because it is an unconscious space filler, but because it is so central to how I look at our faith. The theme is divine filiation, which means that we are adopted sons and daughters of God. We receive this adoption on the day of our Baptism, and the bond is rooted more deeply when we receive Confirmation.

When teaching His disciples how to pray, He invited them to begin by calling this important truth to mind as they begin with the words: "Our Father." (Mt 6:9) I will sometimes give that as a penance in the confessional, asking the person to pray the Our Father, pausing on those first two words, considering how God looks upon them with delight as a loving Father. St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits and a spiritual master, encourages that in beginning to pray, one should "consider how the Lord my God looks upon me." (Spiritual Exercises, #75) We may be tempted to think that He looks upon us with indifference or even disappointment, but the fact of the matter is that He looks upon us with great love, for we are His beloved children. These two practices may sound rather simple, but they are indeed powerful. I would invite you to give them a shot this week and see if they don't help you in embracing this key identity more fully.

In our Second Reading for this Sunday's Mass, St. Paul speaks about how we are invited to "share in the glorious freedom of the children of God." (Rom 8:21) I spoke about that theme this past Sunday in the homily that I preached at all of the masses. I had mentioned that as the clergy of the Cathedral have the great privilege of helping you to live that freedom more fully in your lives through our ministry to you. Below is a beautiful short reflection for your meditation on what it means to live this gift of spiritual childhood:

Don't try to be grown-up. A child, always a child, even when you are dying of old age. When a child stumbles and falls, nobody is surprised; his father promptly lifts him up.

When the person who stumbles and falls is older, the immediate reaction is one of laughter.

Sometimes this first impulse passes and the laughter gives way to pity. But older people have to get up by themselves.

Your sad experience of each day is full of stumbles and falls. — What would become of you if you were not continually more of a child?

Don't want to be grown-up. Be a child; and when you stumble, may you be lifted by the hand of your Father-God. (St. Josemaría Escrivá, *The Way*, #870)

Father Alford is the Rector of the Cathedral and serves in the diocesan curia as the Vicar for Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations.

Stewardship Activity

Stewardship of Prayer

Lord,
Lead us to silent places where Your word can be heard.
Give us open hearts in which Your word can be planted.
Send our souls nourishment so that Your word can grow.
Give us courage to act on Your word.
Strengthen us to join You in harvesting Your word.
Finally, grant that we may be counted among those who have borne fruit and have been found worthy of Your Kingdom where You live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.

Mass Intentions

Monday - July 13

7am - Eric Nelson
(Family)
5:15pm - George Friedel
(Lee & Donna Jones)

Tuesday - July 14

7am - Doris Drea
(Asher, Gittler, & D'Alba Ltd.)
5:15pm - William F. & Shirley Logan
(Lisa Logan & Lori Motyka)

Wednesday - July 15

7am - Richard Willaredt
(Nancy Nekoll)
5:15pm - 48th Wedding Anniversary
for Daniel & Diane Schumacher
(Family)

Thursday - July 16

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - Kay King
(Dick King)

Friday - July 17

7am - Steve Hergenrother
(Thomas Hergenrother)
5:15pm - Special Intention for Bianca
(D.A. Drago)

Saturday - July 18

8am - Helen Zeigler
(William & Debra Stonikas)
4pm - Bart Rotherham
(Betty Rotherham)

Sunday - July 19

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)
10am - Charles & Mercedes Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)
5pm - For the People

Stewardship of Treasure - July 4th & 5th

Envelopes:	\$7,534.00
<u>Loose:</u>	<u>\$2,062.00</u>
Total:	\$9,596.00

June EFT: \$25,536.85

Did you know you can make a gift online? If you would like to extend a special gift to the Cathedral, please visit <https://spicathedral.org/give-online/>. We appreciate your generosity!