



# *Cathedral*

## WEEKLY

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST. MARY MAGDALENE | FR. BRIAN ALFORD



# *Cathedral* WEEKLY

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

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.  
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THE REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING  
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524 East Lawrence Springfield, IL 62703  
Cathedral Parish Office: 217-522-3342  
Website: [www.spicathedral.org](http://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!



## St. Mary Magdalene

A few weeks ago, I came across an article that Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, wrote in the June 28th issue of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. In the article, he recounted an incident from several years ago when he was set to dedicate a church under the patronage of St. Peter. A person objected with the following words: "Why would you name a Church after such a coward, a sinner who denied even knowing the Lord when Jesus needed him most, at the hour of His arrest and crucifixion?"

Dolan responded to the person in the following way: "But you're a proud parishioner at St. Mary Magdalene Church. She was sure not a paragon of virtue for a chunk of her life. Yet, by God's grace, she became a radiant, inspirational saint."

This Wednesday (July 22), the Church celebrates the feast day of this radiant, inspirational saint. I think Cardinal Dolan hits the nail on the head by inviting us to see how, by God's grace, nobody is exempt from the possibility of becoming a saint. Even though most people around St. Mary Magdalene had dismissed her and given up on her, the Lord never did. Jesus did not see in her a sinner – He saw in her a woman created by God, made in His image and likeness. He saw somebody who was broken and instead of turning away, He drew close to her and gave her the healing gift of His Divine Mercy. As a result of that, her life was changed, and she became the saint who had the privilege of being the first to see the Risen Lord after His Resurrection.

The story of St. Mary Magdalene is instructive for us on two levels. On the personal level, it reminds us that we are not defined by the sins of our past. Even if others (or ourselves) have turned away from us, the Lord has not. He continues to pursue us and desires to remind us that we are His beloved children and that He longs to grant us His healing mercy. And with His grace, we too can become saints! On the relational level, St. Mary Magdalene's story invites us never to give up on others. When we see the faults and failures of others, we can be quick to criticize and even demonize them, even to the point of thinking they are not fit for the Kingdom of Heaven. In those moments, we are invited to look upon others with the gaze of Christ, the gaze He had for St. Mary Magdalene, and the gaze He has for us. That gaze in one that sees the goodness of each person and the possibility of their undergoing a life-changing conversion through the power of God's grace.

I am sure that you can think of some examples of those whom you find it hard to see as living a saintly life at this point in their lives. Say a special prayer for them this week, asking for the intercession of St. Mary Magdalene, that they will accept the invitation from our Lord to embrace His healing mercy and be set on the path that will one day lead them to join the elect in the Kingdom of Heaven.

*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

O God, whose mercies are without number and whose treasure of goodness is infinite, graciously increase the faith of the people consecrated to you, that all may grasp and rightly understand by whose love they have been created, through whose Blood they have been redeemed, and by whose Spirit they have been reborn. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Mass Intentions

### Monday - July 20

7am - Betty & Gene Barish (Family)  
5:15pm - Thomas Rapps (Carolyn Yoggerst)

### Tuesday - July 21

7am - Sophie E. Bartoletti (Bartoletti Family)  
5:15pm - Rose Marie Pirrera (Betty & Glen Rogers)

### Wednesday - July 22

7am - Ralph Walter, Sr. (Jean Moss)  
5:15pm - Tom Weizel (Tom Steil & Sharon Oldfield)

### Thursday - July 23

7am - Edward Hergenrother (Thomas Hergenrother)  
5:15pm - George Friedel (Janet Wilmsmeyer)

### Friday - July 24

7am - John & Edith Bakalar John Busciacco  
5:15pm - Kyle Buckman (Mom)

### Saturday - July 25

8am - George Ziegler (William & Debra Stonikas)  
4pm - Bredgetta Lenn (Lenn Family)

### Sunday - July 26

7am - For the People  
10am - Mary Priest (Rebecca & Woody Woodhull)  
5pm - Bob Lucasey (Family)

### Stewardship of Treasure - July 11th & 12th

Envelopes:	\$6,872.00
Loose:	\$2,103.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$115.00</u>
Total:	\$9,090.00

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!