



Cathedral

WEEKLY

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST | FR. BRIAN ALFORD

Cathedral WEEKLY

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

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.
RECTOR

THE REVEREND PETER CHINEKE
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
IN RESIDENCE

THE REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING
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!



Nothing Can Separate Us From the Love of Christ

I continue to marvel at how the living Word of God in Sacred Scripture continues to speak to us with wisdom and relevance to our daily lives. In particular, the Second Readings we have been hearing from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans have provided some much-needed encouragement for us during these challenging times. This week is no different, as we hear these words:

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Rom 8:38-39)

A few months ago, I remember mentally inserting the word "coronavirus" into the list of those things that could not separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. At the time, there was so much uncertainty and fear, and these words rang out like a bell to break me out of my negative thinking and returned me to a place of hope.

If we are honest with ourselves, there is still a great deal of fear in our world about the coronavirus, not to mention the many other concerns that affect our lives. And when we are faced with these fears, we do well to hear these words of St. Paul and to bring this question to prayer: "Am I really convinced that *nothing* can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus?" Bring to the Lord whatever your anxiety is and insert it into the list above and be encouraged to move forward in hope.

It is important to note, however, that there actually is one thing that can ever separate us from the love of Christ – ourselves. Our unwillingness to accept His love by turning away from Him and freely choosing to sin pushes us away from His love, and in the case of mortal sin, we separate ourselves completely from His love. We can sometimes point to things outside of ourselves and claim that they are pulling us away from God, or that He is pulling Himself away from us, neither of which is true. He never stops offering His love to us and nothing that happens to us can break that bond.

Therefore, in addition to praying with the above passage, ask yourself: "When was the last time I went to confession?" Maybe I am in need of being drawn closer to His love (or restored to it in the case of mortal sin) which will have the effect of bolstering our faith in the belief that when we abide in His love in the state of grace, absolutely nothing can separate us from His love. His love has already won the victory, and that love promises us a share in His victory of eternal life for those who persevere in remaining in His love through grace.

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

Help me discern,
as I look around my home and my to-do list,
which objects and activities bring me closer to you.

Provide me the grace to work each day
building up my heavenly storehouse.
Amen.

Mass Intentions

Monday - August 3

7am - Barbara J. McGrath
(Family and Friends)
5:15pm - Patrick Gibson
(Fran Marks)

Tuesday - August 4

7am - Albert Crispi
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - William F. & Shirley Logan
(Lisa Logan)

Wednesday - August 5

7am - Doris Drea
(Asher, Gittler, & D'Aba, Ltd.)
5:15pm - Genevieve Bitschenauer
(Barbara Bitschenauer)

Thursday - August 6

7am - Julie Kemp
(Family)
5:15pm - Kenneth Elmo Rogers
(Betty & Glen Rogers)

Friday - August 7

7am - Julie Kemp
(Family)
5:15pm - Lawrence Jaros
(Jim & Diane Seiz)

Saturday - August 8

8am - Helen Ziegler
(William & Debra Stonikas)
4pm - Thomas Rapps
(Ned & Janet Riordan)

Sunday - August 9

7am - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
10am - For the People
5pm - Pat Matthews
(Stanley & Thelma Rhodes)

Stewardship of Treasure - July 25th & 26th

Envelopes:	\$4,821.00
Loose:	\$1,982.00
Maintenance:	\$86.00
Total:	\$6,889.00

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!