



Cathedral

WEEKLY

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE HOUSE OF PRAYER | 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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DEACON T. SCOTT KEEN

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MINISTRY TO THE SICK
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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!



The House of Prayer

"[F]or my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." (Is. 56:7)

These are the words we hear at the conclusion of our First Reading for this Sunday's Mass. In the Old Testament, the Temple was the central place of worship, of it was there where God's presence dwelled in a special way (cf. CCC 576). As Catholics, we also read this

passage with the awareness that these words also apply to our churches, which serve as the central place of our prayer and worship of God. And God is present in a special way in our churches, even more than in the Temple of Jerusalem, for He is present in His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist in our tabernacles.

With that in mind, it is sometimes surprising to me that our churches remain largely empty for the vast majority of time throughout the week. Sure, we have masses when people gather together to pray, but what about the rest of the hours? Jesus makes Himself a prisoner in the tabernacle, patiently waiting for us to come to pay Him a visit, spending some time in prayerful adoration in the place where He dwells in a special way. And while it is true that we can (and should) pray anywhere, there is nowhere more special to pray than in a Catholic church.

If you have never taken the opportunity to stop into our Cathedral church during the day to pray, I highly encourage you to do so. The peace that we experience when we step into the silence of this temple can be a profound experience. And since it is a house of prayer, spend some time in prayer in the presence of our Eucharistic Lord. You could spend some time in prayerful thanksgiving for the blessings you have received. You could offer prayers for the various intentions for which family and friends have asked you to pray. You could pray a decade (or more) of the Rosary. You could read a chapter from the Gospels. Or consider this beautiful little story shared by St. John Vianney:

Listen well to this, my children. When I first came to Ars, there was a man who never passed the church without going in. In the morning on his way to work, and in the evening on his way home, he left his spade and pick-axe in the porch, and he spent a long time in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Oh! how I loved to see that! I asked him once what he said to Our Lord during the long visits he made Him. Do you know what he told me? 'Eh, Monsieur le Curé I say nothing to Him, I look at Him and He looks at me!' How beautiful, my children, how beautiful!

Please know that this church is the Lord's house, and He has made it a house of prayer for all peoples, especially we who are His sons and daughters. That makes this church your home, so please feel free to stop to pay a visit to the master of the house – He's here waiting for you!

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 Treasure - August 8th & 9th

Envelopes:	\$5,418.00
Loose:	\$2,229.05
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$260.00</u>
Total:	\$7,907.05

July EFT: \$23,159.00

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!

Mass Intentions

Monday - August 17

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - Fiore Mercurelli
(Trish Marriott)

Tuesday - August 18

7am - Mario Mercurelli
(Trish Marriott)
5:15pm - Elsie Kokotovich
(Premo & Kay Clay)

Wednesday - August 19

7am - Special Intention for Audrey & Mark Berte
(Donna Berte)
5:15pm - Lawrence Jaros
(Mike & Gertie Modrusic)

Thursday - August 20

7am - Special Intention for the Living and Deceased Members of the McDougal Families
(Donna Berte)
5:15pm - Frank Orris, Jr.
(Mary Firtos)

Friday - August 21

7am - Helene O'Shea
(David L. O'Shea)
5:15pm - Special Intention for Bianca
(D.A. Drago)

Saturday - August 22

8am - Ramon S. Simbajon
(Lolita Klicker)
4pm - For the People

Sunday - August 23

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)
10am - Sr. Valeria, OSF
(Rebecca & Woody Woodhull)
5pm - Joseph Glenn McFarland
(Betty & Glen Rogers)