

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JUNE 30, 2024 | THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG

FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 26

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

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

THE REVEREND PAUL LESUPATI
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
IN RESIDENCE

THE REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING
IN RESIDENCE

DEACON DAVID BEACH

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

VICKI DHABALT COMPTON
COORDINATOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND MISSION
VCOMPTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

HALEY DUTTON
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
HDUTTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

MARK GIFFORD
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MGIFFORD@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

KIM GUNTER
PARISH SECRETARY
KGUNTER@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

STEVEN KEHOE
BOOKKEEPER
SKEHOE@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

Sunday Masses

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

Welcome to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception!

The mission of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is to build a fervent community of intentional and dedicated missionary disciples of the Risen Lord and steadfast stewards of God's creation who seek to become saints. Accordingly, the community of Catholic faithful in this Diocese is committed to the discipleship and stewardship way of life as commanded by Christ Our Savior and as revealed by Sacred Scripture and Tradition. (Synod Declaration 1a)

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.



Farewell to Father Paul

This weekend, we bid our farewell to Father Paul Lesupati, who has served here at the Cathedral as Parochial Vicar for the past two years. We have been blessed with his ministry and we will most certainly miss him as he begins a new assignment at St. Peter Parish in Quincy, IL.

I will personally miss having Father Paul around the house as he has been an absolute delight with whom to share life and ministry. Several years ago, when Father Jeff Grant, Pastor of Blessed Sacrament, contacted me about a prospect that he had met while on sabbatical in Kenya, I was a little skeptical. Anytime you welcome

somebody to the diocese who is not from the diocese, you wonder how well they will fit, if this will be a place where they can flourish, if they will be able to learn our culture in order to minister effectively or not. When I finally met Father Paul for the first time in the airport, my concerns were set at ease, as I found in him a joyful and humble man truly open to following the Lord. I had the privilege of serving as Father Paul's Vocation Director for his four years of seminary formation, and when asked if I would welcome him as a Parochial Vicar, I did not hesitate to say yes.

Before meeting Father Paul, I knew absolutely no Swahili, a language common in East Africa. I still only know just a few words and phrases, but one I know well is Baba Paroko, which is the Swahili term for Pastor, or father of the parish. Father Paul uses this greeting almost every time he sees me, and I will certainly miss that. I have also enjoyed his infectious smile and that joyful laugh that he lets out regularly.

I told Father Paul the other day that a priest's first assignment will be one that he will never forget. I still recall fondly my first assignment, and how I learned much of what I know about being a priest during those formative years. And I have no doubt Father Paul will look back fondly on his time here. I know for sure that he will look back with gratitude on you, the parishioners of the Cathedral, for being so welcoming to him, for loving him, and helping him to learn to be a priest, giving him valuable experience that will carry him to other places and to many more people.

In that regard, I express my gratitude to all of you for the role this parish has played, not just in helping Father Paul, but the many, many priests who have come through this parish, many of whom had their beginnings here. They have all gone on to serve in various capacities, no doubt better off for the time they spent serving here. As the mother church of the diocese, we have had the joy of helping so many "learn to walk" as priests, and equipping them for the good work they are doing in every corner of our diocese. While it is sad for us to see these beloved priests go, we can be grateful that God has placed them among us, and that we have helped not just them, but the people they now serve, and will serve, in growing closer to Jesus, and being better prepared for that great reunion where we will all be together again in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Farewell, my dear friend, Father Paul! May God bless you abundantly in your future ministry, and may you always know of our prayers for you, and we humbly ask your continued prayers for us!

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

Mass Intentions

Monday, July 1

7am - Sr. Annette Embirch ASC
(Brother)
5:15pm - Special Intention for Lost
Sheep & Shepherd (John & Debra
Beltramea)

Tuesday, July 2

7am - Bill Vogt
(The Anselment Family)
5:15pm - Thomas R. McGee
(Mike & Jessica McGee)

Wednesday, July 3

7am - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Doris Drago
(D.A. Drago)

Thursday, July 4

7am - Cornelius McCue Family
(McCue Family)
5:15pm - NO MASS (Independence Day)

Friday, July 5

7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)
5:15pm - Bill Vogt
(Wednesday Night Bible Study)

Saturday, July 6

8am - David & Kim Smith
(Berte Family)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, July 7

7am - Betty Rogers
(Family)
10am - Irvin Lawrence Smith
(Bev & Larry Smith)
5pm - Margaret Jane Langenfeld
(Family)



Bl. Ramon Llull

Feast Day: June 30th

Some saints live simple lives growing in prayer or charity; some head off on extraordinary adventures or endure unthinkable challenges to remain faithful to Christ, and some of them simply boggle our minds. Introducing Ramon, or Raymond, Llull.

We start in Mallorca, a little Island then part of the Kingdom of Catalon, sort of halfway between Barcelona, Spain and Algiers, Algeria (actually, that's not a bad cultural description as well: the island was a crazy mix of Christian and Muslim culture and population). Our man Ramon is married, with two kids, but is living the life of a troubadour and aspiring poet, singing ballads about love and chivalry instead of living those virtues by being faithful and helpful to his wife. You get the picture: crazy outfits, fancy banquets, wild imagination, tremendous intelligence, flighty, goofy, carefree, empty...

And then one evening before going to bed while crafting another piece of love poetry, he was carried into a vision of Christ crucified. He saw the suffering, the love, the blood, the gift that Christ gave us all on that afternoon outside of Jerusalem. And then he saw the vision again, and again, and again, and again. Five times he found himself at Golgotha, each time absorbing more deeply than he ever had before, the reality of the crucifixion and the realness of Christ. And as he returned to the waning sunshine and poetic musings of Mallorca, he knew his life could not continue down that same road.

He was 31 years old in the Year of Our Lord 1263 when he committed his life entirely to bringing others to Christ. He sold his possessions, went on the Camino de Santiago, and then began a decade long effort to learn Arabic, and all that he could of the philosophy and tenants of Islam. His goal was to bring them to the Catholic faith, and his prodigious mind was not content with the usual logical arguments or typical appeals to scripture or spirituality. He wanted a system that brought all those things together – poetry, mysticism, philosophy, common sense, saints and stories and symbols – something accessible to sovereign or simpleton.

Once more it was a divine inspiration that changed everything. He was, as typical of those years, living a hermitical life up on Piug de Randa and had a second vision. All those years of study, all those different languages, all his time in meditation were somehow synthesized and he came away not just with clarity for the continued mission of his life but also a glimpse of the glorious truth of God and how that is available to every single human mind.

I will start with the missionary efforts because they're far easier to describe: He began traveling to European Universities and meeting with Popes and Kings to try and establish language schools that would equip missionaries to head into Muslim lands carrying the Gospel. He went himself to Tunis, preached to the Saracens, got himself captured and imprisoned and sent back, only to do so again and again. He wrote books to educate children, and novels to depict the Christian life in story, and mystical works describing the life of prayer and how prayer could win far more souls than any amount of military might.

But in his mind all these things were threads of a bigger, more glorious, God-grounded tapestry. Again and again over those same years he tried to put into writing the "art", as he called it that connected all his efforts, but really all truth itself together ... and like every other mystic, he struggled to put it into words. He would start with attributes everyone can agree are supreme - goodness, eternity, wisdom, etc. – and would drill into these characteristics, showing that each branched in three directions, or dimensions. The Trinity, the Christian understanding of God, was discoverable in every most fundamental idea! He would lecture so excitedly on this point: you could begin talking with someone at any of these various points that the human mind naturally approaches, and the truth itself would beautifully grow towards the Triune God. He constructed mechanisms that you could turn to any conceptual starting point and which would link truth to truth to truth pointing the way to God.

He may have been martyred on one of his expeditions to the Muslim world. At the very least, he would be beatified for his conversion and holiness and zeal, not for his philosophical and evangelical creativity.

BUT, here's the twist. Llull's system of summarizing concepts with symbols and then allowing logical and mathematical tools to link and manipulate them is the precursor to how computers communicate and process information today. AND, his concept that all the different realms of human knowledge are interconnected, consistent, and accessible – that all truth is related, and you can approach it from any branch of the whole tree – is the underlying principal behind all those LLM ("Large Language Model") AI systems making waves these days.

The difference: his thinking was always directed at discovering God.

Fr. Dominic Rankin serves as a Promoter of Vocations and is Master of Ceremonies and priest secretary for Bishop Thomas John Paprocki

Stewardship of Treasure

June 22nd & 23rd

Envelopes:	\$3,998.00
Loose:	\$6,541.00
Maintenance:	\$5.00
Total:	\$10,544.00

May EFT

\$18,520.04

May Debt Reduction

\$462.00

May Second Collections

Catholic Communications Campaign
\$2,441.44

Retired Diocesan Priests
\$4,410.44

Online Giving: If you would like to extend a special gift to the Cathedral, please visit our website. Our parish is grateful for your continued support.
Thank you!

Sacraments

Baptisms

Lily Cecelia Mulford & Ella Marie Mulford
Children of Phil & Megan Mulford
Baptized on June 23, 2024

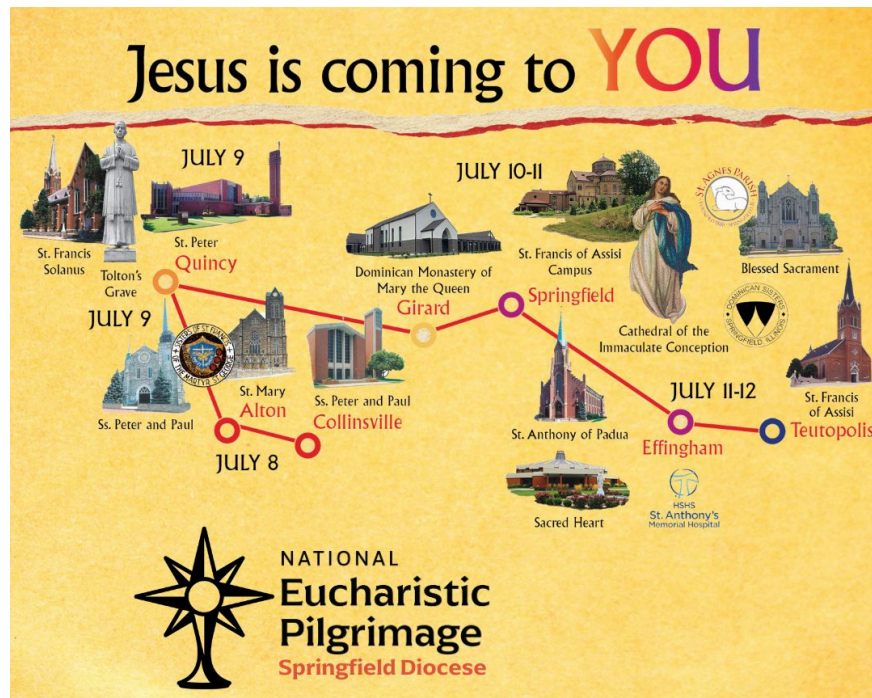
Deaths

Fred H. Greenwald
Date of Death: June 11, 2024

WEEK OF JULY 1

<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Rosary 4:45 PM Cathedral Bible Study 6:15 PM Parish Library	Parish Office Closed No 5:15 Mass	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



National Eucharistic Pilgrimage

Walk with Jesus in our city streets in an unprecedented experience! You are invited to join the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, coming to seven cities in our diocese July 8-12! This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience in which Catholics will pray and publicly follow Jesus through Eucharistic processions. Cities include Collinsville, Alton, Quincy, Girard, Springfield, Effingham, and Teutopolis. Mass, adoration, potluck dinners, and powerful witness talks are also part of the experience. BE THERE WHEN GOD MOVES IN YOUR COMMUNITY! Go to dio.org to learn more and register!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Cathedral Summer Bible Study for Women

The Cathedral will be sponsoring a summer Bible Study for Women, Thursday afternoons, 1:00-2:30.

Living In The Father's Love - In a world where women are measured by their beauty, achievements, and possessions, wouldn't it be nice to find a place where you could just be valued for who you are? Living in the Father's Love will lead you to that safe place where you are unconditionally loved, baggage and all. This brief but powerful Bible study is the ideal way to revive and refresh yourself. Discover just how much God loves us and how the gospels are deeply relevant to our relationship with God and with those we love. 6 weeks, July 25- Aug 29, \$20 workbook.

Call the Cathedral @ 217/522-3342 or email vcompton@cathedral.dio.org to reserve your spot and order a workbook.

Biking for Babies - July 12

Cyclists from Biking for Babies will be at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Friday, July 12th. While cycling across America these pro-life enthusiasts spread awareness of and collect donations for pregnancy resource centers. All are invited to attend 5:15 pm Mass, enjoy dinner with the cyclists, and hear their testimonies. RSVP if you plan to have dinner by contacting Kim Gunter at: 217/522-3342 or email KGunter@cathedral.dio.org. Donations can be made at: www.bikingforbabies.com/give. Please let Kim know if you would like bring food or assist with the dinner at 6:00 pm or the breakfast on July 13th at 3:30 am.

Independence Day Mass at Oak Ridge Cemetery

The Staab Family invites you to begin your Independence Day celebration with a Mass of Remembrance to honor all U.S. Veterans. On July 4th, we will gather to give thanks at Oak Ridge Cemetery, just south of Lincoln's Tomb. Mass begins at 9am. Please bring a lawn chair for your comfort. For more information, call 217-528-6461.

The Washing of the Chairs - Thank You!

Many thanks to the 7 young men from SHG and the 7 CCCW ladies for their work in washing ALL of the chairs from the school hall in one morning!! The guys hauled the chairs out to the parking lot where the ladies washed them top & bottom. The guys then moved the chairs into the sunshine where they were rinsed & air dried. The young men then moved all of the chairs back to their proper place in the school hall. As a result of this great cooperative effort, the July 9th work day is cancelled. Thanks so much to all involved.

Livestreamers Wanted

It is a tremendous service to our housebound parishioners to be able to offer a livestreamed Mass on Sunday mornings at 10:00am. We are in great need of more volunteers who can offer this service. It's fun and easy! We'll train you and you can serve at your convenience. Please contact the parish office at 217-522-3342 if you can serve your parish in this way.

Bulletin Reflections - Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist

Calling all Catholics! Have you experienced Jesus in the Eucharist and it touched your heart? Maybe a homily was particularly moving and renewed your belief in our Eucharistic Lord so that when you received Him that Mass, you felt His presence. Maybe you frequent Eucharistic Adoration and Jesus is moving in you, encouraging you to share Him with others. Maybe a Eucharistic miracle story or a procession of the Blessed Sacrament left you in wonder and awe at the profound goodness of God. Maybe it was something totally different. Why not share it? We're inviting you to write a brief reflection on "Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist" to be featured in our bulletin! Leading up to the National Eucharistic Congress held in Indianapolis, Indiana in July, we want to share our own stories of Jesus in the Eucharist. Please submit your reflection with a title and short bio about yourself to hutton@cathedral.dio.org

Called and Sent

Join other high school students in our diocese for a 4 day/3 night retreat from July 14-17 at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in Springfield. Encounter Jesus in a new, deep, and meaningful way. Have loads of fun and enjoy the beautiful views at this lakeside retreat house. To register, go to dio.org/events. For questions, contact Daniel Heffernan at dheffernan@dio.org.





Farewell with Gratitude From Fr. Paul

How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me. The cup of Salvation I will raise and call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of his people (Psalm 116:12-14)

First, I would like to thank God, for the blessings and the gifts he has bestowed upon me, especially the gift of priesthood and the precious gift of life. As I write this farewell note, I would like to express my gratitude as I prepare to embark on my new assignment as Parochial Vicar of St. Peter's Church and Associate Chaplain at Quincy-Notre Dame High School in Quincy, Illinois. It is with heart filled and mixed emotion that I bid farewell to the Parishioners of the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, which has been my home for the past two years.

As I reflect upon my two years here at the Cathedral, I cannot imagine the countless blessings and graces that God bestowed upon me. I am grateful to God and each one of you for your prayers and words of encouragement. As I served, accompanied and advocated for you as your parochial vicar, I have witnessed the power of faith and love of God working through the lives of each one of you, especially those I have accompanied in their joys and sorrows. This is quite evident, as I got the chance to meet some of you through Bible Study groups, Grief Share, hospital and homebound visits, the Knights of Columbus, and various gatherings here at the Cathedral. For the time I have celebrated different Sacraments, I am very grateful for the trust you have in me, and it has been an honor and a privilege to celebrate sacraments with you, to witness baptism of your children, to anoint your loved one, to bury your loved one and accompany you in your grief and loss. These sacred moments have deepened my faith and enriched my ministry as a priest.

One of the most impressive experiences working at the Cathedral was the opportunity to work with Very Rev. Fr. Brian Alford, as my Rector, (Baba Paroko). It was a great joy to work alongside Baba Paroko, Very Rev. Fr. Brian Alford. He was an immense help for me when I came as a newly ordained priest. He helped me to get acclimated to parish life. More than that, I do appreciate his mentorship, cheerful demeanor, genuine prayer life, faith and a wonderful ability to listen and an engaging pastoral ability. Thank you so much Baba Paroko. Asante Sana. To all our staff members, Deacon Larry, Deacon David, Deacon Rob, Kim, Vicki, Haley, Jan, Steven, Mark, Sue and Rusty: I am so grateful for your time and your collaboration and ministry in witnessing Christ through your service to the Church especially here at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. I would like to thank Deacon Larry Smith for his dedication and for always being ready to help me whenever I needed any assistance. I would like to thank each one of you for the generosity, love, kindness, and hospitality you have shown me for the past two years. Know that you are all appreciated.

As I prepare to take new assignment as Parochial Vicar of St. Peter's Church and Associate Chaplain at Notre Dame High School in Quincy, Illinois, I cherish the memories and moments we shared together here at the Cathedral of the Immaculate conception. Kindly, I ask for your prayers as I embark on a new assignment. Be assured of my prayers. Thank you very much! Muchas Gracias! Grazie Mille! Merci Bucco! Ahsanteni Sana!

May God bless you all!

Around the Diocese

- **St. Cabrini's Altar & Rosary Society Annual Garage Sale**, July 11, 12, and 13 at the parish hall, 1020 N. Milton Ave., Springfield, from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and from 7:30 a.m. until noon on Saturday. Donations will be accepted on July 8, 9, and 10 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- **National Eucharistic Congress, July 17-21 in Indianapolis, IN.** Participate in beautiful liturgies, lift your voice in prayer alongside world-class musicians, hear from the most influential Catholic speakers of our day, and make history as part of the first National Eucharistic Congress in nearly 100 years. This is the beginning of a new chapter of faith in America. Register at eucharisticcongress.org.
- **Save the Date for the SDCCW 95th Annual Convention**, August 28, 2024 at the Lake Williamson Retreat Center in Carlinville, IL. More details will follow!
- **Substitute Teachers Needed at Sacred Heart-Griffin High School for the 2024-2025 academic year.** Candidates must hold a Bachelor's degree as well as complete a Diocesan background check and Safe Environment Trainings. For more information and/or to submit your resume, please contact Jennifer Madiar, 217-787-1595 x106 or madiar@shg.org.