

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JULY 7, 2024 | FOURTEENTH 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 27

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

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

THE REVEREND DANIEL MCGRATH
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND PIUS CHIDOZIE NWIYI
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
IN RESIDENCE

THE REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING
IN RESIDENCE

DEACON DAVID BEACH

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

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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.

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 homebound, to contact the Parish Office at 217-522-3342



Welcome to Our New Priests

Last weekend, we bid a grateful, though sad, farewell to Father Paul Lesupati as he transitions to his new parish assignment in Quincy. But our sorrow is replaced with the joy of being able to welcome not just one, but two new priests to our parish this weekend, Father Daniel McGrath, and Father Pius Nwiyi.

As with Father Paul, Father Daniel McGrath will be beginning his life as a priest here with us at the Cathedral as a newly ordained priest. Although this is certainly not the first assignment for Father Pius, it is technically his first parish assignment in the United States (though he has been living in Chicago for the past few years). So

for both of them, being here will be a new beginning, and I am personally grateful for the opportunity that we all have to welcome them as they prepare to experience the various aspects of pastoral ministry that they will be invited into while here at the Cathedral.

When a priest comes to a parish, he has a lot to learn. He has to learn the normal routine for celebrating the sacraments, where to find various things in the sacristy and throughout the Rectory, how to adjust to living in common with other priests, learning names of parishioners, and the list goes on. A lot of that takes place behind the scenes, so the parishioners might only be exposed to a small amount of what this transition entails. For many, they ask questions like – “How long does he preach?”, “Will he be loud enough for us to hear – will we be able to understand him?”, “Can we relate to him?” Of course, we want our priests to be effective in their preaching, reverent as they celebrate Mass, compassionate in the confessional, joyful when greeting people after Mass. But I invite all of us to realize that this transition does not always take place all at once, and to have patience, always giving them the benefit of the doubt, and most importantly, praying for them. As parishioners, we can sometimes feel the burden of having to get to know another new priest, but with all due respect, your transition to welcoming a new priest is fairly minor in comparison to all that they are going through. For many of us, we see the priests for an hour, maybe slightly more, each weekend, and we go back to our daily lives, often not thinking much about them or the parish. For these new priests, this is their entire life, it is always on their minds, it is all encompassing. Taking all of this on is a lot, so please be understanding of all they are going through, especially these first few months.

As the pastor to these new priests, I feel a great sense of responsibility to help them in this transition. Sure, I want them to “do the work” of parish life, but they are not here just to work. I want them to be holy, happy, healthy priests, and to the extent that they are just that, they will be all the more effective in serving the many needs of our parish.

With that in mind, I bring to your attention again the three Hail Mary’s that I have asked us to pray each day. Recall that one of those three Hail Mary’s is for the clergy of the parish. Perhaps over the next month or so, you could begin that Hail Mary by saying: “For the clergy of our parish, especially for Father Daniel McGrath and Father Pius Nwiyi, that they be holy, happy, and healthy priests... Hail Mary...” The other clergy of the parish are happy to let the attention be given to our new priests, as we all know how you have and continue to pray for us each day. For me personally, I have no doubt that I am holier, happier, and healthier as a priest than ever before, and I believe firmly that your prayers have helped with that significantly, and I know your prayers will likewise help our two new priests in growing in these ways as well.

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 8

7am - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)
5:15pm - Raymond & Eulalia Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Tuesday, July 9

7am - Mary Conway
(Tom Conway)
5:15pm - John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)

Wednesday, July 10

7am - Frank Coffey
(Family)
5:15pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)

Thursday, July 11

7am - Marguerite Wisniewski
(Don Wisniewski)
5:15pm - John A. Sestak
(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)

Friday, July 12

7am - Betty & Gene Barish
(Family)
5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway
(Robert Gasaway)

Saturday, July 13

8am - Brother Francis Skube
(Friends)
4pm - Archie Harmon Sr.
(Archie Harmon)

Sunday, July 14

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



Bl. Peter To Rot

Feast Day: July 7th

People were used to Jesus working miracles.

But it's a bit of a bigger shock when your neighbor does one. But that is exactly what we see in the New Testament! Luke 9:49 tells us that John came running up to Jesus: "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us." Only a few verses later, he would be doing the same. Luke 10:17: "The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!'" That's not a fluke or mistake! Jesus reaffirms that He intends His Church to do what He does: "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on

serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you." He only amplifies this with the promise of the Holy Spirit in John 14:12: "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father."

But alongside of this, Our Lord also cautions us to not to grow attached to dramatic displays of power or forget that it is by His power that any miracles are accomplished. Luke 9:52 "Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." St. Paul would remind the Corinthians of this some years later when they also were in danger of growing vain, forgetting that it was from God's abundance, and for God's purposes, that they had received such astonishing gifts.

"And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. - 1 Cor 12:28-13:3

About three years ago, Pope Francis quoted this passage of St. Paul when establishing a new lay ministry of Catechist. Some are still called to be apostles, prophets, to work miracles and heal and speak in tongues (and all of these can be beautiful works of love) but some are also called to the humble work of teaching and catechizing, and this can also build of Christ's body in love! Now, local Churches are still working on the process and steps that should be involved in forming someone as an official catechist – they are instituted for life after all! – but our Blessed that we celebrated this week shows us just how far even the simple love of teaching the faith may take us!

Peter To Rot [pronounced "Tow Rote"] was a fun loving boy, one of the first to grow up a Catholic, in his village in Papua New Guinea. His pastor asked if he might be called to be a priest, but in the end he got married to his beloved wife Paula, and soon became the father to three children (though one died as an infant), and after three years of studying, started work as a catechist in his village. And then 1942 came, and the Japanese invasion of their island. Bombs fell on their village, the first time many had seen an airplane, and their loving shepherd Fr. Laufer was carried off to a prison camp. He shook Peter's hand as they took him away, "I am leaving all my work here in your hands. Look after these people well. Help them, so that they don't forget about God."

And he did. He gathered them each day to pray and learn the faith together, encouraging his fellow villagers when they were forced to hide in caves, and praying with the sick and dying. Christianity was outlawed, men were told to take second wives, but Peter would not lead them astray nor fail to say that such was a sin, "The Japanese cannot stop us loving God and obeying his laws! We must be strong and we must refuse to give in to them." He was arrested and maltreated. His Bible, catechism, song book, notebooks, and two crucifixes were confiscated. His wife and little children visited him in prison, and a few others too, during which he would say "If it is God's will, I'll be murdered for the faith. I am a child of the church and therefore for the church I will die."

And he did. A martyr for the importance of prayer, a martyr for the holiness of marriage. And he was just a catechist.

Fr. Dominic Rankin was instituted as a lector, and acolyte, as preliminary steps towards priestly ordination. But the instituted ministry of catechist will not be something primarily given to men preparing for priesthood. How might our church, and our own lives, look different in a few decades if this is just the beginning of an outpouring of lay people called by God to consecrate themselves as catechists for the good of the Church and glory of God?!

Stewardship of Treasure

June 29th & 30th

Collection numbers for last weekend were unavailable at the time of publication. Please check back next weekend for these collection numbers.

May EFT

\$18,520.04

May Debt Reduction

\$462.00

May Second Collections

Catholic Communications Campaign
\$2,441.44

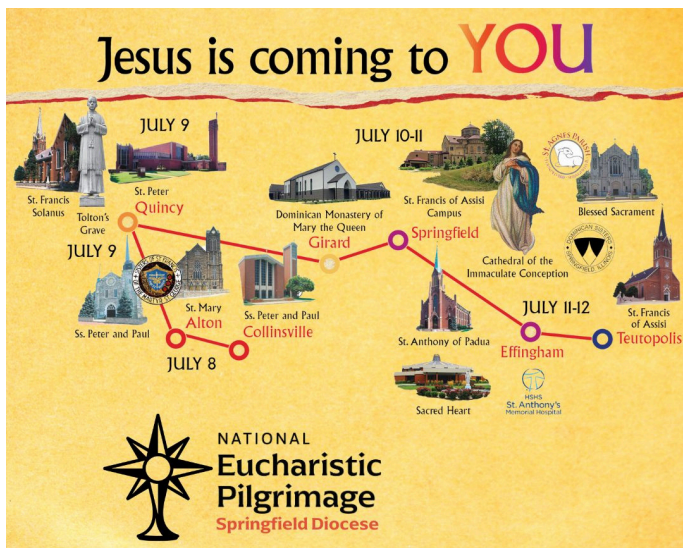
Retired Diocesan Priests
\$4,410.44

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!

WEEK OF JULY 8

<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 Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary Meeting 6:00 PM Atrium	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Rosary 4:45 PM	Summer Bible Study - Fearless & Free 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church Biking for Babies Dinner 6:00 PM School Hall	Biking for Babies Breakfast 3:30 AM School Hall	

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!



Save the Date! Ladies Paint Night at the Cathedral

All ladies are invited to a paint night at the Cathedral on Friday, August 30th at 6:30pm! Grab your favorite snacks and a friend or two and get ready for a night of painting fun! Watch the bulletin and eWeekly for more details and registration information!

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.

How to Stay in Love and Have a Beautiful Marriage

Marriage, raising kids, navigating life, and knowing the intentions of your spouse is difficult and messy! How should you navigate it all so you can stay madly in love with your spouse and have a beautiful marriage? Dive Deep is pleased to talk to Beth Sri, a Catholic speaker and author and mother of 8 children. She serves as the Denver chapter coordinator for Life-Giving Wounds, a Catholic ministry for adult children of divorce. She is also the co-author with her husband of the award winning book, "The Good, The Messy and The Beautiful: The Joys and Struggles of Real Married Life." Go to youtube.com/diospringfield or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe. Dive Deep is the podcast of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

Christ Child Shower - Christmas in July

The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women is pleased to announce the dates for the 2024 Christmas in July Christ Child Shower. This annual event provides an opportunity to donate needed items for at-risk children and pregnant women to the Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery or the Pregnancy Care Center. Please place unwrapped items in the marked boxes in the Atrium and Vestibule. If preferred, you may place cash donations in a marked envelope in the Sunday collection basket at Mass. Donations will be collected the month of July. Please join with us to share Christ's blessings with those in need.

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.



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.



Hello From Fr. Daniel!

Greetings! My name is Father Daniel McGrath, and I am excited to begin my new and first assignment as a parochial vicar at the Cathedral. I hope, over the next few months, to meet many of you and to serve you and pray for you as a priest. I have been looking forward to this for many years!

A bit about me: I come from Thayer, a small town about a half hour south of here. I am the oldest of eight children, and I grew up Catholic at Sacred Heart Church in Virden. When I was young, I seldom considered being a priest, but I did have a good priest role model in our pastor, Fr. August Sperl, now deceased. He would come often to my grandparent's house, and in him I saw that it was both normal and an option to be a priest.

I received the sacrament of Confirmation here at the Cathedral when I was a Junior during my time at SHG, and almost imperceptibly, grace began to enter my life. I soon started praying more deeply and desirously on my own. My most common prayer at this time was, "Jesus, what do you want me to do?" - something I would advise anyone to pray at any time. Through my Senior year, I more and more began to think about priesthood, but still desired a family and children in my future.

It was not until college that I made a firm decision to enter the seminary to discern priesthood more intentionally. I was attending Eastern Illinois University, studying Computer Science and Music, when I became highly involved in the Newman Center on campus. There, I discovered a place to pray daily in front of the Blessed Sacrament, a wonderful group of students I could call friends, and a small group of men discerning the priesthood led by our campus Chaplains. Out of these men discerning the priesthood that year, three of us are now priests, Fr. Zach Samples, Fr. Alex McCullough, and myself. As I prayed and spent time with these men and my other friends at the Newman Center, it became more and more clear to me that Jesus was drawing my heart toward the priesthood.

I entered Seminary at the beginning of my Sophomore year of College at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, IN. I was formed there for three years and studied at Marian University to complete my Bachelors Degree. After Bruté, I was formed at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis, MO, for my theological studies.

As a seminarian, I served at St. Boniface in Edwardsville, and Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Thomas in Decatur. I also spent a short amount of time at many parishes in our diocese during my three summers as a Totus Tuus missionary. As a Deacon, during my last year of Seminary, I served at Mother of Dolors in Vandalia and St. Joseph in Ramsey, and finally St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Granite City.

I am happy to now be assigned to Springfield at our Cathedral. I have had many good memories of sacraments here. It will be a joy to serve here and to get to know this community.

God Bless you!

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.
- **SDCCW 95th Annual Convention**, August 28, 2024 at the Lake Williamson Retreat Center in Carlinville, IL. Kelly Wahlquist, speaker, and Donna Cori, singer, will be sharing their message as women who are "Sent On Mission & Fortified By The Eucharist." There will be the church basket silent auction raffle, the quilt and garden statue raffles, vendors and the 50/50 drawing. Please call the Parish Office at 217-522-3342 for the registration form.
- **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.