

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JULY 21, 2024 | SIXTEENTH 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 29

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



Eucharistic Procession

On Thursday, July 11, the Serra Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage passed through Springfield. After a Mass attended by more than 300 people, we took to the streets of Springfield with a Eucharistic Procession that spanned 5 miles, making stops at the Capitol, Blessed Sacrament Church, the Dominican Sisters Motherhouse, and St. Agnes Church.

I must say that my experience of this procession was amazing! I've been a part of Eucharistic processions before, but this was by far the longest, and it struck me as a powerful witness to the world of the gift of the

Eucharist, a gift that we are not ashamed of, but that we delight to share with the community that we call home. No doubt many people who saw our group of a few hundred people were intrigued by what they were seeing. Overall, I think people were respectful and there did not seem to be any hostility or disrespect for what we were doing. The Springfield Police Department was extremely helpful as they kept us safe, ensuring our path was clear. The weather was beautiful and there was such a reverent, peaceful, and even joyful spirit that was present throughout the journey.

I was blessed to carry Our Lord in the monstrance for a few blocks fairly early on in the procession. Being able to have Jesus just a few inches in front of my face was such a gift. I could not really see around me, but I just kept taking one step after another, always with my eyes fixed on Him. This strikes me as a perfect image of the life of a disciple of Jesus. We cannot always see exactly where we are headed, or what is happening, but as long as we let Him lead us, and we cooperate by taking one step at a time, we will go where He wants to take us.

As I have been reflecting on this experience of the procession, especially my carrying Jesus for a few blocks, I keep thinking of the passage from Matthew's Gospel that was proclaimed at Mass just a couple of days before our procession: "At the sight of the crowds, His heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd." (Mt 9:36)

As I held Jesus so close to my eyes, it struck me that as He was looking at me, He was at the same time looking at the crowd behind me, and in fact all of the people we encountered along the way who were not following. He saw those in their cars, those walking down the street, even those in their homes. He saw the struggles in their lives, how so many feel "troubled and abandoned" and how He was longing for them to look to Him, and see in Him a ray of hope, an invitation to come to Him for healing and peace. Perhaps we will never know how the people we encountered that day were touched by Jesus passing by, but the Lord knows, and we can give thanks to Him for the graces He bestowed that day.

I have begun writing about the mission of our parish and our diocese, and how we ultimately rely on the Lord to do the building of this community of fervent disciples. I have great hope that our experience of our Eucharistic Procession here in Springfield will renew our commitment to being a part of this mission. After all, it is the gift of the Eucharist which gives us the graces we need to go and cooperate with the Lord in building His Kingdom, beginning right here in our families, our workplaces, and our community. This is the mission field to which He has called us, let us continue to bring Him everywhere we go by living the Gospel day in and day out.

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 22

7am - Louis Gries
(Greg & Marie Fleck)
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the Chiaradonna Family (Geny Chiaradonna)

Tuesday, July 23

7am - Mary Eleanor Maloy
(Madonna Fluckiger)
5:15pm - Raymond & Eulalia Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Wednesday, July 24

7am - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)
5:15pm - Special Intention for Doris Drago
(D.A. Drago)

Thursday, July 25

7am - E.P. & Margaret Staff
(Elizabeth Nuzback)
5:15pm - Doris Drago & her Intentions
(Richard & Kay King)

Friday, July 26

7am - Norma Fairweather
(Andrew & Cheryl Klein)
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the Rocco & Piccinino Family (John Busciacco)

Saturday, July 27

8am - Barbara Conkrite
(Litina Carnes)
4pm - Joseph Metzger
(Greg & Marie Fleck)

Sunday, July 28

7am - For the People
10am - Diane Kruzick
(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)
5pm - Bill Vogt
(Susie & Larry Lovekamp)



St. Praxedes

Feast Day: July 21st

Our saint this week takes us back to the earliest days of the Church in Rome. When St. Peter arrived in the capital of the empire, one of his first converts was a man named Pudens. He was the son of a Roman senator and is actually mentioned in St. Paul's second letter to Timothy. As Paul concludes the letter, Pudens is mentioned as one of a few leaders in the Church in Rome who send their greetings.. Pudens was martyred himself, and had two sons (Novatus and Timotheus) and two daughters (Praxedes and Pudentiana).

Praxedes, with her sister, used the wealth inherited from her family's upper-class standing to house (and hide) Christians during the persecutions that swept through Rome against the fledgling community, as well as themselves provided for those in prison and buried the martyrs. They were both martyred as young women and buried in the Catacomb of Priscilla, though their relics would eventually be returned to a Church named after St. Praxedes (called "Santa Prassede" in Italian) and built on top of the location of their home in Rome.

And I would like to actually take part of this article to explore that Church. These saintly sisters, but apparently especially Praxedes, were very quickly venerated in the Church of Rome. Already under Pope Evaristus, the 4th successor of St. Peter (he was the one who established the first 7 parishes in Rome, each with their own priest), we have him dedicating a Church "Titulus S. Praxedis", that is, under the title, or the "titular" Church of St. Praxedes. It may have been on this site, perhaps still mainly the Pudens household, but at least we know that by the time Christianity was no longer against the law (4th century A.D.) a more formal Church was built on the location of their home and dedicated to St. Praxedes.

Fast forward to the 800s and Pope Paschal I is leading the Church through an artistic and theological revival (now called the "Carolingian Renaissance", this is during the time of the Emperor Charlemagne), and included the building and restoring of numerous Roman Basilicas and the restoration of the bones of the martyrs to prominence in the city (rather than remaining in the catacombs outside). And this Church, much of it intact from the 8th century, gives us a glimpse back in time to the Church over a thousand years ago.

As you walk into the Church, you see a typical example (if especially splendid and marvelously preserved) of Roman Churches from that time. The Church is rectangular ("basilica"), with side aisles pushing out wider than the main roof, coffered, and towering above you. Granite columns (repurposed from other more ancient buildings that had crumbled) support large walls covered in frescoes (those much later, from the 1500s) that pull your eyes forward. Under your feet is a cosmatesque floor, with colored stones and gold inscribing spirals and other geometric shapes between larger pieces of marble. (I should say, this is another way they recycled in the olden days: taking pieces of long-broken buildings and using them to create these splendid floors to give glory to God.)

But, as I said, all this draws your eyes forward. There, arching over the main altar, is a triumphal arch – this one unlike the ones of ancient emperors, with Christ enthroned in the center. Our Lord, carefully depicted by the mosaics, steps down from heaven, robed like the emperor, and holds a scroll in one hand, his other arm raised in blessing. St. Peter and St. Paul flank him, presenting Ss. Prassede and Pudenziana to God (this actually is similar to the mosaics found in San Clemente, a few hundred years prior). Other mosaics fill the corners and smaller arches. A side chapel has angels reaching up towards Jesus, Who fills the center of the vault of the ceiling and looks down on all of us below. But I want to draw our attention off to another saint off to the side of St. Praxedes. Well, not yet a saint, there a Holy Father is depicted, his head surrounded by a square (rather than circular) halo, holding in his hands a model of a church. Actually, it's a model of this church. It is Pope Paschal, before he ever became a saint, standing there with these great saints and offering this little church he built to Jesus.

Fr. Dominic Rankin since he was little has had a disposition to hurry from thing to thing, but these saints – Peter and Paul, Pudenziana and Praxede, and Pope Paschal – show us instead a willingness to persevere in offering very little things to God each day and letting Him build it into something great. For Peter it was often his foibles, for Paul his anxiety about his little Christian communities, for Pudenziana and Praxede the carefully collected blood and bones of the martyrs, for Paschal at first a few stones, then a few walls, and by the end a grand basilica. Like the floor, and those pictures that fill the walls, each of them could only bring little gifts to God each day, but by consistently doing that every day by the end of their lives they all had a spectacular mosaic of a Christian life well-lived to show for their perseverance.



Stewardship of Treasure

July 13th & 14th

Envelopes:	\$5,068.00
Loose:	\$5,656.00
Maintenance:	\$68.00
Total:	\$10,792.00

June EFT

\$19,004.61

June Debt Reduction

\$468.00

June Second Collections

Peter's Pence
\$2,791.00

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

Weddings

Craig Erickson & Madeline Beeler
Married on June 29, 2024

Deaths

Fr. Albert "Al" Allen
Date of Death: June 28, 2024

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF JULY 22

<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 OCIA 6:00 PM School Library	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Rosary 4:45 PM	Summer Bible Study - Living in The Father's Love 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church K of C Meeting 6:00 PM School Classroom	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



August First Friday Concert Series

Join us on Friday, August 2, 2024 at 7pm in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! August's concert will feature Ethan Heinzel, Organ/Piano. The First Friday Concert Series is sponsored by the Staab Family, directed by Mark Gifford, and is free and open to the public. All are welcome!



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! \$30 per person; spots are limited (40 total). To register, visit <https://dio.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/91/responses/new>. Payment will be due at time of registration; if you prefer to not make an online payment, please contact the Parish Office at 217-522-3342 to make arrangements (payment will be due within 3 days of registration, if by phone). Registration closes August 18th so sign up today! Any questions can be directed to Kim Gunter (kgunter@cathedral.dio.org) or Haley Dutton (hdutton@cathedral.dio.org). We hope to see you there!

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, Aug 1-Sept 5, \$20 workbook.

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

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.

Have You Been Married 50+ Years? Time to Celebrate!

On September 22 at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, all couples married 50 years or more are invited to attend a special Mass honoring their marriage vocation! The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. A reception will follow after Mass. Please register for the Mass by going to dio.org/events. When you register, please upload (not mandatory) a photo from your wedding day and present day, as we'll be showcasing a slide show during the reception.

Don't Forget! Pick Up Your Meal Train Containers

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to bring meals for the Bishop and Cathedral Clergy! Don't forget to pick up the containers you have brought your meals in to the Cathedral. Please call the Parish Office at 217-522-3342 to make pick up arrangements. If you'd like to sign up to bring a meal for the Bishop and Cathedral Clergy, please visit our website (<https://spicathedral.org/cathedral-meal-train/>) to sign up for the dates that work best for your schedule.

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.

Evening Bible Study for Women

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, Thursday evenings, Aug 22 – Sept 26 @ 6:15pm \$20 workbook.

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

A Deserted Place

In one of my favorite shows, "Parks and Recreation," there is a scene where one of the characters, Jerry, is tasked with stuffing hundreds of envelopes with flyers as part of his volunteer work for a local city council campaign.

Jerry's efficient, almost mechanical completion of the job amazes his coworkers, who gather to watch in awe while he folds, inserts, seals, and stamps — over and over again. After several hours, the huge pile of envelopes is finally ready for mailing ... and Jerry realizes that he has stuffed them all with the wrong piece of paper.

"I always say, it ain't government work unless you do it twice," he quips as he restarts the task.

In any work, no matter how worthy or fulfilling it is, there is a point where the task transforms into mere routine. It can happen with anything: ministry, marriage, parenthood, even prayer. There is no shame in this. It doesn't mean that we don't enjoy these pursuits or feel passion for the mission inherent in them.

It only means that we are human, and we get tired.

When the Apostles return from their travels, Jesus recognizes their exhaustion. He encourages them to "come away to a deserted place." He inhabits a human body, so he knows the weariness to which it is subject. He knows what it is to be tired, to be hungry. He knows that it's hard to do the work when your body is failing you.

It's important for us to recognize those times when Jesus is calling us to a deserted place — and it's important for us to follow him there, even if we are pursued by feelings of doubt and guilt, just as the Apostles were followed by crowds hungry for their ministry.

Solitude is not selfishness. Contemplation is not idleness. To withdraw does not mean to run away.

The work we do — whatever it is — deserves our whole strength. If we have lost that, there is only one place we are sure to find it again.

"He said to them, 'Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.'" — Mark 6:31

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
©LPi

Around the Diocese

- **National Eucharistic Procession in Springfield - July 11** Jesus took the streets of Springfield for the National Eucharistic Procession last week with many pilgrims visiting from outside our diocese! It was the longest leg at 5 miles, as they journeyed through downtown streets, neighborhoods, and Washington Park during this Emmaus moment in our Capitol city!
- **Springfield Right To Life Pro-Life Bridges Event, Saturday, July 27, 9am-12pm** at West Lakeshore Drive overpass in Springfield; call 217-523-2700 or 217-602-9177 for more information.
- **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.

