

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 | TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 35

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

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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.



Steadfast Stewards of God's Creation

Returning to our unpacking of our diocesan and parish mission statement, the next phrase to consider is where we express our desire, as missionary disciples, to be "steadfast stewards of God's creation."

In the early 1990's, the Bishops of the United States issued a Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, Stewardship: A Disciple's Response. In that document, they reflected on the image of stewardship by citing the Parable of the Talent in Matthew 24:14-30. The story is about a man going on a journey who

"called his servants and entrusted to them his property." (Mt 25:14) He gave each of them a different number of talents. Upon his return, he commended those servants who used the talents entrusted to them, and he punished the one who did nothing. Here is an important point the document makes on this parable:

The silver pieces of this story stand for a great deal besides money. All temporal and spiritual goods are created by and come from God. That is true of everything human beings have: spiritual gifts like faith, hope, and love; talents of body and brain; cherished relationships with family and friends; material goods; the achievements of human genius and skill; the world itself. One day God will require an accounting of the use each person has made of the particular portion of these goods entrusted to him or her. (p. 20)

The first thing that a steward needs to acknowledge is the primacy of God for everything. All that we have is a gift that has been entrusted to us by God, and He is asking us to be good stewards of those gifts. As Christians, that stewardship is expressed in generously sharing our gifts with others, not just clinging to them selfishly as though they were our exclusive property.

Perhaps one of the most valuable, and seemingly scarce, gifts is our time. We are pulled in so many different directions that when we are asked to consider giving an extra hour or so, we are hesitant to do so. In fact, we would just as soon give an extra \$20 to a cause than take an hour of our valuable time to volunteer for that same cause. We often conclude that our time is more valuable, and that somebody else will step up to fill the need. We sadly are aware of the fact that when this dynamic exists, a small number of people are left to do the majority of the work, resulting in their getting burned out more quickly, when had everybody been willing to be generous with a little bit of their time, the burden would have been more equally distributed.

Speaking of our stewardship of time, the Church asks us for an hour each week to set aside to worship Him at Sunday Mass. If we acknowledge that all the time that we have comes from Him, how can we possibly not want to give Him that hour of thanksgiving and prayer each Sunday? If we commit to this most fundamental form of stewardship, we will be well on our way to being open to being good stewards of all of the others gifts with which the Lord has blessed us, and be ever more willing to share them generously for the good of others.

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, September 2

7am - Mary Conway
(Tom Conway)
5:15pm - NO MASS - Labor Day

Tuesday, September 3

7am - Mark West
(Carol West)
5:15pm - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)

Wednesday, September 4

7am - Helen (Bobbie) McCarthy
(Family)
5:15pm - Doris Drago
(D.A. Drago)

Thursday, September 5

7am - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Friends)

Friday, September 6

7am - Harold & Alice Rauscher
(Kathy Howard)
5:15pm - Mary Kaufman
(McGee Family)

Saturday, September 7

8am - Margaret Jane Langenfeld
(Family)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, September 8

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(Bill Midden)
10am - The DuBeck Family
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)
5pm - Deceased Members of the
Greenwald Family (Joan & Rick Rogers)



St. Simeon the Stylite

Feast Day: September 1st

Anybody know the name Bill Penfield? How about David Werder? Both these fine gentlemen, Bill in the 1930s, and David in the 1980s, have the distinction of setting endurance records in the practice of pole sitting. I suspect that name tells you most of what you need to know, but for everyone's greater knowledge, pole-sitting is the attempt to sit on top of a tall pole for as long as possible to set a record (sometimes also to make a point). Bill sat on a pole in Strawberry Point, Iowa for 51 days in 1930, only coming down when a thunderstorm threatened his life. (Happily, though his effort was curtailed, he did manage to take the crown from the real pioneer of pole-sitting of that era, Alvin "Shipwreck" Kelly, who had recently defended his own title with a 49-day sit in 1929.)

But those guys have nothing on David Werder, who in November, 1982 climbed up a pole at an appliance center in Clearwater, Washington – he was appalled by the cost of gasoline which had reached 99 cents a gallon – and proceeded to remain on top of that pole for 439 days, 11 hours, and 6 minutes. This meant he spent the entirety of 1983 on top of said pole, though, sad to say, my research indicates that gas only dropped a few cents during that time. I guess he saved plenty of pennies by not driving that whole time...

But neither Bill, or David, can hold a candle to St. Simeon Stylite. That title, "stylite", actually means he was a pole-sitter of the saintly sort – there was a handful of hermits who endured life on top of pillars for periods of time in the age of the desert fathers, earning for themselves that surname. But Simeon took it to another level. Born in 390, a generation or two after Constantine legalized Christianity around the empire (with worship of Christ quickly becoming the official religion of the empire and gaining huge swaths of the population to the fold), he grew up in the kingdom of Cilicia, in modern day Turkey, and was a shepherd. Around the age of 13 he was listening to (or perhaps reading) the Beatitudes, and was struck to the heart by Our Lord's words. He left behind his family and occupation and joined a monastery.

Now, we must take a moment to recall that monasteries, in large part, were an attempt to find a way to carry forward the courage and heroism of the martyrs into an age when few places anymore were out to kill Christians. In the early Church, martyrs were considered Christians par excellence, and the stories of their sacrifice and faithfulness, alongside of the Church's unprecedented concern for the poor and sick and unimportant, was the primary catalyst for all of those conversions to Christ. The hermits and early monks carried the battle that was waged in the arenas and amphitheatres of the empire into their own hearts and minds as they left behind every earthly comfort and followed Christ in the desert. They would endure not the beasts of the coliseum but the relentless temptations of the Evil One.

Before we even get back to Simeon, it's helpful to recognize what is happening here. These monks left behind the distractions and cares and comforts of the world, and this means they could reach extraordinary depths of prayer and asceticism BUT it also entailed directly engaging the battle for Christ in their mind.

Jesus never said anything about sitting on pillars, but the first words He proclaimed to the world were "repent and believe in the Gospel." We all love the Gospel I think, but are we willing to do the prerequisite act of repenting? That command, "repent", literally means "change your mind" [metanoieite], and in their totality. To listen to no voices except the Lord's, to accept no truth except His, to give no space to any other authority. The rest of the New Testament is relentless on this point: Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Ephesians: 4:22-24: "Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." Philippians 2:5: "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus."

St. Simon Stylite spent 37 years on his pillar, seeking not acclaim, but solitude; not desiring any earthly accomplishment but precisely to drive from his mind every voice that was not that of Christ. May he intercede for us that we would know how to similarly engage that battle for ourselves!

Fr. Dominic Rankin does not have a pillar to spend his days upon ... but he spends a lot of time in the car and would probably have more the mind of Christ if he left some of those hours empty, expecting the Lord to do great things rather than filling them with noise (or complaining about them).

Stewardship of Treasure

August 24th & 25th

Envelopes:	\$3,996.00
Loose:	\$3,902.42
Maintenance:	\$35.00
Total:	\$7,933.42

July EFT

\$19,237.67

July Second Collections

\$429.64

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

Benjamin Ryan & Rachel Karras
Married on August 24, 2024

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 2

<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
NO 5:15 PM MASS	Adoration 4:00 PM Church OCIA 6:00 PM School Library	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Rosary 4:45 PM Church Cathedral Bible Study 6:15 PM School Library	Adoration 4:00 PM Church Night Bible Study- Living in the Fathers Love 6:15 PM School Library	Rosary 4:45 PM Church First Friday Concert 7:00 PM Church		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



September First Friday Concert Series

Join us on Friday, September 6, 2024 at 7pm in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! September's concert will feature Vocal Students of Justin Johnson. 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!



Ignatius Book Fair at Cathedral

The Cathedral is hosting an Ignatius Book Fair as a faithful alternative to nationally known book fairs. Ave Maria University and Ignatius Press have partnered to offer this unique opportunity, collaborating with well known publishers, including Magnificat, Bethlehem Books, and Augustine Institute. The collection includes captivating Catholic titles along with children's classics and wholesome modern books. The Book Fair will be open in the Cathedral School cafeteria on Thursday, Sept 12 6:00-8:00pm, Friday, Sept. 13 1:00-5:00pm, Saturday, Sept. 14 3:00-6:00pm, Sunday, Sept. 15, 8:00am-12:00pm (closed during Masses)

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

Join Bishop Paprocki on Saturday, September 14th from 10am-11am at this inter-faith memorial service, beginning at the Right to Life building at 519 N Bruns Lane in Springfield. This event is being sponsored nationally by the Pro-Life Action League, Priests for Life, and Citizens for a Pro-Life Society, and hosted locally by the Springfield Right to Life Civic Committee.

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.

Peoria Chiefs Game

Join Fr. Augustine Tolton Council #16126 and Cathedral parishioners at the final Peoria Chiefs game of the season on Sunday, September 8th at 2:05pm at Dozer Park in Peoria, IL. For \$40 you get a seat in the Batter's Box VIP Concourse Area with a lunch buffet featuring hot dogs, cheeseburgers, baked beans, chips, popcorn, canned soda, and bottled water. Individuals will need to provide their own transportation to and from the game. For questions, please contact Nick Gray at graynicholasjohn@gmail.com. A limited number of seats are available in this VIP area so reserve your tickets today! Spots can be reserved at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/toltonchiefs>

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Please join us for a special celebration of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Sunday, September 8, 2024, after the 10am Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Come early and pray the rosary before Mass at 9:30am. All are welcome. Invite a friend and enjoy birthday cake and snacks in the atrium immediately following Mass. Contact Donna B. 217-622-8576 with questions or if interested in assisting

Thank You!

A huge thank you to the many parishioners & visitors who contributed food and/or money to the Holy Family Food Pantry last weekend. One & a half pickup loads of food filled ELEVEN overflowing shopping carts of groceries when unloaded at the Food Pantry. In addition, \$526 was collected for the Pantry to purchase other items as needed. Thanks also to members of the CCCW and K of C Council #16126 who helped with the collection and delivery of the food. Pantry staff, as well as needy community members, are very appreciative of your contributions.



The Word

On November 28, 1981, Alphonsine Mumureke was in the dining room at her high school in Kibeho, a small village in southwestern Rwanda. She heard a voice. It was a woman, veiled and beautiful. Alphonsine asked her who she was. "I am the Mother of the Word," answered the woman.

It was the first appearance of Our Lady of Kibeho, who would return to visit Alphonsine and two of her schoolmates over the course of the next eight years. She left with them an urgent call for repentance, along with a prophecy of the Rwandan genocide that would come to fruition in the next decade.

I have always found it compelling that Our Lady chose to identify herself in this way at Kibeho. The Mother of the Word. A title so simple and so concise, but so heavy with meaning.

"In the beginning was the Word..." says the Gospel of John in its opening lines.

But what is the Word? Is it spoken, or is it felt? Is it seen, written, heard? Is it shouted or whispered? Is it scribbled across pages that will one day dry and disappear? Is it carved into stone tablets, or on the nameplate above a cross? Is it poured over our foreheads? Is it set ablaze in a bush? Is it etched into our hearts?

It is all of these things, yes, but it is more, still. The Word is not something that is merely spoken. It is not merely written. The Word is something that is done. It is something that we must choose to do.

Our Lady of Kibeho lamented that this world "has neither love nor peace." "If you do not convert and heal your hearts, you will all fall into an abyss," she warned.

But how do we convert our hearts? What snatches us back from the brink?

It is the Word, spoken. It is the Word, carried out. Not just one, and not just the other, but both.

"Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls." — James 1:21

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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Around the Diocese

- **6 Little Known Culprits That Keep you Exhausted & The Fastest Way to Increase Energy for Good**, presented by Mike Thomas, pharmacist, board certified health coach and public speaker passionate about helping people regain their energy and vitality. Learn about the 6 major factors that sap energy without us noticing, a simple strategy to overcome the mid-afternoon slump and four energizing foods that can boost daily vitality. St. Joseph The Worker, Chatham, Tuesday September 3, 2024, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
- **Fried Chicken Dinner, Resurrection Parish, Illiopolis**, September 8, 11am-2pm, fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, iced tea, coffee, and choice of homemade pie or cake; \$10 for children, \$15 for adult. 50/50 raffle drawing at 2pm.
- **Faithful Citizenship-Civilize It Course**, Mondays, September 9, 16, 23, 30 6:30pm @ St. Agnes: This 4 week course will NOT discuss political partisanship, parties, conservatism or liberalism or party positions on any issue. But, IT WILL discuss how Catholic Social teaching intersects with our informed consciences, how to be a media literate Catholic (to view media with a critical eye) and how to have civilized conversations with others who may not agree with us. For more information contact Cathy Becker at cbecker@stagnescatholicparish.org or 217-793-1330
- **2024-2025 PSR for Extraordinary People** will begin on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 6:30pm with a "Welcome" picnic. Regular classes run from 6:30-7:30pm every Wednesday evening during the academic year at Blessed Sacrament School. Our class is designed to meet the needs of developmentally disabled youth & adults who want to grown in their Catholic faith and share fellowship with other like-minded people. Please call Jane Mosey-Nicoletta (217-971-4179) or Blessed Sacrament Parish (217-528-7521) for details and opening picnic information.
- **The Church of the Little Flower Bus Trips**, hosted every month through the end of the year. The next trip is scheduled for September 12, 2024. For further information, and how to sign up please contact Dee Stern at 217-494-4747.
- **St. Cabrini's Fall Festival**, Sunday, September 15th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be music, children's games, health fair from noon until 2 p.m., country store, food, drinks, and more. Raffle tickets are available now and at the Fall Festival.
- **Taizé Prayer Service**, September 17, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in St. Francis of Assisi Church, 4867 LaVerna Road, Springfield. The Service is free and open to the public. Taizé Prayer, a form of Christian prayer, is a simple, meditative form of worship, calling participants to be mindful of Christ's presence with chant-like songs, silence, readings, and prayer.
- **St. Aloysius and St. Cabrini Parish Mission**, Sunday, September 29 - Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024, at St. Aloysius Church. The theme of the mission is Faithfully Renewed Forever and Ever. Amen. The mission will feature Father Pete Schavitz, a Redemptorist priest as the presenter. Each day will have a different theme and will center on one's personal faith journey. We will gather in church to pray, sing, listen and receive an invitation to grow. The mission is for everyone, young and old, for those with many questions, those with a few questions and those just starting their faith journey. There will be Liturgy of the Word for children occurring at the same time the evening sessions. Childcare and transportation will be available. Each day will conclude with a creative social filled with good food, drinks, and conversation. The mission will begin with rosary at 6:00pm each evening. For questions, please contact either Parish Office, St. Aloysius @ 217-544-4554, or St. Cabrini @ (217) 522-8555.