

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 | TWENTY-THIRD 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 36

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
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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.



Seeking to Become Saints

The final phrase of the first sentence of our diocesan and parish mission statement is likely the most important in the entire statement. After committing ourselves to being “dedicated missionary disciples of the Risen Lord” and “steadfast stewards of God’s creation”, we express that we are a people “who seek to become saints.”

When considering this call to become a saint, I am reminded of a famous quote by the French Catholic author, Leon Bloy, who wrote: “The only real sadness, the only real failure, the only great tragedy in life, is not to become a saint.”

I do not know about you, but when I read that quote I am both encouraged and discouraged. First of all, I am encouraged by reading this, as it kindles something that is within each and every one of us, that desire to be holy, to be close to God, to one day be among His elect in Heaven. This desire was planted in our hearts on the day of our Baptism, and that desire is always at work in us.

At the same time, I cannot help feeling somewhat discouraged. If you are like me, then there is the glaring reality that I am far from becoming a saint, at least as I consider who the saints are. When we think of the saints, we think of the many saintly examples that the Church provides for us, sort of the Hall of Fame of Sanctity. We look at figures like St. Paul, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Teresa of Kolkata, just to name a few. In them, we see heroic examples of courage, we see dedication to the poorest of the poor, we see holy souls who lived totally united to God. Then, when we look at ourselves, we realize that we usually do not measure up, and we experience that discouragement.

About ten years ago, I had a chance encounter with a fairly new Catholic musician named Danielle Rose. I looked up her music and was struck in particular with a song that she wrote, titled The Saint that is Just Me. The song begins like this:

*O I thought I'd be heroic and inspiring,
I wanted to offer you the greatest sacrifice.
Like all the saints who'd gone before me,
I tried to prove my love for you, and so to gain the prize.*

After singing about how she tried to imitate a variety of saints, she sings these words that speak hope into that feeling of discouragement:

*When you hung upon the cross looking at me,
You didn't die so I would try to be somebody else.
You died so I could be the saint that is just me.*

This is the saint that the Lord is calling us to be – not another St. Francis or St. Clare, not another St. Therese or St. John Paul II. He is calling you and me to be “the saint that is just me.” This means that whatever our circumstances may be in our lives, God is calling us to be a saint through our fidelity to where He has called us. He will never deprive us of all of the graces we need, for He desires that “all be saved” (1 Tm 2:4), which means that He desires all to become saints.

Therefore, as we proclaim that the ultimate goal of our mission as a diocese, as a parish, and as individuals is to become saints, let us be filled with hope and joy, never falling into discouragement, thinking the road to holiness impossible, even when faced with our weaknesses. Let us be encouraged by Jesus’s response to St. Peter when he asked the Lord about who could be saved. Jesus said: “For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible.” (Mt 19:26)

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 9

7am - Bill Vogt
(Susie & Larry Lovekamp)
5:15pm - Michael Dimont Family
(Berte Family)

Tuesday, September 10

7am - George Jacoby
(James & Julie Berberet)
5:15pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)

Wednesday, September 11

7am - Lucille Reiss
(D.A. Drago)
5:15pm - Mary Ann Midden
(Bill Midden)

Thursday, September 12

7am - Jim Shaner
(Carol Gustafson)
5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway
(Robert Gasaway)

Friday, September 13

7am - Diana Runge
(Sandy & Jim Bloom)
5:15pm - Intention for Bianca
(D.A. Drago)

Saturday, September 14

8am - Thomas R. McGee
(Tom & Diane English)
4pm - Deceased Members of the
CCCW(CCCW)

Sunday, September 15

7am - Deceased Members of the
Vanderbergh Family (Betty & Joe
Kessler)
10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)
5pm - For the People



St. Disibod

Feast Day: September 8th

It was winter, in Trier Germany, in 1148, and Bernard of Clairvaux had brought to Pope Eugenius III a fascinating document that had been anxiously sent to him the prior year by a middle aged nun 60 miles East of them, at the Benedictine Monastery of Disibodenberg. It was a vivid, profound, iridescent presentation of the Christian vision of the world. Orthodox, but unique. Traditional – in the way it drew in the lines of thought from the great teachers of the faith down through the centuries – yet creative, and balanced, and beautiful. The nun had received little education, but had experienced an illumination of her mind by the grace of God and, after keeping the visions to herself for decades, but had now decided to begin writing them down and wanted to ask for the blessing of the Holy Father.

To give you a greater glimpse of the mind of this woman, St. Hildegard of Bingen, I offer an image she wrote herself – of her own place in God's work – to Pope Eugenius III after his encouragement of her continued writing and teaching:

Listen: there was once a king sitting on his throne. Around him stood great and wonderfully beautiful columns ornamented with ivory, bearing the banners of the king with great honour. Then it pleased the king to raise a small feather from the ground and he commanded it to fly. The feather flew, not because of anything in itself but because the air bore it along. Thus am I "A feather on the breath of God."

But she was also a poet and hymnist. Consider just one line from her hymn praising the Blessed Virgin, Ave, Generosa (and this is a translation! It is simple, yet lovely, sublime, and captivating!):

*Thus your womb held joy,
when harmony of all Heaven
chimed out from you,
because, Virgin, you carried Christ
whence your chastity blazed in God.
Your flesh has known delight,
like the grassland touched by dew
and immersed in its freshness:
so it was with you,
o mother of all joy*

She was also an artist, drawing images so that other people could picture something of what she saw in her mind under God's inspiration. See here a self-portrait of sorts, included in her most famous theological work, the Scivias (it was the first part of this work that had been sent to Pope Eugenius III by means of Bernard of Clairvaux), in which she tries to depict her experience of receiving these insights from God (depicted with tongues of fire, though her eyes are still able to see, and her hand to write them down). (This image is from the original Wiesbaden Codex which was made at the end of Hildegard's life, which was actually lost in 1945 at the end of WWII, then discovered to have been confiscated by the Soviets, who were then tricked out of it when some scholars swapped it for a similar looking book ... I kid you not!)

But Hildegard was not just visionary, and composer, and preacher, and iconographer, and mother superior of that community at Disibodenberg, and Doctor of the Church, AND someone who seriously called out the political leaders of her day both secular and religious (she once wrote to the Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, who was meddling again in the election of a pope, "I see you like a little boy or some madman living before the Living Eyes.")!!

All of this is amazing, but on top of this, she was also the first person in the world to fully articulate the Christian understanding of the full sexual complementarity of men and women. That men and women have equal dignity AND meaningful differences, and we can hold onto both truths (the world long struggled with the first truth, and in our day struggles with the second one. Hildegard nails both, and exemplifies both in her own uniquely feminine, but undoubtedly gutsy, life).

What has all this to do with St. Disibod?? He lived 500 years before Hildegard, had a miserable go at trying to be a bishop in Ireland, so he traveled to Germany and built a little monastery near Bingen, at the confluence of the Nahe and Glan rivers. That little hermitage, which grew into a monastery during his life, some centuries later would be a bustling monastic powerhouse, with orders of men and women there. And there a little girl, having extraordinary visions, would enter the convent as a teenager, and grow up to change (and challenge) the way the world saw women a thousand years after.

Such is the impact of a failed missionary who was faithful to the prodding of the Holy Spirit to try instead to start a monastery.

Fr. Dominic Rankin is often discouraged when some project that seems important falls apart, or when the project at hand today doesn't look promising. St. Disibod couldn't understand his failure in Ireland wither, or why God was sending him to start a monastery in Germany. His job, and ours, is to just keep following the Lord anyway.



Stewardship of Treasure

August 31st & September 1st

Envelopes:	\$6,600.00
Loose:	\$3,500.00
Maintenance:	\$1,033.00
Total:	\$11,133.00

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!

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 9

<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	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Ignatius Book Fair 1:00 PM School Hall	Ignatius Book Fair 3:00 PM School Hall	Ignatius Book Fair 8:00 AM School Hall
	OCIA 6:00 PM Atrium	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Ignatius Book Fair 6:00 PM School Hall	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		
			Night Bible Study- Living in the Fathers Love 6:15 PM School Library			

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



Ignatius Book Fair
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL HALL

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 6:00PM-8:00PM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 1:00PM-5:00PM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 3:00PM-6:00PM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 8:00AM-12:00PM
(CLOSED DURING MASSES)

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)



Music at the Cathedral Presents

CANTUS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024
7:30 PM

Music At The Cathedral is made possible by generous donors.
Mark Gifford, Director of Music

Cantus at the Cathedral

Why is it that we can recall the lyrics and melody of a song from our childhood, but we struggle to find our keys in the morning, or find ourselves unable to remember peoples' names? Time and age can cause organized memories to gradually become a maze of fragments, but music often remains the one thing that helps us to remember who we are. As memory fades, is music the final conduit for our memories and connection to our past? Join us on Saturday, September 21 at 7:30pm in the Cathedral as Cantus explores the unique and enduring relationship between music and memory in all of our lives. Through selections that include timeless tunes like "Over the Rainbow" and "What a Wonderful World" and anchored by Ysaÿe M. Barnwell's "Wanting Memories," this performance traverses the realms of nostalgia and family, loss and love, grief, laughter, fear and hope.



CATHEDRAL MEAL TRAIN

Cathedral Meal Train

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to bring in meals for the Bishop and Cathedral Clergy! Don't forget to pick up the containers you have brought your meals in! Please call the Parish Office at 217-522-3342 to make pick up arrangements. Just as the Bishop and our priests of the parish provide us with spiritual nourishment at Mass, we strive to provide them with physical nourishment, in order to give them the strength they need to continue to serve our parish family. Volunteers can utilize our Meal Train website to sign up for the dates that work best for them throughout the year. If you are interested in volunteering in this ministry, please visit www.spicathedral.org/cathedral-meal-train/.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Feasts of Judaism, Threshold Bible Study

An appreciation of the feasts of Judaism will help Christians understand modern Judaism and the faith of Jesus. The biblical festivals are celebrations of God's saving actions for all generations. Here you will study the pilgrim feasts of Passover, Pentecost, and Booths, the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, the minor feasts of the Ninth of Ov, Purim, and Hanukkah, and the Sabbath and Jubilee Year. You will understand the roots of the Christian faith in the faith of our elder brothers and sisters in Judaism. Thursdays, 1:00pm @ Cathedral, Sept 19 – Oct 17. Contact Vicki Compton vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or 217/522-3342 to reserve your spot and order a book. \$10

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.

Second Collection - The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

The Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa stood ready to assist African Church leaders who reached out for help to renew faith, strengthen families, and heal the wounds that lingered in the pandemic's aftermath. The Uganda Episcopal Conference used a grant from the Solidarity Fund to gather 250 priests, religious brothers and sisters, and laity from ten Ugandan dioceses for a series of workshops. Participants focused on understanding the pandemic and its effects on the faith of the people. They also discussed lessons learned about ways to respond to a similar future crisis so they can bring back those who might leave the Church during the crisis. When you participate in the collection for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa, your contribution helps the Church reach out to the people most in need and bring them pastoral care. The Church in Africa joyfully lives and shares the merciful love of Jesus through its ministries to families, youth, and people made vulnerable or marginalized by poverty. Though it is rich with a spirit of missionary discipleship, it needs your help to carry out its mission. Please be generous to this collection for the Solidarity Fund through the offertory collection envelope or your parish's e-offertory platform. To learn more about the collection and whom it supports, visit www.usccb.org/africa.

CCCW Meeting - September 19th

Calling all women in the Cathedral Parish - the Cathedral Council of Catholic Women starts meetings again September 19th at 6pm in the School Hall. Come join us for food, fellowship, and learn about ways you can volunteer around the parish and meet the new officers. Come find your place in the CCCW and help support your parish! Meetings are every third Thursday unless there is a schedule conflict. The Springfield Deanery Council of Catholic Women's November meeting will also be held at the Cathedral on November 21st. Come find out what's going on around the Deanery. More details to come!

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.

Thank You!

A message from Kristin Sorenson, Biking for Babies Coordinator: Thank you for everything you did for us this July. Stopping in your community during the National Ride has always been one of my favorites; the members of the parish are so supportive and welcoming. This stop is the perfect location for our final night on the road. Thank you for being part of our National Ride experience.

We are Catholic Men of Faith



We are Knights of Columbus
(Scan for video intro Trailer)



Knights are men who:

- Want to support their Parish
- Lead and Inspire our Families
- Assist our Pastor and Priests
- Assist those in Need
- Build a future for our Catholic Faith

Free membership – sign up online!

Sign up online today!

Council Number: 16126
Council Contact:
Name Jeff Thompson
Email jeff.thompson.2711@gmail.com
Phone (321) 446-2711



Scan to Join



Be Opened

There are several moments throughout the calendar year when we are tricked into thinking we can reinvent ourselves.

One of them is New Year's Day. The barista at my coffee shop told me that they sell more decaf coffee in January than in the entirety of the remaining year, because everyone is swearing off caffeine. By February, she said, the trend subsides: folks have realized they're not actually superheroes just because the last digit of the year has increased by one.

The beginning of a new school year is another of those moments. Every pencil is freshly sharpened, and every lesson plan is painstakingly plotted. Our heads are full of what we plan to do this year, how we plan to do it, who we plan to become.

But by May, the wind is out of our sails. We've learned the concepts, we've used up the pencils, yes — but we've remembered that underneath it all we're basically the same people, with the same shortcomings and the same obstacles as we always were. The only difference in September was we had new planners.

The truth is that we cannot reinvent ourselves. We can't change ourselves at all, not on New Year's Day or the first day of school or on our 40th birthday or after quitting a bad habit. We are what we are: blind in some ways, deaf in others, crippled in still more, moving through life with uncertainty, stumbling in the dark.

People don't change. Not without miracles.

But being a Christian means believing in miracles and being ready for them at any moment — in January or in September, in the middle of a hopeless week or at the end of a bad day, when you feel strong and when you don't, when you want to be better and when you feel too tired to try.

No, we can't change ourselves, but we can be changed. There is one who can change us if we will let him. He is waiting — now, tomorrow, yesterday, next week. The time is always right for a miracle.

"He put his finger into the man's ears ... and said to him, 'Ephphatha!'— that is, 'Be opened!'—And immediately the man's ears were opened ..." Mark 7:34-35

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

©LPi

Around the Diocese

- **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.
- **SHG 2024 Homecoming Festivities** - parade kicks off at 4pm, with the homecoming festival immediately following. The boys' volleyball game will begin at 5pm and the girls' Powder Puff game will follow at 6pm. All activities will take place at our West Campus at 1601 West Washington Street. We hope to see you there!
- **Calling all men juniors in high school and above!** Join Bishop Paprocki and Priests of the Diocese for an Andrew Dinner at 5:00pm on Sunday, September 22 at St. Agnes in Springfield. The Andrew Dinner is a simple/low key gathering where we will pray, share a meal, and have conversations about Priesthood and how best to discern what vocation God is calling you to. If you would like to attend, sign up at this link: <https://forms.gle/Dk6WX4Mvd8sqVAVWA> or email Fr. Zach Samples at zsamples@dio.org. We hope to see you there!
- **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.