

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 | TWENTY-FIFTH 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 38

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.



Four Pillars of Discipleship and Stewardship

After laying out the mission statement, the Fourth Diocesan Synod offers four pillars as a way to focus on how to give flesh to this mission. Here is what the next declaration reads:

To further this mission, the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is committed to implementing the Four Pillars of Discipleship and Stewardship, namely:

- i. **Hospitality** – to invite people proactively to join us in prayer, especially Sunday Mass;
- ii. **Prayer** – to provide well-prepared celebrations of the sacraments and other occasions for prayer as signs of hope and paths of grace to Heaven;
- iii. **Formation** – to study the Bible and learn more about Jesus and our Catholic faith; and
- iv. **Service** – to serve each other, especially those in need, by practicing charity and justice. (Synod Declaration 1b)

When I presented this declaration to our parish Pastoral Council a few months ago, we reflected briefly on how each of these pillars are being lived out here at the Cathedral. For each of them, we were able to point to efforts that are already in place, but we also acknowledged that there is certainly room to grow in each of these areas.

In the next few articles, we will be looking at each of these pillars, reflecting on how they are essential expressions of what it means to be a parish community of disciples. I will also point out some of the ways that we see these pillars at work here in our parish. Then I will invite us to pray and think about how the Lord is inviting us to go deeper with each of these pillars.

As we begin these reflections, I am seeing the Providence of God working in the timing of this topic! As you will see later in the bulletin, we are looking to hire a new member of our parish staff. In the past year, we have experienced some major changes with the sudden passing of our former Business Manager, Bill Vogt. Our bookkeeper, Jan Sgambelluri, retired and moved away from Springfield. Her replacement, Steven Kehoe, left last month for the seminary. We have been getting by, thanks in large part to the great work of our Parish Secretary, Kim Gunter, who has picked up several things. However, we are all doing more than we can probably handle, limiting our availability to do the things that would be most beneficial to our roles and the flourishing of our parish. Therefore, we are looking to hire a new Business Manager. I have it in my mind that an ideal candidate would be an intentional disciple who reflects these four pillars in how they live. In a parish that is dedicated to helping our parishioners to grow as missionary disciples, those who work for the parish really need to have that same passion. Technical skills are great, but far more valuable is one who brings with them a love of Christ and His Church, and a hunger to share the Good News of the Gospel through their support of the mission of the parish, hidden though it may be at times.

Since so many of you have been so good at praying those three Hail Mary's each day for the parish, I would ask that as you offer the first one, which is for the parish in general, that you specifically ask that the Lord would help identify the person He most desires to fill this position of Business Manager.

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 23

7am - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)

5:15pm - Deceased Members of the
Chiaradonna Family (Geny
Chiaradonna)

Tuesday, September 24

7am - Tricia McCoy
(Vicki Compton)

5:15pm - Mary Eleanor Maloy
(Lou Ann Mack)

Wednesday, September 25

7am - Mary Conway
(Tom Conway)

5:15pm - Helen Gaupel
(James & Julie Berberet)

Thursday, September 26

7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)

5:15pm - Thanks for the Many Blessings
(Richard & Kay King)

Friday, September 27

7am - Catherine Fitzgerald
(Family)

5:15pm - Donnie Ray Waibel
(Bev & Larry Smith)

Saturday, September 28

8am - Michael Berte
(Berte Family)

4pm - Margaret Egan
(Children)

Sunday, September 29

7am - For the People

10am - John Ansell
(Judy Ansell)

5pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)



St. Maurice and the Theban Legion

Feast Day: September 22nd

It was 57 years until the birth of Christ when Julius Caesar sent his best commander, Servius Galba, to seize the St. Bernard Pass from the Gauls (of course, he had a different name for it, the "Poeninus" Pass, a name possibly derived from the erroneous assumption Hannibal had used this pass to invade Italy during the Punic wars. Livy, an ancient historian, instead thinks this name derived from a local god worshiped by the Gallic tribes who lived there.) In any case, this was one of the few ancient routes between (what is now) Italy, France, and Switzerland, and it remained one of the few passes through those mountains until a tunnel was bored in 1964! Napoleon – 18 centuries after Augustus successfully took the pass and established a garrison and temple to Jupiter on the heights – would use this same route to send 40,000 troops against the Austrians in 1800.

Our story happens during the reign of Maximian, co-emperor with the infamous Diocletian, who two centuries after Julius and Augustus called up a Legion from Thebes, in Egypt, to assist him in putting down a rebellion in Burgandy. These crack troops endured the march to the top of the pass, 8000 feet above sea level, and then stopped. St. Eucherius, a successor of the famous St. Irenaeus, as Bishop of Lyon, sets the scene for us about a century and a half after the fact:

Acaunus is almost 60 miles from the city of Geneva, and is 14 miles distant from Lake Lemannus into which the Rhone flows. The place itself is situated in a valley among the Alpine peaks and those travelling there find the path narrow and dangerous and the crossing difficult; for the hostile Rhone has left in the foothills of the rocky mountain a ridge which travellers can barely pass. When the narrows of the passes have been conquered and left behind, a not inconsiderable plain is suddenly revealed among the mountain cliffs. It was in this place that the holy legion had halted.

The Theban Legionnaires were Christians, and they would not offer sacrifice in honor of Maximian, nor attack their fellow Christians in Gaul. Bp. Eucherius had himself braved the pass, seen the jagged peaks, the ruins of pagan temples, the Roman road and milemarker XXIII to visit the shrine built by the local Bishop Theodore to the martyrs of the Theban Legion.

You see, the Christians of Thebes knew what it was to be persecuted for their faith. Their hometown was where the sensual god, Dionysus was born, as well as the demigod, Hercules, and the location of the legendary tale of Oedipus. Many of these men had endured previous persecutions, as had their fathers over the previous century. They would not worship the emperor, and they would not kill their fellow Christians. Maximian, Eucherius reports, commanded the legion to be decimated, one out of ten of the men executed for their disobedience, but they still would not budge. Eucherius imagines the response that these heroic soldiers, led by their commander, St. Maurice, sent back to Maximian:

... they sent to Maximianus as he still burned with madness a message as brave as it was pious, which is said to have run in the following vein: "We are your soldiers, O emperor, but God's servants, nevertheless, a fact that we freely confess. We owe military service to you, but just living to Him; from you we have received the pay for our toil, but from Him we have received the origin of life. No way can we follow an emperor in this, a command for us to deny God our Father, especially since our Father is your God and Father, whether you like it or not. Unless we are being forced on a path so destructive that we give offence in this manner, we will still obey you as we have done hitherto; otherwise, we will obey Him rather than you. We offer our hands, which we think wrong to sully with the blood of innocents, against any enemy. Those right hands know how to fight against wicked enemies, not how to torture pious citizens. We remember to take arms for citizens rather than against citizens. We have always fought for justice, piety, and the welfare of the innocent. These have been the prices of our dangers hitherto. We have fought for faith; what faith will we keep with you at all, if we do not exhibit faith to our God?"

Maximian's anger burned hotter and he ordered the execution of the entire cohort, sending other Roman armies to do the task. The Theban Christians laid down their swords and died by the hundreds. We still know dozens of their names – Alexander. Alverius. Candidus. Chiaffredo, Constantius... "Acts", reports of their martyrdom, slowly trickled out to other Roman outposts by survivors. (It seems likely it was not the entire Legion that had refused the command, perhaps it was one cohort, one tenth of a legion, that had been detached, sent ahead, refused Maximian's command, and were the ones executed. This also makes sense of Eucherius' reference to the Legion being "decimated", because that punishment had not been used for centuries, though in fact one cohort was executed, that would be one-tenth of the entire Theban Legion.)

Fr. Dominic Rankin holds in mind not only St. Eucherius' thrilling record, nor just the image of all these men's bones, but one other image: Nowadays, as this ancient road crests the mountains between Italy and Switzerland, between the fallen temples of Jupiter, and Mercury, and older gods ... a cross now stands. On that cross is inscribed three simple words: "Deo Optimo Maximo", "to the Best and Greatest God." So lived the Theban Legion, so must we.

Stewardship of Treasure

September 14th & 15th

Envelopes:	\$3,911.90
Loose:	\$2,619.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$1,091.00</u>
Total:	\$7,621.90

August Online Contributions

\$51,166.56

August Debt Reduction

\$393.00

August Second Collections

Assumption
\$3,214.54

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

Deaths

Margaret Barrington
Date of Death: September 3, 2024

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23

<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 Church	Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church Night Bible Study 6:15 PM School Library	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		The Chosen 2:00 PM School Library Family of Faith Potluck 6:15 PM School Hall

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

BUSINESS MANAGER

The Cathedral is Hiring a Business Manager

The Cathedral is looking to hire a Business Manager who will be assisting with the stewardship of the physical, financial, and personnel resources of the parish. The Business Manager values the responsible organization of parish resources, helping the parish to fulfill its mission. This is a full-time position that would work closely with the Rector in helping to coordinate the various efforts of the parish, including overseeing our financial operations, working to coordinate various maintenance activities to ensure a clean and functional campus, and supporting the various HR functions of the staff. Please visit www.spicathedral.org/employment for more information. Interested candidates should provide a cover letter and resume to Fr. Brian Alford, balford@dio.org.

Cathedral First Friday Concert

**OCTOBER 4, 2024
7 PM - 8 PM**

*Featuring
Duo 220, Guitar Duo*

October First Friday Concert Series

Join us on Friday, October 4, 2024 at 7pm in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! October's concert will feature Duo 220, Guitar Duo. 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!

Father Tolton Scholarship Dinner

Saturday, October 26, 6 - 11 p.m.
Cathedral Atrium

Knights of Columbus Council #16126 Fr. Tolton Scholarship Dinner

The Knights of Columbus Council #16126 will be holding the Father Tolton Scholarship Dinner on Saturday, October 26 in the Atrium at the Cathedral. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and dinner will be at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per person. Dinner includes steak, baked potato, vegetable, salad, four whiskey tastings, and dessert. Craft beer, wine and whiskey will be available for purchase. EVENT IS BY RESERVATION ONLY. RESERVATIONS DUE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23. Participants must be 21 or older. Make your reservations online by visiting <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/8d37f63f-0c20-44d6-9954-ebd97a23f980>

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Grief Share at Cathedral

Cathedral parish will be hosting Grief Share, a weekly, faith-based, grief support group. If you, or someone you know, would like help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend, please join us beginning Tuesday, Oct 22, 1:00-2:30 in the Cathedral School Library. (Enter through the atrium doors off 5th street parking lot) Grief Share runs for 13 weeks, but guests may join the series at any point and can pick up content they missed during the next cycle. For more information go to <https://www.griefshare.org/> or contact Berni Ely @ 899-6637 or jackandberni96@yahoo.com To register call 217/522-3342 or email Vicki at vcompton@cathedral.dio.org. All adults, of any or no faith background, are welcome!

Cathedral Merchandise Sale

Cathedral has partnered with Primo Designs again to help you show off your Cathedral pride! Merchandise offered is long and short sleeve T-shirts, polos, sweatshirts and quarter zips. Order and pay online at <https://shop.primodesigns.net/Cathedralofimmaculate/shop/home> Merchandise can be picked up at the Cathedral. The online store closes on Monday, September 30 at midnight, so don't delay!

Celebrate the Feast Days of These Great Saints with Formed

September 23: St. Pio of Pietrelcina

Padre Pio: Miracle Man: This movie captures the Capuchin friar's intense faith, devotion, and deep spiritual concern for others, as well as his great compassion for the sick and suffering. It reveals the amazing details and events in Padre Pio's life as a boy and throughout his fifty years as a friar, dramatizing the frequent attacks from the devil, as well as the persecution he suffered at the hands of people, including those in the Church. This movie is not rated, but was created with an adult audience in mind. It may contain violence indicative of the life and times of the saint or character portrayed. We would recommend Parental Guidance and that parents preview it before watching with children.

Our parish subscription to Formed was funded in part through a grant from the Harvest of Thanks, Springtime of Hope Capital Campaign.

Holy Family Food Pantry Donations Needed

Holy Family Food Pantry needs peanut butter, jelly, breakfast cereal, oatmeal and toothbrushes this month, to meet their clients' needs. Please drop your donations in the blue bin in the atrium. Catholic Charities Holy Family Food Pantry thanks you for your generosity!

The Chosen, Season 4

The Cathedral will once again be showing and discussing the latest season of The Chosen. Everyone is welcome. We'll provide the popcorn! Sundays, starting Sept 29 @ 2:00pm in the Cathedral School Library



CANDLELIGHT VIGIL & HOLY HOUR
IN MEMORY OF

*Pregnancy & Infant Loss
Awareness Month*

7:00 PM
OCTOBER 17, 2024

AT

THE CATHEDRAL OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
524 E LAWRENCE AVE.
SPRINGFIELD

Bearing Witness

I am fascinated by minor Gospel characters. These people — the rich young man, the adulterous woman, the teachers at the temple — share the stage with Jesus only briefly. They bear passing but powerful witness to crucial moments of his earthly ministry. They breathe the air he breathes. They hear the sound of his voice. Some of them feel the touch of his skin.

And then they go on with their lives and disappear into obscurity. They become just another one of us.

I think of the child who sat in Jesus' lap while he said those famous words: "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."

What did the boy think? Did he understand the words, or did he only know that they were gently spoken? Did he only think to himself how kind was the face of this man, and how consoling and warm his embrace?

I picture this child growing up. Perhaps he married and loved his wife and children. Perhaps he was happy, or perhaps he was not. Perhaps he became wealthy or was even wealthy to begin with. Perhaps he, like so many other children of that era, had only a very short life, and returned quickly to the arms that enveloped him that day in Capernaum.

We don't know. But we know he was there: he saw Christ, he felt him, he heard him. We sigh to think of it. How lucky. If only we could, too. Then it would be easier. Then we could be holy.

But we are all this child in Capernaum. We are all the woman at the well. We are all the centurion at the cross. Every time we kneel before the Host and hear the words "This is my Body," we occupy the same earthly time and space as the Messiah, and he fixes upon us the same gaze he fixed upon them.

We all bear witness.

We receive him, and then we go back to our lives, our ordinary lives.

Do we carry him with us? Do we dare?

"I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness." — Psalm 54:6

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
©LPi

Around the Diocese

- **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.
- **BUNCO Party**, October 13th, CTK Parish Hall. Reservations, call or text Pat Bolt at 217-652-4340 or peterjb42@comcast.net; sponsored by the St. Louis De Marillac, all funds go to Catholic Charities
- **St. Frances Cabrini Parish Nativity Festival**, Saturday, December 7, 2024 Noon – 4 p.m. & Sunday December 8, 2024 11 am – 4 p.m. Please email (parishoffice@stcabrini.dio.org) or call the parish office at 217-522-8555 with your contact information, number of sets, and your preferred drop off date.