

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024 | TWENTY-SIXTH 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 39

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.



Invitation

As promised, after introducing the Four Pillars of Stewardship and Discipleship, we are going to look at each of these pillars, reflecting on how they are currently being lived here at the Cathedral and where there may be room for growth.

When naming this pillar, the Synod states simply that hospitality calls for us "to invite people proactively to join us in prayer, especially Sunday Mass." Perhaps the first thing we think about when we hear hospitality is how we receive people who come to us, making them feel seen and welcomed. That is important, but notice how

the definition is not so much about welcoming as it is inviting. A sign of hospitality is our willingness to extend the invitation for people to come to experience Jesus. After all, this is what prayer is most fundamentally, having a personal relationship with Jesus. The greatest prayer of all for us as Catholics is, of course, the Mass.

Putting the emphasis on invitation over simply welcoming is admittedly more intimidating. For in welcoming people, the hard work has been done. The other person has entered through our doors, and we just need to receive them with cheerfulness and gratitude. As I said, that is indeed important. But to go to a family member, a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker, and to actually invite them into something can be hard. We fear being rejected, or we fear that we might not be able to respond to questions that others might have about our faith. However, whenever we are firmly grounded in our own personal relationship with Jesus and our love for our Catholic faith, especially the Mass, how can we not want to invite others to that same experience?

For some people who are not Catholic, inviting them to Mass might not be our first step, as they could feel overwhelmed. For those individuals, perhaps the invitation is simply an offer to pray with them. As you read that, perhaps that gives you anxiety! If we personally know Jesus and are comfortable talking to Him in prayer, what is so hard about inviting another person into that? Again, if it feels awkward to do that, perhaps that is an indication of our need for deepening our relationship with Jesus, so that we can be more willing to invite others to experience Him as well.

If the person we are thinking of inviting deeper is a Catholic, but one who has been away from the practice of the faith, perhaps our invitation is not first to come back to Mass, but first to go to confession. To make the invitation more acceptable, we can offer to go with them and also go to confession. Again, that might cause us anxiety, as perhaps it has been some time since we last went to confession. But just know that the Lord desires to free us from our fears, and more importantly, to free us from our sins, so that experiencing His love and mercy for us, we will be the more willing to invite others to that same encounter.

Of course, we can and should invite others to join us for Mass, and as with confession, offering to go with them to Mass so that they do not feel isolated, as though they do not belong. To be with that person, to pray with them, to pray for them before the Lord can be a powerful form of hospitality.

Pray to the Lord this week, asking Him if there might be somebody He is asking you to invite to encounter Jesus more deeply. Pray for that person by name for several days, then, with faith, offer whatever invitation is most appropriate for where they are in their journey of faith.

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 30

7am - Margaret Lemanski
(Carol West)

5:15pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Tuesday, October 1

7am - Mary Conway
(Tom Conway)

5:15pm - Gloria O'Neill
(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)

Wednesday, October 2

7am - Mary Eleanor Maloy
(Madonna Fluckiger)

5:15pm - Doris Drago
(D.A. Drago)

Thursday, October 3

7am - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)

5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Friends)

Friday, October 4

7am - Harold & Alice Rauscher
(Kathy Howard)

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

Saturday, October 5

8am - Luke Erwin
(Berte Family)

4pm - For the People

Sunday, October 6

7am - Archie Harmon Sr.
(Archie Harmon)

10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)

5pm - Fred Greenwald Family
(Matthew Clark)



Raphael, Gabriel, and Michael

Feast Day: September 29th

This week we celebrate the three archangels named in scripture: Raphael, Gabriel, and Michael and I'd like to take the opportunity to do a bit more of a theological dive with you into the ministry of the angels rather than just a relating of their story. In our profession of faith, we state that "I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible." Notice that before we even get to Jesus, His resurrection, the Holy Spirit, the Church, our own resurrection ... we already have stated that we believe in "all things visible and invisible." That's where the angels fit in!

Though we do not often see the invisible, we believe in it! And in a world where we spend an awful lot of time just with "the visible", it's important to reaffirm our choosing to accept God's revealing to us that there is an entire invisible world which we are also part of.

That said, to discover more about the archangels, we can simply turn to the prayers for the Mass on their feast-day. The priest, having received the offerings of the people and brought them to the altar, but before beginning the preface and the Eucharistic prayer, prays these words:

We offer you a sacrifice of praise, O Lord, humbly entreating, that, as these gifts are borne by the ministry of Angels into the presence of your majesty, so you may receive them favorably and make them profitable for our salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

If the words ring a bell, it may be because they echo a similar prayer said during the First Eucharistic Prayer, after the consecration:

In humble prayer we ask you, almighty God: command that these gifts be borne by the hands of your holy Angel to your altar on high in the sight of your divine majesty, so that all of us, who through this participation at the altar receive the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing.

During that prayer the priest bows down at the altar, folding his hands because he is not so much leading this prayer as inviting the angels to join our offering, and carry it, and us, into the heavenly liturgy. This part of the Mass, and part of our faith, is worth reflecting on. The Mass is the re-presentation of Christ's Sacrifice on calvary for our redemption, as well as an encounter with His Body, risen and glorified, which nourishes, sustains, sanctifies, and continues to transform us after His likeness. The Eucharistic sacrifice is for our redemption, our transformation into saints, and our worship of God. Where do the angels fit in?

We're confronted by an amazing fact here: that though the angels are "purely spiritual creatures" with "intelligence and will: they are personal and immortal creatures, surpassing in perfection all visible creatures, as the splendor of their glory bears witness" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Paragraph 330, emphasis in original), despite their surpassing us in so many ways, they have allowed themselves to be humbly concerned with our salvation. If you recall your Baltimore Catechism, remember what it says about the three Archangels: "The Archangel Michael drove Satan out of heaven; the Archangel Gabriel announced to the Blessed Virgin that she was to become the Mother of God. The Archangel Raphael guided and protected Tobias." (Baltimore Catechism, Question 221) These are the glorious archangels, but they have lowered themselves to helping us out!

Aquinas gives us a deeper insight into this, describing the difference in how the angels and demons (fallen angels) relate to us: "Man can of his own accord fall into sin: but he cannot advance in merit without the Divine assistance, which is borne to man by the ministry of the angels. For this reason the angels take part in all our good works: whereas all our sins are not due to the demons' instigation." (Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologicae, Part I, Question 114, Article 3, Reply to Objection 3) All our good works – our prayers, our sacrifices, our acts of charity, our growth in virtue – is linked to the life and work and worship of the angels! This means not only that our lives are intrinsically intertwined with the spiritual (this should not surprise us: we are body and spirit!), but also that there is a personal, relational, reality to this. We are not on our own trying to deepen our spiritual life, grow in virtue, avoid sin, or come to know God ... we are befriended and attended to by the angels in that walk with the Lord!

Fr. Dominic Rankin has often turned to Our Lord, and the saints, for inspiration and help in the journey of discipleship, but there is something uniquely comforting to know that the angels too – these tremendously powerful spiritual creatures – are also on our side, walking with us, helping us in big ways and small. This week I am going to try and remember this fact a lot more! When I'm working, or running, or shopping, or forgiving, or praying, or falling asleep ... all of these occasions will be better if I recall that the angels are there with me!

Stewardship of Treasure

September 21st & 22nd

Envelopes:	\$3,840.00
Loose:	\$5,151.00
Maintenance:	\$10.00
Total:	\$9,001.00

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!

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 30

<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	Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM School Library	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		The Chosen 2:00 PM School Library
		Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	First Friday Concert 7:00 PM Church		
		Cathedral Bible Study 6:15 PM Parish Library				

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!



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!

Holy Family Food Pantry Donations Needed

Each year, the Springfield Catholic Charities Holy Family Food Pantry serves hundreds of families in need through their Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. In preparation for the holidays, we are in need of donated food items and volunteers to create these much appreciated Thanksgiving and Christmas blessings. Wish list items for our food pantry include: cereal, boxed macaroni and cheese, baked beans, muffin mix, dessert mix, pasta, pudding mix, pancake mix, sugar, peanut butter, soup, breakfast bars, canned yams, potatoes, canned fruit, egg noodles, Jell-O mix, hot cocoa mix, syrup, brown sugar, jelly, crackers. Other useful/practical items include personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, or paper supplies. More information is available at 217.523.4551. Donations can be dropped off at 120 S 11th St. in Springfield Illinois. Thank you for making a difference in our community!

The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts, Threshold Bible Study

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, dwells among us and showers us with spiritual gifts. Here Stephen Binz has chosen key biblical texts to help readers discover how to rekindle the fire of the Holy Spirit and allow God's Spirit to manifest these divine graces and spiritual gifts more richly within them. He shows how the same Spirit who inspired the prophets and evangelists and who filled the life of Jesus now blows within and among all God's people. Thursdays, 6:00pm @ Cathedral, Oct 10 – Nov 21. Contact Vicki Compton vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or 217/522-3342 to reserve your spot and order a book. \$10

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/.

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

Soctober Collection

It's that time of year ago again - SOCTOBER! The Ladies of the CCCW will once again collect new and gently used (include only those you would accept for your own family) socks, hats, and gloves. These items are shared with agencies serving homeless or at risk families and individuals of all ages who are in need. A special need exists for stocking hats & gloves this year. White baskets will be in the Atrium throughout the month of October for your donations. Thank you for your willingness to serve our most vulnerable brothers & sisters!



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

The Angel in the Marble

If you show up to the gates of heaven completely whole, I kind of doubt you'll be let inside.

I know that sounds pretty awful, because what kind of God doesn't want all of you, exactly as you are? "Be yourself," we tell our kids. "If someone expects you to change to be their friend, you don't want to be that person's friend."

And sure, all of that is true ... to an extent. But I think if we really analyze our closest friendships, we'll see that we have been changed by them. We aren't the same person we were on the day we met our best friend or before we fell in love with our spouse. The good relationships should always change us, form us. They should call us to some higher plateau on the mountain climb that is life. But to be nimble enough for the climb, there will be parts of ourselves that we have to jettison — preconceived notions, prejudices, selfish tendencies, habits that we cling to like a security blanket.

This is how we become who we are meant to be: by discerning what isn't helpful and good in our own nature, and letting it go.

"I saw the angel in the marble," Michelangelo once said of his artistic process, "and I carved until I set him free."

Would it not be a terrible tragedy if we all remained shapeless hunks of marble, untouched by the chisels of experience and relationship, thinking ourselves perfect exactly as we are?

God looks at us and he sees the angel hidden in the marble, imprisoned there by the constraints of earthly life: original sin, the weakness of our flesh, the unceasing enticement of the evil one. He sees past what we need to excise, what we need to lop off, what we need to relinquish. He knows we are greatly attached to every part of ourselves, even those parts that lead us to sin.

He sees more than what is. He sees what can be.

"Cleanse me from my unknown faults!" — Psalm 19:13

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
- **The Pregnancy Care of Springfield, Inc. 20th Annual Comedy in the City Dinner**, Friday, November 8th at the Elks Club. Doors will open at 5:45 p.m. for a cash bar and silent auction. A buffet dinner from Hamilton's Catering will be served at 6:30 p.m. followed by entertainment from FUN PIANOS at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to the event are \$50 per person. Reservations are required for this event by November 1st and can be made by calling (217) 525-5630, or through the website at springfieldpregnancy.org.
- **Volunteer English Tutors Needed**; the new Springfield Dominican Literacy Center Springfield is looking for volunteers to teach English language learners. Mandatory tutor training is scheduled for 7 p.m. Nov. 14 and 18. To register or for more information contact Sister Katherine O'Connor at 217-415-8377 (voice or text).
- **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.