

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 10, 2024 | THIRTY-SECOND 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 45

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

DEACON DAVID BEACH

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

VICKI DHABALT COMPTON
COORDINATOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND MISSION
VCOMPTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

HALEY DUTTON
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
HDUTTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

MARK GIFFORD
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MGIFFORD@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

KIM GUNTER
PARISH SECRETARY
KGUNTER@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

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.



State of the Parish

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to attend a Pastor Workshop hosted by the Institute for Ongoing Clergy Formation out of St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. It was a very helpful week, and there are many takeaways that I hope to implement in the coming year in my role as the Rector here.

One of my immediate takeaways came from one of the priest presenters who shared with us about how and when he does his annual State of the Parish address. My initial response to his comments was one of regret. I was reminded of how I have really dropped the ball in that regard. In the four-and-a-half years here, I have never done anything like this. We have published a financial summary in the past, and perhaps I have written briefly about it in a bulletin article, but I have yet to dedicate an entire weekend to sharing with all of you the state of our parish. For that, I apologize, but missed opportunities in the past do not define what the future will be, so I am happy to announce that I do indeed plan to do a State of the Parish address!

The priest who presented this topic to us shared that he does his State of the Parish address each year the Sunday before Thanksgiving, which I found extremely fitting. There is so much for us to be thankful for here at our parish, so highlighting some of those things on that weekend will be a great way for us as a parish family to give thanks to God for the many blessings we have experienced over the past year. It is also liturgically fitting, as Thanksgiving always comes at the very end of the liturgical year, so doing a State of the Parish address then will be a good way to close out one year, setting us up to enter into a new year of grace in a posture of gratitude and joyful expectation of what the Lord has in store for us in the year ahead.

I would therefore highly encourage you to make every effort to make it to one of our Sunday masses on November 23-24, as I will preach at all of the masses that weekend, working the State of the Parish address into the homily. One of the topics will obviously be about our financial stewardship here at the parish, with some numbers that show how we are doing in that regard. I will also give an update on where we stand with our debt, since I have heard that questions have been asked about it, and I owe it to you all to share updates on that key piece of information. I will also speak about some stats regarding our Mass attendance, sacraments celebrated over the past years, as well as other pieces of information that I hope will give you a feel for how we are doing as a parish.

Since I will be situating this in the context of gratitude for God's blessings over the past year, I could use your help in making the address more complete. I would love to hear from you about any of the ways in which you have been blessed by your experience here at the Cathedral over the past year. I certainly have my own perspective of what I see the Lord doing, but I know He is touching all of us in different ways. There is information later in the bulletin, as well as in our eWeekly, about how to submit your responses. I would be most grateful if you would take a moment to share your thoughts.

In the next two weeks, I would humbly ask for your forgiveness for my not making such an address a priority in the past. At the same time, not dwelling on the past, I ask for your prayers for me now as I prepare for this address, which is something new for me. This is something you deserve because of your faithful dedication to our parish, and it is something I am excited to offer as your spiritual father.

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, November 11

7am - Margaret Lemanski
(Shirley & Bob)
5:15pm - Cynthia Crispi
(John Busciacco)

Tuesday, November 12

7am - Shirley Logan
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)
5:15pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)

Wednesday, November 13

7am - Sr. Annette Embrich ASC
(Brother)
5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway
(Robert Gasaway)

Thursday, November 14

7am - Schenkel Grandparents
(Ann Johnson)
5:15pm - Kathleen Alnory
(D.A. Drago)

Friday, November 15

7am - Alice Bates
(Bates Family)
5:15pm - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)

Saturday, November 16

8am - Eugenia Halerewicz
(Family)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, November 17

7am - Cathy Furkin
(Family)
10am - Mr & Mrs John & Ana Mae
Bockrath Sr. (John Bockrath)
5pm - Deceased Members of the CCCW
(CCCW)

Gospel Meditation - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Once at an evening Mass as a poor college student, the collection basket was fast approaching, and I only had a ten-dollar bill. I was planning on using that to buy my favorite Chipotle burrito that night for dinner. Should I keep the money? Who would know if I did? If I gave it away, what would I eat? Would I be okay? I kissed my future burrito goodbye, dropped the money in the basket, and winced. But strangely, the rest of the Mass I felt more engaged than usual. I had skin in the game. I left the Mass excited to see how God would take care of me. And he did, in amazing ways.

When the poor widow places two copper coins in the temple treasury, Jesus doesn't pity her. He praises her. He blesses her. He brags about her. He celebrates her as the temple's largest benefactor. Her giving is an act of radical, concrete trust in God. It is as if she is entering a new level of giving that excites Jesus, because she contributes not out of her abundance, but she gives "everything she had."

What a challenge this is to each one of us! How easy it is to ignore this! But imagine the eruption of the energy of faith, hope, and love that would be unlocked if our financial sacrifices to the Church actually tapped into daily bread and not only our disposable income. I challenge us to try this in some way this coming week and see what happens in our hearts. Even if it costs us a burrito.

Father John Muir

©LPi

Congratulations to Fr. Alford on being inducted into the Knights of Columbus Springfield Chapter Hall of Fame, representing the Fr. Augustine Tolton Council 16126 and Bishop Griffin Assembly 0201!



Stewardship of Treasure

November 2nd & 3rd

Envelopes:	\$5,056.00
Loose:	\$3,617.31
Maintenance:	\$899.00
Total:	\$9,572.31

September Online Contributions

\$53,944.79

September Debt Reduction

\$497.00

September Second Collections

Church in Africa
\$1,466.99

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

Barry Seng

Date of Death: October 20, 2024



WEEK OF NOVEMBER 11

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Grief Share 1:00 PM School Library 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 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Classroom	Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM & 6:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church CCCW Meeting 6:00 PM School Hall	Rosary 4:45 PM Church UIS Choral Concert 7:30 PM Church	UIS Chamber Ensemble Concert 6:00 PM Church	Family of Faith 6:15 PM Atrium

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.

WHAT AT THE CATHEDRAL MAKES YOU THANKFUL?

Share Your Gratitude

As we approach Thanksgiving, we all have so many things for which to be grateful, not the least of which is being a part of the Cathedral Parish family! We are inviting you to share a short thought of what you grateful for from your experience at the Cathedral over the past year. We will be sharing some of your comments (anonymously if you prefer) with the parish so that others can hear about the ways in which God has blessed us in a variety of ways. Visit <https://spicathedral.org/thankful/> to share your gratitude!

Brunch and Brushes at the Cathedral

All are invited to join us for another painting event at the Cathedral on Sunday, December 8th at 12pm! Cost is \$20 per person and a donation for the Holy Family Food Pantry (see bulletin announcement on next page for suggested items). Spots are limited (40 total) and registration closes on December 2nd, so sign up today! To register, visit <https://dio.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/174/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 due within 3 days of registration, if by phone). The painting will be winter-themed, and will be announced closer to the day of the event. 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



Important CCCW Dates

November 14th at 6pm: Monthly meeting - Everyone who is new to the CCCW or has not attended a meeting in at least a year will be entered in a special door prize along with the person they attend with. Please RSVP to Angelic Thompson (roxyada77@hotmail.com) by the 10th if you are new, returning or bringing a friend. This is for the head count for the meal.

November 15th - cut off to RSVP to the Deanery meeting. RSVP by either responding to the email that was sent out or on the Facebook group event.

November 20th-21th after the 5pm Mass - We will be cleaning the church. We hope to get it all done on the first day. Cleaning supplies will be provided. Please RSVP to Angelic Thompson (roxyada77@hotmail.com) by the 19th.

November 20th - deadline to turn in vendor contract for the Christmas Bazaar and bake sale. Blank forms are available in the Atrium.

November 21st 10am-2pm - Springfield Deanery Meeting for the Council of Catholic women. There is a minimum of a \$5.00 Lunch donation.

Cathedral Meal Train

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/.

Praying for Family Away From the Church

As the holidays approach, we want to surround our family interactions with prayer, especially our interactions with those loved ones who have stopped practicing the faith. St. Monica Ministry will be hosting a time of prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament at our next gathering. Please join us.

Monday, November 18, 7:00pm @ Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

Do you have young artists in your family? Cathedral's Father Augustine Tolton Knights of Columbus Council invites them to display their skills in the K of C's annual Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest! Children between the ages of 5 and 14 will have until December 8th to design their own poster celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. Winners in each of 3 age groups will receive a \$25 gift card and their entry will advance to the next level in this national contest. All entries will be displayed in the Atrium. A representative of the Council will be at all Masses the weekend of November 9th and 10th to distribute entry forms, instructions and poster boards in the Atrium and return at all Masses the weekend of December 7th and 8th to collect the finished posters. During the Contest, if additional poster boards are needed for your children or there are questions, please reach out to Council Family Director Andy Klein, (217) 720-9773, Klein6006@gmail.com, or info.kofc16126@gmail.com.

A Course For Seekers

Did you know that Cathedral has a course for those who are interested in becoming Catholic? We meet on Tuesday evenings, twice a month for instruction on topics critical to understanding the Catholic faith. If you know someone who might be interested in learning more about becoming Catholic, please have them contact the Cathedral for a no pressure conversation about how we can walk with them on their faith journey. Contact Vicki vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or 217/522-3342.

Back By Popular Demand – Cathedral Game Night!

Come with your family or come by yourself to Cathedral Family Game Night. We have some games, including the hilarious Catholic card game, or you can bring your own games. Invite your friends. Everyone is welcome!

Sunday, November 17 @ 6:15pm in the Atrium

Radiating Joy, The Michelle Duppong Story

For one night only Radiating Joy will be in Springfield. This film is a witness to the inspiring life of Michelle Duppong who loved Jesus and wanted to bring others to Him through the work of FOCUS and her heroic suffering and death. This film is perfect for families, OCIA groups, and everyone!

Tuesday, Nov 12, 5:00pm or 7:00pm @ Springfield AMC 12 Theater

CCCW Christmas Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale

Please join the CCCW for a Christmas Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale on December 14th from 10am-1pm. Craft booths will be set up in the Atrium and the bake sale will be in the School Hall with coffee and hot chocolate for sale from Betty Parquette's Coffee Ship. There will also be a kids' corner where kids can make a keepsake Christmas ornament for a small fee. Vendor contracts for the bazaar are available in the Atrium, and are due back with payment (cash or check) to the Parish Office by November 20th. All bake sale donations can be delivered on December 13th from 8am-4pm and December 14th from 7:30am-9am. We hope to see you there!

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 in the Atrium or at 120 S 11th St. in Springfield Illinois. Thank you for making a difference in our community!

Giving From Abundance

If you're like me, and you're far, far below the "having buildings named after you" tax bracket, you might just think that today's Gospel has nothing to do with you.

You might kick back and relax, thinking of all the poor, rich suckers sitting in the pews, shifting uncomfortably as Jesus praises the meager gift of the widow and disdains those who only give from abundance, those whose charity results in admiration and praise and all manner of temporal reward.

"In this economy, every gift I give is from my poverty," you might think to yourself with a chuckle.

But you — and let me be clear, I'm talking mostly to myself here — would be wrong. Because we all have an abundance of something, even if it isn't money.

What I've come to realize about myself is that I find plenty of ways to give only from my abundance. For instance, if I answer any request with the words, "Sure, I can, but..." chances are high that I'm about to work out a way to give, but only in a way that doesn't really impact me.

I'm willing to help. I just don't want to feel it.

But here's the thing about Jesus: he cares what's in our hearts as well as what's in our hands. A good deed, an act of charity? That's great! But what's the story behind it? Because a world full of moral actions and selfish hearts doesn't do anyone any good.

When we give from our poverty — our poverty of money, our poverty of time, our poverty of patience — we are giving the gift of the widow.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
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Around the Diocese

- **The Catholic Conference of Illinois is hiring a Director of Communications.** This position would be responsible for leading initiatives to promote the Catholic Conference of Illinois (CCI) and mobilize support for its advocacy agenda. To apply, email professional materials to info@ilcatholic.org.
- **Springfield Deanery Holy Hour for Vocations,** 6:30pm on Sunday, November 10 at Christ the King Catholic Church, 1930 Barberry Dr., Springfield, IL. Please join us for an evening of prayer as we pray for an increase in vocations to the Priesthood, Religious Life, and Holy Matrimony in conjunction with National Vocation Awareness Week.
- **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.