

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**FEBRUARY 23, 2025 | SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



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**FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009**

# Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 8

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THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI  
NINTH BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.  
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THE REVEREND DANIEL MCGRATH  
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND PIUS CHIDOZIE NWIYI  
PAROCHIAL VICAR

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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.



## Already but Not Yet

When Pope Benedict was elected to the papacy in 2005, there was some fear that as he assumed a more prominent role in the Church, his writing might be difficult for some to grasp. Prior to his becoming pope, Joseph Ratzinger (his name before becoming pope) had written extensively. He had served as a professor of theology for many years and also spent almost 25 years as the Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Both of these positions often required him to write on difficult topics of the faith, and trying to read those writings was sometimes a little difficult, despite the clarity and order with which he wrote.

Just a few months after his election, Pope Benedict issued his first encyclical, *Deus caritas est* (God is love). Many were surprised to see how easy it was to read this document. Though still packed with profound theological insights, he was able to express his ideas in ways that were generally easily understood and greatly appreciated. I say all of that as a way of preparing us for the next paragraph in *Spe Salvi*, in which the pope delves into some more technical language about the relationship between faith and hope, specifically as it is expressed in the first verse of the eleventh chapter of the Letter to the Hebrews. As I read through this paragraph again, I found myself struggling a little more than with other paragraphs as the Holy Father offers a short exegesis on this passage which offers the classic definition of faith in the New Testament. He quotes the passage, leaving the word in question untranslated: "Faith is the hypostasis of things hoped for; the proof of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1) (FYI - the English word used for hypostasis is 'realization', 'assurance', or 'guarantee') The rest of the paragraph unpacks that word hypostasis, considering it's meaning in Greek, in Latin, and how Martin Luther and biblical scholars (both Catholic and Protestant) have understood it, and how he resolves those various views to express the Catholic interpretation of this important passage.

Feel free to read the paragraph for yourself, but the conclusion that the Holy Father arrives at is insightful and much easier to understand in comparison to the steps leading to that conclusion. He concludes with the following:

*Faith is not merely a personal reaching out towards things to come that are still totally absent: it gives us something. It gives us even now something of the reality we are waiting for, and this present reality constitutes for us a "proof" of the things that are still unseen. Faith draws the future into the present, so that it is no longer simply a "not yet".*

*The fact that this future exists changes the present; the present is touched by the future reality, and thus the things of the future spill over into those of the present and those of the present into those of the future. (SS 7)*

My somewhat feeble attempt to distill this paragraph is that through faith, which is a gift of God's grace, a seed is planted within our souls, such that what we hope for in eternal life, is already present in us. It is not something we make up, something we hope to see in the future, but it is an objective reality of life with God, for the beginning of the fullness of that life is already in us through grace, which is a sharing in very Christ's life. This is an "already" that is present within us, not just a wishful longing for what is "not yet." It is not either/or, but rather both/and.

*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, February 24

7am - Joseph (Jerry) Stasukinas  
(Sherry Smith)  
5:15pm - Barbara McGee  
(McGee Family)

#### Tuesday, February 25

7am - Woody Woodhull  
(Rebecca Woodhull)  
5:15pm - Don Smargiassi  
(Fr. Tolton Council 16126)

#### Wednesday, February 26

7am - John Aaron Hergett  
(Ann Johnson)  
5:15pm - Ronald Borre  
(Family)

#### Thursday, February 27

7am - Sarah R. McGee  
(McGee Family)  
5:15pm - Betty Rogers  
(Family)

#### Friday, February 28

7am - Gale Patrick  
(Gregory & Marie Fleck)  
5:15pm - Anita Bates  
(Rosemarie Bates)

#### Saturday, March 1

8am - Tom McGee  
(McGee Family)  
4pm - For the People

#### Sunday, March 2

7am - Susan Denton  
(Terese & Darrell Hurst)  
10am - Woody Woodhull  
(Don Ryan)  
5pm - Deceased Members of the CCCW  
(CCCW)



## Bl. Giuseppe Allamano

**Feast Day: February 16th**

Last week we met Sister Felicita Nyaga, a Consolata Missionary from Kenya, confronted with the impossible situation of Sorino Yanomami's losing chunks of his brain and skull to a jaguar attack. With little hope, she sent him by plane to the nearest hospital over 200 miles away only to be confronted by the pagan shamans of the local tribe who threatened to kill her if he did not return alive.

*I had not thought much, I had acted. Now, when I entered the house, I went directly to the chapel and looked at the picture of Allamano [the founder of their order]. At that moment I thought, 'I have a father, he is here.' I was angry, I was so afraid and I*

*was shaking. I thought, "Allamano tell me one thing, when you founded this congregation, did you want it specifically for the unbaptized? Did you know that we would experience all these difficulties? And right now where are you? Are you there?" When I asked this question I felt like a blanket enveloping me, a different warmth.*

*So I said, "Listen Jesus, through the intercession of Giuseppe Allamano I want to ask you just one thing. Sorino has gone to Boa Vista, he is very serious. If they can cure him there, I ask that he heal completely and come back as before. If he comes back with impairments, like a paralysis, he could not live in the forest as a hunter and fisherman. If he does not heal, it is better for him to die. And if he has to die, I also ask for grace to bear this arrow that will hit me". Also, I wondered, "Is this really our mission place? Our charism? Only a complete healing of Sorino can give us an answer.*

She lit a candle and prayed those same words each day waiting for news. At the hospital on Boa Vista, the team was horrified by what they found. Sorino was breathing with difficulty, his brain was infected, chunks of soil, blood, and bone fragments were mixed among the missing parts of his fronto-temporo-parietal lobe. They put him in a medically induced coma and attempted to clean the wound. The days of the novena crawled by. The sisters in Boa Vista joined in the novena to Allamano, praying for the healing of Sorino, and placing a relic of their founder under his pillow.

By the 16th, the awaited feast-day, Sorino was close to death. St. Lisadele, at his bedside, went for their local superior, Sr. Maria Costa, to see if there was a way to get Sr. Felicita out of Catrimani so she would not be killed by the locals when he passed. They spoke about this throughout the morning of the 17th, not knowing what to do. Around noon, Sr. Maria felt an impulse to look over at Sorino. He turned his head towards her and spoke "Maria, why are you crying?" He said he was hungry, and he began to improve.

Three months later, a plane landed again at Catrimani. The locals had gathered, and the men with their weapons, some saying "only the bones are coming." The door opened, and Sorino stepped down and walked immediately to Sr. Felicta, "I want to show you the path I made from the incident to the maloca." All this should have been impossible. His skull was still open so the wound could be cleaned (Sr. Lisadele loaned him her hat to protect it from the sun), but it allowed all to see what the operating doctor testified: the damaged part of Sorino's brain was what allowed for motor coordination, he should have been neither able to walk or talk.

Sr. Felicita's prayer was answered (and her life and that of the other missionaries!), against impossible odds, Sorino had been healed, and returned in full health to live and work in the forest with his people. Dr. Roberta Barbaro would add her own testimony to the account of this miracle sent to Pope Francis for the canonization of Giuseppe Allamano.

*On 4 March 2019 (therefore, 23 years after the attack of the jaguar), I went to the Catrimani mission, I met Sorino Yanomami, and had the opportunity to observe him in his daily life. Sorino provided a detailed account of the accident which occurred in 1996. He reported leading a normal life, continuing to carry out his hunting and fishing activities, without problems. ... The patient now presents complete functional recovery and without any after-effects, lasting over time, which in light of the extensive brain lesions reported following the trauma with loss of substance, is scientifically inexplicable.*

Such was the miracle worked through the intercession of a diocesan priest from Turin, Italy who had never been on mission but whose missionaries had carried the Gospel to every corner of the world!

*Fr. Dominic Rankin will finally get to St. Giuseppe next week!*

## Stewardship of Treasure

### February 15th & 16th

Envelopes:	\$5,270.00
Loose:	\$2,693.00
Maintenance:	\$210.00
Total:	\$8,173.00

### December Online Contributions

\$54,689.98

### December Debt Reduction

\$690.20

### December Second Collections

Immaculate Conception  
\$3,802.00

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

### Baptisms

Remy Elizabeth & Rory Kathryn Timoney  
Children of Ryan & Laura Timoney  
Baptized on February 16, 2025

Savannah Mae Timoney  
Child of Michael & Kayla Timoney  
Baptized on February 16, 2025

Hudson Carter Timoney  
Child of Conner & Estefania Timoney  
Baptized on February 16, 2025

### Deaths

Elsie Darnell  
Date of Death: February 7, 2025

Anna T. Danner  
Date of Death: February 8, 2025

## WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24

<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  Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room	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  K of C Meeting 6:00 PM Classroom	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		Family of Faith 6:15 PM Atrium

## What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



*Cathedral First Friday Concert*

**MARCH 7, 2025**  
**7 PM - 8 PM**

*Featuring*  
*Aubrey Hawkinson*  
*Mezzo Soprano*

### First Friday Concerts

Join us on Friday, March 7, 2025 at 7pm in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! March's concert will feature Aubrey Hawkinson, Mezzo Soprano. 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!



**VATICAN II FAITH  
FORMATION SERIES &  
JUBILEE INDULGENCE**

**JANUARY 30, FEBRUARY 20, MARCH 20,  
APRIL 10, MAY 15, AND JUNE 19**  
**7:00 PM**  
**CATHEDRAL ATRIUM**

### Vatican II Faith Formation Series & Jubilee Indulgence

In the Decree on the Granting of the Indulgence During the Ordinary Year Jubilee Year 2025, one of the ways for the faithful to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence is to "participate in popular missions, spiritual exercises, or formation activities on the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, held in a church or other suitable place, according to the mind of the Holy Father." With that in mind, the Cathedral will be hosting monthly faith formation sessions during which we will delve into the four major Constitutions from the Second Vatican Council. Please join us as we reflect on these important documents, that they might serve to renew our hope during this Jubilee Year, all while being able to also gain an indulgence!

**March 20, 7:00 pm in the Cathedral Atrium**

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## CCCW/Knights of Columbus 2025-2026 Scholarships

The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women (CCCW) and the Fr. Augustine Tolton Council 16126, Knights of Columbus, are pleased to announce that the application period for the 2025-2026 academic year scholarships is open, effective February 10, 2025. Scholarships will be awarded and used to offset recipient costs of tuition at a Catholic High School and will be awarded to students who are members of registered active Cathedral parish families. The scholarships are competitive, so not every applicant may receive a scholarship. The application includes three parts: a one-page (250-300 words) essay on the topic listed (topic depends on grade level); documentation of a minimum of 20 service hours (of which a minimum of 15 hours must be in service to the Cathedral parish or parish organizations); and a Teacher Evaluation that will be submitted separately from the rest of the application. Applications will be available as follows: (1) Hard copies will be available at the parish office during parish business hours; (2) A PDF of the application form will be available at the Scholarship Application link on the parish website ([spicathedral.org](http://spicathedral.org)); or (3) The application may be completed completely online at the Scholarship Application link on the parish website. Both essays and documentation of service hours may be uploaded at the link. The final deadline for submission of all applications is 11:59 PM on Monday, March 31, 2025, either online or by hard copy. Hard copies should be placed in a sealed envelope and addressed to CCCW/Knights of Columbus Scholarship Committee and returned to the parish office in the rectory. Thank you for your interest, and good luck!

## Patriotic Concert

Join us for a Patriotic Concert, featuring Mark Gifford and sponsored by the Bishop Griffin Assembly Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, to celebrate National Anthem Day on Monday, March 3, 7 p.m. in the Cathedral Atrium. Seating is limited to 150 so arrive early. We welcome any voluntary donations from those who wish to give freely, as we will be accepting free will offerings. All proceeds will go to Land of Lincoln Honor Flight. National Anthem Day commemorates the day the United States adopted "The Star-Spangled Banner" as its National Anthem. Written by Francis Scott Key, the "Star-Spangled Banner" became the National Anthem in 1931.

## SDCCW Meeting - March 18

All women parishioners are invited to attend the Springfield in IL Deanery, Council of Catholic Women meeting on Tuesday, March 18th, 10am at St Cabrini in Springfield. Guest speakers Erica Smith and Sr. Ann Pitzenberger will discuss the Hospital Sisters Health System's Mission Outreach Program. Lunch will be served! A \$5 donation to cover food cost is suggested. Come and meet women from many different parishes in our deanery! RSVP to Deb Pilapil at [debpi1@yahoo.com](mailto:debpi1@yahoo.com) or join our Facebook page for more information!

## Lent at the Cathedral

This Lent the Cathedral parish will be focusing on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will be distributing *The Fountain of Youth, Confession: The Only Key to Living Forever* by Dave Durand to our parishioners on the first Sunday of Lent, March 8-9. We will be hosting an Adult Faith Formation session on Confession in conjunction with a CCCW Soup Supper on March 26. The session will be repeated the following day after the 12:05 Mass. We will invite folks to return the following Wednesday, April 2 for conversation about the book; again during the CCCW Soup Supper and after the 12:05 Mass.

In addition to all the normal times Cathedral offers Confession, we will host extended Confession times on April 11-12.

## Save the Date!

Join Two Hearts Pregnancy Resource Center and Springfield Right to Life for our Annual Fundraising Breakfast featuring keynote speakers Jim and Annette McDermott!  
When: March 29, 2025, 8:30 AM  
Where: Erin's Pavilion, Southwind Park, Springfield  
Attend this free event and help raise funds to support life-affirming work in our community. Table Hosts are needed! Reserve your table today—call 217-523-2700, email us at [springfieldrtl@gmail.com](mailto:springfieldrtl@gmail.com) or visit [springfieldrtl.org](http://springfieldrtl.org) for details.

## SDCCW Scholarship Opportunity

The SDCCW (Springfield in IL Diocesan Council of Catholic Women) is pleased to give \$2,000 for education beyond high school to four 2025 female high school graduates from the Springfield Diocese in IL who exemplify the SDCCW's mission. The mission of the SDCCW is to support and empower all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. The SDCCW is affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW). Applications are available in the Cathedral Atrium, and must be mailed to the SDCCW Scholarship Program by April 1.

## Knights of Columbus 16126 Faith Initiative - Cor

Attention Men of the Cathedral Parish! The men of Fr. Tolton Council 16126 of the Knights of Columbus are excited to share the implementation of Cor, a new formation and fraternal opportunity for the all men of the parish. Cor exists to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, and fraternity. Our first Cor activity will be held at 6 PM on Thursday, March 6 for a Holy Hour in the church followed by a gathering in the atrium. Come join your brother parishioners for prayer and fraternity as we start the Lenten season! For more information, contact Kyle Holtgrave at (217) 622-4994, or visit <http://www.kofc16126.org>.

## Judgment and Love

“Oh, well. I’m going to hell anyway, right?”

I have a few family members and friends who are not practicing Catholics who say this to me from time to time. It’s always spoken in a teasing manner, with a wink and a shoulder shrug, usually to explain away some sort of minor misbehavior they feel guilty about.

It saddens me that Christians have somehow gained this reputation as a people who judge, who condemn. I think in part it stems from a misunderstanding on the part of unchurched people (and lots of churched ones, too) regarding what constitutes “judging.” It is absolutely not “judging” someone to disagree with a personal decision, whatever that decision may be, or to decline from participating in that decision. We all have functioning consciences; we are all supposed to discern the moral goodness of any action before we take it.

But it is judging someone if we allow their decisions to impact how we treat them.

Today’s Gospel is an invitation for us to consider how we engage with people who disagree with us — or maybe even actively dislike us. Much is said these days of the “culture wars.” I certainly don’t disagree that it can often feel like you’re fighting a war when you’re trying to live as the Church teaches. The forces against you often seem overwhelming and nefarious. And guess what? They are.

But we need to remember who the enemy really is. The enemy is not other children of God, even if they are children of God who are actively promoting ideas that are wrong. Perhaps these people are misguided and mistaken. Perhaps they are misled by the devil. Have we not all been misled by him at some point?

We must interact lovingly with people who think differently and live differently from us. The Christian life absolutely demands it.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

©LPi

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## Around the Diocese

- **Women’s Day of Recollection**, Thursday, February 27 at Sacred Heart Church (730 S. 12th St., Springfield), from 12:45pm to 2:45pm. There will be a meditation given by a priest, time for silent prayer and reflection, a doctrinal talk, and Benediction. Confession and spiritual direction with the priest will be available. All women throughout the diocese are invited to attend. The spiritual guidance at the Recollection is entrusted to a priest of the Prelature Opus Dei.
- **Have you wondered why women might choose religious life?** Join the Dominican Sisters of Springfield at 7 p.m., Fri., Feb. 28 to learn more. A 40-minute virtual gathering will showcase various sisters’ ministries. A Q&A period is included. Register at: [springfieldop.org/events](http://springfieldop.org/events).
- **Catholic Women’s Prayer Breakfast at St. Paul Catholic Church, Highland, IL** March 22, 8a.m.-noon. Adoration/7 a.m., Rosary/7:30, Mass/8:00 a.m., catered breakfast /guest speaker Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. For more information: email [womensbreakfast2025@gmail.com](mailto:womensbreakfast2025@gmail.com) or text Rose Wascher at 847-274-3916. Pre-registration is required for breakfast. Register at [stpaulhighland.org](http://stpaulhighland.org). Deadline to register is March 1.
- **Christ the King Lenten Bible Study, Into His Likeness: Be Transformed as a Disciple of Christ**. This is a 6-week study produced by the Augustine Institute in which we will explore what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and how to live that out. Meetings are on Thursday mornings from 9:15 AM to 11:00 AM in the Christ the King Parish Center, beginning on Thursday, March 6. Childcare is available for a small donation. All are welcome! Participants will receive a workbook and have light reading with homework. The cost of the materials will be \$20. Each week we will view a 30 minute DVD lecture with discussion following. For more information or to register, contact Kristin Luker at 217-341-8753 or [KLuker@LukerDentalCare.com](mailto:KLuker@LukerDentalCare.com).
- **SDCCW Lenten Retreat “Walking with Jesus through Holy Week”**, at Villa Maria in Springfield, March 25th – 26th with Deacon Jeff Beals of our diocese, as retreat master. Retreat begins with lunch at noon on Tuesday March 25th and concludes at 3:30 pm on Wed. March 26th, We encourage you to begin the retreat with the March for Life Mass at Sangamon Auditorium at UIS at 10:00 am on Tuesday the 25th with required registration for this Mass found at [dio.org](http://dio.org). All are welcome! Registration deadline: March 15th. Contact: Mary Ann Sullivan: [gma.sullivan80@gmail.com](mailto:gma.sullivan80@gmail.com)
- **Majestic Germany Pilgrimage with Fr. R. Dean Probst**, August 18-28-2025. Visiting Frankfurt, Cologne, Hanover, Potsdam, Berlin, Nuremberg, Rothenberg, Munich, Oberammergau, Lindau, Lake Titisee, The Black Forest, Heidelberg and Mainz. Cost \$4599 per person from St. Louis, Mo. Call/text Fr. Dean 217-494-6326 or email [rdprobst@gmail.com](mailto:rdprobst@gmail.com).