

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

APRIL 27, 2025 | SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY



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 7 ISSUE 17

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.



Tilling the Soil with God's Mercy

Having taken a detour to the final paragraph of Spe Salvi in last week's Easter Sunday article, I would like to return to our ordered progression through this beautiful document on Christian hope. On this Octave Day of Easter, we continue to bask in the light of Christ's Resurrection, the reason for our hope in eternal life, won for us by His victory.

After having addressed the problem of a purely individualistic hope, and seeing how our being members of the Church necessarily involves a hope that is rooted in the unity of brothers and sisters in Christ, the Holy Father proposes an interesting reflection on one of the ways in which this "community-oriented vision of the 'blessed life'"

(SS 15) has been lived out in the history of the Church. He writes about the rise of monasteries in the Middle Ages. The Holy Father writes:

It was commonly thought that monasteries were places of flight from the world (contemptus mundi) and of withdrawal from responsibility for the world, in search of private salvation. Bernard of Clairvaux, who inspired a multitude of young people to enter the monasteries of his reformed Order, had quite a different perspective on this. In his view, monks perform a task for the whole Church and hence also for the world. (ibid.)

One of the images St. Bernard uses when speaking about the role for the good of the Church that monasteries play is the image of "tilling the soil" in order to prepare a new Paradise. The one who labors, that is the one who goes off to this way of life, is preparing that new Paradise for themselves and for the whole Church. Here is how St. Bernard explains it:

A wild plot of forest land is rendered fertile—and in the process, the trees of pride are felled, whatever weeds may be growing inside souls are pulled up, and the ground is thereby prepared so that bread for body and soul can flourish. (ibid.)

Pope Benedict concludes this paragraph with the question: "Are we not perhaps seeing once again, in the light of current history, that no positive world order can prosper where souls are overgrown?" (ibid.)

I think these points provide a nice lead into the message the Church proposes for our reflection on this day, that of the Divine Mercy. The message of Divine Mercy is one that has been more widely proclaimed for the past twenty-five years since Pope St. John Paul II brought it to the Church's universal awareness. But it is a message that is as old as the Gospel. The Divine Mercy message can be summed up as simply as remembering ABC:

A - Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that all the graces of His mercy can only be received by our trust. The more we open the door of our hearts and lives to Him with trust, the more we can receive. (<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message>)

The message of Divine Mercy is a message of hope that the whole world needs to hear. By following the above formula, we do the spiritual work of "tilling the soil" in our hearts and for the world, preparing us for that new Paradise that awaits us. Let us therefore be generous in living this message.

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, April 28

7am - Emily Embrich (Son)
5:15pm - Rose & Al Crispi (John Busciacco)

Tuesday, April 29

7am - Kenneth Beach (Dcn. David & Mary Beach)
5:15pm - Margaret Lemanski (Family)

Wednesday, April 30

7am - Barbara McGee (McGee Family)
5:15pm - Joe Semanik (Brenda Capranica)

Thursday, May 1

7am - Mark R. Cass (Larry & Bev Smith)
5:15pm - Drew Dhabalt (Vicki Compton)

Friday, May 2

7am - Brother Francis Skube (Friend)
5:15pm - John Jageosh III (Barbara Brauer)

Saturday, May 3

8am - Joseph (Jerry) Stasukinas (Sherry Smith)
4pm - Woody Woodhull (Karen Johnson)

Sunday, May 4

7am - Pamela Harmon (Archie Harmon)
10am - Fred & Rita Greenwald (Family)
5pm - For the People



Homily at Extraordinary Moment of Prayer as Pandemic Began

Pope Francis | March 27, 2020

With the passing of Pope Francis, I decided this week to take an interlude from our exploration of JP II's "Srodowisco" – the "environment" of his sanctity – and recall one of Pope Francis' most moving homilies. (Please read others of his! They never hit the news cycle, but many are splendid proclamations of the Gospel! This one is the famous one as he blessed the world with the Eucharist in an empty and rainy St. Peter's Square at the beginning of the pandemic.)

We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm.

We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying "We are perishing" (v. 38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this.

It is easy to recognize ourselves in this story. What is harder to understand is Jesus' attitude. While his disciples are quite naturally alarmed and desperate, he is in the stern, in the part of the boat that sinks first. And what does he do? In spite of the tempest, he sleeps on soundly, trusting in the Father; this is the only time in the Gospels we see Jesus sleeping. When he wakes up, after calming the wind and the waters, he turns to the disciples in a reproaching voice: "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" (v. 40).

Let us try to understand. In what does the lack of the disciples' faith consist, as contrasted with Jesus' trust? They had not stopped believing in him; in fact, they called on him. But we see how they call on him: "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" (v. 38). Do you not care: they think that Jesus is not interested in them, does not care about them. One of the things that hurts us and our families most when we hear it said is: "Do you not care about me?" It is a phrase that wounds and unleashes storms in our hearts. It would have shaken Jesus too. Because he, more than anyone, cares about us. Indeed, once they have called on him, he saves his disciples from their discouragement.

The storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities. It shows us how we have allowed to become dull and feeble the very things that nourish, sustain and strengthen our lives and our communities. The tempest lays bare all our prepackaged ideas and forgetfulness of what nourishes our people's souls; all those attempts that anesthetize us with ways of thinking and acting that supposedly "save" us, but instead prove incapable of putting us in touch with our roots and keeping alive the memory of those who have gone before us. We deprive ourselves of the antibodies we need to confront adversity.

In this storm, the façade of those stereotypes with which we camouflaged our egos, always worrying about our image, has fallen away, uncovering once more that (blessed) common belonging, of which we cannot be deprived: our belonging as brothers and sisters.

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" Lord, your word this evening strikes us and regards us, all of us. In this world, that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: "Wake up, Lord!"

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you. This Lent your call reverberates urgently: "Be converted!", "Return to me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12). You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing. It is not the time of your judgement, but of our judgement: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others. ...

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" Faith begins when we realise we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we founder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars. Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God's strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.

Fr. Dominic Rankin



Stewardship of Treasure

April 19th & 20th

Collection numbers were unavailable at the time of publication. Please check back next weekend for these collection numbers.

March Online Contributions

\$21,710.74

March Debt Reduction

\$5.00

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!

WEEK OF APRIL 28

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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 UIS Chamber Concert 7:00 PM Atrium	Rosary 4:45 PM Church First Friday Concert 7:00 PM Church	UIS Choral Concert 7:30 PM Church	Family of Faith 6:00 PM Atrium

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



May First Friday Concert Series

Join us on Friday, May 2, 2025 at 7pm in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! May's concert will feature Kyle Jones, Classical Saxophone. 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!



Sunset Brunch and Brushes

Join us for our final paint event on Friday, May 16th at the Cathedral! Doors open at 6pm and painting starts at 6:30pm. In lieu of payment for this event, we will ask that all attendees bring a donation for a local charity (to be announced closer to the event). RSVPs are due by Friday, May 9th, to confirm your spot and supplies - no exceptions. Visit <https://dio.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/226/responses/new> to make your reservation today! Any questions can be sent to Kim Gunter (kgunter@cathedral.dio.org) or Haley Dutton (hdutton@cathedral.dio.org).



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!

May 15, 7:00 pm in the Cathedral Atrium

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Watch Local Documentary, God is Alive, Part II

The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is happy to announce you can now watch the documentary, God is Alive, Part II | Incredible stories of faith and miraculous events in the Midwest. If you are full of faith, clinging to faith, or have lost hope in faith, this one-hour documentary will get you inspired, move you to hope, and fall in love with faith in a whole new way. God is Alive, Part II will take you to Gower, MO, Edwardsville, Ashland, and Chicago to show you miracles still happen, God is alive not matter the circumstances, and including God in your life is what will make the difference. Go to dio.org/documentary to watch. God is Alive (Part I) is also available to watch there.

Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality

On Sunday April 27, the first Millennial Saint, Carlo Acutis, will be canonized in Rome. That same day, a movie about his life will be in theaters nationwide entitled Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality. See locations and tickets at www.carloacutisfilm.com. Around the world there has been great interest in learning more about this fascinating young man and his impact on the youth of today. This movie will be an inspiration to all who watch it to follow Carlo's example by becoming an authentic disciple of Christ.

Grief Share

Cathedral is proud to host a weekly bereavement group. No matter what you are grieving, you are welcome to attend. Every Tuesday, beginning May 6, 1:00-2:30 in the Cathedral School Library. Call the parish office for more information or email Berni at jackandberni96@yahoo.com

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 May 1.

Dive Deep - A \$6,000 Embassy Wire Transfer & God Saved His Life in the Holy Land

Darren Price of Springfield converted to the Catholic Church in 2019. Just a few months later, he went on a trip to the Holy Land where he almost died. His incredible story of walking the streets of Jerusalem in severe pain, needing the US Embassy to get involved, and a money wire transfer needing to happen all sound like a movie script, but it was his reality. How his story gave him a new appreciation for Christ and suffering. Go to youtube.com/diospringfield or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe. Dive Deep is the podcast of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

Springfield Catholic Charities 2025 Annual Fundraiser

Springfield Catholic Charities will be hosting its Annual Fundraiser on Saturday, May 3, 2025 from 5:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Knight of Columbus Hall, 2200 Meadowbrook Rd. in Springfield. Event tickets are \$50 per person or \$350 for a table of eight and include hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Tickets may be purchased on our website at: <https://cc.dio.org/events/springfield-2025>



Sharing the Good News of Jesus: Practical Steps

Use Clear, Simple Language.

The kerygma is a simple message at its core: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Focus on conveying this message in a way that is accessible to everyone, regardless of their background or level of understanding. Avoiding complex theological language doesn't mean diluting the kerygma; it means presenting the kerygma in the way it will be best received so that it can take root in the person's heart.

Around the Diocese

- **Now Accepted: Applications for Principal for Blessed Sacrament School in Springfield, Illinois.** We are seeking a practicing Roman Catholic to promote Catholic identity, with proven school administrative skills and experience in managing a staff. Candidates must possess a Master's degree in administration and Illinois certification. Visit bssbruins.org/employment-opportunities for a full job description and application.
- **Springfield Deanery Council of Catholic Women Meeting,** Saturday, May 3rd, 10 am at St. Joseph Church, in the Parish Center, 1345 N. 6th Street, Spfld. Sr. Mary Ellen Backes OSU will speak about the Water For Women program. Lunch will be served with a \$5 suggested donation. A business meeting and tour of the Ronald McDonald House in Spfld are also on the agenda. If you have any pop tabs saved, please bring them with you. All women are invited to attend! RSVP by April 27th to Diane Mounce, St. Joe's Pastoral Council Secretary, 217-971-2350, voice and text.
- **Springfield Deanery Holy Hour for Vocations,** 7:00pm on Sunday, May 4 at Holy Family Catholic Church, 2440 S. Franklin Street Rd., Decatur, IL, 62521. Please join us for an evening of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as we pray for an increase in vocations to the Priesthood, Religious Life, and Holy Matrimony.
- **Summer Immersion Experience with Dominican Sisters in Chicago,** Single Catholic women ages 18 - 45 are invited to participate in the Dominican Sisters' Service Immersion Experience in Chicago. This unique opportunity allows participants to engage deeply with the mission and ministry of the Dominican Sisters while serving the local community and discerning their own path in faith and service. The event is scheduled for June 21-25, 2025. Participants will have opportunities for prayer, reflection, hands-on service, and conversation about vocation and Gospel justice. Participants will walk alongside the Dominican Sisters, gaining firsthand insight into their charism of prayer, preaching, community life, and service. Complete the interest form at springfieldop.org/summer. Facilitated by several congregations of U.S.-based Dominican Sisters. For more information call Sister Denise Glazik, OP, at 217-787-0481.
- **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.