

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**MAY 4, 2025 | THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342  
[WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG](http://WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG)

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

# Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 18

---

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  
BUSINESS MANAGER  
KGUNTER@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

JULIA MAYFIELD  
PARISH SECRETARY  
JMAYFIELD@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.



## Faith in the Modern Age

When I entered seminary in 2006, it was at a time when the Church in the United States was making a transition to a new set of expectations with regards to a candidate's formation in philosophy before beginning the study of theology. For those who already had a college degree, a time of pre-theology was required during which that necessary study of philosophy was undertaken. For many seminaries, this involved cramming several classes in philosophy into a single year, often presented in a non-systematic way. Seeing the problem with this, the bishops of the United States would now require that the study of philosophy would span two full years, ensuring an adequate study of this topic. I found myself at the tail end of the one-year study of philosophy, and as a result, certain classes

in that discipline were left out. One such class that I did not have to take was Modern Philosophy. At the time, I was grateful to not have to take the class, having heard of its reputation for being pretty difficult. But as I read the next paragraph in *Spe Salvi*, my gratitude for dodging that class turned into regret, as I found myself feeling rather unequipped to appreciate the Holy Father's reflections on the impact of modern philosophy on the topic of faith and hope.

Pope Benedict begins by asking why there has been a shift toward a "narrowly individualistic" idea of hope and a "selfish search for salvation which rejects the idea of serving others." (*Spe Salvi*, 16) To begin answering that question, he turns to one of the early, key figures in modern philosophy, Francis Bacon. Since my knowledge of this important figure in modern thought was so lacking, I decided to do a little research. Francis Bacon has been referred to many as the father of empiricism. A basic definition of empiricism is that it is "the philosophical theory that all knowledge comes from sensory experience. In other words, we learn and understand the world through what we see, hear, touch, taste, and smell." (from Catholic Encyclopedia).

We can begin to see a problem with this type of philosophy, because it discounts or discredits anything not based on sensory experience, including faith and divine revelation, which are essential for the Christian world-view. Recall the definition of faith given in the Letter to the Hebrews: "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1) My guess is that Francis Bacon, and the system he promoted, would have seen this passage as foolish. If it cannot be seen or experienced, it cannot be verified and it must not be true. Now, given that I am lacking in my understanding of modern philosophy, perhaps my conclusion is a bit too black and white, and that the position of empiricism is a little more nuanced. But nevertheless, I think we can begin to see how such a way of thinking can lead to trouble for a worldview rooted in faith.

In the conclusion of this paragraph, Pope Benedict notes that this way of thinking proposed by Bacon "would mean that the dominion over creation—given to man by God and lost through original sin—would be reestablished" (*Spe Salvi*, 16) Original sin has the effect of darkening our intellect, and thus our relationship to creation has been damaged. Instead of relying on faith and grace to overcome this deficit, Bacon is proposing that science and progress can bring about a reestablishment of what had been lost.

What comes to mind is a term I heard many years ago, in which humanity claims a sort of "intellectual pride" over previous generations. They did not know as much as we do now, thus their reliance on things like faith to explain what they could not understand. But now, being more advanced, we are much smarter and better equipped to answer those questions to where faith is no longer necessary. The more we tap into science and technology, there is no problem we cannot solve, thus eliminating just about any need for faith.

Perhaps that is a bit of a stretch, and there is likely much more nuance to this position, but I think we can begin to see the danger of this way of thinking, and how necessary it is for us to have an adequate response to it, which, thanks be to God, the Church does.

*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, May 5

7am - James Conkrite  
(Litina Carnes)  
5:15pm - Woody Woodhull  
(Rebecca Woodhull)

#### Tuesday, May 6

7am - John Montgomery  
(John Busciacco)  
5:15pm - Daniel Sexson  
(Sharon Sexson)

#### Wednesday, May 7

7am - Tom McGee  
(McGee Family)  
5:15pm - Karen Bucari  
(Alan Bucari)

#### Thursday, May 8

7am - Margaret Lemanski  
(Ansell Family)  
5:15pm - Deceased Members of  
Kruzick/Tobin Family  
(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)

#### Friday, May 9

7am - Patrick Fitzgerald  
(Family)  
5:15pm - Intention for Bianca  
(DA Drago)

#### Saturday, May 10

8am - Patrick & Fleck Family  
(Gregory & Marie Fleck)  
4pm - Esther Antonacci  
(Mike & Pam Burge)

#### Sunday, May 11

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(Bill Midden)  
10am - For the People  
5pm - Raymond & Eulalia Ohl  
(Angela Ohl Marsters)





## Środowisko, Part 3

The word “środowisko”, you’ll recall, is tricky to translate. Milieu or environment captures something of it, but community or circle add a necessary human/relational quality that certainly is part of how Fr. Karol Wojtyła used the word. It comes from the root word “środek” meaning center, and the suffix “-isko” which adds the connotation of location or context. Środowisko is something we all have, it is the relationships, activities, and outlook that locate and center us, that support and solidify us. I say we all have this, but certainly the quality of our srodowisko can vary a lot! A few questions that might help to dig into this:

Who do you call if you have a flat tire?

Does anyone else know the heaviest cross you’re carrying right now?

When is the last time you laughed, or danced, or played, or hiked with abandon?

Do you ever pray with someone else?

Take these as simple, gentle, questions that probe the depth of the relationships and friendships that you have around you right now – a sketch of your srodowisko. They’re just the questions that come to the top of my mind, certainly incomplete, probably prompted by my own experience of community. I think all of us may want more here, perhaps a lot more. Maybe you’re thinking that you don’t have anybody around you right now. Take a deep breath, God has plans for your good, your joy, and it includes providing the entire srodowisko that you’ll need to become a saint (and He has a splendid srodowisko that He is readying for you in eternity). AND, keep in mind the heartbroken young Karol who, it seemed, had lost everyone that he loved at twenty, or several years later as a young priest when (1st) he was reassigned from his first parish after only a few months or (2nd) when he was asked to begin doctoral studies just as all his student ministry was starting to flower – God had plans for him just as he does for you.

Ok. That reaffirmed, let’s look at Fr. Karol Wojtyła’s life for a first step we can all take in the right direction. A few anecdotes that I think point towards a simple theme: When playing soccer as a youngster, he noticed that the Jewish boys often joined together on one team and did not have a goalie. Little Lolek did not hesitate to jump in as their keeper to balance the sides. As a seminarian, while boarding the train he saw a bedraggled girl freezing on the platform. He brought her some food and tea, carried her onto the train, and wrapped his own cloak around her. She was Edith Zierer, 13 years old, escaped from the labor camp near Czestochowa, starving, infested with lice, and credits Karol with saving her life. She wrote to him when he became pope and visited him at the Vatican, and they kept up a written correspondence until he died. Jerzy Ciesielski would become one of the coordinators of the many outdoor expeditions of Środowisko, was the one who taught Karol how to kayak, and was also an engineer. Fr. Wojtyła would spend hours letting the young man lecture him on mathematics and breakthroughs in engineering, perhaps not the first inclination for a want to be actor and philologist, but he never cut Jerzy’s ramblings off. (Actually, when writing an article for a Catholic magazine in 1957 about his ministry in the mountains, Fr. Karol asked Jerzy to be a co-author with him). For his entire time in Krakow, including as Bishop, whenever one of his students was expecting he gave a personal day of recollection for the mother. From Witness to Hope by George Weigel: “He always had time,” Teresa Malecka recalled. “He understood that to baptize means to come home, to be with the family, to bless the baby sleeping in the bed. We didn’t have to ask him to do this; he wanted to do it.”

A final story (from John Paul the Great, His Five Loves by Jason Evert): During an ad limina visit to Rome, Bishop Robert Brom was surprised when Pope John Paul II looked at him and said, “I think we have met before.” Brom, certain they hadn’t, politely disagreed. The Pope persisted, and days later, his secretary, Monsignor Stanisław Dziwisz, told Brom, “Don’t argue with the Pope, he remembers when he met you.” The meeting had taken place in November 1963 (decades before), outside the Church of the Gesù in Rome. Brom, then a seminarian at the North American College during the Second Vatican Council, had briefly crossed paths with Bishop Karol Wojtyła, the auxiliary bishop of Kraków, as they entered and exited the church with their respective groups. The moment had slipped Brom’s mind, but not Wojtyła’s. When Brom asked how the Pope could remember such an encounter, Dziwisz replied, “For John Paul, to meet another person is to encounter God.” Years later, near the end of the Pope’s life, John Paul brought it up again: “How many times have we met, and when was the first time?” This time, Brom got it right. John Paul slapped his desk, smiled, and said, “Finally you remember!”

And so the takeaway: JP II cared about everyone that he met. He had all the time in the world for them and never let the next thing take his concern away from them. What if you or I did the same? This is not a super-power, but it is something that requires grace! The fact is we don’t have enough love for everyone if we’re trying to do so under our own steam, BUT what if we began each day simply asking the Lord to love each person through us? What if God provided the love?

It might be a step towards the srodowisko God wants for you!

*Fr. Dominic Rankin*

## Stewardship of Treasure

### April 19th & 20th

Envelopes:	\$8,051.00
Loose:	\$2,905.00
Maintenance:	\$7.00
Total:	\$10,963.00

### April 26th & 27th

Envelopes:	\$4,690.00
Loose:	\$2,996.00
Maintenance:	\$67.00
Total:	\$7,753.00

## 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!

## Sacraments

### Received into Full Communion

Kaitlyn Brown  
April 27, 2025

### Weddings

Parker Staab & Olivia Klein  
Married on April 26, 2025

### Deaths

James Kappel  
Death Date: April 10, 2025

## WEEK OF MAY 5

<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	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 Choir Room	Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, & 6:00 PM School Library  Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		

## What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



JOIN US AT THE CATHEDRAL FOR

# Sunset Brunch & Brushes

MAY 16  
6:30 PM  
CATHEDRAL  
ATRIUM

### 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](mailto:kgunter@cathedral.dio.org)) or Haley Dutton ([hdutton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto: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**



## 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

# 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](http://dio.org/documentary) to watch. God is Alive (Part I) is also available to watch there.

## Second Collection - Catholic Home Missions

Dioceses supported by the Catholic Home Missions program of the Catholic bishops of the United States are found throughout our country, its territories and former territories. They also include dioceses and eparchies of Eastern Catholic Churches, which are in full communion with the Holy See but have their own distinct cultural heritages, liturgical traditions, and bishops. Here in the United States, these communities often have large populations of recent immigrants and refugees who present unique challenges to pastoral outreach, including language barriers and cultural pressures to assimilate. Your participation in the annual Catholic Home Missions Appeal supports dioceses throughout the United States and its current and former territories that need financial help to sustain core pastoral services and missions of mercy to those they serve. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the appeal this year. To learn more about the appeal and those who benefit from it, visit [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions). Thank you for strengthening the Church at home.

## 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, 1:00-2:300 in the Cathedral School Library. Call the parish office for more information or email Berni at [jackandberni96@yahoo.com](mailto:jackandberni96@yahoo.com)

## 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](https://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.

## Pilgrims of Hope: Honoring Pope Francis

A family-friendly public prayer hosted by the Dominican Sisters, 4:00 p.m. Sunday, May 4, Sacred Heart Convent Chapel, 1237 W. Monroe St., Springfield, Ill., 62704. Free, no registration required. Please join us. For questions call 217-787-0481.



## Sharing the Good News of Jesus: Practical Steps

### Introduce Them to Your Community

The early Christians "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42). Community was essential to their growth in faith, and it remains essential to ours today. Community is a crucial part of evangelization. It provides a space where individuals can ask questions, share experiences, and grow together in faith.

When introducing someone to your community, be mindful of their comfort level. Start with inviting them to something informal, like a social event or a casual gathering. Over time, as they become more comfortable, their openness to participating in other things increases. Cathedral will be offering Alpha this summer. Alpha is an engaging, low-pressure opportunity to explore the faith. It's a great way for the disengaged to get re-engaged! Specific details coming soon.

---

## 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](https://bssbruins.org/employment-opportunities) for a full job description and application.
- **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 [springfielddop.org/summer](https://springfielddop.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](mailto:rdprobst@gmail.com).