

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MAY 11, 2025 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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 19

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

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DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

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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.



Faith in Progress

Having muddled my way through an attempt to give the most fundamental explanation of the philosophical system proposed by Francis Bacon, I hope this week will be a little more articulate in explaining how Pope Benedict continues his reflection on the impact of this and other thinkers of Bacon's era on the topic of faith and hope.

The Holy Father explains the consequences of this "disturbing step" taken by Bacon and his system of thinking:

up to that time, the recovery of what man had lost through the expulsion from Paradise was expected from faith in Jesus Christ: herein lay "redemption". Now, this "redemption", the restoration of the lost "Paradise" is no longer expected from faith, but from the newly discovered link between science and praxis. (Spe salvi, 17)

The pope then describes how this philosophy not only affects the understanding of faith, but hope as well, taking on a new form that Bacon calls "faith in progress" (ibid.) Our hope no longer lies in the faith given to us through the promises of Jesus Christ, but rather in the promises that science and technology will bring about as they propose solutions to problems that had, up to that point, been thought impossible or unexplainable.

Francis Bacon has been recognized as saying that the "Three Great Inventions" of the Renaissance were the printing press, gunpowder, and the mariner's compass. The printing press enabled the more rapid expansion of knowledge and thus would make possible the faster spread of information about new inventions that would support his system. Gunpowder marked a significant change in the ability of those who were less powerful to contend with their opponents, thus allowing for alterations to well-established power structures. The mariner's compass made navigation easier, and was at the service of new discoveries that could expand our understanding of a variety of topics. These were examples of how applied knowledge and technology were capable of changing how we understand the world around us.

There is no question that the past several decades has seen remarkable growth in science and technology, especially with the growth of the Internet, medical breakthroughs, travel to space, and most recently, Artificial Intelligence. Those who find Bacon's philosophy attractive will be all the more convinced of its veracity given the ample evidence to support it. The Holy Father says as much when he concludes this paragraph by writing: "[a]s the ideology of progress developed further, joy at visible advances in human potential remained a continuing confirmation of faith in progress as such." (ibid.)

In response to philosophies that try to claim that science and technology are slowly chipping away at our need for faith, the Church has not remained idle. I think of somebody like Father Robert Spitzer, S.J., a Jesuit who has written and spoken extensively on faith and reason, offering a sound intellectual response to support how these two fields are not opposed, and how the many advances in science do not indeed explain away the faith. The Church is often accused of being anti-science, but such a claim is based on little awareness on how much faithful Catholics, past and present, have contributed to the development of science while maintaining the need for 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, May 12

7am - Betty Rogers
(Family)
5:15pm - Sydney Compton & Richard
Beemer (Vicki Compton)

Tuesday, May 13

7am - Mary Kay Butler Harrelson
(Bev Hoffman)
5:15pm - Intention for Cathy
(DA Drago)

Wednesday, May 14

7am - Barbara McGee
(McGee Family)
5:15pm - Raymond & Eulalia Ohl
(Angela Ohl Marsters)

Thursday, May 15

7am - John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Don Smargiassi
(Dcn Larry & Bev Smith)

Friday, May 16

7am - Barbara Conkrite
(Litina Carnes)
5:15pm - Anna Wanda Chiaradonna
(Geny Chiaradonna)

Saturday, May 17

8am - John Morrison
(Fr. Tolton Council 16126)
4pm - Dcn Michael "Kim" Scott
(Bev & Dcn Larry Smith)

Sunday, May 18

7am - For the People
10am - Jean Sarsany
(Karen & John Kjellquist)
5pm - Deceased Members of the CCCW
(CCCW)



Środowisko, Part 4

What more might we learn from Pope St. John Paul II regarding building around ourselves our own środowisko, a culture or environment or framework, of faith? Just to recap, we began with those first days of Fr. Wojtyła beginning to live life with young people in Krakow, showing them an external, and internal, freedom that they had never known. Before that, as a young man, it was the heartfelt prayer learned from his own father, and learned while suffering the loss of his own father, that had led him towards God's call to be a priest and nourished him spiritually for the rest of his life. And, on top of those beautiful, and painful, periods of his early life, another characteristic that was always part of him was the simple choice to care deeply about every person around him.

Freedom lived with others. Prayer learned from others. Love given to others.

Notice the pattern: John Paul II didn't navigate life alone. So many times, what we emphasize about his life: his philosophical erudition, his charisma and energy, his mysticism, his political adroitness, his greatness on the world stage, his love for hiking and skiing, his humility amidst the rigors of Parkinson's ... Each of those things considered on their own could sketch for us a man who was incredibly gifted from the beginning, picked by God for a sublime mission, and who ran the race before him very much on his own.

I recall one particular afternoon while in seminary in Rome texting a couple other guys to see if they wanted to go for a run. I cautioned that I wasn't wanting to do anything crazy and we could go as slow as we wanted and just enjoy a couple miles together. Well, as we got through the first mile and had a nice long downhill I was feeling pretty good, so we (I) picked up the pace. And if you're going at a good clip you don't want to slow down on the flat mile in front of St. Peter's (this was while I was in Rome). AND, if you have a pretty good time you might as well storm up the final hill at full speed... We finished our run, said a prayer together before the little grotto of Our Lady, and one of the guys turned to me: "Bro, I came out here to take it easy and have fun together, and you didn't let us do that at all." It was a rebuke; it was humbling. I still struggle with that today: going for a jog with others and pushing it too fast.

But I think all of us do.

Maybe it is not in running, but who of us does not have some area of life where we feel a little bit desperate and our temptation is to just leave somebody else behind because we are feeling the pressure to finish, fix, or figure something out. Money is tight, or I'm getting older, or the todo list is too long, or the culture isn't what we want it to be, or we need to make a decision now, or I need to get to something else and don't have time for you right now... Our world is constantly pressing into us the lie that "You're not good enough." Think about it: every advertisement, every website, most of our interactions with other people, and even just the noise and hubbub and stoplights that get in our way each day, are – down where we don't even notice it anymore – saying "Go faster."; "Do more."; "It's not enough."

The fact is, if we are operating out of that posture – out of fear, worry, hustle, or not-good-enough-ness – we are more faithful disciples of the internet than we are disciples of Jesus.

And the consequence of the constant running, constant trying to make ends meet, constant worry about the next thing is that we will not have time for other people – at least, not real people, who aren't perfect and who might realize that we aren't perfect either – and that frenetic solo-ing of life is absolutely poisonous to really being rooted in God, to really living a human life. So, one more part of środowisko then is simple: "Be not afraid."

Such were JP II's first words as Pope when he stepped out on the loggia of St. Peter's: Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ. To his saving power open the boundaries of States, economic and political systems, the vast fields of culture, civilization and development. Do not be afraid. Christ knows "what is in man". He alone knows it. So often today man does not know what is within him, in the depths of his mind and heart. So often he is uncertain about the meaning of his life on this earth. He is assailed by doubt, a doubt which turns into despair. We ask you therefore, we beg you with humility and trust, let Christ speak to man. He alone has words of life, yes, of eternal life.

Fr. Dominic Rankin was not alive when JP II was elected Pope. When Benedict was elected, he was 12 years old and first starting to serve Mass with his brother (who had just received his First Communion), and when Francis was elected, he was on break during his first year of seminary. You may find it a beautiful thing to pray about this week: How has God carried you (and the Church) through the different Popes that were part of your life?

Stewardship of Treasure

May 3rd & 4th

Envelopes:	\$7,556.00
Loose:	\$4,839.00
Maintenance:	\$1,036.00
Total:	\$13,431.00

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

Deaths

Judith A. Shea

Date of Death: April 28, 2025

WEEK OF MAY 12

<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	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 Vatican II Faith Formation 7:00 PM Atrium	Rosary 4:45 PM Church Sunset Brunch & Brushes 6:00 PM Atrium		Family of Faith 6:15 PM Atrium

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



**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!

May 15, 7:00 pm in the Cathedral Atrium



Cathedral First Friday Concert

**JUNE 6, 2025
7 PM - 8 PM**

*Featuring
Young Performers Concert
Upcoming Young Artists*

June First Friday Concert Series

Join us on Friday, June 6, 2025 at 7pm in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! June's concert will feature Upcoming Young Artists. 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!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Your Action Needed

Legislation that will legalize physician assisted suicide in Illinois has been moving at the Illinois Statehouse. Final votes could be taken up this month. Please contact your state representative and state senator urging them to vote No. You can find who your legislators are and information on the legislation at the Catholic Conference of Illinois website: ilcatholic.org.

The Curia is Hiring!!

The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois Curia is hiring 4 full-time positions. They are a Maintenance and Groundskeeper, Database and Parish Service Administrator, Diocesan Liaison and Advocate, and Executive Secretary. If you or anyone you know is interested, view these jobs at dio.org/careers to learn more and to see how to apply.

Second Collection - Catholic Communication Campaign

This May, our diocese will take up a collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). Please prayerfully consider supporting the collection this year. Fifty percent of collected funds stay in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois and the other 50 percent support communications projects in the United States and around the world. Through Catholic Times, social media, videos, podcasting, and other digital methods, our diocese is taking advantage of several communication outlets to spread the news of our diocese, teach the faith, and provide hope and encouragement to people no matter where they are in their faith life. Followers on the diocesan social media channels have exploded over the years. Our channels have far more followers than most dioceses our size, and several that are two to three times as big as our diocese and several archdioceses. For example, our Facebook page has nearly 12,000 followers (we had about 3,000 followers six years ago). In 2020, our YouTube channel had under 500 subscribers. Today, it is approaching 18,000 subscribers! This shows that the content our curia team is producing is engaging, inspirational, and educational, and people want to consume it because it is helping them. With your generosity, we can continue creating engaging content and bring people closer to our faith or even back to our faith. You can donate online at parishgiving.dio.org/secondcollections, use your second collection envelope, or mail your donation to the parish office. For more information about the collection and the projects it supports, visit www.usccb.org/cc.

2025 Memorial Day Field Mass

Please join us at Calvary Cemetery of Springfield on Memorial Day, May 26th at 9:00 am for the traditional Field Mass offered at Father Howard Altar. The Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki will be the principal celebrant. Accompanying Bishop Paprocki in procession will be local priests and members of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus. Limited seating will be available, and guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. In lieu of golf cart transportation this year, guests needing special assistance can be dropped off closer to the Father Howard Altar. Call the Calvary Cemetery office at 217-523-3726 Monday-Friday 8am-4pm with any questions.

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 1)* is also available to watch there.



Sharing the Good News of Jesus: Practical Steps

Encourage participation in the Sacraments

The sacraments are the key means of receiving God's grace in this life. If the person you are walking with is Catholic, encourage them to come to Our Lord in Confession and the Eucharist, explaining how these sacraments have strengthened your own faith. Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever" (John 6:51). The Eucharist is not just a symbol; it is truly Christ, feeding our souls and deepening our relationship with Him.

If they're hesitant, offer to go with them. Sometimes, the thought of going alone can be intimidating. By offering to stick with them, you'll make it easier for them to take that step.

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. .
- **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.