

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MAY 25, 2025 | SIXTH 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 21

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

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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.

Diocesan Victim Assistance is available. For the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, please call 217-321-1155.
Please remember that if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a nursing home or homebound, to contact the Parish Office at 217-522-3342



Spiritual but Not Religious

The next figure introduced by Pope Benedict into the conversation on the impact of modern philosophy on Christian faith and hope is Immanuel Kant. Recall a previous article when I lamented my lack of exposure to modern philosophy in my seminary formation – that regret returns with just the mention of Kant's name! Although I was not in the Modern Philosophy class that first year of seminary, some of my classmates were, and I recall how often they spoke about Kant, especially in a way that they found him difficult to understand. Though glad to not have had the struggle then, it would have been helpful to me now as I read this current paragraph in *Spe salvi*.

In his presenting Kant's thought as an important thinker to consider, the Holy Father draws our attention to a concerning trend that Kant was proposing. Kant suggests that with the rapid development of rational thought and knowledge, there is a gradual transition away from what he calls "ecclesiastical faith" toward a more "pure religious faith."

The "Kingdom of God" proclaimed by Jesus receives a new definition here and takes on a new mode of presence; a new "imminent expectation", so to speak, comes into existence: the "Kingdom of God" arrives where "ecclesiastical faith" is vanquished and superseded by "religious faith", that is to say, by simple rational faith. (Spe salvi, 19)

As I read this, I thought about the modern trend present in our society where people proclaim that they are "spiritual but not religious." It appears as though Kant's contributions to modern thought offer some philosophical roots to this position.

After doing a little research on some of the basic tenets of Kant's philosophy, it is evident that he focuses on a sort of personal spirituality rooted in achieving a form of moral perfection that is supported by moral reason and autonomy, developed primarily from within. Any sense of an external authority (Divine Revelation, Church documents, Church authority) is held in suspicion as dangerous to his views. Kant does not outright reject the faith or the Scriptures, but he sees them helpful only insofar as they support the overall goal of living a good, reasonable, moral life.

With the "spiritual but not religious" trend we are seeing more of, we likewise have a distrust of religious organizations as imposing limits on our freedom. There is a desire to live a good and moral life, but that comes not through obedience to fixed creeds and rules, but is open to a variety of experiences that may speak more to one's personal preferences. Many in this position will acknowledge the existence of God, and even pursue a meaningful personal relationship with Him, but having that be in the context of institutions and rituals is seen as unnecessary on the universal level, even if some might find it useful in their pursuit of attaining personal fulfillment and personal well-being.

Last week, I quoted a section of the homily our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV preached to the College of Cardinals the day after his election. I think it is worth repeating that quote as it fits well with this current discussion.

These are contexts where it is not easy to preach the Gospel and bear witness to its truth, where believers are mocked, opposed, despised or at best tolerated and pitied. Yet, precisely for this reason, they are the places where our missionary outreach is desperately needed. A lack of faith is often tragically accompanied by the loss of meaning in life, the neglect of mercy, appalling violations of human dignity, the crisis of the family and so many other wounds that afflict our society. (Pope Leo XIV, Holy Mass with the College of Cardinals, 9 May 2025)

Though not mentioned specifically, one of those contexts where we are invited to share the good news of our Catholic faith, and the hope of following Jesus in the context of the Catholic Church, is our family, friends, and colleagues who may identify with this attitude of being "spiritual but not religious."

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 26

7am - Michael Thomas
(Bob & Shirley Morgan)
5:15pm - NO MASS

Tuesday, May 27

7am - Bianca Loy
(Regina Rusciollelli)
5:15pm - Raymond & Eulalia Ohl
(Angela Ohl Marsters)

Wednesday, May 28

7am - Diana Schumacher
(Daniel Schumacher)
5:15pm - Pete Corso
(Barbara Brauer)

Thursday, May 29

7am - Margaret Lemanski
(Ansell Family)
5:15pm - Daniel Sexson
(Sharon Sexson)

Friday, May 30

7am - Gaston & Gries Family
(Gregory & Marie Fleck)
5:15pm - Maria Martinez
(John Busciacco)

Saturday, May 31

8am - Barbara McGee
(McGee family)
4pm - William & Joyce Waud
(Family & Loved Ones)

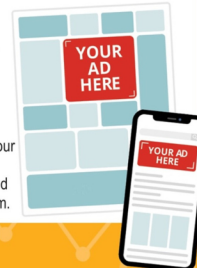
Sunday, June 1

7am - Colleen M. Ishamel
(McGee Family)
10am - Deceased Members of the
CCCW (CCCW)
5pm - For the People

AVAILABLE NOW! PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Brandy Stivers from LPI, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com.



LPI Brandy Stivers
(217) 972-4974
bstivers@4lpi.com



St. Madeline Sophie Barat

May 25th, 1961. It was the day when President John F. Kennedy addressed a special joint session of Congress and asked our whole nation for the money and commitment necessary for "achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the Earth. ... I believe we should go to the moon." They were famous words, now with greater emotional weight than they had when he slowly and solemnly delivered them, stemming both from the success of that risk, and his being assassinated a year and a half later.

But I would like you to focus on a different event that took place on the same day. Across the Atlantic Ocean, in a town near Paris, an expert in latex molding, Mr. Rampeau brought to market a little rotomolded rubber giraffe painted with brown spots and black eyes and sold it as a teething toy for little babies. It was a hit. 50 million of the hand-crafted squeezable and chewable figures have been sold since, in many years more of the toys are sold than new babies born in France (and its popularity has now spread around the world). It was called Sophie the Giraffe because Mr. Rampeau was a Catholic, and he sold the first one on St. Madeline Sophie Barat's feast day in that year of 1961.

It had been almost exactly one hundred years before that Madeline had passed away in the generalate of the Society of the Sacred Heart not so far away in the middle of Paris. She knew her popularity and had refused photographs to be taken of her, so we only have pictures from her deathbed and portraits painted after her death. Still, she was a kind and holy woman, and her countenance reflected those qualities. Yet her story is one that stretches beyond a worldly kindness and into the extraordinary charity of a saint.

She was born on December 12th, 1779, actually about two months premature because her mother went into labor amidst the chaos of a house fire next door. She was baptized immediately given how small she was, necessitating pressing into service a local woman who just happened to be going to Mass that morning and her 10 year old brother Louis to stand in for her godparents. It was the beginning of a life that would be often marked by God's grace in the midst of chaos. Her brother, Louis, had returned home from his seminary studies because he was not yet old enough to be ordained a deacon (he was a precocious student), leading to his becoming Madeline's tutor and giving her an extraordinary education in philosophy, theology, languages, natural science, and rhetoric. When she was only 10 however, he was arrested as a seminarian during the beginnings of the reign of terror. He would eventually swear the required oath of loyalty to the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, a year later renouncing his oath once the Pope had condemned it (and being imprisoned again, barely escaping the guillotine).

Those same years were ones in which little Madeline grew up in a home tilted towards Jansenism in its practice of the faith. That heresy is notoriously difficult to pin down (especially given its existence for multiple centuries during this time, and the fact that its adherents ferociously rejected that pejorative title to name their standpoint). In general, it stemmed from an over-emphasis on the absolute holiness of God and a related over-emphasis on human sin, depravity, and unworthiness of grace. It led to a rigid and harsh life of faith and a reading of human weakness as a sign of moral depravity. The Little Flower is perhaps known as the best response that God gave to this perennial temptation, but I would like to propose Madeline as another one.

As she grew, she found a growing desire to become a Carmelite. Sadly, with religious communities of all sorts abolished in 1790, this dream would never be realized. As often is the case though, it is these setbacks that actually grow our trust and openness to God and such was the case with Sophie. The rigid version of grace and tendency to seek to earn God's love by hard work (and perhaps the hardest vocation she could think of) melted into a decision to begin a new congregation, the Society of the Sacred Heart, dedicated to the education of girls. They gained followers, and opened more and more schools – always making sure to offer a free education to poor girls alongside of the exceptional education they offered to the better-off young women. Their highest priorities were to love the girls and teach them how to carry love into the rest of their lives. She guided the order for 65 years, passing on Ascension Day in 1865 with more than 3500 members as part of that congregation.

50 million babies have been comforted Sophie the Giraffe. 650 million people were inspired by watching the moon landings. 1 million young people have been directly educated by the Society of the Sacred Heart, but how many more have been impacted by that message of love?

Fr. Dominic Rankin is heading to Washington DC as he writes this for a quick visit to a place I will return this fall to study God's love, and how human love reflects it. Here's to continuing the mission!

Stewardship of Treasure

May 17th & 18th

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!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF MAY 26

| <u>MONDAY</u> | <u>TUESDAY</u> | <u>WEDNESDAY</u> | <u>THURSDAY</u> | <u>FRIDAY</u> | <u>SATURDAY</u> | <u>SUNDAY</u> |
|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Parish Office Closed No 5:15 PM Mass - Memorial Day | 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 Cathedral Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room | Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church | Rosary 4:45 PM Church | | |

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



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!



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!

June 19, 7:00 pm in the Cathedral Atrium

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.

Make This a Summer to Grow in Faith!

As the summer season approaches, filled with warm days and busy schedules, take a moment to pause and enrich your spiritual life by joining Summer with the Saints! This fun 12-week journey is perfect for all ages—offering weekly opportunities to celebrate the feast days of incredible saints through movies, shows, and inspiring content on Formed. Each week highlights a new saint, inviting you to reflect on their virtues and discover how their lives can inspire your own. With faith-filled videos, family-friendly activities, and easy-to-follow plans, it's simple to make space for spiritual growth this summer. Whether you're hosting a birthday party for St. John the Baptist (yes, cake is encouraged!), planting a garden in honor of St. Kateri, or just cozying up for a movie night, there's something for everyone. Bonus! By signing up, you'll be entered to win weekly giveaways and a grand prize drawing featuring a huge collection of kids' books and other great items from Catholic Market.

Here's what you'll get when you join:

- A downloadable calendar that shows each week's featured saint
- Creative activity ideas to bring the saints to life
- Inspiring content delivered right to your inbox

Whether you're deepening your personal spiritual journey or helping your kids get to know their heavenly friends, Summer with the Saints will make this your most meaningful—and memorable—summer yet. Sign up now on Formed to begin your summer journey with the saints.

2025 Memorial Day Mass

Please join us at the Cathedral on Memorial Day, May 26th at 9:00 am for the Memorial Day Mass. 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.

Cathedral Daytime Women's Bible Study - The Wild Goose

"Wild Goose" was a term that the ancient Celts had for the Holy Spirit. Shot in various locations from Niagara Falls to the California desert, The Wild Goose invites viewers to an encounter, or a renewed encounter, with the Holy Spirit. It is a 14-part series featuring Fr. Dave Pivonka, President of Franciscan University.

Thursdays starting on July 3 @ 10:00am or 1:00pm at the Cathedral, Free study guide provided. Register by calling the Cathedral 217/522-3342 or by emailing vcompton@cathedral.dio.org



Summer Alpha at the Cathedral

Alpha is a 10-week course that creates a space where people are excited to bring their friends for a conversation about Jesus. It is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith, in a friendly, open and informal environment, over a meal. Alpha is no-cost, no-pressure and no-commitment. Remember the person you've been praying for? Alpha is a low-threshold opportunity for them to consider or reconsider a life of faith. Cathedral is running two tracks for Alpha. One for adults and one for 12-13 yr olds entering 7th and 8th grade (8 week course).

Mondays starting on June 23, 6:00-7:30pm at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

You can RSVP to Vicki, vcompton@cathedral.dio.org, or just show up. You and/or your guest will be welcome! Invitations are on the table in the atrium.

Cathedral Women's Evening Bible Study - Grounded in Hope

In a world where levels of despair, addiction, and suicide are rising, we need more than clichés or positive thinking. Grounded in Hope, a 17-week study based on the book of Hebrews, will help you encounter Jesus in such a powerful, comforting, and stabilizing way that He will become your lifeline. The Book of Hebrews will comfort you and challenge you. Every word of it has a treasure to mine, and those who are willing to make the effort will be richly rewarded.

Thursdays starting on June 12 @ 6:00pm at the Cathedral, \$45 for the book. Register by calling the Cathedral 217/522-3342 or by emailing vcompton@cathedral.dio.org

2025 Women of Distinction Mass

The Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (SDCCW) will host the Women of Distinction Mass & Luncheon at the Cathedral in Spfld on Saturday, June 21st, 10 a.m. Bishop Thomas John Paprocki is the celebrant with many parish priests concelebrating. A luncheon at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield follows Mass. Deadline to register for the luncheon is June 4th. Questions? Contact SDCCW President Janet Zimmerman at 217-494-4743

My Peace I Give to You

When John has a vision of heavenly Jerusalem, he sees walls.

"A massive, high wall," to be more precise. In the modern lexicon, walls have a negative connotation; we use them as metaphors for all that is exclusionary and rigid. But throughout much of history, walls have meant something very different. In the ancient world, walls meant safety.

Walls meant peace.

"My peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you," Jesus tells his disciples in today's Gospel. "Not as the world gives do I give it to you."

So what's the difference between the peace we know in the world, and the peace we know in Christ?

Well, I would argue that the difference is that the peace we know in Christ exists. We know no real peace in this world. Sometimes, we witness a sort of mirage of peace — something like it, but just a little off, and always on the horizon, never within reach.

Peace, to me, means rest. It means quiet. It means the absence of confrontation, of conflict, of anxiety. But I can't actually experience any of that in this life, not in a substantial way. I can rest — but I never really feel rested. I can retreat to a room by myself to have silence, but someone always knocks on the door, and even if they don't, my thoughts get pretty loud.

And boy oh boy, are those thoughts full of confrontation. Full of anxiety, full of conflict. Wherever I go to find peace, the world finds me and banishes it.

I think of the walls of heavenly Jerusalem, so high and so sturdy, guarded so scrupulously by God's strongest angels. These walls are not barriers. They are shields. They are arms, encircling us, gathering us in.

In Christ alone can we find peace in this world.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
©LPi

Around the Diocese

- **Two Hearts Pregnancy Resource Center (formerly Springfield Right to Life) Job Opening: Part-Time Administrative Assistant**
This vital role serves to manage the day-to-day operations of the PRC. If you or someone you know has strong organizational skills and a heart for life-affirming ministry, please visit our website for a detailed job description and instructions on how to apply: springfieldrtl.org/part-time-office-assistant/
- **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.