

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JUNE 15, 2025 | THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY



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 24

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.

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



Making Progress

Having spent the past few weeks reflecting on some of the modern thinkers who prove to be a threat to our Christian understanding of faith and hope, Pope Benedict pauses the conversation to ask an important question: [W]hat may we hope? (Spe salvi, 22) With this question, he turns our attention away from those thinkers and invites a turn in, inviting us to see what, in light of all of these developments, hope means to us, that Christians “must learn anew in what their hope truly consists, what they have to offer to the world and what they cannot offer.” (ibid.)

To begin to address that question, the Holy Father asks specifically about what we as Christians mean about the word “progress” which has been at the center of modern thinkers; critiques of faith, as we have shown. I find the following words provocative:

In the twentieth century, Theodor W. Adorno formulated the problem of faith in progress quite drastically: he said that progress, seen accurately, is progress from the sling to the atom bomb. Now this is certainly an aspect of progress that must not be concealed. To put it another way: the ambiguity of progress becomes evident. Without doubt, it offers new possibilities for good, but it also opens up appalling possibilities for evil—possibilities that formerly did not exist. (ibid.)

The Church is not opposed to progress in the areas of science, technology, and medicine, but the pope offers an important caveat:

If technical progress is not matched by corresponding progress in man's ethical formation, in man's inner growth (cf. Eph 3:16; 2 Cor 4:16), then it is not progress at all, but a threat for man and for the world. (ibid.)

Just because progress has made something possible does not mean that it should be done. This is where the role of the Church continues to offer a valuable voice in evaluating developments in these areas so as to avoid the threat that comes from those forms of progress. There is no shortage of examples of when the Church in modern decades has spoken strongly against what the world proposes to be acceptable because of what progress makes possible, including: artificial contraception, abortion, physician assisted suicide, human cloning, various gender manipulation treatments, just to name a few.

One area of progress that is emerging with rapid development is artificial intelligence. No doubt, there are many good possibilities that AI make available, but there are dangers as well. This is something our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has identified as a key place where the Church's voice is urgently needed. He said the following to the Cardinals just a few days after his election, explaining the choice of his name and how it speaks to the present challenge:

Sensing myself called to continue in this same path, I chose to take the name Leo XIV. There are different reasons for this, but mainly because Pope Leo XIII in his historic Encyclical Rerum Novarum addressed the social question in the context of the first great industrial revolution. In our own day, the Church offers to everyone the treasury of her social teaching in response to another industrial revolution and to developments in the field of artificial intelligence that pose new challenges for the defence of human dignity, justice and labour. (Pope Leo XIV, Address to the College of Cardinals, 10 May 2025)

Let us pray that the Church will continue to offer that voice of truth, helping us to discern what is good and worthy of adoption, and what is contrary to human dignity and progress, and should be avoided so that the common good of all can be secured and maintained.

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, June 16

7am - Barbara McGee
(McGee Family)
5:15pm - Woody Woodhull
(Carolyn Morrison)

Tuesday, June 17

7am - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Richard Stalcup
(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)

Wednesday, June 18

7am - Don Smargiassi
(Family & Friends)
5:15pm - Esther Antonacci
(Mike & Pam Burge)

Thursday, June 19

7am - James Conkrite
(Litina Carnes)
5:15pm - John Morrison
(Fr. Tolton Council 16126)

Friday, June 20

7am - Mark R. Cass
(Larry & Bev Smith)
5:15pm - Karla Roberts
(Brenda Capranica)

Saturday, June 21

8am - William F. & Shirley Logan
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, June 22

7am - Archie Harmon Sr.
(Archie Harmon)
10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)
5pm - Norma Fairweather
(Andrew & Cheryl Klein)



The Pentecost Sequence: Stanza 1

On the Feast of Pentecost, you may have heard a special hymn sung before the Alleluia and after the second reading. This does not happen often - really only twice a year, on Easter and Pentecost. This hymn is called a "Sequence," and it is a unique prayer which serves to open our hearts to the particular gifts of grace God has to offer through the celebration of the feast day. The Easter sequence begins with the words, "Christians to the Paschal Victim, offer your thankful praises!" It recounts the victory of Christ and gives us hope in the new life God now brings to us.

The Pentecost sequence is a poetic prayer to the Holy Spirit, begging Him to come and bring his healing presence to our hearts. For the next 10 weeks, I will be offering a brief reflection on each of the ten stanzas of the Pentecost Sequence. Even though we're now in Ordinary Time, there is never a bad time to reflect on the Holy Spirit and his work in our life! Plus, we can see how the power of Pentecost is meant to spring forth into the entirety of our lives - the ordinary and the extraordinary.

The prayer begins:

<i>Veni, Sancte Spiritus,</i>	Come, Holy Spirit,
<i>et emitte caelitus</i>	send forth the heavenly
<i>lucis tuae radium.</i>	radiance of your light.

Darkness, thirst, need, want, desire, lack - these words describe well the state of a heart that awaits the Holy Spirit. In that heart, there is something missing. There is something - someone, rather - who must come to fill this void. Nothing else will satisfy. Nothing else can fill the heart in a truly satisfying way except the one who made it. As St. Augustine famously wrote, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

The first word of the Pentecost Sequence is therefore, "Come!" This plea pours forth from the hearts of all Christians. In this first stanza, He is described as heavenly light. Throughout this Sequence, the Holy Spirit is additionally sketched as a comforter, our consolation, heavenly dew, refreshment, fire, a healer, and a generous giver. In other words, He is everything we need and want from God.

As we ask Him to fill us with His light, we might meditate on the soft light of a candle, the ultimate power of the light of the sun, the lively light of a fire, or the raging light of an uncontrollable inferno. The Holy Spirit is Love itself, and in that regard, his light will look like all and each of these at different times in our life. I'm reminded of the Song of Songs, "for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it." May the light of that love fill our hearts. Come, Holy Spirit, set us on fire with your love!

Fr. Daniel McGrath is a Parochial Vicar of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and serves as Chaplain of Sacred Heart-Griffin High School.

Stewardship of Treasure

June 1st & 2nd

Envelopes:	\$6,979.00
Loose:	\$3,405.26
Maintenance:	\$977.00
Total:	\$11,361.26

June 14th & 15th

Envelopes:	\$5,419.00
Loose:	\$3,349.00
Maintenance:	\$101.00
Total:	\$8,869.00

April Online Contributions

\$21,988.16

April 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 JUNE 16

<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	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library	Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, & 6:00 PM School Library	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Women of Distinction Mass 10:00 AM Church	
Alpha 6:00 PM Atrium	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church		The Five Cities Baroque Festival Concert 6:00 PM Church	
		Cathedral Bible Study 6:00 PM Parish Library	CCCW Meeting 6:00 PM School Hall			
		Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room	Vatican II Presentation 7:00 PM Atrium			

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



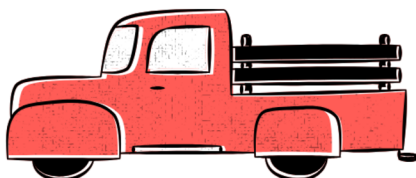
Vatican II Faith Formation Series & Jubilee Indulgence

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

STUFF A TRUCK FOOD DRIVE

FOR THE HOLY FAMILY FOOD PANTRY



BEFORE & AFTER
ALL MASSES
JUNE 28 & 29

Stuff a Truck Food Drive

The Knights of Columbus and CCCW are partnering in a “Stuff a Truck” Food Drive for the Holy Family Food Pantry. Look for the Red Trucks before & after all Masses June 28 & 29! Suggested items for donations include (no glass please): Dry pasta, Spaghetti sauce w meat, Canned complete meals, Peanut butter & jelly, Mac-n-cheese box mixes, Fruit & veggies, Box mixes of any kind, Pancake Mix & Syrup, Fruit & Pudding cups, Potatoes, Paper products, Oral Hygiene items, Feminine Hygiene items, Laundry items, Diapers. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



K of C Council 16126 Peoria Chiefs Game

The Knights of Columbus Father Augustine Tolton Council 16126 is hosting its 2025 Annual Outing to see the Peoria Chiefs play baseball at Dozer Park. The Hot Corner Club party concourse area has been reserved for Sunday, August 10th. It provides seating for attendees to watch the Chiefs play ball. It also has a large party area with standing eating tables for fellowship with other attendees. The menu includes lemonade, water, chips, popcorn, nachos and cheese and hot dogs.

The concourse party area with food and drink will open at 1:30 PM with the game starting around 2 PM. It is a great way to enjoy America's pastime on a Sunday afternoon at a Major League Baseball (St. Louis Cardinals) Affiliate game!

Tickets can be ordered online at

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2025-knights-of-columbus-council-16126-peoria-chiefs-baseball-game>.

The all-inclusive ticket cost is \$35. Please reach out to Andy Klein, Klein6006@gmail.com, Council Family Director, with any questions.



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 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.

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 no 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.

Dive Deep Podcast: Marijuana, Smoking, and Alcohol. Where is the Moral Line?

What does the Catholic Church teach about smoking marijuana and cigarettes and drinking alcohol? Are they morally OK, morally wrong, or is there gray area that depends on certain factors? How much is too much? Bishop Thomas John Paprocki discusses. 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.

The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts Bible Study

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, dwells among us and showers us with spiritual gifts. In this study Stephen Binz has chosen key biblical texts to help readers discover how to rekindle the fire of the Holy Spirit and allow God's Spirit to manifest these divine graces and spiritual gifts more richly within them. He shows how the same Spirit who inspired the prophets and evangelists and who filled the life of Jesus now blows within and among all God's people. Purchase your own book through Twenty-third Publications or elsewhere.

First and Third Wednesdays beginning June 18, 6:15-7:45pm, Cathedral School Library, RSVP to vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or 217/522-3342

The Best Kind of Mystery

"Do you have a mystery for me to solve?"

If I've heard it once, I've heard it a hundred times. My daughter is obsessed with mysteries. It's not enough for her to read about them in the pages of every Nancy Drew book she can get her hands on. She wants more than that. She wants a real-life mystery. A puzzle that resists being solved. A question that eludes an answer. Something that isn't easy to wrap her head around.

And not surprisingly, she's not satisfied with the "mysteries" I can offer her. The Mystery of Mom's Missing Hair Tie (spoiler alert: it was in my purse). The Mystery of the Missing Lunch Ham (oops, Mom finished it).

Simple answers are so boring. "Will I ever have a real mystery?" she moans.

I get it. We're all this way, really. We are drawn to the mysterious, to the inscrutable. It's because we know that the answers to the really big questions are ones that can't be explained in a neat and tidy way. We know that the reality of life and love and the human condition is something we can't quite fit our heads around. We know that there is so much in this world, in this universe, that we can't...understand. So, in a way, mysteries are the only things that really make sense to us.

Why do we love mysteries so much? Because God is a mystery. And that's never as clear as it is today, on the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity, the mystery that boondoggles us all. Four relations. Three persons. One God.

Don't ask me to explain it. I could, but I don't have the word space, and frankly, it might not even make sense then. It's a mystery, you see. A real one. The best kind.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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Around the Diocese

- **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.