

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JUNE 22, 2025 | THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST



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 25

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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

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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



## Man Needs God

In the final paragraph of this section in which Pope Benedict explores the effects of modern philosophies on our Christian understanding of faith and hope, he draws a simple yet blunt conclusion: “man needs God, otherwise he remains without hope.” (Spe salvi, 23) The Holy Father agrees with modern thinkers in acknowledging the importance of reason, how it is indeed “God’s great gift to man” and that “the victory of reason over unreason is also a goal of the Christian life.” (ibid.) But the danger is when reason pushes God aside and deems Him irrelevant or even dangerous to the program of progress. It is from that perspective

that the pope concludes that we need God, and that:

*There is no doubt, therefore, that a “Kingdom of God” accomplished without God—a kingdom therefore of man alone—inevitably ends up as the “perverse end” of all things as described by Kant: we have seen it, and we see it over and over again. (ibid.)*

As Catholics, we know this to be true, how much we need God in our lives. And thankfully, the Lord has made His presence in our lives something very real and personal. Jesus has left us the great gift of His presence in the sacraments by which He not only remains with us, but that He actually dwells in us, guiding our lives with His grace through the challenges of this life toward our final destination in Heaven, the final goal of our hope. As we celebrate Corpus Christi this Sunday, we are especially grateful for the gift of the Eucharist by which Jesus nourishes us, giving us the strength we need to persevere along this path of life.

We are also grateful for the gift of His presence with us in the Church, whose birth we celebrated two weeks ago on Pentecost. In particular, we are grateful that He, the Good Shepherd, has arranged that His flock be continually cared for by the shepherds He has appointed, namely the Apostles and their successors, the bishops. In the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) from the Second Vatican Council, the bishop is described as follows:

*Bishops, as vicars and ambassadors of Christ, govern the particular churches entrusted to them by their counsel, exhortations, example, and even by their authority and sacred power, which indeed they use only for the edification of their flock in truth and holiness, remembering that he who is greater should become as the lesser and he who is the chief become as the servant. (Lumen Gentium, 27)*

Today, we celebrate with great joy our local shepherd, Bishop Thomas John Paprocki, who, as of today, June 22, has been with us as our bishop for the 15 years. The entire diocese has been blessed by his leadership, and we at the Cathedral have had the benefit of his regular presence among us, especially in so many of our liturgical celebrations.

I am most grateful to God for the gift that Bishop Paprocki has been to our diocese, to our parish, and to me personally. As he mentioned at this year’s priesthood ordination, he has now ordained 40 men to the priesthood for our diocese over his 15 years here. I am humbled to have been the first of that group back in 2011. Having lived and worked with him for most of my priesthood, I can confidently say that much of who I am as a priest is thanks to his example, his fatherly leadership, and his friendship.

Please join me in thanking God this day for Bishop Paprocki on his anniversary of his installation as our bishop, and that the Lord will bless him abundantly in the years ahead.

*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 23

7am - Tom McGee  
(McGee Family)  
5:15pm - NO MASS

### Tuesday, June 24

7am - Donald Borre  
(Family Intention)  
5:15pm - Alice Bates  
(Rosemarie Bates)

### Wednesday, June 25

7am - Margaret Lemanski  
(Ansell Family)  
5:15pm - John & Edith Bakalar  
(John Busciacco)

### Thursday, June 26

7am - Tom McGee  
(McGee Family)  
5:15pm - Jan Cobb  
(Sharon Oldfield)

### Friday, June 27

7am - Cora Gaston  
(Gregory & Marie Fleck)  
5:15pm - Gabe Vogt  
(Regina Rusciollelli)

### Saturday, June 28

8am - Brother Francis Skube  
(Friend)  
4pm - Michael Thomas  
(Bob & Shirley Morgan)

### Sunday, June 29

7am - Bob Denton  
(Terese & Darrell Hurst)  
10am - Woody Woodhull  
(Rebecca Woodhull)  
5pm - For the People



## The Pentecost Sequence: Stanza 2

*Veni, pater pauperum,    Come, father of the poor,  
veni, dator munerum    come, giver of gifts,  
veni, lumen cordium.    come, light of the heart.*

The early Church Fathers loved to wonder at the greatness of God and his Transcendence - a not-so-often used word that refers to God's unspeakable and indescribable perfection. He is majestic. He is truly "other." He is God and we are not. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving, and everywhere - and yet outside of space and time! He is perfect, one, good, true, beautiful, etc. But even these high words used to describe him fall short because we human beings cannot imagine the intensity of perfection, oneness, goodness, truth, and beauty that is "God." With the revelation of the Trinity of persons, we may have a sense that we "understand" more about Him, but in all reality, it only deepens the mystery. He is Love... and again, the word falls short.

A theological phrase used in the Middle Ages reads, *bonum diffusivum sui*, "Goodness pours itself out." God has, in a way, built his "way of existing" into reality - he is a God who pours himself out, and this action we call goodness. In a way, He can't help Himself, because it is who He is, and He does so in pure freedom, without coercion or force. He made us.

We exist in the position of one who has received a great gift and can in no way repay it. We exist. We didn't have to, but we do. He wanted us to exist, and we therefore read, "you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made, for you would not fashion what you hate... O Ruler and Lover of souls" (Wisdom 11:24-26). And with the Psalmist, we cry out, "What return can I make to the Lord for all the goodness he has shown to me?" (Psalm 116:12). Thankfully, he does not expect a "repayment" for that gift. Instead, he only expects us to follow him so that he can give us even more. The sheer goodness of this God is unimaginable.

And in this beautiful stanza of the Pentecost sequence, the Holy Spirit in particular is praised for his goodness. We ask him to come to us, he who is THE GIFT from the Father and the Son. The greatest gift given by God to us is God himself, the Holy Spirit, who comes only to lavish more and more gifts of grace on us.

In Psalm 145, God is described as a very happy giver of gifts. We read, "The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, you satisfy the desire of every living thing." The Holy Spirit is truly the fulfillment of every desire of every living thing. We want life - He is life itself. We want happiness - He is the cause of all joy, and the source of Jesus' own joy. We want peace - He is the peace of God's inner life. We want rest - He is where the Father and Son go to rest. We want light - He is light, understanding, wisdom, and knowledge.

May the Holy Spirit fill our hearts with His generosity. 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 14th & 15th

Envelopes:	\$3,422.00
Loose:	\$2,832.00
Maintenance:	\$30.00
Total:	\$6,284.00

### 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!

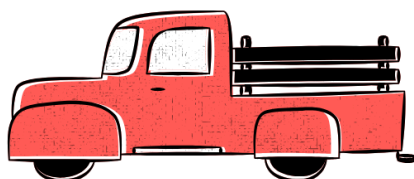
## WEEK OF JUNE 23

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
Rosary 4:45 PM Church  Alpha 6:00 PM Atrium	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	Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, & 6:00 PM School Library  Adoration 4:00 PM Church  K of C Meeting 6:00 PM School Classroom	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Stuff a Truck After 4:00 PM Mass	Stuff a Truck After 7:00 AM, 10:00 AM, & 5:00 PM Masses

## What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

### 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!



**EMPLOYMENT  
OPPORTUNITY**

**PARISH  
SECRETARY**

#### The Cathedral is Hiring a Parish Secretary

The Cathedral is looking to hire a Parish Secretary. The Parish Secretary serves as the face, voice, and presence of the parish to the parishioners, the public, new parishioners and any other person with whom they come in contact. Their main responsibility is to promote the mission of the parish and foster a welcoming atmosphere through all methods of communication and media. This position also supports the Rector, members of the parish staff, as well as various committees and boards. Please visit [www.spicathedral.org/employment](http://www.spicathedral.org/employment) for more information. Interested candidates should provide a cover letter and resume to Fr. Brian Alford, [balford@dio.org](mailto:balford@dio.org) and Business Manager Kim Gunter, [kgunter@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:kgunter@cathedral.dio.org).

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org), or just show up. You and/or your guest will be welcome! Invitations are on the table in the atrium.

## Second Collection: Peter's Pence

Throughout centuries of history, Catholics have supported the Church's mission of evangelization and charity by giving to the annual Peter's Pence Collection. This collection, which began as a way for Catholics around the world to express their unity with the Pope, continues to the present day. This tangible expression of unity with the Holy Father has a dual purpose set by the Holy See: "(1) To support the Holy Father's mission, which extends throughout the entire world, from the proclamation of the Gospel to the promotion of integral human development, education, peace, and brotherhood among peoples: thanks also to the many activities of service carried out by the dicasteries, bodies and organs of the Holy See that assist him every day; and (2) To support the numerous charitable works in aid of people and families in difficulty, populations afflicted by natural disasters and wars, or who are in need of humanitarian assistance or support for development." For more information on Peter's Pence, please visit the Vatican's Peter's Pence website:

[www.obolodisanpietro.vn/en.html](http://www.obolodisanpietro.vn/en.html)

Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's collection as an act of mercy and charity. Join our brothers and sisters in faith from around the globe to help the Holy Father carry out his ministry to the Universal Church and reach out to the most marginalized in our world. Thank you and may God bless you abundantly.

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

## 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](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org).

## Chatham Strong Fest

On April 28, 2025, Chatham experienced an unimaginable tragedy when a vehicle crashed into the YNOT After School Camp, forever changing the lives of many families in our community. Chatham Strong Fest was created as a way to come together. To honor those we've lost, support those still healing, and show that even in the darkest moments, this community stands strong. This event is more than just a festival. It's a reflection of who we are as a town: compassionate, united, and committed to taking care of one another. *Chatham Strong Fest is packed with live music, food trucks, cold drinks, auctions, and more. Bring your friends, make memories, and show your support just by being there.*

Net proceeds from Chatham Strong Fest will be donated to the: Glenwood High School Student Council YNOT Fund. All donations will go toward supporting families affected by the April 28 tragedy.

**July 6, 2025, 1pm-9pm, Chatham Community Park**

## As the Day Was Drawing to a Close

It isn't uncommon for me to get to the noon hour only to realize that I haven't yet eaten anything that day.

It drives my husband crazy. He was raised by a bunch of Italian women, so he can't help but think three meals ahead. And don't get me wrong, I love food — I literally dream of donuts. But some days, I'm just so busy and I keep putting it off until I realize how weak I feel, how light-headed. And I think to myself: Stupid, you've done it again.

This is what comes to mind today, on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, as I read the Gospel account of the miracle of the loaves and fishes.

I think of hunger, distraction and the poor planning of those who pride themselves on being capable.

"As the day was drawing to a close," it is written — that's when the disciples finally realized that 5,000 hangry people is not an ideal situation.

I wonder, did Jesus roll his eyes when they came to him, and think, "Finally"? At any point he could have pulled out a fish and said a blessing. But he waited for them to ask. He waited for them to realize how badly they needed it.

Sometimes we forget that we need the Eucharist. It's not just a nice thing to have, a sweet act of devotion, a sacramental item that bolsters our faith. The Eucharist is none of those things. The Eucharist is the food without which we will die. The Eucharist is something we must seek out. Remember: the day is drawing to a close.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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## Around the Diocese

- **Holy Family Food Pantry** - With the summer upon us, schools are being dismissed & in order to be prepared to help feed families, Catholic Charities would so greatly appreciate any assistance to obtain some much-needed resources. Items needed include peanut butter, jelly or jam, canned fruit, cereal or oatmeal, pasta noodles, crackers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, and plastic grocery sacks. Thank you for your generosity!
- **Dive Deep Podcast: Bishop Paprocki As You Have Never Heard Him Before** – On June 22, 2010, Bishop Thomas John Paprocki was installed as bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. 15 years later, he sits down to discuss the phone call that changed his life and location, a meeting with Pope Benedict, what his expectations were upon arriving in Springfield, why he did he didn't think he would be in Springfield long, what is next for him before retirement, and why he is grateful for this assignment. 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.
- **The Curia is Hiring!** – The Diocesan 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 know anyone who has these skill sets and is interested, please direct them to [dio.org/jobs](https://dio.org/jobs).