

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JUNE 29, 2025 | SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES



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 26

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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BUSINESS MANAGER
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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



The True Shape of Christian Hope

After spending the past several weeks considering Christian hope and the influence of modern thinkers on this important concept, we move to the next section of Spe salvi which has the section title: "The True Shape of Christian Hope." The Holy Father picks up on the theme of human freedom in these next few paragraphs, having begun his reflection on this important topic in the previous section.

In many ways, the timing of this topic is perfect as we come to the conclusion of the Religious Freedom Week in the Church in the United States. This week began last Sunday, June 22 (normally the Memorial of Ss. John Fisher and Thomas More) and concludes on June 29 with the Solemnity of Ss. Peter and Paul. This has replaced the Fortnight for Freedom which extended another week, ending on July 4, our nation's Independence Day. Though the Holy Father's treatment of human freedom in these paragraphs of Spe salvi are not specifically about religious freedom per se, they are helpful for any discussion about the freedom that we as human beings have been gifted by God.

The pope makes the point that for man, "freedom is always new and he must always make his decisions anew." (SS 24) This is not to say that we are free to choose what we want to be true, and in the name of freedom, can justify any decision that we want. Rather, we can draw upon the "moral treasury" of humanity that has gone before us to help us in knowing what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what is evil, but each generation is called upon to use their freedom in choosing that good, not just having those decisions made for us. To do so would not be freedom.

On this point some might object to what the Holy Father is saying, claiming that the Church, in all of her teachings and rules, has defined what is acceptable and what is not, and that we are placed in a position that we must follow those guidelines. True, the Church gives us clear guidance on a whole host of things, but our freedom remains, and we have the ability to accept or reject those teachings. But there are consequences when we use our freedom to reject the good, which we call sin. The Church does not define actions as sinful in the hopes of limiting our freedom, rather, she does so as a loving Mother to protect us, so that, in freedom, we can choose what is right and good, and so experience the fullness of life that the Gospel promises, and not fall into the slavery that sin inevitably leads to.

Pope Benedict writes about the important role that structures play in promoting true freedom, such as various government structures. He says the following:

The right state of human affairs, the moral well-being of the world can never be guaranteed simply through structures alone, however good they are. Such structures are not only important, but necessary; yet they cannot and must not marginalize human freedom. Even the best structures function only when the community is animated by convictions capable of motivating people to assent freely to the social order. Freedom requires conviction; conviction does not exist on its own, but must always be gained anew by the community. (ibid.)

We have seen this play out in a variety of ways throughout the history of our country, on topics such as political freedom and independence at the beginning of our country, abolition of slavery and civil rights, women's rights, labor rights, freedom of speech, immigration and refugee rights, and religious freedom, just to name a few. Our history as a nation demonstrates how freedom is always something that is in need of reflection and renewal. Though the Church is not directly involved in the creation and enforcement of civil laws, she provides a needed voice in these conversations to ensure that true freedom, according to the author of all good, namely God, is never ignored or rejected.

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 30

7am - Barbara McGee
(McGee Family)
5:15pm - Ricardo Gonzalez
(Gonzalez Family)

Tuesday, July 1

7am - James "Jim" Bloom
(Fr. Tolton Council 16126)
5:15pm - Joseph (Jerry) Stasukinas
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

Wednesday, July 2

7am - Mark R. Cass
(Larry & Bev Smith)
5:15pm - Frances Klein
(Andrew & Cheryl Klein)

Thursday, July 3

7am - Margaret Lemanski
(Ansell Family)
5:15pm - Elizabeth Lucy
(Jeanette Giannone)

Friday, July 4

7am - Betty Rogers
(Family)
5:15pm - NO MASS
(Independence Day)

Saturday, July 5

8am - Cornelius McCue Family
(McGee Family)
4pm - Don Smargiassi
(Family & Friends)

Sunday, July 6

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(Bill Midden)
10am - For the People
5pm - Patricia Craig
(Family)



The Pentecost Sequence: Stanza 3

*Consolator optime, Greatest comforter,
dulcis hospes animae, sweet guest of the soul,
dulce refrigerium. sweet consolation.*

This stanza is simply three descriptions of the Holy Spirit: comforter, guest, and consolation. There is no verb, so we can read it either as a continuation of the last stanza's "Come," or we can read it as praise of the Holy Spirit - a holy statement about the Truth of who He is. We might ask, 'Why is His light a comfort, a consolation, and a sweet guest?'

Those who are filled with the Holy Spirit have a special way of receiving the challenges in life with grace. They seem to be filled with a sweetness and a supernatural contentment. In his book, "The Holy Spirit, Fire of Divine Love," Fr. Wilfred Stinissen explains, "[The Holy Spirit] comforts by giving a certain taste for poverty. He teaches you to love your littleness." The Holy Spirit doesn't necessarily come and take away the things that cause pain, humiliation, or a sense of weakness. He can, certainly, free us from these pains, but he also has the power to help us bear them for Christ and for his body, with peace.

It is only the presence of the Holy Spirit that could make the Martyrs happy and joyful in the face of death. It is only the presence of the Holy Spirit that could lead saints to speak about the beauty of the grace that comes through suffering. He conforms our lives to the cross of Jesus Christ, through which comes resurrection!

The Spirit is a guest, not an intruder. Guests come at an invitation - He will never barge in. He desires to enter but waits in reverence like the Lord in the book of Revelation: "I stand at the door and knock." Plus, as God himself, when he comes into our interior life, he is really also inviting us into his interior life. The Latin word translated here as "Guest," hospes, can also mean "a friendly host." When we invite Him, He enters our soul as a guest and hosts us in the divine life and light. The life of the Trinity is a life of outpouring love between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - it looks a lot like Jesus, crucified for the life of the world.

St. Paul is one of those saints who truly invited the Holy Trinity into his very self and therefore became very much like Jesus. He reveals this in his letter to the Galatians: "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." We see that St. Paul was filled with the consolation of God to the extent that he could rejoice in his imprisonment, his sufferings, his beatings, and his ultimate martyrdom, because in all these ways he gained a deep communion with Jesus. Communion with Jesus is the most consoling thing in the universe, and the Holy Spirit happily brings that communion to life in us.

Come, Holy Spirit, sweet guest of my soul! Come set me on fire with your love and console me by uniting me with Jesus in his life, his death, and his resurrection.

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 21st & 22nd

Envelopes:	\$4,710.00
Loose:	\$6,323.00
Maintenance:	\$35.00
Total:	\$11,068.00

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!

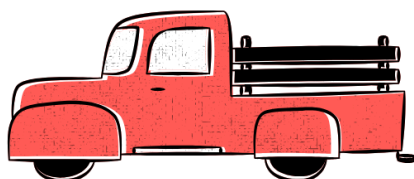
WEEK OF JUNE 30

<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		
Alpha 6:00 PM Atrium	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church			
		Cathedral Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library	Knight's Cor Meeting 6:00 PM School Hall			

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 for more information. Interested candidates should provide a cover letter and resume to Fr. Brian Alford, balford@dio.org and Business Manager Kim Gunter, 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, 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 until August 25, 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.

Biking for Babies is Rolling Into Springfield!

Come to the Cathedral on Friday, July 18 to meet the Wisconsin Biking for Babies team—young adults riding cross-country to support life and share their faith. This year, two organizations in our diocese will benefit from Biking for Babies funds; Two Hearts Pregnancy Resource Center in Springfield and Family Life Center in Effingham. Join the riders for 5:15 p.m. Mass and stick around for dinner and inspiring testimonies in the Cathedral cafeteria. Hear how God is using their ride to make a real impact! Want to eat with the crew? Call the Cathedral office to save your seat: (217) 522-3342

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

Trinity Classes at Blessed Sacrament Parish

St. Thomas Aquinas says that the purpose of Trinitarian theology is to manifest the truth "to the exercise and consolation of the faithful." Bearing this in mind along with the reality that God desires to effect in us what He Himself is—a communion of Persons—it seems only fitting to spend some time discussing and pondering what Sacred Scripture and our beautiful Church has to say about this central mystery of our faith, that we might see all of our faith in His light. Seminarian Devin Flach will teach on the first 4 Tuesdays in the month of July. The first meeting will be on the Person of the Father (7/1); the second meeting will be on the Person of the Son (7/8); the third will be on the Person of the Holy Spirit (7/15); the fourth will be on history and dogma on the Holy Trinity (7/22). The meetings will run from 7pm-8:15 pm, and we will meet in the basement below the parish offices at Blessed Sacrament. Bring a Bible and a notebook if you like to take notes (a few handouts will be provided). Hope to see you there!

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

Some Say

At first, the Apostles try to dodge the question.

When Jesus confronts them — and make no mistake, it is a confrontation — with the question “Who do you say that I am?” they act like a man whose wife has just asked him if she looks fat in these jeans.

The evasiveness of their answer puts politicians to shame: “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

Some say.

But Jesus doesn’t let them off easy. He repeats himself. He wants an answer. “Who do you say that I am?”

They all know the answer. They all believe the answer. And they all know the answer could get them thrown in prison or killed. Only Peter is brave enough to say it: “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

People have a lot of opinions about God. They always have. They have a lot of opinions about Jesus and the Bible, about the Catholic Church and the Pope. Some of these opinions are well-founded, well-researched. Some of them are based in ignorance. Many are born of painful misunderstandings. But they are all just that: opinions.

Some say.

We know who Jesus is. We know who the Eucharist is. We know what the truth is. Amid the chaos and the violence and the excruciating loudness of this fallen world and all the words it shouts into the void about God and Jesus and right and wrong, we know.

But will we answer?

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
©LPi

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!
- **Annual St. Cabrini Altar & Rosary Garage Sale**, July 10, 11 & 12 Thursday, Friday 7:30-2:00, Saturday 7:30-Noon. The Only Times for Donation Drop Off are Saturday, July 5 from 9:00 to 1:00, Monday & Tuesday, July 7 & 8 from 8:00 to 2:00; Clean items in good condition will be greatly appreciated and accepted. Furniture is welcome, but no electronics or large appliances please! Call the parish office with any questions, 217-522-8555.
- **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.