

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JULY 13, 2025 | FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 28

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



Redeemed by Love

The first sentence of the next paragraph of *Spe salvi* offers a simple, yet profound truth that is really at the heart of the Gospel message in general, and in particular as we consider the faith amid such rapid progress in science and technology in modern times. Pope Benedict writes: "It is not science that redeems man: man is redeemed by love." (SS 26)

The Holy Father notes how the human experience of falling in love has a redeeming effect in our lives, such that when one encounters love, one finds new meaning in life. No doubt any married couple can speak about this reality, as they recall with fondness their initial encounter of love which would open the door to a new direction in life that would include the other person in the bond of matrimony, living no longer as two, but one flesh. Even as great as this love can be, the pope acknowledges that even this type of love has limits:

But soon he will also realize that the love bestowed upon him cannot by itself resolve the question of his life. It is a love that remains fragile. It can be destroyed by death.
(*ibid.*)

With that in mind, the Holy Father can then conclude: "The human being needs unconditional love." (*ibid.*) He uses the words of St. Paul to explain what, or rather who, this unconditional love is:

neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 8:38- 39)

This is always a timely message, but I think especially in light of the topic of faith and hope in the midst of our modern times. There are so many messages that try to pull us into finding hope in things other than the unconditional love of God. We are presented with conditional messages that promise us something if we but follow that particular path. If you eat this type of food, you will be healthy, you will have more energy, you will delay the inevitability of death. If you invest in this particular asset, you will be financially secure, you will have enough money to make you happy, to provide for all of your dreams. If you engage in this exercise routine, you will stay looking young and healthy, such that others will find you attractive and worth their attention.

These are but a few examples of some of the ideas and promises that we can be drawn into following, often to the exclusion of prioritizing the unconditional love of God in our lives. But when we allow our lives to be rooted in His love, we are able to face whatever may come with a peace of heart that is grounded in the hope of God's love for us – present, though sometimes hidden, in our lives now, and waiting to be fulfilled fully in eternal life. Only in choosing the unconditional love of God can we be assured of a hope "that does not disappoint." (Rom 5:5)

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, July 14

7am - Barbara McGee
(McGee Family)
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the
Chiaradonna Family (Geny
Chiaradonna)

Tuesday, July 15

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

Wednesday, July 16

7am - Mary Ann O'Shea
(McGee Family)
5:15pm - Woody Woodhull
(Karen Johnson)

Thursday, July 17

7am - Sandra Jean Konkrite
(Litina Carnes)
5:15pm - Living & Deceased Members of
the Bolton Family (Richard & Kay King)

Friday, July 18

7am - John Morrison
(Fr. Tolton Council 16126)
5:15pm - Carl Wray
(Richard Wray)

Saturday, July 19

8am - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, July 20

7am - Betty & Gene Barish
(Family)
10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)
5pm - Deceased Members of the CCCW
(CCCW)



The Pentecost Sequence: Stanza 5

*O lux beatissima,
reple cordis intima
tuorum fidelium.*

*O most blessed light,
fill the inmost heart
of your faithful.*

The inmost heart. Fill the inmost heart! Where is my inmost heart? What part of me is that innermost sanctuary of my existence? Many people never find that place; many never take the time and the silence to travel deep within themselves to be there and find the Lord there.

There are excuses: "It isn't important." "Life is about work and getting things done - it's about progress in the world." "It's too scary to go there." "It's not real." "Only monks and psychologists need to worry about 'finding that innermost place.'"

Ah, but it is real. It is important. AND - It is possible to find. If you have ever prayed in a truly heartfelt way, you have been at that place within your heart.

But what is this innermost place? We find a strikingly beautiful, wise, and common-sense answer to this question in the document *Gaudium et Spes*, one of the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council. The council Fathers describe the conscience as the innermost heart of the human being: "Conscience is the most secret core and sanctuary of a man. There he is alone with God, Whose voice echoes in his depths." (GS, 16)

The core of the human being, then, is the "place" of my personality where I choose. It is where "I" am most "I." This is the "I" who says, "I want," "I need," "I hope," etc.

Who am I?

I am (i.e. I exist)
In relationship
To THE
I AM.

At my most fundamental core, I exist as a being - a person - in relationship to other persons. And one of those other persons is the one God who is three persons who made me, knows me, loves me, and delights in being in me. This relationship with God we call prayer, friendship, sonship. With other human beings, we call it friendship, relationship, etc.

When we ask the Holy Spirit to fill our inmost heart with his presence and his light, we are asking him to make us a prayer. In other words, we are saying, "Set us perfectly in relationship with you, O God. Make my innermost heart rest inside of you as you come rest inside of me." Remember, St. Augustine once wrote, "You have made us for yourself, O God, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

This is, therefore, a petition from the very core of our humanity: "Fill our hearts! Don't just come halfway or fill up a portion, but FILL them. Make them "replete" with your presence. Every corner, crevice, dint, and fold. Be in our hearts, O Holy Spirit."

When he fills our conscience, we are filled with his light, and we become free to choose the good, the true, and the beautiful. We see rightly.

May the Holy Spirit bring that light to our inmost heart. 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 28th & 29th

Envelopes:	\$6,080.00
Loose:	\$2,927.95
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$7.00</u>
Total:	\$9,014.95

July 5th & 6th

Envelopes:	\$16,074.68
Loose:	\$4,307.22
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$975.00</u>
Total:	\$21,356.90

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

Weddings

Austin Savage & Kristen Ed
Married on June 7, 2025

Aidan Culloton & Delaney Dodson
Married on June 14, 2025

Mark Wilson & Molly Schmidt
Married on June 28, 2025

Deaths

Patricia McGuigan-Hubbell
Date of Death: May 31, 2025

WEEK OF JULY 14

<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	Biking for Babies 5:15 PM Church		
		Cathedral Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library	CCCW Meeting 6:00 PM School Hall			
			Vatican II Adult Faith Formation 7:00 PM Atrium			

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

THANK YOU!

FROM HOLY
FAMILY FOOD
PANTRY



Thank You!

Our Cathedral parishioners and visitors did not disappoint - we had a tremendous response to our Food collection for The Holy Family Food Pantry! Eleven grocery carts of food and more than \$1000 were delivered to the Food Pantry. Dennis, the Food Pantry worker, was very excited about being able to fill food baskets and stock the shelves. The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women and Knights of Columbus Father Augustine Tolton Council #16126 are proud of the service that our parish was able to provide to the Springfield community. Please consider volunteering to help with the next food collection. A special thank you to the local Pepsi Company for printing the sign at no charge.



**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



Sacrosanctum Concilium Part 2

Join Fathers Brian Alford and Daniel McGrath as they continue their presentation on Sacrosanctum Concilium, the Vatican II document on the Sacred Liturgy.
Thursday, July 17 @ 7:00pm, Cathedral 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

Springfield Deanery, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women Meeting

Save The Date! Saturday, August 2nd at 10am at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 320 E. State St., Jacksonville, IL. Hosted by the Our Saviour Parish Altar & Rosary Society, lunch will be served with a \$5 suggested donation. Free parking is available behind the KC Hall and across the street. The featured speaker is Mike Armstrong (38-year member of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Chatham), on the topic of Creation Care of the Earth under Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, and Care of the Body (Diabetes). Mike and his wife Vickie have been married for 53 years, have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. He has had Type 1 Diabetes for 63 years. Mike is an active volunteer with Climate Crisis or Change Education. Board memberships have included the Chatham School Board, Sertoma Club, and Helping Hands Shelter. Mike follows the teachings of our last three Popes: John Paul II, Benedict, and Francis. All were very vocal about climate, its effects on the poor, and our Catholic duty of creation care for our precious earth! Please RSVP by July 26th to Spfld Deanery President Deborah Pilapil, 217-361-7165, voice/text.

Catholic Charities Summer Hunger Campaign

This July kicks off our annual Summer Hunger campaign that helps to fund Catholic Charities Mobile Food Pantry Program. The Mobile Food Pantry reaches out to feed disadvantaged people facing poverty in rural communities across our 28-county diocese. Our 7 Mobile Food Pantry trucks deliver meat, fresh produce, dairy and nonperishable food items all year long to those in need. We humbly ask you to consider a gift to help us continue to feed God's children through our mission to "extend to all the healing and empowering presence of Jesus." Every gift you give, no matter how small, makes a difference. Donate today at: https://cc.dio.org/ways_to_give/donate.



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.

Volunteers Needed - Livestreamers

It is a tremendous service to our housebound parishioners to be able to offer a livestream of Mass on Sunday mornings at 10:00am. We are in great need of more volunteers who can offer this service. It's fun, and easy to learn! We'll train you one-on-one, and you can serve at your convenience. Please contact Haley Dutton (hdutton@cathedral.dio.org) or Vicki Compton (vcompton@cathedral.dio.org) if you are interested in serving in this ministry.

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.

Crossing the Street

It takes a cold, hard, godless heart to step over a wounded man on the street.

But in the parable of the Good Samaritan, the priest and the Levite didn't step over the half-dead traveler. I think we picture them doing so, in our collective imagining of this well-known story, but the words of the Gospel are quite clear. "When he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side," Jesus says of both.

So they saw him. They saw his need. It made them uncomfortable; it confused them — many scholars have said that Judaic law concerning the touching of dead bodies might have made them reluctant to approach — and so they decided the simplest way to file this situation in the Not My Problem category was to cross the street.

But that still leaves a half-dead guy on the road. And we all, 2,000 years later, still think of the priest and the Levite as cold and hard and godless — even if they didn't want to be, even if they didn't think of themselves that way — because the bottom line is, they didn't see the half-dead guy as their problem.

As Christians we know that everyone is our neighbor. It's drilled into us from the first time we hear this reading.

Well, I don't know about you, but I find myself crossing the street a lot more than I should.

There is so much pain and suffering in the world. We certainly can't begin to alleviate it all. But we have to start with the pain and the suffering that we see, that's right in front of us — even if it's something we really, really want to ignore. Even if we find it inconvenient or confusing or scary or weird.

The heroism of the Good Samaritan wasn't in his selfless actions, although those were certainly commendable. It was in his courage. "He approached the victim," Jesus said.

Can we approach the victims we see? Do we have that courage?

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
©LPi

Around the Diocese

- **Sacred Heart Chapel Tour**, Sunday, Aug. 17, 1:30pm to 3 pm. Enjoy an intimate look at the Dominican Sisters' magnificent mid-century modern chapel. Free admission but we do ask that people register for the event. Register at: <https://springfielddop.org/event/tour-sacred-heart-convent-chapel/>; For more information call (217)787-0481.
- **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!
- **Contact Ministries** is in need of donation items and volunteer assistance. Items needed include food, clothing, hygiene items, school supplies, etc.. Volunteers are needed in the storehouse/pantry. For more information, please contact 217-753-3939.
- **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.