

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JULY 20, 2025 | SIXTEENTH 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 29

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



Life in Abundance

The Scriptures are full of promises that come from the Lord, promises which apply both to the particular circumstances in which Jesus addressed them, but also promises that are more general, applying to all – in every place and every time. One such promise that I often turn to is found in the tenth chapter of St. John's Gospel, in a section in which Jesus speaks about Himself as the Good Shepherd. Jesus explains that, as the true shepherd, He will lead His sheep to safe pastures where they will be saved – both from those things that could harm them in this life, and from being separated

from Him for eternal life. Then He makes this statement / promise: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (Jn 10:10)

In paragraph 27 of Spe Salvi, Pope Benedict points to this promise of Jesus as a reason for hope, that by knowing Christ and following Him, He will enable us truly to live. There are two senses to this, according to St. Thomas Aquinas, who considers this life to be the "life of righteousness" that God makes possible to us already in this life, and the life in abundance, that of blessedness in eternal life in Heaven when we leave this body. (Thomas Aquinas, Commentary on the Gospel of John: Chapters 1–21, trans. Fabian Larcher and James A. Weisheipl, vol. 2 (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2010), 193.)

As we have considered in the past, the object of the supernatural virtue of hope is the promise of eternal life, but this hope also sheds light on our current life, as our faith promises that through the gift of grace we already begin to share, here and now, in this promise to which our hope is directed. This is the case because through grace, we are in relationship with the Blessed Trinity, a relationship which will be fully fulfilled in Heaven. On this, the Holy Father writes:

Life in its true sense is not something we have exclusively in or from ourselves: it is a relationship. And life in its totality is a relationship with him who is the source of life. If we are in relation with him who does not die, who is Life itself and Love itself, then we are in life. Then we "live". (SS 27)

I find this to be a consoling reminder that I often need to return to in my life. When I struggle with disappointments and unfulfilled hopes, I can pause and consider the great truth of God's presence in my life through sanctifying grace. The Lord of the Universe, the Savior, dwells in my very soul. He has risen victorious over sin and death, dispelling the darkness of disappointment and doubt that surrounded His death. What seemed like a defeat has actually turned into the greatest victory ever. If that is true, and I firmly believe it to be, then He can turn what seems like defeat in my life into a doorway which leads to light. By persevering in His grace, I believe that He will bring me to those safe pastures where all those earthly disappointments will be forgotten as they are replaced by the sheer joy of seeing Him face to face, then I will be "fully alive." With that hope for what He promises for the future, I can begin again and rejoice in the life He offers to me now to sustain me for the journey 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, July 21

7am - Woody Woodhull
(Rebecca Woodhull)
5:15pm - Intention for Ronald Borre
(Family)

Tuesday, July 22

7am - Joseph Reichle
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)
5:15pm - Tom McGee
(McGee Family)

Wednesday, July 23

7am - David Starret
(Jane Fornoff)
5:15pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Thursday, July 24

7am - Andy & Marie O'Neill
(Julie Berberet)
5:15pm - Intention of Doris Drago
(Richard & Kay King)

Friday, July 25

7am - Martha Sullivan
(Friend)
5:15pm - Intention for Doris
(DA Drago)

Saturday, July 26

8am - Dale Grieser
(Vicki Compton)
4pm - Pamela Harmon
(Archie Harmon)

Sunday, July 27

7am - Jane Burmeister
(Friend)
10am - Jacob & Kristen Schlosser
(Regina Rusciollelli)
5pm - For the People



The Pentecost Sequence: Stanza 6

In this next stanza of the Pentecost Sequence, we wade into some subtle theological distinctions, so bear with me here! These ancient words shed light on the reality of our creation, our fall from grace, and our redemption in Christ:

*Sine tuo numine,
nihil est in homine,
nihil est innoxium.*

*Without your divine will (Grace),
there is nothing in us,
nothing that is not harmful.*

"In the beginning," at the creation of the world, God made humanity in his image and likeness, and "it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). Clearly, existence itself is a gift of God's grace. The words of this stanza, therefore, ring true, because without his grace, we would not even exist.

But when something "harmful" enters the picture, the words take on a new meaning. Adam and Eve sinned and passed down the effects of that sin to every one of their descendants (all human beings). Some Christian traditions would say that this Original Sin totally corrupted Adam and Eve and their descendants, so that they would no longer even have the freedom to choose to be saved. The Catholic Church, on the other hand, teaches that the Original Sin deeply wounded Adam and Eve, and that woundedness is passed down. These descendants still possess some of their original goodness: they continue to exist, they can still reason, and they can choose right and wrong, but with the Original Sin, they are separated from God and experience ignorance, suffering, death, and an inclination to sin (See CCC 405).

How then, one may ask, are we saved from this wound?

St. Paul answers, "[Jesus] saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." This "rebirth and renewal" takes away our Original Sin, the state in which every human being is born, and unites us to Jesus Christ as a member of his body and a child of God the Father through adoption into THE Son (cf. Galatians 4:5). This is not something we accomplish, but it is something that by God's gracious gift, we can choose to accept. We can choose with the help of God's grace, for example, to "repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15).

It is important to emphasize that this change in us is not just cosmetic. Some Christian traditions hold the teaching that God simply covers up our corrupted humanity with his power and grace. In that mindset, we remain broken and our redemption is something external to us. It is something Jesus does for us, not to us.

From a Catholic perspective, however, a real change takes place in us through the grace of baptism. As one of my seminary professors loved to say, "Grace gets in the nature." In other words, God heals the wounds of sin from the inside out. The first line of the stanza is key: "Without your grace." Yes, without the grace we are nothing, but we have the grace. Therefore, by his gracious will, we are something, and at our very core, we truly become "a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

At the same time, redeemed Christians still experience the effects of sin: ignorance, suffering, death, and an inclination to sin. But these effects are not sin - they do not, in themselves, separate us from God. The broken relationship with God is truly healed, and these effects of sin only harm a Christian if because of that inclination to sin he/she chooses to sin and be separated from God again. Thus, the need for the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Through the Blood of the Lamb, which we encounter through the sacraments, our sins are washed, and the Holy Spirit causes this cleansing in us by the gracious will of our Heavenly Father. Praise God for this grace! The Trinity saves us and draws us into the divine love relationship by joining us to the Son, the Word of God. May the Holy Spirit keep us firmly fixed in the love of God. 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

July 12th & 13th

Envelopes:	\$4,440.84
Loose:	\$3,574.50
Maintenance:	\$96.00
Total:	\$8,111.34

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

Deaths

Thomas M. Conway, Sr.
Date of Death: June 25, 2025

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF JULY 21

<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 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		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

VATICAN II FAITH FORMATION SERIES & JUBILEE INDULGENCE

AUGUST 21, SEPTEMBER 18, OCTOBER 23
NOVEMBER 20, AND DECEMBER 11
7:00 PM
CATHEDRAL ATRIUM

Documents of Vatican II, Continued

Mark your calendars for Aug 21, Sept 18 and Oct 23 as Fathers Brian Alford and Daniel McGrath discuss the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. On Nov 20 and Dec 11, they will cover the remaining documents of the Second Vatican Council. In the Cathedral Atrium @ 7:00pm

SAVE THE DATE!

CATHEDRAL SUMMER FEST

SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

Save the Date! Cathedral Summer Fest

Join us for our first Cathedral Summer Fest! Come celebrate with great food, fun games, and fellowship on Saturday, September 6, after the 4PM Mass, in the Cathedral Parking Lot. Watch the bulletin, Facebook page, and eWeekly for more details!



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.

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.

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.

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.

Martha's Burdens

It's time to admit it: I've been unfair to Mary in the past. Been a little catty about her. Oooh, Mary, she's so holy. Well, do you like to eat, Mary? Who made your lunch? Yeah, that's right: it was Martha. Because you know what? It's the Marthas who get things done in the world while the Marys lounge around reading Aquinas and attending silent retreats and going to Eucharistic Adoration whenever they want.

And there you have it, folks: my bitterness on full display! I tend to identify with Martha, not with Mary, and I need to stop doing that.

Because I am not Martha instead of Mary. I am both. We are all both.

Mary was a woman; she was expected to do the serving, too. She shared that burden; she wasn't abandoning it, heaping her portion on Martha. And it's so wrong to assume that Mary didn't have the same cares and anxieties as Martha — perhaps she even had more!

Here's the difference: Mary, unlike Martha (and me, I guess) knew where to go with them.

We typically see our burdens as an impediment to a relationship with Christ. I'm so busy. I'm so overwhelmed. There are so many demands on me, on my time, on my person, on my finances. Take a number, Jesus. Get in line. But we're thinking the wrong way. Burdens aren't an obstacle that stands between us and Christ. Burdens are the straightest path to his feet.

God knows about burdens, okay? Aside from being all-wise and all-knowing, he basically completed a doctorate in suffering, taking on a human form (itself kind of a burden, if you think about it) and for 33 years lived among the hardest and heaviest burdens this world has to offer.

Why did he do this? Well, part of the reason was so that we could finally understand that our burdens aren't a barrier between us and God. On the contrary, they connect us to him.

Are you anxious about many things? Then you need to be right where Mary is: at the feet of Jesus, with all your burdens.

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.