

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JULY 27, 2025 | SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 30

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



Being for Others

As you may be aware, Father Daniel and I have been offering monthly presentations on the documents of the Second Vatican Council during this Jubilee Year of Hope. When we presented on the Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, I shared that one of the key concepts not just in that document, but indeed throughout the Council, was communion. Communion is basically the sharing of goods with another. In the case of our Catholic faith, it is sharing the good of divine life with God, and sharing in the life of charity with one another. In other words, there are two dimensions of communion – vertical with God, and horizontal with others. Both are essential to living an authentically Christian life.

This is the basic premise behind the next paragraph in *Spe salvi* where Pope Benedict returns to the question of whether our understanding of Christian hope leans toward an individualistic understanding of salvation, or “hope for myself alone.” (*Spe salvi*, 28) He answers that question in the negative, as he reminds us of a necessary truth about our relationship with God:

Our relationship with God is established through communion with Jesus—we cannot achieve it alone or from our own resources alone. The relationship with Jesus, however, is a relationship with the one who gave himself as a ransom for all (cf. 1 Tim 2:6). Being in communion with Jesus Christ draws us into his “being for all”; it makes it our own way of being. (ibid.)

But the Holy Father is quick to anticipate a possible misunderstanding of our call to live for others, as though service, or love of neighbor, take precedence over worship and love for God. The pope writes: “He commits us to live for others, but only through communion with him does it become possible truly to be there for others, for the whole.” (ibid.) To use the language of the two dimensions of communion, the vertical communion with God comes first before true horizontal communion with others. An image that I find helpful to demonstrate this is that of a cross. There are two beams, one that is vertical, and one that is horizontal. Without the vertical being in place, the horizontal is left by itself on the ground. But through union with the vertical, it is raised up to its proper place. Service to others is possible without others, no doubt, and there are many such examples in our world of that. But by loving God, our love for others is elevated and infused with the love of God working in us and through us. Living both dimensions allows us to live the cruciform life of which St. Paul writes – that is a life shaped by the Cross of Christ which all Christians should strive to live.

At the end of this paragraph, Pope Benedict uses the example of St. Augustine. As he became a Christian, he was drawn by the idea of living a contemplative life dedicated to prayer and study, “choosing in this way the ‘better part’ (cf. Lk 10:42)” (ibid.) That phrase should sound very familiar as we heard it in this last Sunday’s Gospel about Martha and Mary. Though Mary, and thus contemplation and love of God may be the “better part”, Martha’s service to Jesus, and by extension our service to others, is also necessary. It is not an either/or, but a both/and. St. Augustine was “forced” into becoming a priest, and later a bishop, and though he may have been attracted to flee to the wilderness to simply be with God, he was consoled by the words of St. Paul: “Christ died for all, that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died.” (cf. 2 Cor 5:15)

May we too see that living for the Lord, and living in the hope of the reward of sharing in His life more fully in Heaven, means to allow ourselves “to be drawn into his being for others.” (SS, 28)

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 28

7am - John and Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Diane Kruzick
(Steve and Vicki Stalcup)

Tuesday, July 29

7am - Helena Fleck
(Gregory & Marie Fleck)
5:15pm - Judith Ansell
(James and Billie Langfelder)

Wednesday, July 30

7am - Jocelyn Rosario Johnstone
(Rosario Johnstone)
5:15pm - Margaret Munn
(Julie Berberet)

Thursday, July 31

7am - John Craig
(Family)
5:15pm - Judith Ansell
(Rebecca Cole)

Friday, August 1

7am - Barbara Brauer
(Barbara Brauer)
5:15pm - Intention for Joan
(DA Drago)

Saturday, August 2

8am - Tom McGee
(McGee Family)
4pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)

Sunday, August 3

7am - Deceased Members of CCCW
(CCCW)
10am - For the People
5pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)



The Pentecost Sequence: Stanza 7

Cleanse me, O Holy Spirit!

Fire, water, wind, a dove, light, etc. Throughout the Scriptures, The Holy Spirit is described in a variety of ways, using a variety of images. Some of the most prevalent and memorable are those I just listed. In this stanza and the next, we beg the Holy Spirit to help us in ways that correspond to two of these images - water and fire. This week, we ask him to cleanse, water, and heal - three properties of the spiritual water which is the Holy Spirit. Next week, we ask him to bend, fire, and correct - three properties of the spiritual fire or light which is the Holy Spirit.

This week's antiphon:

<i>Lava quod est sordidum,</i>	<i>Cleanse that which is unclean,</i>
<i>riga quod est aridum,</i>	<i>water that which is dry,</i>
<i>sana quod est saucium.</i>	<i>heal that which is wounded.</i>

In the Gospel of John, Jesus refers in two places to a "living" or "spiritual" water. When he is speaking with the Samaritan Woman by the well, he says, "...but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14). Then, while he is in Jerusalem for the feast of Booths, he teaches, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" John then explains, "Now this he said about the Spirit..." (John 7:37-39). Jesus was preparing his followers to receive a gift from him - the Holy Spirit - a gift that would cleanse them, quench their thirst, and heal them, granting them eternal life.

This water comes to us through faith in Christ, and sacramentally through the saving waters of Baptism, which are an effective sign of our spiritual cleansing by the Spirit's power. Sin - both the Original Sin and our personal sin - is that terrible thing in our lives which causes us to be unclean, dried up, and wounded. As Catholics, we believe in the further beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation, through which we are sacramentally cleansed of any sins, particularly the grave sins, committed after Baptism. The prayer of Absolution retains this theme of water as we hear the priest solemnly pray, "God the Father of mercies, through the Death and Resurrection of his Son, has reconciled the world to himself and poured out the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins..." (added emphasis).

The Lord renews our souls through these sacraments by cleansing us, watering our souls so that the Word of God can grow there in a healthy way, and healing us.

I think, however, that as Catholics, we easily fall into the trap of thinking that the only time I need to ask God to cleanse me, heal me, water me, or forgive me is when I decide to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. While that sacrament may be necessary (as in the earlier-mentioned case of any mortal sins), and even highly encouraged (regular reception of this sacrament, even for only venial sins, is very good for us), we can also always very fruitfully ask for the Lord's forgiveness and the cleansing and healing presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Spiritually speaking, possibly the cleanest I have ever felt was during one of my retreats in seminary. My director was speaking with me about praying with the scene of Jesus washing his disciples' feet, and my director asked me, "Have you allowed Jesus to wash your feet?" I went and spent another hour praying with that passage, and in my imagination in prayer and in reality, Jesus did wash my feet. I had distinct interior impressions of him holding my feet and washing them, patiently taking splinters from them, and bringing healing. The splinters weren't wood though, they were small sins, the effects of my sins, and the wounds caused by them. This experience of prayer brought me freedom and peace. I believe the Holy Spirit was directly involved in facilitating this prayer, and I include it here as an example of further spiritual healing after and outside of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Any time we ask the Holy Spirit to cleanse us, we can invite him into specific wounds and areas of sin in our hearts and minds and memories. He wants to come, to enter where we allow him, and bring us new life, freedom, and peace so that we can better praise him, glorify him, and serve him. 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 19th & 20th

Collection numbers were unavailable at the time of publication. Please check back next weekend for these collection numbers.

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!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF JULY 28

<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			
			K of C Cor Meeting 6:00 PM School Hall			

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



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.

Married 50 Years or More? Let Us Celebrate You!

Bishop Thomas John Paprocki invites all couples who have been married 50 years or more to a special Anniversary Mass on Sunday, September 21 at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield. This celebration honors your beautiful witness to the vocation of marriage. A light reception will follow Mass. RSVP by September 9 at www.dio.org/events, or contact Gracie Ortiz at gortiz@dio.org or (217) 698-8500. Let us honor your milestone of faith and love!

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.



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.

Ask and You Shall Receive

It's easy to look at today's Gospel reading and come away with a view of God as disinterested and irritated, reluctant to give us what we need unless we bang down his door, hound him to the furthest reaches of heaven, wrench him from his reverie and force him to answer just so we'll finally go away.

Well, that's not what Jesus means by the parable of the friend at midnight — but it's also not surprising that we would think that it is. The whole point of this Gospel is that communication between God and man has been broken. It's not as easy as it once was, as it should be, as it could be.

In this parable, there exists many barriers between the supplicant and his friend. The time of day is not ideal. The door is locked. Their dispositions are opposite — one is in the middle of a REM cycle and the other is deeply agitated. They appear to be two people who are not primed to communicate well. Everything is working against them.

The same could well be said of God and the human race. Here we are in a fallen world, surrounded by sin and pain and sickness and death to the extent that it infiltrates not just our bodies but our souls, our minds, our attitudes.

We are the friend caught unprepared in the dead of night. We don't always know how to talk to God (That door is thick! Will he hear us if we knock?). We don't always know if we should (It's all my fault that I ran out of loaves, after all). We don't even know if we want to (It's nighttime! He might be angry!).

Everything is working against us.

It doesn't matter, Jesus tells us. Whatever is interrupting communication between your heart and the One who crafted it, the One who desires its full and irrevocable attention, it can be overcome. There is no door thick enough, no night dark enough, no sleep strong enough.

So knock.

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.