

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

AUGUST 3, 2025 | EIGHTEENTH 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 31

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

DEACON DAVID BEACH

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

TARAH DAVIS
PARISH SECRETARY
TDAVIS@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

VICKI DHABALT COMPTON
COORDINATOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND MISSION
VCOMPTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

HALEY DUTTON
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
HDUTTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

MARK GIFFORD
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MGIFFORD@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

KIM GUNTER
BUSINESS MANAGER
KGUNTER@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

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 Gospel Terrifies Me"

In last week's column, I noted how Pope Benedict used the example of St. Augustine and his call to put aside his desire to seek salvation in a private, contemplative way of life, embracing a life of service to others in imitation of Christ who died for all, thus providing the model for Christians to live no longer just for themselves, but for the good of others.

In the next paragraph of *Spe salvi*, the Holy Father gives a description from St. Augustine's own writing as to what this "life for others" looked like for him. I think it is worth sharing those words, not so much because they necessarily pertain exactly to each of us in our state in life, but because they present an awareness of what living according to the Gospel demands for anybody who is serious about being a Christian. St. Augustine writes of his daily life:

The turbulent have to be corrected, the faint-hearted cheered up, the weak supported; the Gospel's opponents need to be refuted, its insidious enemies guarded against; the unlearned need to be taught, the indolent stirred up, the argumentative checked; the proud must be put in their place, the desperate set on their feet, those engaged in quarrels reconciled; the needy have to be helped, the oppressed to be liberated, the good to be encouraged, the bad to be tolerated; all must be loved. (St. Augustine, Sermo 340, 3: PL 38, 1484; cf. F. Van der Meer, Augustine the Bishop, London and New York 1961, p.268.)

After that intimidating list of duties, the pope then quotes another line from another sermon from St. Augustine as he reflects on these demands of the Gospel, and he concludes: "The Gospel terrifies me." (Sermo 339, 4: PL 38, 1481.)

That line struck me as I read it, and it is easy to see how, after reading the list of duties he needs to be attentive to, St. Augustine would come to this conclusion. But before we dismiss that conclusion as something applying just to his circumstances as a leader in the Church, I think we need to see how we must all come to that same conclusion. Though many of the duties he lists among his daily concerns may not apply to us directly in our state of life, that final one applies to all Christians, that "all must be loved."

Jesus' teaching in the Gospel about the necessity to love our neighbor as we love ourselves also includes loving our enemies, praying for those who persecute us, and blessing those who curse us. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks about the judgment and how our judgment will take into account the following warning: "what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me." (Mt 25:45)

So if we do not feel somewhat terrified by the Gospel, then it might be worth asking whether it is full Gospel we are following, or just those parts with which we agree and with which we are comfortable. But the type of fear of which St. Augustine writes, and which we often feel regarding the demands of the Gospel are not meant to discourage us. Rather, as Pope Benedict writes, the challenge of the Gospel message produces "that healthy fear which prevents us from living for ourselves alone and compels us to pass on the hope we hold in common." (*Spe salvi*, 29) Having been loved so generously by God, we desire to likewise imitate His generosity of loving all those who, in His Providence, He has allowed to be a part of our lives, thus being witnesses and instruments of hope in a world so desperately in need of it.

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, August 4

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

Tuesday, August 5

7am - Woody Woodhull
(Karen Johnson)
5:15pm - Kathleen Dhabalt
(Vicki Compton)

Wednesday, August 6

7am - Julie Kemp
(Family)
5:15pm - Intention for Doris
(DA Drago)

Thursday, August 7

7am - Julie Kemp
(Family)
5:15pm - Intention for Joan
(DA Drago)

Friday, August 8

7am - Intention for Bianca
(DA Drago)
5:15pm - Anita Bates
(Rosemarie Bates)

Saturday, August 9

8am - Walter Woodhull
(The Coffee Guys)
4pm - Eulalia and Raymond Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Sunday, August 10

7am - Robert W. and Charlotte Collin
(Niece)
10am - Louis Nicoud
(Family)
5pm - For The People



The Pentecost Sequence: Stanza 8

At Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and all those gathered with them in the upper room, He came down as tongues of fire. From this point on, spiritual fire has been one of the most recognized signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit. We hear phrases like, "The fire of love," or "my heart was burning," and "set the world aflame," and these words lead us to think of the powerful work of the Holy Spirit. Thus, the eighth stanza of the Pentecost sequence sings of the Holy Spirit as heavenly fire:

Flecte quod est rigidum,	Bend that which is inflexible,
fove quod est frigidum,	fire that which is chilled,
rege quod est devium.	correct what goes astray.

The first line of the stanza reminds me of the line in the Psalm, "Bend my heart according to your will" (Ps 119:36). The Lord wants to give us natural hearts that are not brittle but can be moved and "bent" according to His will (see Ezekiel 36:26). Just as fire can cause a cold, hard iron bar to be highly malleable and shaped according to the mind of an artist, so too the fire of the Holy Spirit can teach us to desire what God desires and be "flexible" to do the will of God.

One of God's greatest desires and commands is that we would "love one another" (John 13:34). When we are filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit, we are filled with love for our neighbor - i.e. the desire we have for their good - eternal and present - is increased without limit. St. Paul, in his Second Letter to the Corinthians, writes of his love for the Corinthian people by saying that his heart is opened wide for them (2 Corinthians 6:11). In a commentary on this passage, St. John Chrysostom explains,

"Our heart is enlarged. For as heat makes things expand, so it is the work of love to expand the heart, for its power is to heat and make fervent. It is this that opened Paul's lips and enlarged his heart. ... he loved all the faithful with as intimate a love as any lover could have for a loved one, his love not being divided and lessened but remaining whole and entire for each of them."

The heat of love - the fire of the Holy Spirit - expands our hard hearts enough to love all those around us. This fire comes to us when we invite the Holy Spirit in, and when we invite Jesus in, because he brings with him the Holy Spirit. And, amazingly, when we receive Holy Communion, believing that Jesus truly comes into our hearts, we believe that the Holy Spirit in his entirety comes as well. In this regard, Pope St. John Paul II quotes St. Ephrem as saying, "He called the bread [the Eucharist] his living body and he filled it with himself and his Spirit... He who eats it with faith, eats Fire and Spirit."

This Holy Fire, the person of the Holy Spirit, works in us continually to bring about a great work of conversion in our souls and lives. The last line of the stanza reminds me of Psalm 139:24 - "See that there be not an evil way in me, and lead me in the path of life eternal." I find it very consoling to know that I can trust in the work of the Spirit to guide and correct me as I move along in life. He is our best and truest spiritual director. His fire lights our way (see Ps 119:105) when we go astray.

A heart on fire is a heart longing without ceasing for the Heavenly rest. It is a heart that yearns with an ever-increasing longing for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Come Holy Spirit, fill me with this desire! Let it burn in me hotter than any furnace; brighter than the sun. All the water of the oceans and more could not suppress the strength of this love. Let this burning flame light my way and guide me to my Father's house, as I walk in the dark valleys of this world. Let my expanded heart burn for you, for the good of my neighbor, and make me all aflame. 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

Envelopes:	\$3,980.00
Loose:	\$3,705.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>
Total:	\$7,835.00

July 26th & 27th

Envelopes:	\$3,740.00
Loose:	\$3,690.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$65.00</u>
Total:	\$7,495.00

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!

Sacraments

Deaths

Name: Janet Ann Regan Burghart
Date of Death: July 15, 2025

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF AUGUST 4

<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	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Rosary 4:45 PM Church Cathedral Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library	Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, & 6:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church	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



One Mile Talk with Fr. Alford

Ever wonder what your priest does before dawn? Father Brian Alford shares his morning routine and reveals a hidden talent you might not know about! Join us for a one mile talk and discover the person behind the collar. Watch here: <https://youtu.be/c8duJDXjktE>

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!

Knights of Columbus Upcoming Events

Cathedral's Fr. Tolton Council 16126 has a growing list of activities coming up in the next few weeks that are open to all. Highlights include...

- **August 10** Day at the Ball Park - Join members of the council and their families to see the Peoria Chiefs in action at Dozer Park.
- **August 16-17** Vocation Raffle Ticket Sales - Our council actively supports seminarians for the diocese and we need help raising funds to do so. We will be selling raffle tickets after Masses, \$5 per ticket or get 5 tickets for \$20. Grand prize is \$10,000!
- **August 28** Council Meeting - Guests are welcome to check out who we are and what we are up to. Meet on the 1st floor of the school at 7 PM.
- **August 31** Fifth Sunday Rosary - All members of the parish are welcome to join the Fr. Tolton Council after the 10 AM Mass to pray a rosary. Free rosaries for new members!
- **September 13-14** Intellectual Disabilities Drive - Got any spare change? The council is collecting money to help agencies that work with people who have intellectual disabilities. Need service hours? There are lots of shifts that need help. Free tootsie rolls, too!
- **September 20** Scholarship Dinner - Help support scholarship efforts of the CCCW and enjoy a nice steak dinner and a whisky tasting. Tickets can be purchased through our Council website.

Visit our website at <http://www.kofc16126.org/> for all the details. New members are always welcome. Join online at <http://kofc.org/join> and use council number 16126. Questions? Contact Grand Knight Larry Travis, LTRAVISJR@gmail.com, or Program Director Brian Huber, bhubie@comcast.net.



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.

The Barn

It's 9:08 on a Saturday morning, and I am too darn busy for confession.

I've probably written before about how hard I find it to get to confession — I say 'probably' because I really can't remember. I whine about it so frequently that it's hard to tell if I've made it the subject of a written piece or if it is simply an oft-recited refrain from the Litany of Colleen's Perpetual Complaints.

During the week, it's tough to get to confession because I have little kids who are attached to me like Velcro, and I don't need them listening in on (and eventually repeating to everyone) my sins. On the weekend it's a little easier, but our parish doesn't offer it before or after Sunday Mass, just on Saturdays. Saturday is when I get most of my work done, so getting absolution usually comes at the expense of productivity.

And that, friends, right here, is my barn. Productivity. That's the proverbial storehouse of my earthly harvest. For the rich man in the parable, it's a literal barn, filled to bursting with sellable crops. For you it might be money or your job title or what your life looks like to other people on social media. For me, it's Getting Things Done. That's my barn, the repository that holds the whole of my worldly preoccupations.

And it's so full I want to tear it down and build a new one. A bigger one. One that can hold more worry, more time for work, more focus on output and crossing things off a to-do list. Vanity of vanities, indeed.

If I die tonight, the deadlines will go unmet, and no one will even notice. But God, when He meets me in the world to come, will surely ask me why I couldn't take 45 minutes to accept a gift He tried again and again to give me.

I have to burn the barn, friends. I don't want to, but I have to. I'm closing my laptop and going to church.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
©LPi

Around the Diocese

- **Memorial Mass for Father Peter Chineke's mother, Ezinne Virginia Chineke**, Friday, August 8, 2025, at 6:00 pm, St. Jude Church, Rochester, IL. To be presided over by Bishop Paprocki and concelebrating priests. Dinner Reception to follow right after Mass at St Jude Parish Center
- **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://springfieldop.org/event/tour-sacred-heart-convent-chapel/>; For more information call (217)787-0481.
- **Season of Creation Mass Scheduled at Sacred Heart Convent**, The public is welcome to open the 2025 Season of Creation by celebrating Mass with the Dominican Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent, 1237 W. Monroe St., Springfield, 62704. Join them at 9:00 a.m., Monday, Sept. 1. Plenty of off street parking, fully accessible chapel.
- **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.