

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**AUGUST 10, 2025 | NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342  
[WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG](http://WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG)

**FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009**

# Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 32

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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



## Sober Perseverance

The next two paragraphs in Spe Salvi serve as a brief summary of what Pope Benedict has written up to this point. The final section of the document will look at some specific “settings” for learning and practicing hope. We will make that transition next week, but there are a few points from this summary that I think are good for our review and reflection.

The Holy Father returns to the important theme of our daily experience of hope, especially as we understand it from our perspective while we are still here on our pilgrim journey. He writes:

*Day by day, man experiences many greater or lesser hopes, different in kind according to the different periods of his life. Sometimes one of these hopes may appear to be totally satisfying without any need for other hopes. Young people can have the hope of a great and fully satisfying love; the hope of a certain position in their profession, or of some success that will prove decisive for the rest of their lives. When these hopes are fulfilled, however, it becomes clear that they were not, in reality, the whole. It becomes evident that man has need of a hope that goes further. It becomes clear that only something infinite will suffice for him, something that will always be more than he can ever attain. (SS, 30)*

That something infinite is of course someone, as he writes in the next paragraph: “This great hope can only be God, who encompasses the whole of reality and who can bestow upon us what we, by ourselves, cannot attain.” (SS, 31) The pope then concludes this section with the following words that I find especially encouraging to us as we sometimes experience the drudgery of facing life’s seemingly endless challenges:

*His love alone gives us the possibility of soberly persevering day by day, without ceasing to be spurred on by hope, in a world which by its very nature is imperfect. His love is at the same time our guarantee of the existence of what we only vaguely sense and which nevertheless, in our deepest self, we await: a life that is “truly” life. (ibid.)*

That idea of “sober perseverance” is one that resonates well, for it reminds us to not get too excited when we experience those daily, lesser hopes, nor should we be too overwhelmed when those hopes get dashed. We do well to direct our gaze to God, whose love is being poured out upon us, and to be reminded of His great desire to sustain us throughout our journey. It is comforting to know that God offers us, through His grace, a share in His life which enables us to have the strength to keep moving forward with His help.

In Matthew’s Gospel, as Jesus speaks to His disciples about the challenges that humanity will face before His return in glory, He offers us this important promise: “the one who perseveres to the end will be saved.” (Mt 24:13) Therefore, it is helpful for us to pray regularly, even daily, for the grace of sober perseverance. In addition to the Lord’s Prayer, where we can ask for that grace a part of our “daily bread”, I love the following prayer from St. Teresa of Avila:

Let nothing disturb you,  
Let nothing frighten you,  
All things are passing away;  
God never changes.  
Patience obtains all things  
Whoever has God lacks nothing;  
God alone suffices.

*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 11

7am - Joseph “Jerry” Stasukinas  
(Sherry Smith)  
5:15pm - Mathias Bates  
(Rosemarie Bates)

### Tuesday, August 12

7am - JR Weakly  
(DA Drago)  
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the  
Kruzick/Tobin Families (Steve & Vicki  
Stalcup)

### Wednesday, August 13

7am - Barbara McGee  
(McGee Family)  
5:15pm - Dcn Frank Maynerich  
(Bev and Dcn Larry Smith)

### Thursday, August 14

7am - John Montgomery  
(John Busciacco)  
5:15pm - Don Smargiassi  
(Family and Friends)

### Friday, August 15

7am - Jim Steil  
(Steil Family)  
12:05pm - Joe Metzger  
(Gregory and Marie Fleck)  
5:15pm - Deceased Members  
Chiaradonna Family (Geny  
Chiaradonna)

### Saturday, August 16

8am - James “Jim” Bloom  
(Fr. Tolton Council 16126)  
4pm - For The People

### Sunday, August 17

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(Bill Midden)  
10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt  
(Kathy Frank)  
5pm - Anna Danner  
(Catherine Madonia)





## The Pentecost Sequence: Stanza 9

Da tuis fidelibus,	Give to your faithful,
in te confidentibus,	those who trust in you,
sacrum septenarium.	the sevenfold gifts.

When the Bishop celebrates the sacrament of Confirmation, he prays a prayer that includes asking God to pour out his seven gifts upon the candidates: Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel, Piety, Fortitude, and Fear of the Lord. This prayer, coupled with the gesture of the laying on of hands, is a significant and key part of the sacrament of Confirmation which can be somewhat easy to miss.

And, truthfully, if you do not remember your Confirmation, or only slightly remember the Bishop saying those words over you, you might wonder how effective it was. I know after my own confirmation, I certainly didn't feel more wise, understanding, knowledgeable, etc. No, what I have learned over the years is that if I want to grow in these seven gifts I need to grow in a desire for them presently, here and now. The sacrament worked, but my reception of it is ongoing and grows over time. I have found great consolation in continuing to pray for these gifts, and I highly encourage everyone to do so - to renew, nourish, and strengthen the graces given in Confirmation.

I want to share with you a way that I love to pray for these gifts. It involves using a standard rosary. I'll set it out in a series of steps:

1. I first think of some people I want to pray for, always including myself.
2. Then I begin with the traditional prayer, *"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your Faithful and kindle in them the fire of your Love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the Earth. O God, who instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us by that same Spirit to be truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation. Through Christ our Lord, Amen."*
3. Then, I skip the short introductory beads and move straight to the decade beads.
  - a. On each of the first ten beads: "Come Holy Spirit, fill us with the fire of your Love."
  - a. On the next ten beads, "Come Holy Spirit, fill us with the fire of your Wisdom."
  - b. The next decades:
    - i. "Come Holy Spirit, fill us with the fire of your Understanding,"
    - ii. "Come Holy Spirit, ... Knowledge,"
    - iii. "Come Holy Spirit, ... Counsel,"
    - iv. "Come Holy Spirit, ... Piety,"
    - v. "Come Holy Spirit, ... Fortitude,"
    - vi. "Come Holy Spirit, ... Fear of the Lord."
  - c. This takes you around the rosary about one and a half times.
4. On each of the regular Our Father beads, I say a single Hail Mary, though it's entirely up to you to choose what to do on that bead.
5. At the end, I usually say another Hail Mary and then the traditional "Come Holy Spirit" prayer again, then finish with a Glory Be.

This is the sort of prayer you can modify and make your own as you pray it. I find that it is a great way to memorize the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and to grow in a devotion to the person of the Holy Spirit. 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

### August 2nd & 3rd

Envelopes:	\$5,145.00
Loose:	\$3,230.36
Maintenance:	\$912.00
Total:	\$9,287.36

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

Harper Johnson & Maria Nestler  
Married on August 2, 2025

### Deaths

Miles E. Horton  
Date of Death: July 29, 2025

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## WEEK OF AUGUST 11

<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  K of C 4 <sup>th</sup> Degree Meeting 6:30 PM School Classroom	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	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](http://www.spicathedral.org/employment) for more information. Interested candidates should provide a cover letter and resume to Fr. Brian Alford, [balford@dio.org](mailto:balford@dio.org) and Business Manager Kim Gunter, [kgunter@cathedral.dio.org](mailto: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](http://www.dio.org/events), or contact Gracie Ortiz at [gortiz@dio.org](mailto: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 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 K of C and 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](mailto:LTRAVISJR@gmail.com), or Program Director Brian Huber, [bhubie@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:hdutton@cathedral.dio.org)) or Vicki Compton ([vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org)) if you are interested in serving in this ministry.

## Estudio Bíblico: Jesús y la Eucaristía

Invitamos a todos a participar en el estudio bíblico Jesús y la Eucaristía, una serie de siete sesiones que explora el misterio de la Eucaristía como fuente y cumbre de nuestra fe. Las reuniones se llevarán a cabo los lunes, de 6:00 p.m. a 8:00 p.m., en la Biblioteca de la Escuela de la Catedral Inmaculada Concepción en Springfield, Illinois, los días 8, 15, 22, 29 de septiembre; 6, 20 y 27 de octubre (no habrá sesión el 13 de octubre por el Día de la Raza). Todas las sesiones se impartirán únicamente en español. ¡Todos son bienvenidos!

We invite everyone to participate in the Bible study Jesus and the Eucharist, a series of seven sessions that explores the mystery of the Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith. The meetings will take place on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Library of the Cathedral School of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, Illinois, on September 8, 15, 22, 29; October 6, 20, and 27 (there will be no session on October 13 due to Columbus Day). All sessions will be conducted in Spanish only. All are welcome!

## Are You Talking To Me?

Last summer I was at the National Eucharistic Congress when Fr. Mike Schmitz delivered an impassioned call to repentance in his keynote address during an evening revival session. The crowd received his message with great enthusiasm. Their applause and the cheers shook the Lucas Oil Stadium.

The next night, Sr. Josephine Garrett took the stage and, in her address, got into the nitty-gritty of what it means to be a disciple, what it means to live repentance — or, as she so beautifully put it, to embrace the hunger.

And in doing so, she called back to the previous night's thunderous approval of Fr. Mike's message.

"When I heard you clapping when Father said we need repentance, I was worried you thought he was talking about your neighbor's repentance," she said. "He is not."

In other words: he's talking about your repentance.

We all love a message about The Right Thing To Do. We all love when a priest or a nun or any Catholic with a microphone gets up and talks about the truth. We rise to our feet and applaud.

And then, too often, we take a deep breath and walk to our car and forget all about it — because we think they were talking to someone else. You know...the others. The ones who need to hear it. The ones who aren't being vigilant.

In today's Gospel, Peter asks Jesus, "Is this parable [of the absent master] meant for us, or for everyone?" (Luke 12:41). And Jesus answers him with a question. In so many words, he says this: "Do you want it to be for you? Are you ready to hear it?"

Whoever we are. Wherever we're from. Whatever our life looks like. However we pray. He's talking to us.

Are we ready to hear him?

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman  
©LPi

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## 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://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.