

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

AUGUST 17, 2025 | TWENTIETH 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 33

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



Prayer as a School of Hope

As mentioned in the previous article, the final section of Pope Benedict's Encyclical on Christian Hope, *Spe salvi*, is dedicated the various settings "in which we can learn in practice about hope and its exercise." (SS 31) These next sixteen paragraphs will offer some practical suggestions for deepening our experience of this great virtue of hope.

The first setting in which to learn about hope is prayer. In this first paragraph, which is very short, the Holy Father begins with a beautiful reflection on the consoling presence of God in prayer as an anchor of hope:

When no one listens to me any more, God still listens to me. When I can no longer talk to anyone or call upon anyone, I can always talk to God. When there is no longer anyone to help me deal with a need or expectation that goes beyond the human capacity for hope, he can help me. When I have been plunged into complete solitude ...; if I pray I am never totally alone.
(SS 32)

In 2023, the U.S. Surgeon General declared loneliness to be an epidemic. He warned that about half of the adults in the country were experiencing some form of loneliness, intensified no doubt by the recent pandemic. This problem affects both young and old alike. I am sure that anybody reading this can think of somebody they know in their lives who has struggled or is currently struggling with loneliness.

While the problem of loneliness is a complex one and there is no single solution, it is important for us as Christians to see prayer as an essential avenue in combatting loneliness. When we turn to prayer in faith, we do not just hope that God hears us, using hope in that more generic, everyday sense. Our hope, supported by faith, is rooted in the conviction that He is true, He is present, He is listening to us, and that He loves us.

The pope calls prayer a "school of hope", and I like that image. It is a school that we are enrolled in throughout our entire lives. We should always be learning more about prayer. If our prayer looks like it did when we were in grade school, focusing only on reciting memorized prayers, then we are missing out on so much that prayer offers to us. Prayer is something very intimate and very personal. Some helpful descriptions on prayer that I often use in defining prayer are:

For mental prayer in my opinion is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who we know loves us. (St. Teresa of Avila)

Prayer is "a very personal inner conversation between yourself and God" (St. Josemaria Escriva)

Prayer is a personal response to God's loving presence. (Armand M. Nigro, S.J.)

When we see prayer in this way, as personal, intimate, and relational, we can open ourselves to the Lord about anything, including the loneliness that we feel. We can share with Him our hopes and desires, our sadness and frustrations. We can share anything and everything, and in doing so, we receive from Him the gift of His loving presence as a reminder of what we heard Him tell His Apostles before ascending to Heaven: "Behold, I am with you always." (Mt 28:20)

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 18

7am - Janet Cobb
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)
5:15pm - Eulalia and Raymond Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Tuesday, August 19

7am - Deceased Members of the Wray Family (Richard Wray)
5:15pm - Andy O'Neill
(Julie Berberet)

Wednesday, August 20

7am - Intention for Doris Drago
(DA Drago)
5:15pm - Betty Rogers
(Family)

Thursday, August 21

7am - Barbara Jageosh
(Barbara Brauer)
5:15pm - Galli Family
(Elaine Galli-Brown)

Friday, August 22

7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)
5:15pm - James Hughes
(Family)

Saturday, August 23

8am - Alfred G Nicoud
(Family)
4pm - Genevieve Bitschenauer
(Barbara Bitschenauer)

Sunday, August 24

7am - Archie Harmon Sr.
(Archie Harmon)
10am - Woody Woodhull
(Rebecca Woodhull)
5pm - For The People



The Pentecost Sequence: Stanza 10

*Da virtutis meritum,
da salutis exitum,
da perenne gaudium.
Amen. Alleluia.*

*Grant the reward of virtue,
grant the deliverance of salvation,
grant eternal joy.
Amen. Alleluia.*

At the Last Supper, Jesus tells his disciples, "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete" (John 15:11). These "things" Jesus has spoken of are the unity of Christians in the one body of Christ, the command to love one another, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promise of an eternal home in the Father's house. These things bring us joy, almost automatically! And they are, in a very real way, a gift and consequence of the action of the Holy Spirit.

When the Holy Spirit comes to us, he brings with him the virtues of faith, hope, and charity to dwell in the soul and give it life. He infuses all of our other human virtues with supernatural life and power - virtues like our Justice, Fortitude, Prudence, and Temperance, among others. He makes us into children of God our heavenly Father, and heirs to the eternal kingdom of heaven. He binds us to Jesus as members - limbs - of his mystical body. He draws our souls in a generally invisible way into the love-life of the Holy Trinity, so that the Father loves us with the love he has for the Son.

In other words, the Holy Spirit makes deliverance, salvation, and eternal joy possible for us. He not only makes it possible, but he makes it so much more beautiful, deep, and incredible than any eternity of simply "human life" could be. He grants us the gift of an eternal "divine life." That is the gift of God. He wants us to share in HIS glory and HIS love for all eternity. Eternal divine life is inexhaustible, ever deepening, and forever joyful.

In the here and now, however, it doesn't always feel so good. We don't get a clear view of that eternal joy here on earth. So often, in this "valley of tears," we suffer in pain, darkness, and fog, even when the Spirit is with us, filling our souls with his life. He acts in a generally unseen and unfelt way, yet gives us the guarantee of faith, hope, and charity through it all. In fact, the best measure for his work here and now in this life is not good feelings and a sense of power coursing through us. The best measure of his presence and work in us is our continual growth in actual charity lived out in faithful loving actions toward God and our human brothers and sisters.

Therefore, in this time before eternity, we pray constantly. We pray for the Holy Spirit to come and fill us. We pray for his fire to light our way and melt our hard hearts. We pray for the refreshing dew of his presence to cool the earthly fire of our passions. We pray for his light to fill our intellects and wills so that we see clearly what is good, true, and holy, and do it. We pray for his presence, his comfort, his rest, his love, and the peace that only he can give.

The Father and the Son are pleased to pour out the Holy Spirit upon us in abundance (see Luke 11:13). They want us to be on fire and in love. May we all be filled with that heavenly fire and so set the world on fire. Jesus wants that! 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 9th & 10th

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!

WEEK OF AUGUST 18

<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 Vatican II Faith Formation 7:00 PM Atrium	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

Cathedral Summer Fest - More Details!

Join us for our first Cathedral Summer Fest! Come celebrate with great food, fun games, and lots of fellowship on Saturday, September 6, after the 4PM Mass, in the Cathedral Parking Lot. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Menu will include hot dogs, hamburgers, ribeye sandwiches, chips, and desserts. Sandwich meal prices are as follows (includes a sandwich, chips, and a drink): Hot dog meal - \$3; Hamburger meal - \$4; Ribeye meal - \$5.

Attendees can RSVP and prepay for sandwich meals online using the following link:
<https://dio.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/343/responses/new>

Sandwich meals and individual items (sandwiches, chips, drinks) will be also available for purchase, **cash only**, during the event. Refunds for online payments will not be issued; funds from those not able to attend will be donated to the Cathedral. Please contact the Parish Office (217-522-3342 or info@cathedral.dio.org) with any questions. We look forward to having you join us!



**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. Daniel McGrath

He has been a priest for one year and just loves it! A One Mile Talk with Fr. Daniel McGrath! Watch here:

<https://youtu.be/HTScOvGxUvE>

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

Putting Christ at the center of our lives through Charity, Unity and Fraternity, below are some upcoming activities of our Knights of Columbus council...

- **August 28** Council Meeting - Please join us for our regular meeting at 7 PM on the 1st floor of the school. Guests are welcome to check out who we are and what we are up to. Council meetings are once a month on the 4th Thursday unless otherwise announced.
- **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 at Hy Vee - The council is collecting money to help agencies that work with people who have intellectual disabilities. No donation is too small! Need service hours? There are lots of shifts that need help. Contact Larry or Brian below.
- **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.
- **October 18** - Men's Leadership Summit - all men, not just Knights, are invited to a day-long conference at St. Boniface in Edwardsville. Deadline to register is October 1. Details are on 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.

Ignatius Book Fair

Cathedral will again be hosting a Catholic book fair providing easy access to the best in literature aligned with Catholic virtues. The Ignatius Book Fair will offer an incredible selection of Catholic and secular works that inspire and educate. Discover books that foster creativity, imagination, and wonder — books that can edify, shape character, and deepen faith. September 11, 10:00-1:00 and 6:00-7:00. September 12 10:00-2:00. Sept 13 and 14 after all Masses. In the Cathedral school cafeteria.



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.

Faith Formation for Children

The Order of Baptism emphasizes that parents are the first teachers of their children in the ways of the faith. The Second Vatican Council, in *Lumen Gentium*, calls the family the "domestic church" insisting that "parents, by word and example, are the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children" [cf. *Lumen Gentium* §11]. Given the emphasis placed on parents, we want to help parents to be what they are called to be in Christ: true heralds of the Gospel to their children. To support parents in this important task, the Cathedral sponsors a whole-family catechetical program that meets on Sunday evenings twice a month. Children meet with catechists while parents and teens meet for formation with our priests.

More information and a chance to register will be available after all Masses on August 30-31. Contact Vicki to have registration forms emailed to you, vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or 217/522-3342.

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!

The Fire

This past week I have been reading a biography of St. Francis of Assisi. I admit I didn't know much about Francis going into the book, but I always had this image of him as a hippie — an easygoing nature-lover who sang about peace and let animals climb on him.

I'm not sure where that caricature of Francis came from, but since I've been reading this book I've come to see that it's not true at all. He was a lover of nature, yes. A poet who sang of God's peace, yes. And I'm sure he let a few animals climb on him from time to time (he did live in a hut in the woods).

But St. Francis of Assisi wasn't the lost fourth member of Peter, Paul and Mary. He was a man on fire. He was a man burning.

Francis walked around barefoot and slept on the ground. He abandoned a life of wealth to embrace the material poverty that Christ experienced. He embarrassed his family and they disowned him. When his father would encounter Francis in the streets of Assisi, he would curse him.

Sometimes we get this idea that Christianity is a comfortable, cozy thing. We give our lives to Christ, and we expect to feel instantly satisfied, happy, safe and warm. But the saints knew better.

The saints knew that Christ had not come to wrap us in a warm blanket. Christ has come to set us on fire. And though fire is often seen as a sign of death and destruction, it is also the precursor of new life.

Think of a field of native plants and how it benefits so richly from a controlled burn — an action that clears away detritus and releases nutrients back into the soil.

If we let Christ set fire to our lives, what would that fire burn away? What dead and festering undergrowth in our souls would be consumed by the flames? What promise of future holiness would sprout from beneath the ashes?

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://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.
- **2025 SDCCW Convention**, Wed., Oct. 1, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM, with Mass at 11:00 AM, Bishop Thomas Paprocki, Main Celebrant, St. Paul's Church and Trinity Hall, 1411 Main St., Highland, IL - "LET YOURSELF BE LOVED" Claire Dwyer desires that all women know how deeply they are loved by God. She is a wife and mom of six and grandmother of two, living and working remotely for the Avila Foundation as Content Editor of Spiritual Direction.com from her home in Arizona. She is a speaker, retreat leader, and author of This Present Paradise: A Spiritual Journey with St. Elizabeth of the Trinity. Contact the Parish Office for registration information - registration is due Sept. 14. Questions - sdccwinil@gmail.com
- **Volunteers needed for the St. John's Breadline to help serve 300 plus meals a day!** Multiple opportunities for daily volunteers: prep food, serve guests, wash dishes, clean, and ride along for deliveries. Background check and volunteer orientation required prior to service. Interested in volunteering or have further questions please contact: Patrick McConnell, Area Director Springfield Catholic Charities, 217-523-4551 ext.114 / mcconnell_spfld@cc.dio.org