

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 | TWENTY-SIXTH 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 39

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 VAHLING
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DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

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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.



Suffering with Others

In last week's article, we explored the importance of not turning away from suffering, as we are so tempted to do. Rather, by turning into our suffering, it can become a means by which we mature "through it and find meaning through union with Christ, who suffered with infinite love." (SS 37) In the next paragraph, Pope Benedict explains how accepting our own suffering not only helps us get through suffering, but it also equips us to assist others in their suffering. On this point, the Holy Father notes the impact that accepting personal suffering can have on the society in which we live:

A society unable to accept its suffering members and incapable of helping to share their suffering and to bear it inwardly through "com-passion" is a cruel and inhuman society. Yet society cannot accept its suffering members and support them in their trials unless individuals are capable of doing so themselves; moreover, the individual cannot accept another's suffering unless he personally is able to find meaning in suffering, a path of purification and growth in maturity, a journey of hope. (SS 38)

One who is unwilling to endure suffering themselves will be less likely to help others when they are suffering. But there are times when somebody close to us begins to suffer that we put aside our fear of suffering and enter into their suffering. Though we may not be experiencing the same suffering, nevertheless we suffer with the other person, and the Lord uses that experience of suffering in another to strengthen and purify us, even as we support the one who is suffering. Even if we cannot take away the suffering of another, our presence removes the particularly painful experience that so often accompanies suffering, loneliness and isolation.

I have a vivid memory of this from my childhood after I had a rather major surgery. I woke up very briefly in recovery, feeling a lot of pain and feeling scared. I did not even open my eyes, but I sensed somebody was there in the room. When the voice spoke, it was that of my mother, and though I still felt so uncomfortable, I fell back asleep in peace, knowing that she was there with me and that I was not alone. The following morning, I awoke early in the ICU, but nobody was there. I do not exactly remember how I felt physically, but there was an overwhelming sense of fear of being alone. The nurse assured me that my parents were on their way, and when they did arrive, I was able to be at peace again. Throughout my childhood, whenever I had to stay home due to being sick, which was always miserable, my mom was always there. Though she could not suffer what I was suffering, she was suffering with me and for me as only a mother can and her presence always made the experience much more bearable.

In that regard, we recently celebrated the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. This feast recalls the beautiful truth that as Jesus was dying, Mary stood by the Cross. Her standing signifies a posture of readiness to do whatever she could to help encourage her Son in His final hours. From the Cross, Jesus entrusted His mother to us when He said to her about St. John, and by extension, all of us: "Behold, your son." (Jn 19:26) Mary always stands close to us in our suffering, ready to offer her motherly encouragement, reminding us that we are never alone in our suffering. May that truth bring us true consolation, and may we imitate her example of standing ready to assist anybody who the Lord invites us to assist in their suffering.

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, September 29

7am - Judith Ansell
(Friends and Family)
5:15pm - Anita Bates
(Rosemarie Bates)

Tuesday, September 30

7am - Mary Ratna Kumari
(Family)
5:15pm - Barbara McGee
(McGee Family)

Wednesday, October 1

7am - Keegan McKeown
(Dcn David and Mary Beach)
5:15pm - Eulalia and Raymond Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Thursday, October 2

7am - Mary Agnes Tuxhorn
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)
5:15pm - Anita Bates
(Jack and Debbie Dunn)

Friday, October 3

7am - Judith Ansell
(James and Billie Langfelder)
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the
Rector Family (Janice Wray)

Saturday, October 4

8am - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
4pm - Deceased Members of the CCCW
(CCCW)

Sunday, October 5

7am - Claude & Frances Mitchell
(Jeff & Julie Mitchell)
10am - For The People
5pm - Anna Danner
(Catherine Madonia)



A question St. Augustine asks frequently throughout his many commentaries on the Psalms is, “Who is speaking here?” He reads the Psalms as prayers composed by a human author called the “psalmist,” and yet, they are also inspired by the Holy Spirit and destined to be prayed by many more people than just that psalmist, even one particular person known at first only to God. Insofar as they are inspired, the words of the Psalms come from the heart of God and are a true communication of the divine Word. This Word became flesh (John 1:14) in Jesus Christ, and therefore, the primary answer. St. Augustine gives to his question, “Who is speaking here?” is Jesus Christ, the Lord. He is speaking here.

Though Jesus is the one St. Augustine understands to be speaking in the Psalms, Jesus is not speaking alone. He speaks in, with, and through his body, the Church. St. Paul gives the seed of this teaching when he writes, “He [Christ] is the head of the body, the Church” (Colossians 1:18), and “Now you are the body of Christ, and individually members of it” (1 Corinthians 12:27). This teaching of St. Paul is something that St. Augustine reflected on very deeply. The image and reality of the Church as the body of Christ became the root of St. Augustine’s understanding of the speaker in the Psalms.

As he preaches on Psalm 61(60), especially the opening line, “O God, hear my plea, give heed to my prayer,” St. Augustine asks that very question: “Who is saying this? It sounds like a single person. But look at the next phrase, and you will see whether it can be only one: From the ends of the earth I have called to you, as my heart was wrung with pain. It cannot be one alone, then; yet it is one, because Christ is one, and all of us are his members” (Expositions of the Psalms 60.2, Translated by Maria Boulding). One person says this, and that one person is Christ, the head of the body. But, more than one person says it, and says it from the ends of the earth, because Jesus has joined a body (the Church) to himself.

St. Augustine calls this head and body unity the *totus Christus*, “the whole Christ.” Jesus is, in himself, a true person, and a divine person at that. He doesn’t need any additional body attached to him to make him complete and perfect. BUT, in a wonderful plan of salvation, he chooses to join human beings to himself in a mystical and sacramental union so that we become truly members (limbs) of his mystical body. We therefore share his divine life - the Father looks upon us as children, the life of the Holy Spirit dwells in our souls, and we are heirs to his Kingdom. We also, then, speak and act as Christ in our prayer and in our lives. A simple analogy is this: When my hand moves, I move; when a member of the body of Christ acts, Christ acts.

It is, therefore, not a stretch for St. Augustine to be able to say that Christ is the one speaking in the Psalms, always. Sometimes Christ the head alone speaks, sometimes a member of the body alone, but more often than not, he can say that Christ, head and members, speak as one. The whole Christ speaks. This teaching gives a whole new meaning to those words of the Mass, that we pray through Him, with Him, and in Him, to God the almighty Father.

Thanks be to God for this saving grace!

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

September 20th & 21st

Envelopes:	\$4,409.00
Loose:	\$4,673.00
Maintenance:	\$42.00
Total:	\$9,124.00

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

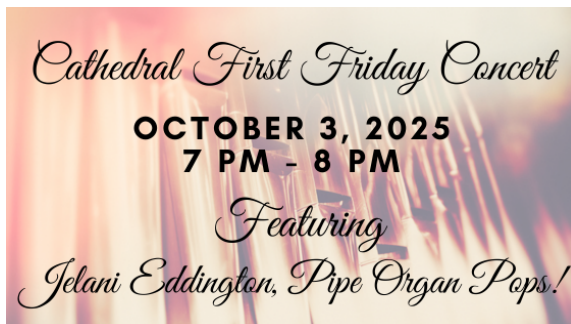
Weddings

Dylan Suhr & Kenzie Dowding
Married on September 20, 2025

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	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	Chanticleer Concert 7:00 PM Church	Family of Faith 6:00 PM Atrium
Spanish Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library		Rosary 4:45 PM Church		First Friday Concert 7:00 PM Church		
		Cathedral Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library	Adoration 4:00 PM Church			
		Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room				

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



First Friday Concert Series

Join us on Friday, October 3, 2025 at 7pm in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! February's concert will feature Jelani Eddington, Pipe Organ Pops! The First Friday Concert Series is sponsored by the Staab Family, directed by Mark Gifford, and is free and open to the public. All are welcome!



Chanticleer Concert at the Cathedral

The GRAMMY® Award-winning vocal ensemble Chanticleer is known around the world as "an orchestra of voices" for its wide-ranging repertoire and dazzling virtuosity, and will be performing at the Cathedral on Saturday, October 4, at 7:00 PM! Seating is General Admission, \$20 Adult Tickets, \$10 Student Tickets. Tickets are available for purchase online here: <https://dio.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/364/responses/new> For more information on Chanticleer, visit www.chanticleer.org.



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



Soctober Collection

It's that time of year ago again - SOCTOBER! The Ladies of the CCCW will once again collect new and gently used (include only those you would accept for your own family) socks, hats, and gloves. These items are shared with agencies serving homeless or at risk families and individuals of all ages who are in need. White baskets will be in the Atrium throughout the month of October for your donations. Thank you for your willingness to serve our most vulnerable brothers & sisters!

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 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!

OCIA Meal Volunteers

Each session of OCIA starts with a simple meal to build community. If you would be interested in providing a meal for approx. 12 people on a Tuesday evening, it would be greatly appreciated. Homemade or takeout, either is fine. Contact Vicki for more information or to schedule a date. vcompton@cathedral.dio.org, or 217/522-3342. THANK YOU!

Catholic Faith and Science

Join us for this video series, where Fr. Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D. walks us through the scientific evidence for God, philosophical proofs for God's existence, the historicity of Jesus' miracles and Resurrection, why an all-loving God would allow suffering, medical evidence for our transphysical soul, and more. This course will be facilitated by Fr. Brian Alford and is open to teens and adults.

Meeting twice monthly on Sundays, 6:15-7:30pm in the Cathedral atrium beginning September 28. The course is free, but a participant workbook will be sold for \$10. Register after all Masses August 30-31 or by emailing Vicki at vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or by calling the parish office 217/522-3342.

Eternal Rest: The Art of Dying Well

We all have very real questions about death. What happens when we die? What does Scripture teach about death? How do we prepare for the life to come? Explore the mystery of death, dying, and everlasting life through Eternal Rest, with Cathedral Women's Bible Study groups. Eternal Rest examines the origin of death, the afterlife, and the powerful reality around the sacrament that ushers us into eternal life. Eternal Rest presents the Catholic Church's teaching about death and God's response to it with wisdom and truth, gentleness and compassion, so we can think about and prepare for death in the light of Jesus Christ, the Author of life. Contact Vicki to reserve your place and order a workbook, \$13. vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or 217/522-3342

Thursdays, October 9, 16, 23, 30 @ 10:00am or 1:00pm in the Cathedral School Library



CANDLELIGHT VIGIL & HOLY HOUR IN MEMORY OF

*Pregnancy & Infant Loss
Awareness Month*

7:00 PM
OCTOBER 16, 2025

Holy Hour in Memory of Pregnancy & Infant Loss

The month of October has been designated Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month in the United States. The Church calls children "the supreme gift of marriage" (Gaudium et spes, n. 50). Losing a baby, whether through miscarriage or as an infant, is one of the deepest forms of grief and pain that a couple may endure. Unfortunately, many couples often suffer without any support, as in the case when a couple loses a child before sharing that they were pregnant with others, or insufficient support because family and friends are unsure of what to say or do because of the difficulty and often suddenness of losing one so young. The Cathedral will be hosting a Holy Hour on Thursday, October 16 at 7 pm to offer prayerful support to anybody who has been affected by one of these tragic losses.

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...

- **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.

T-Shirt Fundraiser - Sacred Heart in Virden

Celebrate the canonization of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Carlo Acutis and support diocesan vocations! 100% of profits from sales will support vocations to the priesthood in our diocese! Art by Fr. Daniel McGrath! 100% Cotton Navy T-shirts (Gildan - Heavy Cotton T-shirt, Unisex) Fundraiser hosted by Sacred Heart Church in Virden, IL. For questions, contact the parish office at secretary@sacredheart.dio.org or 217-965-4545. To order, visit www.sacredheartvirden.com

Baby Bottle Boomerang

It's time again for the Baby Bottle Boomerang in support of First Step Women's Center. On your way out of the church grab a bottle. Over the next few weeks fill it up with cash and checks and change and return it to the Cathedral by the end of the month. First Step provides compassionate, holistic care to women who are facing an unintended pregnancy. Thank you for your generosity!

Snow Days and Second Chances

Yesterday morning, my kids were playing outside in the snow, and I decided to take advantage of the quiet house to make a few important phone calls.

Fool. I forgot Murphy's Law of Parenting, which dictates that as soon as you dial a phone number, a bomb of irritation and neediness explodes within the heart of your loudest child. Sure enough, as soon as the person on the other end of the line picked up, my son was at the back door, whimpering loudly. Horror of horrors, he had snow in his boot.

I gestured to the phone. He whimpered more loudly. I mouthed and mimed threats. He threw his boot at me. I gave him The Look. He started to scream.

Well, needless to say, the phone call didn't go well, and my son's snow day was cut short. He begged for a second chance, but I explained to him that life doesn't always give you second chances. The phone call was over. Ruined. I couldn't get it back.

But that's when I remembered that moms have a superpower: creating second chances where none had existed before. So I told him that if he could be quiet while I made the rest of my calls, he could go back outside.

My son is young right now. I give him lots of second chances because second chances help him learn. Second chances are the training wheels of life.

I dread the day when the training wheels come off, and I can't save him from his bad decisions. I think every parent does.

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus highlights a reality that we often wish to ignore: at some point, we will run out of chances, and it's not because God tires of giving them to us. It's because a truly endless supply of chances would strip us of our free will. It would deny us the right of being taken at our word — and God respects us too much to do that.

My son saved his snow day. It's a good reminder: take the second (and third and fourth) chance. Don't wait for the next one.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
©LPi

Around the Diocese

- **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
- **Life Chain Sunday** will occur on October 5th from 2pm-3pm. Pro-Life prayer warriors will gather in quiet prayer as a public witness to the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. For more information, please call the Two Hearts PRC offices at 217-523-2700.
- **Men's Leadership Summit in Edwardsville**, Saturday, October 18th at St. Boniface Church in Edwardsville (110 N Buchanan St), featuring John Edwards, host of *Just a Guy in the Pew*. The purpose of this summit is to bring single and married men together to support one another, get inspired by their faith, gain or enhance leadership skills, and discuss best practices in men's ministry. Visit the [Men's Leadership Summit event page](#) to watch the John's powerful story and to register. Cost is \$30 which includes materials and a catered lunch. Questions? Contact Gracie at (217) 321-1124, or email gortiz@dio.org.
- **WIN \$100,000 with the SHG MEGA RAFFLE!** Tickets are on sale NOW! Purchase your ticket(s) at SHG.org. Early bird drawing is on Friday, October 24, and final drawing is on Friday, October 31. Thank you in advance for your support of SHG!
- **The Letter – A Faith in the Future Event**, Wednesday, November 19 at 5:30 p.m., Mission Outreach Warehouse, 4930 LaVerna Road. Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach is launching *Faith in the Future*, a series of events that will be focused on Catholic social teaching (care for creation and care of those who are poor or vulnerable) and specifically be geared toward young people in our Diocese who are Catholic or associated with a Catholic entity. We are delighted to invite you to our first *Faith in the Future* event, which will be a screening of the film *The Letter*, a movie documenting Pope Francis' invitation to Rome for four young environmentalists. This stunning film not only shares the stories of these advocates, but it also calls all of us to care for the Earth and celebrate the blessing from God that nature is.
- **Treasures of Italy Pilgrimage**, April 13-24, 2026, Hosted by Fr. R. Dean Probst. Visiting Venice, Florence, Assisi, Monopello, Lanciano, San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte Sant'Angelo, Sorrento, Pompeii, Monte Cassino, Rome with Papal Audience. \$5,299 from St. Louis. Contact Fr. Dean 217-494-6326 or rdprobst@gmail.com for more info or brochure.