

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

OCTOBER 12, 2025 | TWENTY-EIGHTH 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 41

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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



## Offer it Up

As he brings this section on learning hope through suffering, Pope Benedict offers a few words on the spiritual practice of “offering up” our minor daily hardships, a practice that “used to be a form of devotion—perhaps less practised today but quite widespread not long ago.” (SS, 40)

For those of you of a certain age reading this may recall your parents or religious sisters in school repeating that phrase over and over again, especially when they found you complaining about your problems. “Offer it up.” Sadly, that phrase was often not explained well, and it simply became synonymous for “get over it” or

“quit whining.” Acknowledging that this practice has suffered in the past from misguided or exaggerated forms of expression, the Holy Father pauses to question where there actually may be some value in revisiting this devotion. He offers the following reflection:

*What does it mean to offer something up? Those who did so were convinced that they could insert these little annoyances into Christ's great “com-passion” so that they somehow became part of the treasury of compassion so greatly needed by the human race. In this way, even the small inconveniences of daily life could acquire meaning and contribute to the economy of good and of human love. Maybe we should consider whether it might be judicious to revive this practice ourselves. (ibid.)*

A few months ago, I came across a podcast episode in The Road to Emmaus podcast hosted by Dr. Scott Hahn in which he interviewed Megan Hjelmstad on this very topic, referring to the book that she recently wrote, titled Offer It Up: Discovering the Power and Purpose of Redemptive Suffering (published by Emmaus Road Publishing). Dr. Hahn wrote of this book:

*In Offer It Up, Megan Hjelmstad transforms a trite slogan into an invigorating battle cry. Those who are suffering in mind or body, as well as their caretakers, will find ample encouragement to embrace their cross and participate more intimately in our Lord's saving mission. (<https://stpaulcenter.com/store/offer-it-up-discovering-the-power-and-purpose-of-redemptive-suffering>)*

Though I have not read the book, I was inspired by the interview. If you are reading this and are not too scarred from past admonitions to “offer it up”, perhaps this can be a good book for your spiritual reading. And if you do not have the time right now to read the book, perhaps listening to the interview would be a blessing. Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/i1Akj9DcLFw?si=iJJ-EHv6thJ4MgKg>. (or you could search for “The Guide Through Life's Struggles with Megan Hjelmstad and Scott Hahn” in YouTube and it should show up).

The line that really caught my attention toward the end of the interview came from words that Jesus shared with St. Faustina, the Apostle of Divine Mercy: “You will save more souls through prayer and suffering than will a missionary through his teachings and sermons alone.” (Diary of St. Faustina, no. 1764) May we never underestimate the power of suffering to teach us many important lessons and so be a means for growing in hope and being instruments of hope to others.

*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, October 13

7am - Mary Jane Kern  
(Estate)  
5:15pm - Don Smargiassi  
(Dcn Larry & Bev Smith)

### Tuesday, October 14

7am - Judith Ansell  
(James & Billie Langfelder)  
5:15pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl  
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

### Wednesday, October 15

7am - Elliot and Athena Huber  
(Rose Kehoe)  
5:15pm - Barbara McGee  
(McGee Family)

### Thursday, October 16

7am - Dale Grieser  
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)  
5:15pm - Andy & Marie O'Neill  
(Julie Berberet)

### Friday, October 17

7am - Judith Ansell  
(Friends and Family)  
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube  
(Friend)

### Saturday, October 18

8am - Doris Drago  
(Chrissy Maher)  
4pm - Stephanie Sandidge  
(Sue Sandidge)

### Sunday, October 19

7am - Bob Denton  
(Terese & Darrell Hurst)  
10am - Woody Woodhull  
(Munie Family)  
5pm - For the People





What can a spider teach us about prayer?

Spiders are one of those strange creatures that are both beautiful and frightening at the same time. They can be dangerous - and look the part! - But the traps they make for their prey, their webs, are some of the most delicately intricate structures in nature. I'm considering in particular here the orb-weaving spiders that make the wheel-like webs, though even other web shapes have a certain finesse to them.

A quick Google search provides the information that it takes anywhere from thirty to sixty minutes to create a good web. Many of these webs are then "recycled" daily - the spider may eat the old web and create a new one each evening. This process is a good deal of work for the arachnid, and provides a unique image for Christian prayer, specifically the prayer of meditation.

In the Latin text of Psalm 90, we read this curious phrase, "Anni nostri sicut aranea meditabantur." This can be translated, "Our years toiled around like a spider" (Translation found in St. Augustine, Expositions on the Psalms, 89.9). While St. Augustine comments on the actual meaning of the verse, I personally find the Latin text enlightening. The Latin translation of the Hebrew of the Psalm uses "meditabantur" to refer to the way a spider toils around its web. This word is the same word used for "consider" or "think about," and it is precisely where our word for "meditation" comes from.

When we meditate, we consider a subject from different angles. Like a spider travelling round and round its web as it is creating it, we look at the subject from all different points of view, over and over again. We ask different questions from as many different points of view as possible. This helps us to fully grasp the subject and truly understand it - in a way, to catch the prey of knowledge.

This is the process of Lectio Divina in a nutshell. This type of prayer refers to the meditative reading of scripture. We invite the Lord into our mind and our reading and then take time to consider the passage we have read. When we want to meditate fruitfully on a passage from scripture, we don't just read it once and leave it at that. No, we read it once, think about it for a bit, then read it again, and ask different questions about it. We may then read it again or even several more times in the course of the meditation.

The classic steps to Lectio Divina are

1. Lectio - Reading
2. Meditatio - Meditation
3. Oratio - Prayer
4. Contemplatio - Contemplation

While reading the passage is the first step, a reading of the passage generally also takes place before each of these steps. We turn the scripture over and over in our mind, considering it from different angles, asking questions, seeking answers, and trusting in the aid of the Holy Spirit. The spiders "meditate" daily over their webs - likewise, the more often we practice meditation, the easier it becomes.

There is one primary difference between prayerful meditation and a more natural meditation on any other subject: when we are praying, the "prey" we are attempting to catch is not simply new knowledge but rather a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through his Word.

May the Lord enlighten our minds and hearts and grant us the grace to drink deeply from his Word. Amen!

*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

### October 4th & 5th

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!

## Sacraments

### Weddings

Connor Londrigan & Sophie Quigg  
Married on September 13, 2025

Dylan Suhr & Makenzie Dowding  
Married on September 20, 2025

Zachary Scott & Brianna Klein  
Married on September 27, 2025

### Deaths

Margaret Elizabeth Strow  
Date of Death: September 23, 2025

Octavia "Tabby" M. Diaz  
Date of Death: September 22, 2025

Mary Don Frey  
Date of Death: September 15, 2025

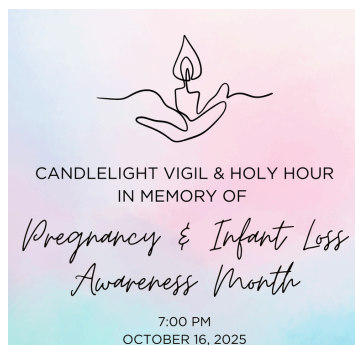
# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## WEEK OF OCTOBER 13

<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	Adoration 4:00 PM Church  OCIA 6:00 PM School Library	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library  Rosary 4:45 PM Church  Cathedral Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library  Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room	Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library  Adoration 4:00 PM Church  Holy Hour for Pregnancy & Infant Loss 7:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		Family of Faith & Faith and Science Series 6:00 PM Atrium

## What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



### 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.



### Documents of Vatican II, Continued

Mark your calendars for 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



## 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



## 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 October 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](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org), or 217/522-3342. THANK YOU!

## All Soul's Day Remembrance

The Church has encouraged prayer for the dead from the earliest times as an act of Christian charity. A special Mass of Remembrance will be offered at 7:00 pm, Monday, November 3, at the Cathedral, devoted to remembering and praying for those who have died during the past year as well as praying for the consolation of the family members who survive and grieve. Please call the parish office at 217-522-3342 if you would like attend and remember a loved one who has died during the past year. We will have a candle prepared and provide you with instructions for lighting the candle during the Mass of Remembrance.

## 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](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org), or 217/522-3342

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

## World Mission Month: A Call to Pray

As World Mission Month continues, we are invited not only to give but to pray for the Church in mission territories. One powerful way to do this is by praying the World Mission Rosary, introduced by Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen in 1951. Each decade is a different color, representing a region of the world. In Evangelii Nuntiandi, St. Pope Paul VI reminds us that prayer is the soul of all mission: "It is the Holy Spirit who, today just as at the beginning of the Church, acts in every evangelizer" (75). Through our prayers, we unite ourselves with missionaries bringing the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Let us offer our rosaries and Masses this week for those who bring Christ's love to the margins, often at great personal cost. And let us ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle the fire of hope in our own hearts, that we may also be missionaries, wherever we are. most.

## Knights of Columbus Upcoming Events

Putting Christ at the center of our lives through Charity, Unity and Fraternity.

- **October 18** - Men's Leadership Summit All men, not just Knights, are invited to a day-long conference at St. Boniface in Edwardsville. Deadline has been extended to October 10. Details are on our council website.
- **October 23** - Council Open House and Membership Meeting Learn about the benefits of membership in the Knights of Columbus as we welcome our Assistant General Agent Shaun Moore for a presentation about various insurance and investment products available for members and their families. All are welcome to join us at 7 PM on the first floor of the school.
- **November 20** - Annual Memorial Mass for Deceased Members We pray for those who have gone before us in faith at the 5:15 Mass.

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).

## 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](mailto:secretary@sacredheart.dio.org) or 217-965-4545. To order, visit [www.sacredheartvirden.com](http://www.sacredheartvirden.com)

## First Step Women's Center Saves Lives!

At the recent First Step banquet, First Step Director, Elmi Patton, reported that last year First Step provided to 289 patients...

- 211 Christ Centered Conversations
- 382 Appointments
- 336 Ultrasounds
- 3 Abortion Pill Reversals
- 16 Telecare Patients
- 236 Patients at risk for Abortion and

197 Patients Chose Life!!!!

Place your donation for this life-saving work in a baby bottle or envelope and return it to the collection basket. THANK YOU for helping First Step help women choose life.

## K of C Patriotic Rosary

The Bishop Griffin Knights of Columbus Assembly invites everyone in the parish to join them on Tuesday, November 11 (Veterans Day) at 12:15pm here at the Cathedral to pray a Patriotic Rosary.

## Your Faith Has Saved You

Your faith has saved you. These are the words I pray I will hear when my heart stops beating, when the last breath has left my lungs.

We hear Jesus say these words, or words like them, several times in the Gospels: to the woman bold enough to grasp for his cloak in a crowd, to the men who testify to their belief that he can restore their sight, to the leper kneeling before him in thanks.

These are some of my favorite passages in all of Scripture, because they illustrate so beautifully what salvific faith is — and what it is not.

It's so easy to think that I have done all the necessary work by simply believing. Yes, Christ is my Savior. Yes, the Church is his bride. Yes, this doctrine is true, that dogma is infallible, so on and so forth.

I believe! Well, so what? Satan believes, too. It doesn't do him any good.

The lepers had faith — so they begged Jesus to heal them. They had faith — so they followed his instructions and went to the priests. Their faith was sufficient to motivate these actions, which led to their physical healing. But only one had faith strong enough to understand that physical healing doesn't mean anything without spiritual results. Only one had enough faith to go back to the source of his healing and say, "Thank you. Now what?"

I have enough faith to know that God can heal me. But do I have enough faith to embrace the purpose for which He heals me?

If Jesus tells you that your faith has saved you, he isn't talking about faith as merely an internally held belief. In each of these Gospel passages, he's talking about faith as a conviction that is making itself seen. Heard. Felt. He's talking about an arm that is reaching for the hem of a garment, a voice that says "I believe" or a knee that is bent in gratitude.

He's talking about faith that is so strong it becomes action. This is the faith I hope I can have.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman  
©LPI

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## Around the Diocese

- **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](mailto:gortiz@dio.org).
- **Red Mass for Legal Professionals**, Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 10:15am at St. Boniface, 110 N. Buchanan St., Edwardsville. Bishop Thomas John Paprocki and Chief Judge Christopher P. Threlkeld invite all legal professionals and their families. Judges are invited to join the entrance procession in judicial robes. Brunch follows Mass at Bella Milano with Keynote speaker: Darren Price, Esq. RSVP by October 18 to Sarah Kreke: [skreke@st-boniface.com](mailto:skreke@st-boniface.com) or 618-656-6450.
- **WIN \$100,000 with the SHG MEGA RAFFLE!** Tickets are on sale NOW! Purchase your ticket(s) at [SHG.org](http://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!
- **Springfield Deanery, Council of Catholic Women Meeting**, Saturday, November 8th, 10 am, St. Peter's, Petersburg, IL. Speakers: Gina Gillmore-Wolter, on Saving New Salem, And Mary Stewart, on Pastoral Council and Subcommittees. Lunch provided by the St Peter's Ladies Group, donations appreciated! Deadline to RSVP is October 31st! Contact Mary Stewart at 217-341-7808 for more information. Deborah Pilapil, President, Spfld Deanery C CW. Register for the meeting on Signup Genius! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CACAC2BABFEC43-58907086-springfield>
- **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](mailto:rdprobst@gmail.com) for more info or brochure.