

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

OCTOBER 19, 2025 | TWENTY-NINTH 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 42

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 VERY REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING
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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



Judgment and Hope

As you read the title for this article, you might be slightly confused as these two words seem very different in nature. When we hear the word 'judgment' (particularly as it applies to the Last Judgment), we have a sense of uncertainty, even a bit of fear. On the other hand, hope almost always stirs a feeling of delight and peace.

With this next paragraph in *Spe salvi*, Pope Benedict begins the final section of the document, looking at how judgment is a setting for learning and practicing hope. It makes sense that he would save this for last, as judgment is indeed one of the Last Things. Instead of treating judgment as something overwhelmingly

negative, the pope invites the reader to see how our awareness of judgment is meant to influence how we live here and now, and that by living according to the Gospel, we can have great peace in believing that the promise of eternal rest, for which we hope, is something the Lord delights to give us after we complete our earthly pilgrimage. On this point, the Holy Father writes:

From the earliest times, the prospect of the Judgement has influenced Christians in their daily living as a criterion by which to order their present life, as a summons to their conscience, and at the same time as hope in God's justice. (SS, 41)

He then explains how these two topics – judgement and hope – were depicted in the artwork of Christian sacred buildings:

In the arrangement of Christian sacred buildings, which were intended to make visible the historic and cosmic breadth of faith in Christ, it became customary to depict the Lord returning as a king—the symbol of hope—at the east end; while the west wall normally portrayed the Last Judgement as a symbol of our responsibility for our lives—a scene which followed and accompanied the faithful as they went out to resume their daily routine. (ibid.)

This highlights an important awareness that we as Christians should always keep in mind, that there will come a time for all of us – at an “unknown day and unknown hour” (cf. Mt. 24:36) when the Lord will come to us and ask us for an account of our lives. This judgment known as the Particular Judgment, is described in the Catechism of the Catholic Church in the following words:

Each man receives his eternal retribution in his immortal soul at the very moment of his death, in a particular judgment that refers his life to Christ: either entrance into the blessedness of heaven—through a purification or immediately,—or immediate and everlasting damnation. (CCC 1022)

Admittedly, this sounds a little bit dark, but it does not have to, especially when we live as intentionally as possible the commandments of love of God and love of neighbor. This point is made in this paragraph of the Catechism, with a quote from St. John of the Cross: “At the evening of life, we shall be judged on our love.” (St. John of the Cross, Dichos 64) We believe that God is love (1 Jn 4:16), and that He has poured this love into our hearts (Rom 5:5), and that by remaining in that love (Jn 15:9-10), our hope in His Promise is firm, for He delights to give us the Kingdom. (Lk 12:32) Therefore, let us ask the Lord for the grace to persevere every day in that love of His, so that when we take our last breath, we will awaken to see Love Himself in the glory of Heaven.

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 20

7am - Judith Ansell
(James & Billie Langfelder)
5:15pm - Tom McGee
(McGee Family)

Tuesday, October 21

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

Wednesday, October 22

7am - Valdez-Johnstone Family
(Rosario Johnstone)
5:15pm - Kathleen & Jeff Porter Family
(Richard and Kay King)

Thursday, October 23

7am - Jan Burghart
(Rose Lenn)
5:15pm - Joseph 'Jerry' Stasukinas
(Sherry Smith)

Friday, October 24

7am - Judith Ansell
(Kelly & Elena Delaney)
5:15pm - Int for Doris Drago
(DA Drago)

Saturday, October 25

8am - Albert Crispi Jr.
(John Busciacco)
4pm - Michael Thomas
(Bob & Shirley Morgan)

Sunday, October 26

7am - Archie Harmon Sr.
(Archie Harmon)
10am - For The People
5pm - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)



After I was ordained a priest, I and a classmate took a camping trip out west to Glacier, Yellowstone, and the Grand Tetons National Parks. It was an amazing trip, and I loved looking at the mountains, a feature of the landscape we certainly don't have around here. I had never been so close to mountains before, and some of the sights left me in a state of wonder. One of the more beautiful aspects of the stony faces of the mountains was the way they reflected the sunlight. At different times of day, they appeared to be different colors, much like the clouds here in the Midwest.

During Mass this weekend, you'll hear from Psalm 121, which begins, "I lift up my eyes toward the mountains; whence shall help come to me? My help is from the LORD, who made heaven and earth." The Psalmist is searching for help as he makes his way up to Jerusalem, a sort of allegory for making his way up to Heaven from the depths of this earthly life. He needs (and we need!) a lot of help along the way. So, where do we turn for that help? Should we turn to the seemingly impregnable mountains? What are these mountains?

Saint Augustine can help us understand what is going on here in this Psalm by revealing a deeper spiritual meaning behind the words. He reads the mountains mentioned in this Psalm as the "great" figures of history, especially of salvation history - the patriarchs, prophets, saints, and holy ones of the scriptures. They can help us by giving us light, a light which comes from God alone.

We read,

"... the mountains do not give off light of their own. They transmit light from him of whom scripture says, He was the true light, which illumines every human person who comes into this world (Jn 1:9). We can take the mountains to be symbols of great and illustrious people. And is anything greater than John the Baptist? What a mountain he was! ...You can certainly see in him a lofty mountain bathed in light; but listen to [John's] confession: From his [God's] fullness we have all received (Jn 1:16). Help comes to you not from the mountains themselves but from him whose plenitude endows the mountains. All the same, unless you lift your eyes to the mountains through the scriptures, you will not be brought near to be illuminated by him" (St. Augustine, Expositions of the Psalms, 120.4).

St. Augustine calls us to keep our eyes fixed on the "mountains" by looking to the examples and words of the holy people in the scriptures. At the same time, we have to recognize that our true help does not come from these people but from God alone. In God alone is the light that fills us with life. In God alone is sure salvation. We need the models of grace so that we can be built up in faith, but they don't give us life. As we continue through the Psalm, we hear that the Lord alone guards us without sleeping, and that he will never fail us.

May we put our trust in the Lord always. He stands beside us to keep us safe from all evil. He gives us great models, mountains of holiness, to serve as beacons who reflect the saving light of God. Lord, help us keep our eyes fixed on these mountains and the many beautiful ways they reflect your light - the light that gives us life. 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 11th & 12th

Envelopes:	\$3,688.00
Loose:	\$3,074.00
Maintenance:	\$102.00
Total:	\$6,864.00

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

Baptisms

Phoebe Eliot Job
Child of Genesis & Kristina Job
Baptized on September 28, 2025

WEEK OF OCTOBER 20

<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 Spanish Bible Study 6:00 PM Parish Library	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Rosary 4:45 PM Church Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room	Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church CCCW Meeting 6:00 PM School Hall K of C Meeting 6:00 PM School Classroom Vatican II Adult 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**

SEPTEMBER 18, OCTOBER 23,
NOVEMBER 20, AND DECEMBER 11
7:00 PM
CATHEDRAL ATRIUM

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



ALL SOULS DAY MASS

**MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 3
7:00PM**

All Soul's Day Remembrance Mass

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.



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



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!

Today is World Mission Sunday!

Today, every parish across the globe joins together for the only worldwide collection mandated by Canon Law—World Mission Sunday. Your generosity today supports the Pope's missions in more than 1,124 territories where the Church is young or struggling. This year's theme—"Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples"—is a call to embody the love of God, poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 5:5). Your offering today provides hope where despair too often dominates—through the building of churches, formation of seminarians and religious sisters, healthcare clinics, and Catholic schools. Thank you for responding with faith, love, and generosity. As Pope Francis told us, "Each of us is a mission on this earth" (Evangelii Gaudium, 273). Together, we share in that mission by ensuring that no one is excluded from the invitation to encounter Christ.

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.

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

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!

Knights of Columbus Upcoming Events

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

- **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, 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

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.

The Prayers We Don't Say

It has always confused me: why a judge?

Jesus could have compared prayer to the subject who requests a gift of his king. He could have compared it to the child who asks a favor of a parent. But in the parable of the widow and the judge, Jesus compares prayer — specifically constant, unwearied prayer — with the marginalized person who doggedly pursues her claim through an unforgiving legal system.

It's not a rosy or reassuring picture. So what is he trying to tell us?

Unlike a king or a parent, a judge has strictly drawn lines which he cannot, under any circumstances, cross. He can only help people who bring their case to court. Even good, earnest judges cannot render justice if charges are not brought.

God is all-powerful. But that doesn't make Him a meddler. He will not force his way into our problems. What would be the point? What is our life on earth for, if it is not to teach us how to turn willingly to God, in every instance — adoration, gratitude, need?

Today, I sat down and made a list of problems I don't pray about. When I was done, I looked at the list and asked myself: why not? Why don't I pray about these things? Some are huge issues over which I have absolutely no control, and prayer feels futile. Some are small grievances I never even considered mentioning to God.

If I prayed about them all, my life would be totally consumed by prayer. Constant, unwearied prayer. The kind of prayer Jesus calls me to in the parable of the widow and the judge: continual surrender of myself to the mysterious, limitless power of God.

Praying that way could make me tired. The widow was tired, too — but she kept bringing her charges. She got justice. And her judge wasn't even a nice guy.

So say the prayer. Bring the charges. Our judge is one who wants to help, but He won't overstep His bounds.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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Around the Diocese

- **Women's Day of Recollection**, Thursday, October 23, at Sacred Heart Church (730 S. 12th St., Springfield), from 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. There will be a meditation given by a priest, time for silent prayer and reflection, a doctrinal talk, and Benediction. Confession and spiritual direction with the priest will be available. All women throughout the diocese are invited to attend. The spiritual guidance at the Recollection is entrusted to a priest of the Prelature Opus Dei.
- **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 or 618-656-6450.
- **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!
- **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 CCW. 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 for more info or brochure.