

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

OCTOBER 26, 2025 | THIRTIETH 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 43

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THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI  
NINTH BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.  
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THE REVEREND DANIEL MCGRATH  
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



## Justice and Hope

As he continues this section on judgment as a setting for hope, Pope Benedict brings up the atheism that emerged in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. He explains that the growth of this rejection of the belief in God is due in part to the reaction to the injustices present in the world. He writes:

*A world marked by so much injustice, innocent suffering, and cynicism of power cannot be the work of a good God. A God with responsibility for such a world would not be a just God, much less a good God. It is for the sake of morality that this God has to be contested. Since there is no God to create justice, it seems man himself is now called to establish justice. (SS 42)*

If there is no God to determine what constitutes justice, according to this line of thought, then it falls to human beings to determine justice. From the Christian perspective, we know this to be dangerous, for our humanity, wounded by Original Sin, is prone to error and division. This has played out, unfortunately, in tragic ways when human beings have taken control of defining and enforcing justice according to their standard of ethics and morality. In light of this point, the Holy Father concludes soberly: "A world which has to create its own justice is a world without hope." (ibid.)

Perhaps you have encountered individuals, such as co-workers, friends, or family members who have concluded that God must not exist for similar reasons to those listed above. If God is good, how can He permit these things to happen? It is sometimes easier to decide that there is no God than to wrestle with the mystery of how God can be present while there are so many bad things that have happened, and continue to happen, with little hope that the situation will get better.

In his Letter to the Romans, St. Paul writes: "We believe that all things work for the good for those who love God and are called according to His purposes." (Rom 8:28) It takes a lot of faith to believe this is true, that it applies to all things, even the worst tragedies. How that will come about is certainly not clear, but the promise is given to us by the Holy Spirit speaking through the Word of God.

As Christians, words like this and many others from the Scriptures give us good ground for hope, a hope that in the end, God's justice will indeed triumph, a justice that always makes room for mercy. But our belief in how God will resolve all things for the good does not give us permission to disengage and just let God work it all out. Rather, we are invited to commit to cooperating with God in bringing about a more just and more merciful world by living according to the Gospel which alone has the power to transform society in a true and lasting way. Though we may not always see the immediate results, and in fact, we may see things getting worse, nevertheless we continue to strive to bring the Gospel values to the world around us, trusting that the Lord can and will use what seems so insignificant in our eyes to serve His Providential plan for our good and for the salvation of the world.

*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 27

7am - Barbara McGee  
(McGee Family)  
5:15pm - Armando & Anna Wanda  
Chiaradonna (Geny Chiaradonna)

#### Tuesday, October 28

7am - Lambert Fleck Sr.  
(Gregory & Marie Fleck)  
5:15pm - John Jageosh Jr.  
(Barbara Brauer)

#### Wednesday, October 29

7am - Puring Garde  
(Family)  
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the  
Kennedy Family (Janice Wray)

#### Thursday, October 30

7am - Brother Francis Skube  
(Friend)  
5:15pm - Karen & Justin Howard  
(Richard & Kay King)

#### Friday, October 31

7am - Bill Vogt  
(Haley Dutton)  
5:15pm - Judith Ansell  
(Rebecca Cole)

#### Saturday, November 1

8am - Joseph 'Jerry' Stasukinas  
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)  
4pm - Judith Hubbell  
(Family)

#### Sunday, November 2

7am - For The People  
10am - Woody Woodhull  
(Rebecca Woodhull)  
5pm - Dan Sexson  
(Sharon Sexson)





As the world around us becomes Autumn, we begin to recall the fleeting nature of life. The days have shortened and continue to shorten, and the weather is becoming more bitter as we approach the winter. As the leaves fall off our deciduous trees and the grass turns more and more beige, we can't help but see that the structure of life includes a thing we call "death." True, the trees are not actually dying, but their external life is going to sleep.

It is fortunate for us that the world continues this steady cycle of seasonal change. With modern conveniences like heating, cooling, transportation, etc., not much of the regularity of our daily lives actually changes with the turn of the season. We can live under the illusion that things will just keep on running as they always have. Still, as human beings who change and who one day will undergo a truly substantial change in death, we need the reminder that life here is not going to last forever.

For the Christian, however, this reminder does not come without hope. Autumn is followed by Winter, an even bleaker season, but then comes Spring! Spring always comes, life seeps back into the landscape with every budding leaf and flower. The death of Fall awaits its Springtime, and our own natural death awaits a future resurrection. We place our hope in Christ. We have the faith that after the decline of our life and our future death, our Lord will appear like the warmth of the sun in Spring to raise our bodies to new life, never to die again.

I offer you a poem on this theme, the falling Autumn leaves:

They fall... and silhouettes  
And twigs and limbs of wooden beasts  
Are left to break the white-gray sky.

They fall... some green, maroon,  
Orangeish brown warm colored  
Lifeless engines of life - their hue  
Suspended in time by the chilled  
And buoyant breath  
Of nature.

Some stay... a gradient of death  
Attached to the skeleton that remains,  
Still, moved by nothing  
But the sharp and constant breath  
Of the north.

Frozen structures devoid of feeling,  
Growth, and color; dormant  
Waiting for life and light. Asleep  
Till boldened by the springtime sun.

## Stewardship of Treasure

### October 18th & 19th

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!

*Fr. Daniel McGrath is a Parochial Vicar of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and serves as Chaplain of Sacred Heart-Griffin High School.*

## WEEK OF OCTOBER 27

<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	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library	Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		Family of Faith - Faith & Science Series 6:00 PM Atrium
Spanish Bible Study 6:00 PM Parish Library	OCIA 6:00 PM School Library	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church			
		Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room				

## 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 Nov 20 and Dec 11, as Fathers Brian Alford and Daniel McGrath 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](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



## 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 27. All sessions will be conducted in Spanish only. All are welcome!

## Mission Does Not End with October

As we conclude World Mission Month, we remember that the Church's missionary work is ongoing. Our baptismal call to share the Gospel continues beyond this season, inviting us to remain engaged—through prayer, storytelling, and generous action. The first World Mission Sunday was celebrated nearly a century ago in 1926. The need today remains urgent: missionaries still serve in remote villages, conflict zones, refugee camps, and urban slums. They bring more than aid—they bring Jesus Christ. As St. Paul VI reminded us 50 years ago in his historic exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi*: "The Church exists in order to evangelize" (14). We are grateful for your support this October—and we invite you to continue the journey. Subscribe to Mission Magazine, join us in praying the World Mission Rosary year-round, and stay connected to the Pope's missions through [www.pontificalmissions.org](http://www.pontificalmissions.org). Hope does not disappoint—and the world still needs hope.

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

- **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)

## Cathedral Meal Train

Thank you to everyone who has brought in meals for the Bishop and Cathedral Clergy over the past year! If you are interested in volunteering in this ministry, keep an eye out for available dates for the first half of 2026 (January-June). In an effort to allow multiple volunteers to participate in this ministry, we ask all volunteers to limit sign-ups to no more than 4 dates per month. We also ask that meals be delivered to the rectory by 3:00pm on the chosen dates. Entrees should feed 5 to 6 people; sides are welcome, but not necessary, and please, no desserts.

## Baby Bottle Thank you!

First Step Women's Center thanks you this Respect Life Month for your generous donations through the baby bottle campaign. Your gifts will help women facing a difficult pregnancy choose life for her baby. Any remaining baby bottles can be returned in the collection basket or to the parish office. THANK YOU!

## Tunnel Vision

There are some parents on the playground I really can't stand.

You know them, probably, if you're a parent, or if you're not, you know a different version of them. They'll tell you about how their little Brayden is a bilingual violin prodigy who sleeps through the night and only ever asks to snack on vegetables. But as soon as Brayden starts to chase your screaming kid with a stick, they're conveniently scrolling on their phone, unaware.

You're not irritated that their kid is smarter than yours and likes veggies (well, maybe you are, a little). You're irritated that they have tunnel vision. In striving for perfection, they have become unable to acknowledge imperfections.

If you're reading this, you're probably in church. If you're in church, you're probably someone who is concerned with what is right and what is wrong. I've got news for you: that might just make you (and me) more at risk of being like Brayden's parent than the people who stayed home today.

Unclutch your pearls! It was good of you to come to Mass. Definitely keep doing that. That's the right choice. Just don't forget that in making the right choice, we don't become righteous.

Look, I'm not going to lie to you. Sometimes, it's my kids who are doing the chasing with the stick. They're kids, and kids do dumb things, just like everyone else. And maybe it's because they hate vegetables and sleep terribly that I'm less reluctant than Brayden's mom to admit their mistakes. It's a hard fall from the pedestal.

If we're churchgoing followers of Christ, we are hopefully people who earnestly want to do the right thing. Maybe, sometimes, we do exactly that. The Pharisee did the right thing sometimes. He fasted. He tithed. But he gazed so long at his own holiness that he became blinded by it. He stood before God, and he could only think of what he had done right.

We need to stay vigilant, folks. Just when you look away, that's when Brayden grabs the stick.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman  
©LPi

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## Around the Diocese

- **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>
- **An Advent Journey with Mary our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph**, Pre-Advent Mission, Sunday, November 9 and Monday, November 10, 6:30pm, Christ the King Church, Springfield, presented by Fr. Mark Tracy and Dennis Trickey. Nov 9 - candlelight Adoration after the mission talk, Nov 10 - fellowship social in the parish hall
- **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.