

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 2, 2025 | THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS)



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 44

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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



## Last Judgment has the Final Word

As Pope Benedict continues his reflection on the judgment as a setting for learning and practicing hope, he addresses the First Commandment, which says: "shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." (Ex 20:3-4) He notes in particular the prohibition of any images which was basically idolatry. In light of that prohibition, the Holy Father then writes: "God has given himself an 'image': in Christ who was made man. In him who was crucified, the denial of false images of God is taken to an extreme." (SS 43) He then continues:

*God now reveals his true face in the figure of the sufferer who shares man's God-forsaken condition by taking it upon himself. This innocent sufferer has attained the certitude of hope: there is a God, and God can create justice in a way that we cannot conceive, yet we can begin to grasp it through faith. Yes, there is a resurrection of the flesh. There is justice. There is an "undoing" of past suffering, a reparation that sets things aright. (ibid.)*

Because of Christ's Resurrection, we are able to look at the world through different eyes, especially when we are faced with so many examples of suffering and injustice. From a purely human perspective, those examples seem too much to overcome, that there is no way that all of these can be set aright. The Holy Father explains that because of Christ's Resurrection and the upcoming Last Judgment, the injustices of history do not have the final word. Rather, we can turn to the Word of God Himself as He speaks about the Final Judgment as recorded in the final chapter of the Book of Revelation: "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense, to repay every one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Rev 22:12-13) It is this final end and in this final promise that we place our hope, and with that, we can say in faith: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20)

As a reminder, the month of November is a time when we pray especially for the Poor Souls in Purgatory, who are assured of the hope of eternal life in Heaven and who rely on our prayers to help them to realize that hope. A plenary indulgence for the Poor Souls is available from November 1-8 when we visit any cemetery and pray for them. A plenary indulgence also requires that the person have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, that they sacramentally confess their sins, that they receive Holy Communion, and that they pray for the intentions of the Holy Father. Regarding these conditions, the Church has clarified:

*It is appropriate, but not necessary, that the sacramental Confession and especially Holy Communion and the prayer for the Pope's intentions take place on the same day that the indulgenced work is performed; but it is sufficient that these sacred rites and prayers be carried out within several days (about 20) before or after the indulgenced act. Prayer for the Pope's intentions is left to the choice of the faithful, but an "Our Father" and a "Hail Mary" are suggested. One sacramental Confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but a separate Holy Communion and a separate prayer for the Holy Father's intentions are required for each plenary indulgence. (cf. Apostolic Penitentiary, Prot. N. 39/05/l)*

*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, November 3

7am - Larry and Bev Hoffman  
(Leo and Norma Dougherty)  
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the Chiaradonna Family  
(Geny Chiaradonna)  
7pm - Recently Departed-All Souls Day

#### Tuesday, November 4

7am - Margaret Vaplon Miller  
(Eric and Joanna Miller)  
5:15pm - John and Catherine Teter  
(DA Drago)

#### Wednesday, November 5

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

#### Thursday, November 6

7am -John and Edith Bakalar  
(John Busciaccho)  
5:15pm - Mary Jane Kern  
(Estate)

#### Friday, November 7

7am - Larry Freeman  
(Steil Brothers)  
5:15pm - Karen Bucari  
(Alan Bucari)

#### Saturday, November 8

8am - Mary E. Steil  
(Steil Family)  
4pm - For The People

#### Sunday, November 9

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(Bill Midden)  
10am - Michael Thomas  
(Bob and Shirley Morgan)  
5pm - Deceased Members of the CCCW  
(CCCW)





How many people are in the Church?

I think most people answering that question would do a quick Google search and find that there are about 2.5 billion Christians around the world, around 1.4 billion of which are Catholic. That would be a good answer, and even those numbers are staggering. Still, that answer would be technically and truthfully incomplete.

What is the Church? As St. Paul tells us in his letter to the Corinthians, "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it" (12:27). The Church then, is most basically the body of Christ - those human beings who have been joined to him by the saving grace of Baptism, the infusion of the Holy Spirit, and the bond of Charity. This unity is far deeper than the unity of a club or social organization, though it is more distinct than the unity of the parts of a physical body. As members of the Church, we make up a mystical body of Christ.

It is true, therefore, that all 2.5 billion Christians on earth are in some way tied to this body, at various levels of "attachment." As Catholics, we joyfully believe that we possess all the sacramental means of remaining rooted in this body, as well as the fullness of the Truth that Jesus desires to light our way as members of his body. The body, however, is even bigger than this!

In fact, the Church has always maintained that our "membership" with the body is not ended after death. Heaven itself can simply be seen as an ultimate and perfected union with Christ's body. All those in Purgatory too, those who will be in heaven but are in need of further purification after death, are members of this body.

If this is true (and it is!), then the answer to that question, "How many people are in the Church?" is a number far higher than we can count. Every human being who has died in the grace of God now lives as a member of Christ's body in eternal life.

Yesterday, the Church celebrated the feast of All Saints, on which we remember all those who are currently in Heaven. We recognize our unity with them still and our ability to relate to them, speak to them, and rely on their prayers for us. They are perfectly united with Jesus and await our ever deeper union with them during our lives on Earth and one day in Heaven with them.

Today, the Church celebrates the feast of All Souls, on which we remember all those who have died in God's grace but are still being purified. They joyfully suffer this purification as their souls near the eternal rest of Heaven. We recognize our unity with them still and our ability to pray for them.

A couple weeks ago I explained that St. Augustine taught that we, the body, are all one with Christ our Head. He called this unity the *totus Christus* - "the whole Christ." We see through today's teaching that this *totus Christus* includes not only all those members of the earthly pilgrim Church, but also the suffering Church of Purgatory, and the triumphant Church of Heaven. We are one body, one Church, united in Christ. We pray for one another, we speak to one another, and we await a true and lasting union in Heaven with our Head, Jesus Christ.

The proper response to the magnitude of this reality is wonder and awe! I pray that you only grow to appreciate this unity more and more. God bless you on this All Souls Day.

*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 18th & 19th

Envelopes:	\$4,540.00
Loose:	\$3,608.84
Maintenance:	\$91.00
Total:	\$8,239.84

Online Giving: If you would like to extend a special gift to the Cathedral, please visit our website. Our parish is grateful for your continued support.

Thank you!

## WEEK OF NOVEMBER 2

<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		
Spanish Bible Study 6:00 PM Parish Library		Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	First Friday Concert 7:00 PM Church		
All Souls Remembrance Mass 7:00 PM Church		Cathedral Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library				
		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



## Lectura Bíblica en Español

Únete cada lunes a las 6:00 p.m. en la biblioteca de la Catedral para compartir y meditar la Palabra de Dios en comunidad. Te invitamos a traer tu Biblia y un corazón dispuesto a escuchar al Señor. Todos son bienvenidos. "Tú palabra es lámpara para mis pasos y luz en mi camino." (Salmo 119:105). Favor de confirmar su participación con Rosario Johnstone al 217-793-9776.

## Bible Reading in Spanish

Join us every Monday at 6:00 p.m. in the Cathedral Library to share and reflect on the Word of God in community. Please bring your Bible and an open heart to listen to the Lord. All are welcome. "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." (Psalm 119:105) Please confirm your participation with Rosario Johnstone at 217-793-9776.

## Second Collection - Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

Our parish will take up the Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS), next weekend, a collection approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to be taken every three years. The AMS provides pastoral care to Catholic men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, enrolled at a U.S. Military Academy, being treated as a patient at any of the 153 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, or who work for the federal government beyond U.S. borders - including those from our own parish and diocese. The AMS does not receive any funding from the government or military, and has no parishes from which to receive a weekly assessment. To learn more about the AMS, go to [www.milarch.org/nationalcollection](http://www.milarch.org/nationalcollection)

## 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.

## 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)

## Knights of Columbus Upcoming Events

Carrying the vision of Blessed Michael McGivney at the Cathedral parish! Here are some upcoming activities and initiatives of the Council.

- **November 8** - Fellowship Breakfast at Star 66, 8 AM
- **November 11** - join the Bishop Griffin Assembly for a Patriotic Rosary at Noon in the Cathedral Church
- **November 20** - Annual Memorial Mass for Deceased Members at the 5:15 Mass followed by a potluck meal and meeting. Vocation Raffle Tickets are due at this time. Online sales are open until Nov. 30.
- **November 24** - Thanksgiving Baskets with Catholic Charities, details to be announced
- **November 30** - 5th Sunday Rosary after the 10:00 AM Mass in the Cathedral Church
- **Special Request!** Mission Outreach is in need of new or gently used reading glasses. Look for information about a donation drive in December in conjunction with the Feast of St. Lucy, patroness for people with visual impairments

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).

## 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!

## 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.

## The Semicolon

My grave is in the corner of a cemetery in rural southeastern Wisconsin. For at least a mile in every direction, all you can see is farmland — cows, barns and quiet country roads. It's beautiful, serene. I imagine the hand of God writing me into existence — she lived, she died — using for ink the very dirt that fills this grave. The dust from which I was created.

Surrounding my grave are the burial plots of other family members — Rachel, Georgiana, Julian, Josephine. I visit the cemetery to pray for them, knowing they are there, but also not there. And when I visit their graves, I stand on my own. I look out at the tree-lined horizon and the farmland. I think of how, in a thousand years, none of this will be here. But I will be here, God's hand paused against the page, preparing to write the rest of the story not in dirt but in his own blood. For Christ does not lose anything of what the Father has given him.

Not a soul. Not a bone. Not a lock of hair.

She lived, she died; she lived again. No longer is there a period after the words she died but instead a semicolon. And the semicolon is the grave, that mystical place where the Blood mixes with the dust of the earth, where life meets death, and then meets life again. And the story continues

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

©LPi

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## Around the Diocese

- **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.