

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 9, 2025 | FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA IN ROME



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 45

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



Image of the Last Judgment

Now that we are in the month of November, the Church, especially in her liturgy, invites us to reflect on the Four Last Things: death, judgment, Heaven, and Hell. All of them are related, for when death comes for each of us, as it most certainly will, we will undergo a judgment. At that judgment, known as the Particular Judgment, we will be evaluated based on love, whether we are in a position of loving God and our neighbor at that point when our earthly journey comes to an end. For those who die in God's friendship, having accepted His invitation to grace, they will be admitted into Heaven. For those who have rejected that invitation, even in one's final moment when the Lord pleads for them to accept His mercy, their final

destination will be Hell. Note that Purgatory is not listed among the Last Things, for there is no finality in Purgatory. Purgatory is a place of transition where those who have died in friendship with Christ, before being admitted to Heaven, are purified from any remaining effects of sin not purged away through penance in this life.

There is also the Last Judgment, which the Catechism describes in these words:

The Last Judgment will come when Christ returns in glory. Only the Father knows the day and the hour; only he determines the moment of its coming. Then through his Son Jesus Christ he will pronounce the final word on all history. We shall know the ultimate meaning of the whole work of creation and of the entire economy of salvation and understand the marvellous ways by which his Providence led everything towards its final end. The Last Judgment will reveal that God's justice triumphs over all the injustices committed by his creatures and that God's love is stronger than death. (CCC 1040)

This description is a helpful companion to what Pope Benedict has been writing about in this last section of *Spe salvi* on judgment as a setting for learning hope. the Holy Father writes in the next paragraph:

The image of the Last Judgement is not primarily an image of terror, but an image of hope; for us it may even be the decisive image of hope. Is it not also a frightening image? I would say: it is an image that evokes responsibility, an image, therefore, of that fear of which Saint Hilary spoke when he said that all our fear has its place in love. God is justice and creates justice. This is our consolation and our hope. And in his justice there is also grace. (SS 44)

I find the pope's invitation to see how the image of the Last Judgment evokes a sense of responsibility to be helpful. The judgment is related to justice in that justice is one receiving what is their due. We take responsibility for our actions, for maintaining our relationship with the Lord, with how we live the commandment of loving our neighbor and working for a more just world. At the same time, we know that we do not earn our salvation, for that is a pure gift, or grace, that the Lord gives to us. That grace, however, is something we have the responsibility of accepting and living throughout our lives. May we not fear the idea of judgment, but may we take it seriously, living intentionally to know, love, and serve God and our neighbor in this life, so that when this life comes to an end and we are judged on how we have loved, we may hope to be forever happy with God and all of the saints forever in 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, November 10

7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Community)

5:15pm - Joe and Mary Schweska
(McGee Family)

Tuesday, November 11

7am - Judith Ansell

(Friends and Family)

5:15pm - Shirley Logan
(Lisa Logan/Lori Logan Motyka)

Wednesday, November 12

7am - Cynthia Crispi

(John Busciacco)

5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway
(Robert Gasaway)

Thursday, November 13

7am - David Lucchesi

(John Lucchesi)

5:15pm - Joseph Reichle
(Lou Ann Mack and Carl Corrigan)

Friday, November 14

7am - Barbara McGee

(McGee Family)

5:15pm - Intention for Bianca
(DA Drago)

Saturday, November 15

8am - Judith Ansell

(Kelly and Elena Delaney)

4pm - Pamela Harmon
(Archie Harmon)

Sunday, November 16

7am - Susan Denton

(Terese and Darrell Hurst)

10am - Mercedes and Charles Nesbitt

(Kathy Frank)

5pm - For The People



Today, the church celebrates the dedication of the Basilica of the Lateran in Rome. While that church is very special and is one of the great wonders of Catholic Rome, today's celebration is not simply focused on this particular church. Today, as we celebrate the dedication of the Lateran Basilica, we remember that the Church is not merely a building.

To be fair, we are blessed with our church buildings - they are beautiful structures that are the house of God and a place for us to worship. This is the purpose of the Church building - to be a house for God and his people to gather, and to be a place to offer sacrifice.

The more fundamental "Church," however, is "built of living stones" - it is the body of Christ made up of Jesus, our head, and us, his members. We thankfully have our beautiful buildings to properly worship God, but they aren't "the Church." What happens in our worship of God in these buildings is the offering of Jesus Christ and our worship of the Father through Him, with Him, and in Him. At Mass, Jesus offers this worship to his heavenly father, and we are invited to participate in his offering. True worship is when we participate in the offering of Jesus from the depths of our hearts.

"You yourself," St. Paul tells us, "are the temple of the living God." You and I are God's temple, and we are built upon Jesus Christ as our foundation. We share his Holy Spirit, and our hearts are living altars of sacrifice. We place our prayer intentions upon our hearts; we lift up every moment of our day upon the altar of our hearts. This is a very priestly thing to do, but it is not only for ordained priests to do. This is the job of every Christian, because we all share in the common priesthood of Jesus Christ.

This idea of the altar of the heart in no way detracts from the necessary and saving action of Christ on the cross presented to us on the altar at Mass. In fact, it should serve, rather, to heighten our awareness of our ability to participate in Christ's offering. At the offertory, the priest looks out and says to the people gathered together, "Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father." The inclusion of those two words, "and yours," is very intentional. We bring a sacrifice to the altar too, and we can place our own sacrifice, spiritually, upon the altar at Mass.

Therefore, to cultivate a habit of continually setting our lives upon the altars of our own hearts is a perfect preparation for weekly or daily Mass. This is simply another way of stating the age-old "offer it up!" As Saint Peter tells us, "...like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." As baptized Christians, we are this holy priesthood, and every moment of our life can be offered up as a spiritual sacrifice upon the altar of our hearts (in prayer), and then at the altar of the Mass (in union with Christ's offering to the Father).

God receives this offering with great love, and he pours out blessings on our lives when we offer ourselves and our families to him. We give you today, O Jesus our king, all the trials, works, joys, and happiness of our daily life. We ask you to pour out your blessings upon all the members of our families, absent and present, living and dead. When one after another we will have fallen asleep in death, may all of us in heaven find our family reunited in your Sacred Heart. Amen. (this final prayer adapted from a prayer of consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus)

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

November 1st & 2nd

Envelopes:	\$4,019.00
Loose:	\$2,726.44
Maintenance:	\$2,529.00
Total:	\$9,274.44

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

Emmett Timothy Wieber
Child of Caleb & Sarah Wieber
Baptized on November 2, 2025

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF NOVEMBER 10

<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	Patriotic Rosary 12:15 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	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church			
	OCIA 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



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



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.

MERCY Communities Food Drive

At MERCY, we take great pride in ensuring that our clients and their families have the necessities they need to thrive. Unfortunately, with the potential continuation of the federal government shutdown beyond October 28, we are deeply concerned that many of our clients will face significant food insecurity in November. Nearly all of our families rely on federal assistance programs such as SNAP, WIC and TANF (Temporary Aid for Needy Families). While MERCY maintains a modest monthly budget to supplement families' food needs through the Central Illinois Foodbank and other sources, this fund would be quickly depleted if we were required to meet all food needs in November and possibly beyond. MERCY Communities is dedicated to addressing the crisis of family homelessness by providing housing and supportive services to foster the independence of homeless women with children and at-risk women with children. Items needed: canned fruit, vegetables and meat, soups, stews, chili, peanut butter and jelly, cereal, baking mixes, rice, pasta, flour, sugar, oatmeal, boxed meals. Thank you for your generosity.

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 or 217-965-4545. To order, visit www.sacredheartvirden.com

Knights of Columbus Upcoming Events

Did you know that one of the benefits of membership in the Knights of Columbus is access to a portfolio of top-quality life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability income insurance and annuity products? Even if a member does not participate in the insurance program, the Knights of Columbus offers an Accidental Death Benefit for members and spouses at no cost. Join online at <http://kofc.org/join> and use council number 16126 or meet some of the members at any of the upcoming activities below:

- **November 11** - join the Bishop Griffin Assembly for a Patriotic Rosary at 12:15 PM in the Cathedral Church
- **November 20** - Annual Memorial Mass for Deceased Members at the 5:15 PM 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** - help distribute Thanksgiving Baskets at Catholic Charities, 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM
- **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. Questions? Contact Grand Knight Larry Travis, LTRAVISJR@gmail.com, or Program Director Brian Huber, bhubie@comcast.net.

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.

Modern Money-Changers

The “liturgy wars” are something of a hot topic in contemporary Catholic circles.

Latin chant or guitar hymns? Communion on the tongue or in the hand? Chapel veils or bare heads? Surplice or alb? It’s giving me a headache just writing it all out.

I don’t mean to say that none of this matters. The worship of the Almighty God, especially in the context of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, is no trifling matter. It is good for people to be concerned about whether or not their worship is pleasing to God. I am happy that Catholics care enough about these things to have an opinion.

I’m not going to say where I fall on this spectrum of liturgical sensibility (the headache intensifies thinking of the emails I would get). And I won’t pretend it’s not something I feel passionate about, in my own way.

But too often I find myself sniffing dismissively at the “other camp,” the folks who are drawn to a different style or tradition. Too often I see them sniffing dismissively back to me. We are, both groups, obsessed with the form of a thing — so much so that we risk forgetting the function of it.

And when I stop to think about it, I wonder if Jesus shouldn’t crack the whip at us all, the modern money-changers of the temple, who have allowed worship to become a transaction (I offer x sacrifice, I am rewarded with y feeling of fulfillment and satisfaction).

I look at the Gospel today, and I can see the purpose of the money-changers. It could be argued that, in a way, they were facilitating the laws of Moses, making possible the temple sacrifices stipulated by God.

But it matters why you do something, not just how you do it.

What good is any act of worship, if at its conclusion we do not more closely resemble the One before whom we kneel?

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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Around the Diocese

- **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.
- **Two Hearts Springfield** invites you to help support The Two Hearts 2026 Calendar created by children 4th grade to high school. These children are using the gifts that God has given them to be a witness and understanding of how important it is to protect life. Each calendar is a suggested \$20 donation; the Springfield Deanery Council of Catholic Women has agreed to support this calendar mission to benefit incarcerated female inmates. For every 10 calendars sold, 1 calendar will be donated to the local female prison.