

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 16, 2025 | THIRTY-THIRD 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 46

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



Introducing Purgatory

Two weeks ago, we had the opportunity to celebrate the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, better known as All Souls Day. Though Catholics are familiar with the existence of All Souls Day, many who only go to Mass once a week do not observe it liturgically since it only falls on a Sunday every handful of years, as it did this year. Our wider exposure to this important celebration brought to our attention the Church's beautiful, though often misunderstood, doctrine of Purgatory.

Over the next few paragraphs of *Spe salvi*, Pope Benedict offers some helpful theological considerations on this topic. During this month of November, during which the Church invites us to have a special care for the souls in Purgatory by praying for them, it is fitting for us to have this as the topic for our consideration as this document on Christian hope comes to an end. In paragraph 45, the Holy Father begins his reflections on Purgatory by acknowledging the belief by the Jewish people in an "intermediate state" between death and Resurrection. This is seen especially in Jesus's use of the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31, which we heard at the end of September for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The pope writes:

This early Jewish idea of an intermediate state includes the view that these souls are not simply in a sort of temporary custody but, as the parable of the rich man illustrates, are already being punished or are experiencing a provisional form of bliss. There is also the idea that this state can involve purification and healing which mature the soul for communion with God. (SS 45)

He then explains how this Jewish belief was taken up by the early Church "and in the Western Church they gradually developed into the doctrine of Purgatory." (ibid.) Not feeling it necessary to examine the complex historical development of this doctrine, the Holy Father offers a succinct explanation of what we believe regarding the judgment we all undergo at the moment of death, which will set up a more fruitful conversation about Purgatory:

With death, our life-choice becomes definitive—our life stands before the judge. Our choice, which in the course of an entire life takes on a certain shape, can have a variety of forms. There can be people who have totally destroyed their desire for truth and readiness to love, people for whom everything has become a lie, people who have lived for hatred and have suppressed all love within themselves. This is a terrifying thought, but alarming profiles of this type can be seen in certain figures of our own history. In such people all would be beyond remedy and the destruction of good would be irrevocable: this is what we mean by the word Hell. On the other hand there can be people who are utterly pure, completely permeated by God, and thus fully open to their neighbours—people for whom communion with God even now gives direction to their entire being and whose journey towards God only brings to fulfilment what they already are. (ibid.)

The pope begins the next paragraph with this following important assessment: "Yet we know from experience that neither case is normal in human life." (SS 46) That paves the way for a consideration of Purgatory, to which we will return in two weeks.

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 17

7am - LuAnn Mohr
(Bev Hoffman)
5:15pm - Cathy Furkin
(Family)

Tuesday, November 18

7am - Judith Ansell
(James and Billie Langfelder)
5:15pm - Thomas and Bettie Rapps
(Nancy Rapps)

Wednesday, November 19

7am - Joseph "Jerry" Stasukinas
(Sherry Smith)
5:15pm - Miles Horton
(John and Angie Wright)

Thursday, November 20

7am - Valdez-Johnstone Family
(Rosario Johnstone)
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the Fr Tolton Council 16126 (Fr Tolton Council 16126)

Friday, November 21

7am - Judith Ansell
(Rebecca Cole)
5:15pm - George Geraghty
(Family)

Saturday, November 22

8am - Tom McGee
(McGee Family)
4pm - Raymond and Eulalia Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Sunday, November 23

7am - Janet Cobb
(Lou Ann Mack and Carl Corrigan)
10am - For The People
5pm - Nancy Wray (Richard Wray)



I'll invite you to use your imagination today!

Once upon a time there was a King - an old-style Medieval sort of King. Today, we see him leaving his castle, alone, on his horse, and travelling out through the surrounding towns and villages. He reaches a small dusty dirt path as the day nears its end and makes his way into thick woods. The path is somewhat overgrown, but he knows it. He has been here before. As he passes by a small stream and the miniature valley it creates, he sees a clearing ahead. Through a thicket of trees, the reddening sky appears, and he is in a grassy clearing. On one side is a wooden fence surrounding a small cabin.

On the front of the cabin is an unusual door with no handle. Inside the fence, the King gets off his horse, goes up to that door and knocks on it. The owner of the cabin opens up the door and seemingly unsurprised, says, "My King, I was expecting you."

The last (and first) time the King came, this subject of the King was taken aback, and since the house was not clean or ready for the King, had not wanted him to come in. This new friend of the King was possibly the poorest of His subjects and was, therefore, somewhat embarrassed. The King had simply smiled and taken off a ring from his finger. He left that sign of royal dignity on the porch rail, promising to return.

The owner of the cabin now showed the King into a tidier house and they sat down, talked, and ate together. After they had eaten, the King's subject brought the ring back to the King. "No, that was for you, my friend," the King said. "I do not want it back. And that reminds me!" He quickly opened a bag he had been carrying. "I have more for you." The King handed over a set of clothes he had brought from the palace, much finer than anything in the cabin. Speechless, there was no refusing the King.

The King would return in this way many times; each time bringing something for the cabin or for his new friend; each time deepening their friendship through conversation and his presence.

After some time in this way, we find the King travelling his route once again. He stops and meets his friend at the cabin. On coming inside, the King says to his friend, "I have nothing left of my possessions to give to you that you do not have. But I want you to come to be with me at the castle. I have chosen you to be my heir. As I have explained in the past, I have claimed you as a child of the royal family."

"But I know you still have work to do here, so you do not have to come now. Complete your work here. I will continue to visit. When your work is finished, come to the castle to receive your inheritance. Remember who you are."

And you, Christian, remember who you are and remember whose you are. You have been claimed by a King, who comes repeatedly to give you his very life in Holy Communion. May that friendship grow ever deeper until the day of eternity dawns and we enter, God willing, the heavenly mansion of our King!

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 8th & 9th

Envelopes:	\$11,527.90
Loose:	\$3,416.02
Maintenance:	\$120.00
Total:	\$15,063.92

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 17

<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	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		
Spanish Bible Study 6:00 PM Parish Library		Rosary 4:45 PM Church	CCCW Meeting 6:00 PM School Hall			
		Cathedral Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library	Vatican II Faith Formation Series 7:00 PM Atrium			
		Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room				

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



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



NOVENA IN HONOR OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 7
7:00PM
CATHEDRAL CHURCH

Novena in Honor of the Immaculate Conception

Beginning November 30 through December 7th, the Cathedral will host the annual diocesan novena in honor of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States, our diocese, and the Cathedral Parish. The novena will be celebrated each evening at 7PM. Each night will be a holy hour consisting of exposition, a liturgy of the Word, homily, Rosary, and benediction with the novena prayer and the recitation of the Litany of Loreto after reposicion. Below are the themes with the accompanying readings.

Saturday, November 29 – The Hail Mary
Reverend Daniel McGrath

Sunday, November 30 – The Angelus
Very Reverend Dominic Vahling, V.J.

Monday, December 1 – Memorare
Very Reverend Brian Alford, V.E.

Tuesday, December 2 – Regina Coeli
Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki

Wednesday, December 3 – Magnificat
Reverend Monsignor David Hoeffer, V.G.

Thursday, December 4 – Salve Regina
Deacon Larry Smith

Friday, December 5 – Sub Tuum Praesidium
Reverend Pius Nwiyi

Saturday, December 6 – Ave Regina Caelorum
Father Jack Tierney, O.S.A.

Sunday, December 7 – Alma Redemptoris Mater
Deacon David Beach

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.

St. John's Breadline – Breadline Sunday Fundraiser

Catholic Charities St. John's Breadline is kicking off its annual fundraiser this month to support its decades-long mission of feeding those in need in the greater Springfield community. Since 1985, the Breadline Sunday fundraiser has provided critical funds for the operation of Springfield's iconic St. John's Breadline. Thousands rely on the Breadline every year to receive quality made-from-scratch meals in a dignified environment. Support this effort by donating at cc.dio.org.

Lucy's Lenses Reading Glasses Collection

If you depend on reading glasses, you know how important they are for daily life – reading, cooking, sewing, and other basic tasks are impossible with poor vision. The reading glasses you no longer use can change someone's life. In honor of the Feast of St. Lucy on December 13, the Knights of Columbus Council 16126 is hosting a Lucy's Lenses Reading Glasses Collection from December 8-14 for Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach. The glasses will be distributed to people in low-resource countries throughout Africa and Central/South America where people who are farsighted need glasses to read, but don't have access to this basic health resource. Only non-prescription reading glasses ("cheaters") are needed, all strengths. Glasses should be in good condition (no broken or missing parts), clean, and undamaged. Drop them in the Lucy's Lenses Collection box in the atrium. For questions please email info.kofc16126@gmail.com.

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

Advent Women's Bible Study

Cathedral Women's Bible Study will be reading and reflecting on the Sunday Mass Scripture readings for the four Sundays in Advent. Join us at 10:00 or 1:00 on Nov 6, 13 and Dec 4, 11 in the Cathedral School Library. FREE and open to all women.

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 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.

Did You Know?

That for each Sunday mass we need 2 servers, 2 lectors, 1-2 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, 6 ushers, 4 greeters and at 10:00 Mass, 2 livestreamers? That's 15-18 volunteers for each mass! That's at least 60 volunteers every weekend! For daily Mass we need 1 server and 1 lector. That's 22 volunteers each week. To be a volunteer you need to love Jesus and love having the opportunity to attend Mass. You also need to be able to read, or smile, or walk while carrying a basket. How would you like to serve your parish? A brief training session will prepare you for service. Contact the parish office to volunteer. Your parish needs 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 Forge Thanksgiving

The Forge warmly invites all young adult Catholics ages 18-39 to their annual Friendsgiving Feast held on Sunday, November 16th from 12-4 pm at the Cathedral. Bring a dish to share and meet us in the basement cafeteria. Hope to see you there!

Two Things Can Be True At Once

As my husband and I drove our firstborn child home from the hospital, I sat alongside my daughter in the backseat. Terrified, exhausted, exhilarated, confused, hopeful — I was all of these things at the same time. I gazed at her, this magnificent little creature whose face was both familiar and strange to me, thinking: She is exquisite. She is the future. She is life.

And then I burst into uncontrollable sobs.

"What's wrong?" my husband cried, panicked, glancing in the rearview mirror.

"She's — going — to — die — someday," I blubbered, choking on my own tears.

"Ohhh, honey." I'll never forget the tone of his voice as he clearly debated turning this car around and taking me back to the hospital for an emergency psych evaluation. "I think you might be tired."

Ten years later, it's a memory we laugh about. I hadn't slept more than four hours in four days. Postpartum hormones had lain waste to my senses. Here, on the threshold of new life, all I could think of was death. It's funny. It's absurd.

But it also makes a lot of sense.

Love and hate. Hope and fear. Joy and sorrow. Death and life. What lasts forever, and what is even now passing away before our eyes. To be human is to know that these feelings, these realities, can and often do occur at the same time. To be Christian is to know that it means something — even if we cannot understand what. Not yet.

In every moment of his earthly life, Christ shows us that two things can be true at once. A virgin is a mother. An exile is a king. The temple will be destroyed, and it will last forever. The world is ending. The world is beginning. The cross is death. The cross is life.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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Around the Diocese

- **Ursuline Campus Tour - Sneak Peek Inside**, join us on Saturday, November 22, for a special preview of these historic gems! Guided tours of the three story, 1867 original schoolhouse, the 1895 Romanesque chapel and the 1908 music conservatory. See how far Preservation, Inc has come restoring these iconic landmarks. Guided tours begin at 1:00pm. Meet at the circle drive entrance/school building entrance, 1400 North 5th Street.
- **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.
- **St. Cabrini Nativity Festival**, Friday, December 5, 9am - 11am, Saturday, December 6, & Sunday, December 7, 2025, 10:30am- 3:30pm, Free admission and refreshments and entertainment on Saturday and Sunday. If you wish to loan your Nativity Set to St. Cabrini for the Nativity Festival, drop off is this week - Sunday, November 16, 10:30am-noon. Wednesday, November 19, 9am-noon, Friday, November 21, 3pm-6:30pm. If you have any questions, please call St. Cabrini at 217-522-8555.
- **The 25th annual St. John Vianney Cookie Walk, Raffle and Christmas Gift Gala** will be on December 13, 2025, at the St. John Vianney Activity Center, 902 St. John Drive in Sherman, IL. Hundreds of beautifully decorated homemade cookies, candies and breads will be available for purchase. A raffle with top notch prizes from local merchants will be going on throughout the morning. Direct Sale Vendors will be available to help you finish your holiday shopping with cash and carry purchases. The jolly ole man himself, Santa, will be on hand from 8:30 -10:30 for "Selfies with Santa" with free will offerings being donated to the Holy Family Food Pantry. And for all our shoppers - complimentary refreshments will be served. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. For more information, contact Cindy Trainor (217) 414-4279.
- **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.