

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

APRIL 5, 2026 | EASTER SUNDAY



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 8 ISSUE 14

---

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  
IN RESIDENCE

DEACON DAVID BEACH

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

VICKI DHABALT COMPTON  
COORDINATOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND MISSION  
VCOMPTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

HALEY DUTTON  
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS  
HDUTTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

MARK GIFFORD  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
MGIFFORD@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

KIM GUNTER  
BUSINESS MANAGER  
KGUNTER@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

ROSE KEHOE  
PARISH SECRETARY  
RKEHOE@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

---

## 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.



## Our Life and Resurrection

Alleluia! He is Risen! On this Easter Sunday, our hearts are filled with joy as we celebrate this great feast on which Jesus rose victorious from the dead. His victory was not just for Him alone, but for all for whom He died. The Catechism of the Catholic Church summarizes this beautifully in the following words:

Christ's Resurrection—and the risen Christ himself—is the principle and source of our future resurrection: "Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.... For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive." (1 Cor 15:20-22) The risen Christ lives in the hearts of his faithful while they await that fulfillment. In Christ, Christians "have tasted ... the powers of the age to come" (Heb 6:5) and their lives are swept up by Christ into the heart of divine life, so that they may "live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised." (2 Cor 5:15; cf. Col 3:1-3) (CCC 655)

Because of His Resurrection, and through the gift of Baptism, we share in the new life He makes possible, a life which promises victory over death for those who remain united to Him. As such, the most fitting invocation from the Litany of the Sacred Heart for this day is the following:

*Heart of Jesus, our Life and Resurrection, have mercy on us*

Easter Sunday radically changes the trajectory of human history and gives new hope to our lives. It also shifts the Lord's day from the Sabbath (Saturday) to eighth day (Sunday), the first day of the week and the first day of the new creation which the Resurrection ushers in. Sunday becomes the fulfillment of the Sabbath, and each Sunday is to be celebrated with a special focus on worship and joy. Our celebration of Easter Sunday sets the pattern for how we should ideally celebrate every Sunday. The new life on the Resurrection should guide how we observe this day not just once a year, but every week.

When we think about how so many of us observe Easter Sunday, we prioritize going to Mass. Such should be our priority every Sunday. When we go to Mass on this day, we often see people making special efforts to dress in a special way as a sign of our joy on this great day. If every Sunday is a little Easter, shouldn't we consider this choice of dress each week? After going to Mass, we then spend much of the rest of the day with family and friends, resting and rejoicing. Many of us would not even think about shopping or doing work on Easter Sunday because of the nature of so special a day. Should we not approach every Sunday this way?

Perhaps as we celebrate with family and friends this Easter Sunday, experiencing the gift of worship, rest, and rejoicing, it can be an opportunity for us to commit to carrying this on to every Sunday of the year, such that they stand out as different from every other day of the week. Sundays are days on which we rejoice in the gift of new life the Lord has won for us on this day, and should be a foretaste of the worship, rest, and rejoicing we will experience with our family, the Church, in the Resurrection.

*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, April 6

7am - Brian and Donnie (Joanna Thompson)  
5:15pm - NO MASS

#### Tuesday, April 7

7am - Betty and Gene Barish (Family)  
5:15pm - John W. Montgomery (John Busciacco)

#### Wednesday, April 8

7am - Edward Anselment (Anselment Family)  
5:15pm - Thomas Conway Sr. (Family)

#### Thursday, April 9

7am - Brother Francis Skube (Community)  
5:15pm - Mabel Geraghty (Nicoud Family)

#### Friday, April 10

7am - James Elmer Langheim (Joe and Gail Langheim)  
5:15pm - Intention for Bianca (DA Drago)

#### Saturday, April 11

8am - Sara Tucker Cox (Larry and Beverly Smith)  
4pm - Mary Jane Kern (Estate)

#### Sunday, April 12

7am - Judith Ansell (John and Margaret Lemanski)  
10am - For the People  
5pm - Stephanie Sandidge (Sue Sandidge)



Happy Easter! He has risen from the dead, never to die again! And in his great love for us, our Lord Jesus Christ promises to raise us from the dead too, when he comes again!

He has risen, we will rise, and there is no news better than that! It is such good news that you just feel a need to end all sentences with an exclamation point :)

All jokes aside, I truly wish you and your families all the best this Easter. It is such a beautiful season, because in this season we remember the reason for our Christian joy.

We remember that we live for another world, a world that will be free of suffering and death. We remember that this other world (Heaven) is not some made-up dream, but a promise - a promise made to us by our God who became man, died, and rose from the dead for us.

It takes faith to believe this promise. It takes faith to abide by God's law and remain in a state of right relationship with him. But the fact that it takes faith doesn't mean it isn't true. Jesus is alive and well, seated at the right hand of the Father, and is really present on our altars, in our tabernacles, and in our hearts. He holds out to us an offer of eternal life.

The faith we hold in this future reality makes all the suffering of this life seem so little and so insignificant that no matter how bad things are here and now, we can rejoice in Christ's victory. If we hold fast to our faith in Christ and the promise of our baptism, we will rise in Him at the last day. Our bodies will rise up again as glorious bodies, never to die again.

The resurrection of the body is a central and foundational teaching of Christianity. Our resurrection at the end of time is one of the key elements of the first proclamation of Christianity in the early years of the Church. It brought the early Christians joy and hope and gave them courage to die for their faith at the hands of the brutal Roman torturers. Still, as fundamental as this teaching is, it is seemingly one of the most often forgotten truths of the faith.

Case in point: I think, over the past month, I have been asked at least three times about the concept of reincarnation. "Can a Christian/Catholic believe in reincarnation?"

The answer: "No, absolutely not!"

The answer to this question is "no" for several reasons.

First: A human being exists as a body-soul composite. You are not just your soul. Your particular body is just as much "you" as your soul is "you." Therefore, for your soul to be able to enter a second body would make no logical sense.

Second: the dignity of the human person militates against the concept of reincarnation. It would be supremely undignified for a human soul to enter the body of anything lesser - such as a dog, cat, dolphin, or butterfly, for example.

Finally, and perhaps most fittingly for today, God has already revealed to us in a very definitive way exactly what our end will be. Although it is still somewhat shrouded in the mystery of faith and future reality, we firmly believe in the resurrection of the body. Our faith assures us that at the end of time, all those who have died will be reunited to their bodies and live forever in the new heavens and new earth (cf. 1 Corinthians 15, Revelation 21, and Isaiah 65:17). We are not going to be disembodied souls for all eternity, thank goodness!

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." He gave even more dignity to our human bodies than ever before by joining a body to his divinity. Through our entrance into his death and resurrection in baptism, we are promised a share in his resurrection when we pass through our death. May we always remain steadfast in our relationship with him and persevere in grace to the very end! Happy Easter!

*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

**March 28th & March 29th**

Collection numbers were unavailable at the time of publication. Please check back next weekend for these collection numbers.

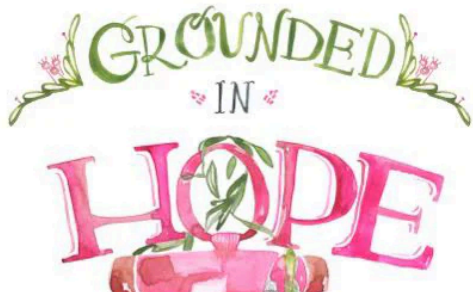
Online Giving: If you would like to extend a special gift to the Cathedral, please visit our website. Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



## WEEK OF APRIL 6

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Grief Share 1:00 PM School 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	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		Divine Mercy Prayer Service 2:00 PM Church

### What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



#### **Grounded in Hope - Cathedral Women's Bible Study**

Grounded in Hope, based on the book of Hebrews, will help you encounter Jesus in such a powerful, comforting, and stabilizing way that He can become your lifeline. Grounded in Hope is ideal if you long to know Jesus with greater intimacy and are ready to grow in your trust in Him as your true source of hope. Order your workbook at [walkingwithpurpose.com](http://walkingwithpurpose.com) **Thursdays starting on April 16 @ 10:00 and 1:00, Cathedral School Library**

#### **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE**

SUNDAY, APRIL 12  
2:00PM-3:00PM

CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

#### **Divine Mercy Sunday Prayer Service**

Join us on Sunday, April 12th from 2:00pm to 3:00pm for a Divine Mercy Sunday Prayer Service. This prayer service will include exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Scriptural readings and devotional prayers, Veneration and Image of Divine Mercy, the Recitation of the Chaplet and Benediction, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All are welcome.

#### **CCCW/Knights of Columbus 2026-27 Scholarships**

The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women (CCCW) and the Fr. Augustine Tolton Council 16126, Knights of Columbus are pleased to announce that the application period for the 2026-27 academic year scholarships is now open. Scholarships will be awarded and used to offset tuition at a Catholic high School and will be awarded to students who are members of registered active Cathedral parish families. Applications are available as hard copies at the parish office during parish business hours or in the atrium, a PDF of the application form will be available at the Scholarship Application link on the parish website ([spicathedral.org](http://spicathedral.org)), or the application may be completed online. The deadline for submission of completed applications and documents is 11:59 PM on Thursday, April 30, 2026, either online or by hard copy. Hard copy submissions should be placed in a sealed envelope and addressed to CCCW/Knights of Columbus Scholarship Committee and returned to the parish office in the rectory. Thank you for your interest, and good luck to all applicants!



### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATION:  
APRIL 30, 2026

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Happy Easter!

As our CRS Rice Bowl journey comes to an end, may the Eucharist continue to transform our lives and help us respond to God's call to serve our global family. Let us commit to sharing the joy of the Resurrection with people in our local community and around the world. Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl or donate online at [Crsricebowl.org/give](http://Crsricebowl.org/give).

## Support our parish by giving online

Scan the QR code above to donate online and support our parish. Thank you for your generosity!

## Thank you

The Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield, Inc. thanks the Cathedral Parish for the recent monetary donation. The clients at the Center benefit greatly from the continued generosity of Cathedral Parishioners. Thank you for making a difference in our community by supporting the Center's mission and helping to bring healthy babies into the world and preparing parents for parenthood. Thank you!

## SDCCW Scholarship Opportunity

The SDCCW (Springfield in IL Diocesan Council of Catholic Women) is pleased to give \$2,000 for education beyond high school to four 2026 female high school graduates from the Springfield Diocese in IL who exemplify the SDCCW's mission. The mission of the SDCCW is to support and empower all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. The SDCCW is affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW). Applications are available in the Cathedral Atrium, and must be mailed to the SDCCW Scholarship Program by April 15, 2026. For further questions, please call Rita Devore at 217-821-7517. Thank you!

## A Work of Mercy

In an effort to assist our parishioners who have mobility issues, we would like to ask that the parking spaces adjacent to the handicapped spots, be left available for those who have difficulty walking distances. These are the 10 parking spots on the north and south sides of the sidewalk that cuts our parking lot in half. If you are able to walk easily, please do not park in these spots. Thank you!



## Caring for the World – April 7

The Catholic Church is the largest non-governmental provider of health care services in the world, with 65% of Catholic health facilities located in low-resource areas globally. Each year, Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach (located in Springfield) supports more than 100 Catholic hospitals and clinics in Africa, Asia, Ukraine, and Central/South America by donating critical medical supplies and equipment. To celebrate World Health Day on April 7, we will honor the life-saving role Catholic health care plays globally at the 5:15 Cathedral Mass and a World Health Fair in the Atrium following Mass. Mission Outreach will be there to show how the work they do is building a healthier world, especially for mothers and babies in need.

## Attention all seniors...Senior Social

To help shake off the winter woollens and welcome spring you are invited to the launch of Senior Socials, a monthly event connecting area Catholic seniors. Come meet other retired/senior citizens for an afternoon of games, cards, conversation and snacks. We'll supply it all; you can just come as you are! Hope to see you on Wednesday, April 15, 3:00pm-5:00pm in the Cathedral Atrium. Please share this invitation with your senior friends and relatives.



## While It Is Still Dark

If you are a person who is religious in any way, chances are that at some point, someone has asked you to give a reason why.

I meet lots of people who identify as spiritual but not religious, lots of people who are more comfortable splashing in the shallow end of belief but hesitating to wade into the more uncertain depths of doctrine. So when they ask the question “Why do you believe what you believe?” it usually comes out as “Why do you go to church?”

They want to know why I come to this specific place at this specific time. What am I expecting to happen?

We read that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb “while it was still dark.” I imagine she could not sleep. She was traumatized. Grieving. Confused. Angry, perhaps. Doubting? Maybe. It’s possible. We cannot know what was in her heart.

We only know what she did. We only know where she went. And we know that it was dark, that the light of Easter’s dawn had not yet pierced the sky.

Often, I am grieving when I go to church, or angry, or confused, or all three. I have gone many times with a doubting and resentful heart.

Because, you see, it is still dark. The dawn of eternity, which will illuminate all understanding, has not yet even begun to creep across my horizon.

My answer to the question, when I am asked, is that I go to church — to Catholic Mass, specifically — for the same reason Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. I go because it is the last place I saw Christ, and I am desperate to see him again.

©LPi

---

## Around the Diocese

- **Maintenance Job** - St. Cabrini Parish, 1020 N. Milton, Springfield is looking for a maintenance person experienced in maintaining property and equipment and who is willing to do normal janitorial work, also. Interested persons should call St. Cabrini’s Parish office at 217-522-8555.
- **Join Us in Prayer** - Every first Sunday of each month, the Springfield Chapter of the Mother of Eucharist and Grace will be holding their monthly novena in the Blessed Sacrament Adoration chapel from 2:50-3:45. This devotion stemmed from the Blessed Mother’s appearance to Carmelo Cortez identifying herself to him as the Mother of Eucharist and Grace. Everyone is welcome to participate. Call Rose Amon at 217-926- 2976 for any questions. We will not be meeting Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>