

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

APRIL 18, 2026 | THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



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 8 ISSUE 16

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

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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.

Salvation of those Who Hope in Thee



Recently, I was reading a commentary on the Gospel of Luke by the Anglican scripture scholar, N.T. Wright, and the following line really resonated with me:

If the story of the prodigal son has a claim to be the finest story Jesus ever told, the tale of the two on the road to Emmaus must have an equal claim to be the finest scene Luke ever sketched...At the level of drama it has everything. Sorrow, suspense, puzzlement, gradual dawning of light; then, in the second half, unexpected actions, astonished recognition, a flurry of excitement and activity. It is both a wonderful, unique, spellbinding tale, and also a model (and Luke surely knew this) for a great deal of what being a Christian, from that day to this, is all about. (Tom Wright, Luke for Everyone (London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 2004), 292–293.)

The Gospel account of the two disciples going to Emmaus is one that I always look forward to reading, and these words from N.T. Wright put words to why I (and so many) are drawn to this passage.

I am always struck by the candor of the two disciples as they speak to Jesus about Jesus (as they did not yet know it was Him to whom they were speaking). They said: “we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel.” (Lk 24:21) Their hope about Jesus, that He might finally be the Messiah, seemed now to be dead, just as Jesus was dead. Jesus then takes the opportunity to present to them the story of salvation, the details with which they were no doubt familiar, but Jesus connects those details in a way that makes it clear that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. Their hope had not been in vain! No doubt Jesus stirred something within them, as seen in the reaction to Him as He prepared to part company, urging Him: “Stay with us, for it is evening and the day is almost over.” (Lk 24:29) Then, as Jesus breaks and blessed the bread, Luke writes that “their eyes were opened and they recognized Him.” (Lk 24:31) The hope that they thought dead was revived, which meant that everything He had said about Himself and what He would accomplish in bringing about salvation was true. I have therefore chosen the following invocation from the Litany of the Sacred Heart to connect with this scene from the Gospel:

Heart of Jesus, Salvation of those who hope in thee, have mercy on us

During this Easter Season, we are invited to renew our faith that all that Jesus did and said is true. Nothing is more remarkable than what happened on that Easter Sunday, and if He was able to accomplish that miraculous feat, then all of His promises can be trusted, not the least of which the one He gives to us when speaking about the Eucharist, which Pope Pius XII calls a gift of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to the Church. Here is that promise from Jesus about the Eucharist:

he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live for ever. (Jn 6:54-58)

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 20

7am - Kathleen Prager
(Kehoe Family)
5:15pm - Don Smargiassi
(Smargiassi Family)

Tuesday, April 21

7am - Carrie Eichen
(Daniel Schumacher)
5:15pm - Thomas Conway Sr.
(Family)

Wednesday, April 22

7am - Micah Jude Gray
(Beach Family)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)

Thursday, April 23

7am - Jack Ely
(Ely Family)
5:15pm - Diana Schumacher
(Daniel Schumacher)

Friday, April 24

7am - Micah Jude Gray
(Beverly and Larry Smith)
5:15pm - Intention for Doris and Cathy
(DA Drago)

Saturday, April 25

8am - Michael Poggi
(Family)
4pm - Raymond and Eulalia Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Sunday, April 26

7am - Susan and Bob Denton
(Terese and Darrell Hurst)
10am - Dick Allender
(Rebecca Woodhull)
5pm - For the People



As I write this, I don't have access to my copy of St. Bonaventure's life of St. Francis, so the continuation of those reflections will have to wait a week.

The First Reading for this weekend's Mass, however, provides us with a good scriptural reality to ponder. St. Peter, in his speech on the day of Pentecost in the Acts of the Apostles, quotes Psalm 16 to teach about Jesus. This quotation is significant, and it begins to teach us the powerful and profound truth that Jesus has fulfilled the scriptures of the Old Testament.

We read in the Gospel of Luke that after Jesus rose from the dead he appeared to his apostles in the upper room and "he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures..." (Luke 24:44-45). Everything written about him in the Psalms must be fulfilled.

When we think of the psalms, we generally think of long sung prayers from a book in the Old Testament. We might think of a song between the two readings at Mass - generally kind of hard to hear or understand. We might even love to pray the Psalms and think of them as beautiful prayers to God. All of that is true, yet it is good for us to remember and read them also as strikingly accurate prophecies of the Messiah, Jesus Christ - words that he himself prayed.

Really, the book of the Psalms is the most-quoted book of the New Testament. The early Christians and the Apostles especially, with their minds opened to the ways that the Old Testament scriptures had been fulfilled, saw in the Psalms a rich prefiguring of Jesus. Perhaps most poignantly is the great Psalm 22 which we hear quoted by Jesus himself on the cross, "My God, My God, why have you abandoned me." If you read through the rest of that psalm, you will see that the whole of it really describes in detail the sufferings Jesus would endure during his passion.

On a happier note, in this Easter season and particularly with today's first reading in mind, the Psalms also prefigure the resurrection of Christ. We read in the Psalms about how God triumphs over worldly struggles and even over death itself. The quotation of today's first reading is, again, from Psalm 16. One could, before Christ, read this psalm about God's promise that he would take care of the one who takes refuge in him. After Christ, however, we see that the words of this psalm are clearly oriented toward the future resurrection.

Here is the section of the Psalm that St. Peter quotes. Read it as though you were Christ preparing for his passion in the Agony in the Garden:

"I saw the Lord ever before me,
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.
Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted;
my flesh, too, will dwell in hope,
because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld,
nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption.
You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence."

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

April 11th & 12th

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 20

<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	Grief Share 1:00 PM School Library	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		
Spanish Bible Study 6:00pm School Library	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Women' Bible Study 10am & 1pm School Library			
		Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room	CCCW Meeting 6:00 PM School Hall			
			K of C Meeting 6:00 PM School Classroom			

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



Music at the Cathedral

Join us on Saturday, May 2nd, at 7:00 PM for Broadway in the Atrium!



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATION:
APRIL 30, 2026

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), 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!



Cathedral Meal Train

There are still plenty of dates available for the Cathedral Meal Train! If you are interested in volunteering in this ministry, please visit www.spicathedral.org/cathedral-meal-train/ for available dates. We 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. Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions - 217-522-3342. Thank you!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



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!

SDCCW Spring Meeting

The SDCCW will be hosting their Spring Meeting on Saturday, May 9, 2026, 9:00am at Christ the King Parish (CTK), Springfield, Roesch Hall, 1930 Barberry Drive. Mr. Jarid Brown, Executive Director of the Washington Street Mission (WSM) will be the guest speaker. Breakfast will be served, and the rosary will be led by members of the CTK Legion of Mary. Please consider bringing items for the WSM such as: Food items, coffee creamer, sugar, ramen noodles, canned fruits, canned meats. Shelf Stable Foods: Boxed potatoes, rice, pasta & sauce, instant oatmeal packets. Women of all Parishes are invited to attend! Deadline to RSVP is May 4. Questions? Reach out to Deb Pilapil, President, 217-361-7165

Second Collection - Catholic Home Missions

Catholic Home Missions provides valuable support to dioceses and eparchies throughout the United States, as well as its territories and former territories. These home mission dioceses are unable to support essential parish operations and diocesan ministries, often due to local economic hardship, small or widely dispersed Catholic populations, or remote locations that make travel and communication difficult. Your participation in the annual Catholic Home Missions Appeal supports dioceses throughout the United States, including its current and former territories, that need financial help to sustain core pastoral services and missions of mercy to those they serve. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the appeal this year. To learn more about the appeal and those who benefit from it, visit www.usccb.org/home-missions. Thank you for strengthening the Church at home.

Fr. Tolton Council 16126 Knights of Columbus

Need ideas for Mother's Day? The Knights of Columbus is selling individual roses to raise money for area pregnancy resource centers. Roses will be delivered at Masses over Mother's Day weekend. Visit <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/fr-augustine-tolton-council-16126s-shop> for details.

Summer Immersion Experience 2026

Single Catholic women ages 20-45 who are curious about religious life are invited to a national service immersion experience hosted by four Dominican Sisters' congregations in Springfield June 16-20. The group will live at Sacred Heart Convent and experience the rhythms of apostolic religious life, which includes community life, prayer, active service, and theological reflection. There is a \$50 participation fee, but no woman will be turned away for lack of funds. Apply soon at springfieldop.org/events or call Sister Denise Glazik, OP, 217-787-0481 for questions.

Called and Gifted Charism Discernment

At Baptism and Confirmation, the Holy Spirit pours spiritual gifts into us. Some of these gifts are sanctifying gifts, meant for our own holiness; and some of these gifts are meant to manifest God's love and mercy to others. These special graces or gifts are called charisms. Our charisms give us a special empowerment to bring God's redeeming love into the world. We don't use our charisms for our own gain or betterment, only for God's purposes or to serve others.

If you are curious to discover what your charisms might be, we are forming a small group to participate in Called & Gifted charism discernment through the Siena Institute. This will consist of:

- The Called and Gifted workshop, including a Spiritual Gifts Inventory, which lays the foundation for the beginning of discernment. (Mondays in May and June @ 8:30am) Purchase your kit from the Catherine of Siena Institute www.learning.siena.org
- A one hour gifts interview, an invaluable part of the process. Free to participants. Do not purchase online.
- Discernment in the real world in which you will develop a charism experiment and evaluate your results.

For more information or to join the small group contact Vicki vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or call 217/522-3342

Identify a Woman of Distinction from the Cathedral Parish

Each year all parishes in the Diocese are asked to identify a woman within their membership who has displayed exceptional, faith-filled service to the parish, fellow parishioners and the community. Please consider ladies who volunteer their time, talent and treasure through serving as an Eucharistic minister, lector, usher, Family of Faith leader, visiting the sick, hospitality, etc. Cathedral's past WOD will pass out ballots after each Mass on April 25-26 so that all parishioners can participate in the selection. Additional ballots will be available in the Atrium. Previous WOD are listed and are not eligible to be nominated again. Please return the completed nomination form in the collection basket no later than May 10th. We look forward to your recommendations for this honor!

The Story That Never Ends

The biggest mistake we can make as Christians is to think that the Resurrection is the end of the story.

Of course we know, logically, that it isn't — there are whole books of the Bible that come after it, detailing not just the activities and teachings of the Risen Christ, but the development of the early Church and the Gospel's first baby steps into the wider world. We know this.

But sometimes we don't act like it.

The thing is, we like stories that can be tied up neatly in a bow. It's why "happily ever after" is a thing. These tidy endings are especially satisfying following an emotional gut punch and a twist — for instance, let's say the crucifixion of the story's hero and a gotcha! moment where it turns out he's not dead after all. Drinks all around! And...scene. The curtain falls.

But the curtain didn't fall. It still hasn't.

Look at Cleopas. He has heard the testimony of people he knew, people he trusted — and yet, he's in a world of confusion. He's stumbling along the road, wondering what to believe.

Christ gave us "happily ever after." But what do you do with "happily ever after?" What do you do with the Resurrection? What do you do with salvation?

The Resurrection left loose ends — not because it was insufficient, but because it was not a final chapter. So being a Christian means embracing the life of a loose end. It means figuring out what to do with the Resurrection, with salvation, with forgiveness — with this hard-won "happily ever after" that is a gift but also a commission.

Because the curtain is still up, and we are all characters in the Greatest Story Ever Told.

So, what's the next scene?

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

©LPi

Around the Diocese

- **Women's Day of Recollection**, Thursday, April 23, at Sacred Heart Church (730 S. 12th St., Springfield), from 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. There will be a meditation given by a priest, time for silent prayer and reflection, a doctrinal talk, and Benediction. Confession and spiritual direction with the priest will be available. All women throughout the diocese are invited to attend. The spiritual guidance at the Recollection is entrusted to a priest of the Prelature Opus Dei.
- **The Washington Street Mission** is excited to announce that our 2026 Annual Charity Golf Outing will be held on Friday, June 5th at Edgewood Golf Club in Auburn, Illinois. This event will help to raise much needed funds for the Mission. Please feel free to contact me (telephone - 660/349-8095; e-mail - bartowbog1@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or would like to discuss this opportunity further.
- **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.
- **Springfield Catholic Charities Annual Fundraiser** - Get Your Groove On, April 25, 2026 5:00-8:30pm. K of C Hall 364 2200 Meadow Brook Rd. Tickets \$50 or \$350 for a table of 8. 50/50 raffle, silent and live auction, 70's trivia, costume contest
- **WDCR Decatur Catholic Radio 15th Anniversary Annual Dinner**, Wednesday, April 29, 2026. Mt Zion Convention Center, Decatur, IL. Doors open at 5:30pm, dinner is served at 6:15pm. Reservations are \$50 per person or \$400 for a table of 8. Bishop Thomas John Paprocki will be the keynote speaker, on the topic of "Communicating the Good News in the Age of Artificial Intelligence". To purchase your reservations, please call 217-464-1099 or visit wdcrradio.com