

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**APRIL 26, 2026 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**



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 17

---

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.



## Full of Goodness and Love

Every year, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter is nicknamed “Good Shepherd Sunday” due to the fact that the Gospel for this Sunday in all three years of the three-year cycle of Sunday readings come from John 10 where Jesus speaks about Himself as the Good Shepherd. The Opening Collect for the Mass, as well as the Prayer after Communion, use the language of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. For this reason, the invocation from the Litany of the Sacred Heart which seems most appropriate for this Sunday is the following:

*Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love, have mercy on us*

Jesus explains how, as the Good Shepherd, He does not flee in the face of danger, but rather He stays in order to protect His flock from being harmed. He will never abandon His flock. Even when they have strayed, as we do when we sin, Jesus goes in search for us in order to bring us back. He explains that if even one out of the ninety-nine wander off, even that one is worth His going to search for them. Only a shepherd whose heart is full of goodness that comes from love will be willing to show attention to every member of His flock. During this Easter Season, we rejoice in the victory that this Good Shepherd has won by sacrificing His very life for us so that we can be assured of being brought to the peaceful pastures of Eternal Life.

Good Shepherd Sunday is day on which the Church invites the faithful to pray for their shepherds – the Pope, the bishops, and the priests. I would ask that you pray today in particular for the priests of our diocese who will be making announcements about assignment changes this weekend. I know how hard it can be for a parish to receive the news that one of their shepherds is leaving. No doubt the sadness stems from an appreciation for the love that the priest has shown to them as he has served the flock entrusted to his care. For the priest who is leaving, this is also hard. As priests, we love the people that God has asked us to care for for the duration of the time we have been asked to serve in a particular parish.

By this point, I think most of you reading this are aware of my being one of those priests who will be leaving at the end of June. The uniqueness of my new assignment as Vice Rector of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis necessitated a slightly earlier announcement, but I am happy that I can finally announce this weekend who my replacement will be. As I have been praying about this transition since it became clear last November, I have found great comfort in praying about that image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Though I hope that I have been a good shepherd to all of you, I am consoled in knowing that we all follow the Good Shepherd who is Jesus Christ. The greatest gift a priest can give to His people is to facilitate a deeper relationship with the Good Shepherd, such that when changes take place, though my relationship with you may change, your relationship with Him remains firm. He will continue to be that source of strength and comfort to you, and in that I have great peace. To be sure, I will miss you all terribly, but I am so grateful for the six years that the Lord has given to me to be your shepherd. You have helped me to experience the love of the Good Shepherd in your love and support for me, and my love for you has prompted me to do my very best to serve you and help you to grow in holiness. Please pray for me, for our Cathedral priests, and our Bishop today, and please know of our daily prayers for you.

*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 27

7am - Emily Embrich  
5:15pm - Cathy Furkin

#### Tuesday, April 28

7am - Rose and Al Crispi  
5:15pm - Monique Gaston

#### Wednesday, April 29

7am - Kenneth Beach  
5:15pm - Lemuel Moss

#### Thursday, April 30

7am - Dick Allender  
5:15pm - Jean Clevenger

#### Friday, May 1

7am - Drew Dhabalt  
5:15pm - Margaret Vaplon Miller

#### Saturday, May 2

8am - Dennis Smith  
4pm - Veronica DeRosa

#### Sunday, May 3

7am - Judith Ansell  
10am - For the People  
5pm - Brother Francis Skube



There is love in the silence.

One of the most profound moments of my prayer life - a moment when I knew God was present - was precisely when I heard God's "voice" the least.

On a long, silent retreat, I found myself in a deep stretch of silence: silence exteriorly, silence interiorly, and silence from God. You might think this would be peaceful, but at first it wasn't - it was unsettling, and I wondered where God was in it all.

The grace came one day during the retreat as I was sitting in front of a tabernacle in a small chapel. I didn't "feel" any more of God when this grace came. I didn't "feel" any less silent. It was a "knowing" grace - more an intellectual grace than anything - but still, it changed the way I experienced the silent exterior, silent interior, and silent God.

As I sat before the tabernacle, listening to God's silence and seeming lack of presence, the words came to my mind, "There is love in the silence." I stopped. I knew. "God is love." If God is silent, it doesn't mean he's not with me. He is a person, and we can't feel persons. If my mom is sitting behind me and I don't recognize it, does that mean she isn't with me and isn't actively loving me? No, not at all.

If God is in, around, and all through me, but isn't allowing me to feel anything of that presence, does that mean he isn't with me and isn't loving me? No, not at all!

The Lord cries out today, "...the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."

Our hearts yearn for the voice of Christ.

We want nothing more than to hear that voice - a voice that knows us and loves us.

If you've ever been apart from a loved one for a long time, you know the experience of hearing that voice for the first time. It is like a breath of fresh air - like a glass of cool water on a hot day... There's really no great way to describe how refreshing it is. It is almost new, but still old, an old nostalgia comes back.

The voice of Jesus... how do we describe this? For the most part, even most saints don't hear it (audibly), but anyone who has a consistent life of prayer I think knows and understands when that voice speaks (even inaudibly). It is a calm, refreshing, new, knowing - words fail - sort of voice.

I have come, over the course of time since the grace of that retreat, to trust the love in the silence far more than any "voice" I hear in my mind in prayer. Do I believe that God speaks to us in our minds and hearts as we pray? Certainly, I have many experiences of that. But do I also recognize that I can make up words and thoughts and unintentionally put words in the mouth of God? Yes, I realize that too.

But I can't "produce" silence, because it is simply an absence. And in that absence, there is an unmistakable presence of God's love. It exists with me apart from any experience of my senses - interior and exterior.

Praise God for his silence, his silent presence, and his silent voice.

There is love in the silence.

*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 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

Envelopes:	\$5,824.00
Loose:	\$2,826.00
Maintenance:	\$100.00
Total:	\$8,750.00

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

Grace Zimmerman  
Child of Zachary & Kristi Zimmerman  
Baptized on April 19, 2026



## WEEK OF APRIL 27

<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	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	First Saturday Concert 7:00 PM Church	Family of Faith & Faith & Science Series 6:00 PM Atrium
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				

### 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](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!



#### 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/](http://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



## **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Mike, Reece, Ava, Tony and Grace who were baptized at the Easter Vigil! Thank you for your continued prayers for them.

## **San Damiano College for the Trades**

San Damiano College for the Trades in Springfield is still accepting applications for the 2026-2027 academic year. To learn more about the college and submit your application, go to [sandamianotrades.org](http://sandamianotrades.org). The application is located under the "Non-Degree Program" section. Please contact Joanne Gaston at 217-572-9202 with any questions.

## **Called & Gifted**

A charism is a spiritual gift granted by the Holy Spirit that gives a Christian a special empowerment to bring God's redeeming love into the world.

Charisms

- Cannot be inherited from our parents.
- Are supernaturally empowered. Received at baptism.
- Are profoundly and directly connected with our relationship with God, often experienced as a form of prayer, and grow in power and purity as our relationship with God grows.
- Are directly and immediately dependent upon grace – while natural talents are retained regardless of one's relationship with God.
- Can be used for God's purposes and to serve others, not to meet our own needs or for evil.
- Natural talents can be used not only for our own benefit but for evil or for purposes that do not have God's redeeming work at the center.

If you are interested in participating in Small group charism discernment, contact Vicki Compton at 522-3342 or [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org).

Monday, May 4, 11, 18, June 1, 8 @ 8:30am @ the Cathedral

## **Attention all seniors...Senior Social**

You are invited to Senior Socials, a monthly event connecting area Catholic seniors. Come meet other retired/senior citizens for an afternoon of games, cards, conversation and snacks. Bring a game you want to play or play one of ours. Hope to see you on Wednesday, May 20, 3:00pm-5:00pm in the Cathedral Atrium.

## **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.

## **Games and Puzzles Needed**

Our Senior Socials are looking for 300-piece puzzles, poker chips, dominoes, dice and other games senior citizens might enjoy. If you've got some of these you no longer need, we'd be happy to accept them. Just bring to the Cathedral atrium. 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 To register, please visit

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CACAC2BABFEC43-63199576-springfield>

## **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!

## **I Was Hungry and You Fed Me**

The Holy Family Food Pantry is in need of cereal, pasta sauce, rice, and canned beans. Please help as you are able. Pantry manager, Dennis, sends his most sincere thanks for the increased donations!

## The Devil's Long Con

The algorithm on my streaming service has been suggesting a lot of romantic scam documentaries lately. If you're not familiar, romantic scams are a particularly cruel form of "the long con."

Some man presents himself to some woman as Prince Charming. He wines her. He dines her. He charms her mom and makes her friends jealous. Little red flags pop up here and there, but she shrugs them all off. She accepts convenient explanations.

She just wants to be happy.

And then one day, Prince Charming vanishes, along with the contents of the woman's savings account. Every victim says the same thing: "I should have known better, but I wanted it to be real."

I think the reason I'm so drawn to these shows is that I identify with these women. No, I've never been the victim of a romantic scam (if my husband married me thinking he would gain access to some kind of fortune, he's the one who got scammed). But we have all told ourselves that something is right because it feels right. We have shrugged off doubts about a choice, a relationship, a habit.

We have accepted easy answers that don't pass the sniff test — because we really, really wanted an answer, and we really, really wanted it to be easy.

The devil is a romantic scammer. A third-party retailer hawking knock-off joy and fulfillment. A wolf in sheep's clothing. A false prophet. A thief, a robber who has climbed the fence, knowing the gate will not admit him.

These are all different ways of saying the same thing: we can recognize what is real by where it comes from. What it sounds like. This ability to discern truth is written into our souls. We can ignore it, if we want. Suppress it. We can follow the stranger.

But where will he lead?

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman  
©LPi

---

## Around the Diocese

- **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](mailto:bartowbog1@yahoo.com)) if you have any questions or would like to discuss this opportunity further.
- **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](http://springfieldop.org/events) or call Sister Denise Glazik, OP, 217-787-0481 for questions.
- **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.