

*Cathedral* OF THE  
*Immaculate Conception*

**MAY 3, 2026 | FIFTH 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 18

---

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.



## Glowing Furnace of Charity

In 2008, I attended a summer program in Omaha, Nebraska for seminarians, focusing on spirituality. It was one of the most impactful experiences of my life, as it was a time when I really learned not just about prayer, but how to pray in a deeper and more relational way. We had an 8-day silent retreat and there are several graces that came from that retreat that are just as vivid to me today as they were 18 years ago.

One of the images from that summer that I often go back to is that of a statue at which I would often pray. It was a statue of Jesus with His right hand pointing to His Sacred Heart. His other hand is

extended as if to invite one to come to Him, to encounter the burning fire of His love overflowing from that Sacred Heart. Whether it was on the retreat I mentioned, or just walking by it during an early evening walk, I always found a sense of peace, and that image in my mind continues to offer an invitation to return to that place to reclaim that peace.

Of the various elements of traditional depictions of the Sacred Heart, I have always been drawn to the fire that emanates from the Heart of Jesus. When we go to confession, we present to Jesus our hearts that have become tarnished and cold because of our sins, but as we come into contact with the burning fire of His love, our hearts are purified and warmed up. When feeling dry in prayer, we can draw close to that Heart and we are renewed as we are reminded of His love which continues to burn for us, and to realize how He so longs to share that love with us, constantly inviting us to draw near. For this reason, I have chosen the following invocation from the Litany of the Sacred Heart for this week:

*Heart of Jesus, glowing furnace of charity, have mercy on us*

At the beginning of the Gospel for this Sunday, Jesus says to His disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." (Jn 14:1) There are no doubt many times when our hearts become troubled. It can happen as a result of something that has been done to us, such as a harsh word or a perceived slight. Sometimes we can feel overlooked and ignored. There are times when we have received some troubling news that leaves us unsettled. At other times, our hearts are troubled because of something we have done – how we have treated somebody, how we have said something insensitive, how we have given into sin. When our hearts are troubled, we can tend to turn in on ourselves, hurt, ashamed, angry, or sorrowful, trying to manage the emotions ourselves, which usually leads to our hearts being even more troubled. In a line that is key to devotion to the Sacred Heart, and one which is depicted so well in the image I recall so fondly that summer, are those offered by Jesus, perhaps to the same disciples, in Matthew's Gospel:

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Mt 11:28-29)*

When are hearts are troubled, when we are burdened, instead of turning in, look up and see Jesus with His hand extended, inviting you to draw near to His heart, to experience the glowing furnace of charity for you, and may that love settle you heart and renew your peace.

*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, May 4

7am - Gerry Dumont  
(McGrath Family)  
5:15pm - Dan Sexson  
(Sharon Sexson)

#### Tuesday, May 5

7am - Dick Allender  
(Family)  
5:15pm - Patrick and Fleck Family  
(Greg & Marie Fleck)

#### Wednesday, May 6

7am - Edward Anselment  
(Anselment Family)  
5:15pm - NO MASS – Priests Jubilee

#### Thursday, May 7

7am - Patrick Fitzgerald  
(Nicoud Family)  
5:15pm - John W Montgomery  
(John Busciacco)

#### Friday, May 8

7am - Intention for Bianca  
(DA Drago)  
5:15pm - Karen Bucari  
(Alan Bucari)

#### Saturday, May 9

8am - Thomas Conway Sr.  
(Family)  
4pm - Eulalia and Raymond Ohl  
(Angela Ohl Marsters)

#### Sunday, May 10

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(Bill Midden)  
10am - Betty Rogers  
(Glen Rogers)  
5pm - For the People



If you read chapters four and five of St. Bonaventure's life of St. Francis, you may be a bit put off by St. Francis' demanding and radical mortifications. In some instances, if we saw someone doing the same today, we would potentially think he was medically insane - that something was truly wrong with him. We may ask questions like, "Does he suffer from self-hatred? Does he suffer from some mental illness?" I and others who know Francis well (and far better than me) would answer, "No," to these questions, and for good reason.

To give a very cursory answer to this question, it is helpful to take a cursory glance toward some of the history of ascetical (disciplinary) practices in Christianity. Francis was not the first to behave like this; really, he is following a centuries-old way of living Christianity. It is just a way we are not at all used to seeing today.

These heavy penances and mortifications, as well as St. Francis' attitude toward them, remind me of the Desert Fathers of the Church. These Desert Fathers were men (and women) who in the first centuries of the Church, in places like Syria, Egypt, and around the Holy Land, went out into the desert and willfully embraced lives of the most severe penance. They did this, we have to understand, in full freedom, and out of love for Jesus Christ. They did this, we have to understand, in imitation of Jesus' own mortification in the desert and his passion on the cross.

It is necessary for us to recognize that these men and women did not hate their bodies - they hated sin. They disciplined their bodies as a way to drive sin from their lives and draw close to Jesus. It is fascinating to read about the lives of some of these people, including St. Francis and his brothers in the early Franciscan order, and to hear that despite these severe penances, they enjoyed health, energy, and a composure before God and others that allowed them to be sources of love and wisdom.

To the question of possible mental illness, it is also important to recognize that none of these people took on these practices before they had a profound encounter with the risen Lord. St. Anthony of the Desert, perhaps the most famous of the desert Fathers, only went into the desert after he was inspired by the Holy Spirit upon hearing the words of the Gospel - Jesus inviting the rich young man to leave everything and follow him.

St. Francis as well encountered Jesus and only then, out of love for him and in imitation of him, began to take on penitential practices.

We often say that these great saints and their practices are "to be admired, not imitated." That is true, to an extent. Not all of us are called to such a life. And in fact, most of us, with our modern daily duties and cares, truly could not survive with such a straining life of penance. For example, excessive fasting is fine when driving is unnecessary, but nearly all of us have to drive and the effects of fasting can make driving a danger to ourselves and others.

Still, according to our state in life and keeping in mind our vocational responsibilities, there is something more than admiration that we can take from the lives of these saints. We can look to them as an example of love. We can admire the fire that lived in their hearts and we can strive to imitate that depth of desire. Maybe the penances are not all to be imitated, but the inferno of love is to be desired and imitated.

How can I be more like St. Francis? Jesus, set my heart on fire with a burning love for you and for your cross. Help me to sacrifice where I am able and to learn to live only for you!

*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 25th & 26th**

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 MAY 4

| <b>MONDAY</b>                                      | <b>TUESDAY</b>                           | <b>WEDNESDAY</b>                                  | <b>THURSDAY</b>                                       | <b>FRIDAY</b>               | <b>SATURDAY</b> | <b>SUNDAY</b> |
|--|--|---|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Rosary<br>4:45 PM<br>Church                        | Grief Share<br>1:00 PM<br>School Library | Men's Bible<br>Study<br>6:00 AM<br>School Library | Adoration<br>4:00 PM<br>Church                        | Rosary<br>4:45 PM<br>Church |                 |               |
| Spanish Bible<br>Study<br>6:00pm<br>School Library | Adoration<br>4:00 PM<br>Church           | Rosary<br>4:45 PM<br>Church                       | Women' Bible<br>Study<br>10am & 1pm<br>School Library |                             |                 |               |
|  | OCIA<br>6:00 PM<br>School Library        | Choir<br>Rehearsal<br>7:00 PM<br>Choir Room       |   |                             |                 |               |

## What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### COORDINATOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND MISSION

#### The Cathedral is Hiring a Coordinator of Faith Formation and Mission

The Cathedral is looking to hire a Coordinator of Faith Formation and Mission. This role is a professional catechetical leader responsible for the total religious formation program of the parish for all ages. As a representative of the Rector, the Coordinator implements the parish religious formation program in accordance with the parish Mission Statement and goals, and develops a Parish Catechetical Plan to guide the ongoing work of faith formation. The Coordinator manages program content, volunteers, and budget and coordinates with other parish ministries and activities. Please visit [www.spicathedral.org/employment](http://www.spicathedral.org/employment) for more information. Interested candidates should provide a cover letter and resume to Fr. Brian Alford, [balford@dio.org](mailto:balford@dio.org).



## CATHEDRAL MEAL TRAIN

#### 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



## 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>

## Vote for a Cathedral Woman of Distinction!!

The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women is excited to have the input of all parishioners in choosing the 2026 Cathedral Woman of Distinction! Additional ballots are available in the Atrium if you have not yet received one. Please place your completed ballot in the collection basket at any Mass no later than May 10th. Thanks for your vote!

## 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 Way

A friend of mine who had family members belonging to several different religions once told me that there were as many different routes to Heaven as there were to the grocery store.

This was an analogy her family had used to remember that they all sought the same thing — God — even though they were going about the search in different ways.

I've thought a lot about her words in the years since she shared them with me. It's not an untrue analogy — there are a lot of different routes to the grocery store. An infinite number, in fact. There is actually no "right" way to get to the grocery store, because it all depends on where you're starting from and what other errands you have along the way.

And there are a lot of different routes to Heaven — likewise, an infinite number. It all depends on where you're starting from. It all depends on what you have to do along the way.

There it is: the part that matters. The way.

Whether we're talking about Heaven or the grocery store as our destination, all routes are not created equal. Some take too long. Some are impassable. Some are hard to navigate. Some are just plain made-up — the glitch of a GPS, the promise of a false prophet. And inevitably, if you take a less-than-ideal route, you will find yourself flagging down a pedestrian, asking, "I'm lost. Which way do I go?"

See, you can meander all you want. But in the end, you have to find The Way. And there's only one. Don't worry, though.

You'll know him when you see him.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman  
©LPi

---

## Around the Diocese

- **Celebrating the Legacy.** Alumni, Friends & Supporters are invited! Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm Open House at St. Patrick School, 5:00pm Mass at St. Patrick Catholic Church. Join us after mass at Rt 66 Mother Road Diner Hotel & Conference Center - 625 E. St. Joseph St., Springfield. RSVP Encouraged [kcavanagh@st-patrick.org](mailto:kcavanagh@st-patrick.org) or 217-523-7670
- **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.