

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

APRIL 12, 2026 | SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY



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 15

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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

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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.



## Patient and Rich in Mercy

One of the greatest effects of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus's Death and Resurrection is our liberation from sin, making possible new life already here as we anticipate the fullness of that new life in Heaven. This liberation from sin was given to us despite humanity's infidelity over and over again throughout history. Fittingly, the invocation from the Litany of the Sacred Heart that I have chosen for this Divine Mercy Sunday on which we celebrate this gift of liberation from sin is the following:

*Heart of Jesus, patient and rich in mercy, have mercy on us*

As we hear in the Gospel for today's Mass, Jesus gave to His Apostles the ability to be instruments of this mercy when, after breathing on them, He says: "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (Jn 20:22b-23) We know all too well the sad reality that, after we have been liberated from sin through the Sacrament of Baptism, we still fall into sin. Over and over again, we stumble, but the Lord shows His patience toward us by inviting us to bring those sins to Him through His priests in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to have that liberation renewed. There are no limits to this mercy. It is not as though we have a finite number of times that we can go to confession, or that there are only a certain number of times that we can confess the same sins before that mercy runs out. Quite the contrary! Jesus's Sacred Heart is rich in mercy toward of all His children. All that He asks is that we ask for it, and He will surely give it to us.

Thanks be to God, this message of Divine Mercy has been very popular over the past few decades, especially since Pope St. John Paul II canonized St. Faustina Kowalska, the Apostle of Divine Mercy, in the Jubilee Year of 2000. So many of Jesus's messages given to her highlight just how profound this gift of mercy is. One passage in particular from her Diary is one I love to meditate on:

Let the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy. They have the right before others to trust in the abyss of My mercy. My daughter, write about My mercy towards tormented souls. Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My compassion, but on the contrary, I justify him in My unfathomable and inscrutable mercy. (Diary, 1146)

It is hard for us to grasp how our appealing for His mercy as we acknowledge our sins brings delight to Him. After all, every sin we commit is an offense against Him and it can be very embarrassing to have to bring those sins to confession. On the other hand, our appealing to Him for His mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an affirmation and an act of thanksgiving for the gift of His sacrifice on the Cross, that it was not in vain. He willingly died for us, so that when we find ourselves separated from Him by sin, we have an outlet to be restored to that new life His Resurrection won for us. This indeed is the Good News of the Resurrection that we continue to celebrate with Easter!

*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 13

7am - William Sinnott (Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)  
5:15pm - Frank Coffey (Family)

#### Tuesday, April 14

7am - Octavia "Tabby" Diaz (Paul J. Staab)  
5:15pm - Elaine Beagles (Bernie Ely)

#### Wednesday, April 15

7am - Johnstone-Valdez Family (Rosario Johnstone)  
5:15pm - John and Edith Bakalar (John Busciacco)

#### Thursday, April 16

7am - Emery Mapes (Jesse and Claire Presley)  
5:15pm - Patricia Walter (Jean Moss)

#### Friday, April 17

7am - Betty and Gene Barish (Family)  
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the Chiaradonna Family (Geny Chiaradonna)

#### Saturday, April 18

8am - Dick Allender (Carla Potts)  
4pm - Raymond and Eulalia Ohl (Angela Ohl-Marsters)

#### Sunday, April 19

7am - Mary Ann Midden (Bill Midden)  
10am - Mercedes and Charles Nesbitt (Kathy Frank)  
5pm - For the People



If you ever visit the city of Rome, and the Lateran Basilica in particular, you may notice an interesting statue a good distance from the front doors of that church.

This statue is rather large and depicts a man with his arms thrust out in front of him as if he is pushing something upwards forcefully.

Yet, he's not holding on to anything... at least not anything you can see right away.

In order to see what this statue is "holding up," you actually need to stand behind him and look in the same direction.

From that angle, you would see that his hands seem to be not simply reaching out into the air haphazardly but instead are actually holding on to the Lateran basilica itself, through an optical illusion of perspective.

This statue, (as you would have guessed by now if you know the story), depicts St. Francis of Assisi.

Now, literally holding up the Lateran Basilica is not something St. Francis ever really did, but it is an image from a dream that the Pope Innocent III had before St. Francis ever came to see him to request permission to found a community based on the Gospel rule of life.

We see this scene in Chapter three of the Life of St. Francis by St. Bonaventure.

Francis has written his rule and desires papal approval, so he and his brothers (there are seven of them now) go to visit Rome. In a very fitting turn of events, Francis first goes to see the pope but is turned away. Pope Innocent III later has a vision from God that this man who seems so poor and insignificant would eventually blossom into something beautiful. The pope grants him an audience the next day.

After speaking with him, the Pope is impressed by how faithfully Francis and his brothers want to follow the Gospel. While their rule seemed somewhat harsh, it really is just a radical and simple way to live the Gospel. As one of the bishops attending the pope stated, "If we refuse the request of this poor man as novel or too difficult, when all he asks is to be allowed to lead the Gospel life, we must be on our guard lest we commit an offense against Christ's Gospel" (Quoted from The Life of St. Francis, Translated by Ewert Cousin, Ch. 3.9).

After this audience in which the pope granted Francis permission to follow his rule of life as a community and to preach the Gospel, the Pope realized that this man was the one who would fulfill a prophecy the Pope had received in a vision previously.

The Pope "had seen in a dream, as he recounted, that a little poor man, insignificant and despised, was holding up on his back the Lateran basilica which was about to collapse" (ibid. 3.10). The Lateran basilica, though not as large as St. Peter's basilica nowadays, has always been the most primary church in Rome and symbolizes the whole Church. St. Francis would bring the church renewal and new life.

This vision and the whole scenario of the foundation of the rule of St. Francis and its effect on the Church reminds me of the line in the Magnificat, "He has cast down the mighty and lifted up the lowly."

Truly, in St. Francis, the Lord has lifted up his lowly servant to bring down those whom the world considered great. He didn't bring them down violently, but by his simplicity and poverty, he became great and renewed for the entire Church the vision of what true greatness is.

As our Lord himself emphasized, "Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant."

May the prayers of St. Francis strengthen us in humility and generosity!

*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

Envelopes:	\$5,214.00
Loose:	\$3,509.00
Maintenance:	\$110.00
Total:	\$8,833.00

April 4<sup>th</sup> & April 5<sup>th</sup>

Envelopes:	\$9,116.00
Loose:	\$3,255.00
Maintenance:	\$760.00
Total:	\$13,131.00

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!



## WEEK OF APRIL 13

<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 6:00pm School Library	Grief Share 1:00 PM School Library	Social for Seniors 3:00pm Atrium	Women' Bible Study 10am & 1pm School Library			
		Rosary 4:45 PM Church				
		Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room				

### 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



## Thank You!

Together, we changed lives this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl. THANK YOU for being a part of this effort! Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl at or donate online at [crsricebowl.org/give](http://crsricebowl.org/give)

## 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.

## 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!

## 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](http://springfieldop.org/events) or call Sister Denise Glazik, OP, 217-787-0481 for questions.

## Support our parish by giving online

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

## 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

## 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!

## 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](http://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](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org) or call 217/522-3342

## Within Thy Wounds

The prayer I love best in the world is the Anima Christi. This private, devotional litany of supplication, begins with the phrase “anima Christi, sanctifica me” (“soul of Christ, sanctify me”) and continues on to appeal individually to each aspect of Our Lord’s crucified flesh: “Body of Christ, save me; blood of Christ, inebriate me; water from Christ’s side, wash me; passion of Christ, strengthen me; Oh good Jesus, hear me.”

Then comes my favorite part: “within thy wounds hide me.”

The Anima Christi is a prayer traditionally said after receiving Holy Communion. The ancient Celts spoke of liminal places, where the veil separating this world from the next is particularly thin, and I believe the moments immediately following the reception of Holy Communion, when the Host is dissolving on my tongue, create a liminal place. When I am in that place, I am as intimately connected to God as I can be while my heart is still beating.

And when I am there, holding God within me, what are the words that I speak? It’s overwhelming to think about. What could possibly be right to say?

There is no right or wrong answer, I suppose. But the best words I can think of are these: “Within thy wounds, Lord, hide me.”

There is a reason Christ showed his wounds as he said the words, “Peace be with you.” It was not just a means of identifying himself — it was a catechism lesson. Here, he was saying. Here is the peace you will not find anywhere else.

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## 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.
- **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