

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**MAY 10, 2026 | SIXTH 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 19

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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

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

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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.

## Our Peace and Reconciliation



In the final few weeks of the Easter Season, the Gospels for Sunday and the weekdays come from the section of John's Gospel known as the Farewell Discourse. Jesus is preparing to bid His disciples farewell, not just when He dies on the Cross, but also when He bids them farewell at the Ascension, which we will celebrate next week. His coming departure was no doubt a source of great anxiety and sorrow for these friends of His with whom He has shared His life for three years. In the midst of this special time He spends with His friends, He offers them various promises meant to bring them peace in the midst of their sorrow, not the least of which is the one we hear in the Gospel for this Sunday: "I

will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always...I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:16, 18) A few verses later, He offers another powerful promise: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." (John 14:27)

There are so many other promises that the Lord offers throughout the Gospels that are a source of peace, but these are especially consoling because of their proximity to the sad events that will soon follow. Through our Baptism, we have received this gift of the Lord's presence in our lives through the Holy Spirit. And yet, we still find ourselves feeling troubled or afraid. In those moments, we would do well to return to these promises which Jesus makes to His friends, promises not meant just for them, but for us as well, for we are indeed among His friends because of the new life He has poured into us through His grace. As we hear those promises addressed to us personally, in the here and now of our lives, in our fear and uncertainty, we discover His peace. With that in mind, I have chosen the following invocation from the Litany of the Sacred Heart for this week:

*Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation, have mercy on us*

The inclusion of reconciliation with peace is not coincidental. Our greatest experience of unrest in our relationship with the Lord comes not so much when we are afraid about the future, but rather when we have turned away from Him through our sins. In the next chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus offers us these beautiful words: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love." (John 15:9) Yet, when we sin, we choose to depart from His love. Instead of remaining in His love, remaining in His promises, remaining in His grace, we wander off into darkness, we wander off into a place of sorrow. But the Lord, the Good Shepherd, goes after us, desiring to bring us back into the fold, desiring to restore us to His love, desire to restore our peace through the gift of His mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Over the past couple of years, I have been struck by the words I am privileged to say to every lost sheep who has made their way back to the love of God in confession – "may God grant you pardon and peace." When our sins are forgiven, all the promises are renewed in us and for us, and a peace washes over our souls.

May the grace of the Holy Spirit guard this peace in our hearts and deepen our faith in His many promises to us, that He will be with us until the end of time, that He will not leave us orphans, and that He will love us to the end.

### Mass Intentions

#### Monday, May 11

7am - Carrie Eichen  
(Barbara Shures)  
5:15pm - Don Smargiassi  
(Smargiassi Family)

#### Tuesday, May 12

7am - John & Edith Bakalar  
(John Busciacco)  
5:15pm - Sydney Compton & Richard  
Beemer (Vicki Compton)

#### Wednesday, May 13

7am - Mary Jane Kern  
(Estate)  
5:15pm - Anna Wanda Chiaradonna  
(Geny Chiaradonna)

#### Thursday, May 14

7am - Dick Allender  
(Family)  
5:15pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl  
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

#### Friday, May 15

7am - Johnstone-Valdez Family  
(Rosario Johnstone)  
5:15pm - Lemuel Moss  
(Jean Moss)

#### Saturday, May 16

8am - For the People  
4pm - Judith Hubbell  
(Family)

#### Sunday, May 17

7am - Judith Ansell  
(John & Margaret Lemanski)  
10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt  
(Kathy Frank)  
5pm - Dcn. Michael Kim Scott  
(Larry & Beverly Smith)

*Father Alford is the Rector of the Cathedral and serves in the diocesan curia as the Vicar for Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations.*



Humility is one of those virtues that, generally, everyone knows they need but no one really wants :) ... We know it will make us holy, but we know it involves suffering. We know it will make us like Christ, but that transformation comes through the cross. We know it is the primary virtue of so many saints, but that they gained humility through a life of renunciation and obedience. St. Bonaventure calls humility “the guardian and ornament of all the virtues” - it is a foundation for charity, faith, hope, prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance, and all other virtues to be named (Life of St. Francis, 6.1).

Without humility, things fall apart and we become men and women who flex the muscles of our willpower like bodybuilders as we grow in virtue. With humility, we become saints who rest upon the strength of the Lord - we become just as strong in virtue but it isn't all based on us.

Of all the virtues that St. Francis excelled in, humility is the one in his life too that could be said to take pride of place.

The first five chapters of *The Life of St. Francis* by St. Bonaventure are more or less a chronological account of the beginning of St. Francis' ministry. After finishing this account, St. Bonaventure embarks upon an extended reflection on the different facets of St. Francis' personality, virtues, community relations, and holiness. Chapter six is devoted to the humility and obedience of St. Francis.

Among the most striking images that St. Francis used to preach about humility and obedience in the course of his life and ministry was that of a dead body! St. Bonaventure quotes St. Francis as saying this:

“Take a corpse and put it where you will! You will see that it does not resist being moved, nor murmur about its position nor protest when it is cast aside. If it is placed on a throne, it will not raise its eyes up, but cast them down. If it is clothed in purple, it will look twice as pale. This is a truly obedient man.”

When I hear this quote, I am reminded of St. Paul when he said, “I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need” (Philippians 4:12). St. Francis too knew how to be poor and rich, hungry and fed. He took what came to him in his life and simply trusted that the Lord would provide.

Clearly, we cannot all become poor to the extent that St. Francis did. He embraced poverty in a radical way according to the state in life that the Lord called him. A monk can do this, a man or woman with a family cannot. Still, what we can all imitate and strive for is the humility that came along with St. Francis' poverty.

We can pray for the grace of indifference to worldly possessions. We can pray for the grace of seeing ourselves in the way Jesus himself sees us. When we see our goodness through his eyes, we recognize that we have not built ourselves up but that he has given us life and all good things. Through the intercession of St. Francis, may God grant us the grace of true humility.

*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

May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

Envelopes:	\$6,633.00
Loose:	\$3,431.46
Maintenance:	\$1,980.00
Total:	\$12,044.46

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 11

<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		
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?



### 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

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.

## 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!

## 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!

## Congratulations Jane!

Jane Fornoff, long time choir member and catechist for 20 years, has become a US citizen. Wales's loss is our gain! Congratulations, Jane and thank you for your service to our Cathedral parish!



## First Communion/Confirmation Volunteers Needed

The Diocese welcomes high school volunteers to help at the Cathedral for Sacraments. For Saturday events, arrival time is 9:00 a.m. (although you can help set up at 7:00 a.m.); you will finish by 1:30 p.m. For Tuesday events, arrival time is at 5:00 p.m. (although you can help set up at 3:00 p.m.); you will finish by 9:15 p.m. You must be Safe Environment trained and background checked. There are a variety of dates available, and the sign-up is available here: <https://dio.org/volunteer-to-help-with-sacraments-at-the-cathedral-parishioner/>

## 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.

## K of C Baseball Trip

The Fr. Tolton Council of the Knights of Columbus is planning a day at the ballpark in Peoria to watch the Chiefs in action. The game is June 7th at 2:05 PM and includes an all you can eat buffet, plus soda and water, and great seats, too. Transportation is on your own. Friends and family are welcome! Prizes for the first people to register! To place your ticket order visit <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/peoria-chiefs-day-at-the-ballpark>.

## How to Live in the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the most mysterious of the persons of the Trinity, and His work in our lives is not always apparent - for example, can you answer the question, "How am I living out of the gifts given to me at the sacrament of Confirmation?" If you want to know and understand more of what God desires for our relationship with the Holy Spirit, join Fr. Daniel McGrath at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral Atrium after the feast of Pentecost, on June 8, 15, 22, and 29, as we dive into the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the effect of the Holy Spirit on our lives!

## The Christ You See

"What if you are the only version of Christ someone sees today?" a friend once asked me.

My blood ran cold. Jeez, I thought. That would be...really unfortunate.

The world cannot accept the Holy Spirit, Christ tells us, because the world cannot see and know the Holy Spirit (John 14:17). But the world can see us. The world can know us. In this way, we accomplish the Great Commission: we go forth, and we make disciples of all nations. In all that we are and all that we do, we offer an explanation for our hope (1 Peter 3:15).

We face a unique situation, 2,000 years after the Resurrection, because our mission field is full of people who have already heard about Christ.

And they have zero interest, thanks-and-please-get-off-my-porch.

This Christ they've seen? He puts himself first. He's suspicious of other people. He's not interested in mixing with the wrong crowd. He's been known to lie, to abuse trust, to protect himself.

Here's the problem: they haven't seen Christ at all. They've only seen Christians.

It's easy to blame the obvious culprits: the priest consumed in public scandal, the parish trustee who stole from the coffers. But these are only larger versions of the same failure of which I am guilty each time I shiver at the thought of someone associating my behavior, my words, and my attitude with my Savior.

I am not Christ. I am nowhere close. But I am fortunate enough to be a member of his Body.

We all fail, of course. Every apostle, every saint, every bishop, every priest, every man and woman in the pews: we are all broken. We are all in need of redemption. When we accept that redemption, however, we also accept responsibility. Because now, we become what the world sees of Christ.

Am I ready to be the only version of Christ someone sees today?

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman  
©LPI

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## 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
- **Naomi and Ruth Women's Ministry @ St. Agnes, Summer Sundays Book Study.** Sessions 1-3 Sundays June 7, 14, 21; Sessions 4-7 Sundays August 2, 9, 16, 23. 2pm in the Parish Center. Order your book through Amazon or the Parish - Cost \$25/book includes video access. Contact Cathy Becker at St. Agnes for more information - 217-793-1330 or at [cbecker@sacspi.org](mailto:cbecker@sacspi.org)
- **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.
- **Called and Courageous Women's Conference in Springfield** - Life is full of highs and lows, and it can be hard to see where God is in the middle of it all. At this year's Catholic Women's Conference, discover how to trust God in the messy, real moments of everyday life. Learn how your emotions influence your spiritual life and how to challenge the lies that lead to self-criticism, comparison, and discouragement. You'll leave with practical tools to learn how to recognize God in your daily life, grow in prayer, and live with greater confidence in your identity as a beloved daughter of God. No matter what your season of life - single, married, divorced, widowed, young adult, or retired - you'll find encouragement, community, and hope. When? Saturday, October 10. Christ the King parish Center, Springfield. Women ages 18+. Cost \$30. For the full schedule, speaker information, and registration, visit [go.dio.org/cac](http://go.dio.org/cac). Even if you are on the fence about God, remember: God is not on the fence about you. Questions? Contact Gracie Ortiz at [gortiz@dio.org](mailto:gortiz@dio.org) or 217-321-1124.