

*Cathedral* OF THE  
*Immaculate Conception*

**MAY 24, 2026 | PENTECOST SUNDAY**



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 21

---

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.



## Source of All Consolation

Attentive readers of this bulletin will recall the series that Father Daniel wrote last summer on the various stanzas of the Sequence for Pentecost, so I do not need to go into great detail to explain what the Sequence is, but rather to jump right into focusing our attention on one of those stanzas this week for our reflection. It fits well with the invocation from the Litany of the Sacred Heart that I have chosen for this Pentecost Sunday. Here is the stanza from the Sequence, followed by the invocation:

*You, of comforters the best;  
You, the soul's most welcome guest;  
Sweet refreshment here below;  
Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation, have mercy on us*

The final line of the stanza is often translated with the phrase “sweet consolation”, and it speaks to how the Holy Spirit brings us peace in the midst of the difficulties we face in our lives. In fact, peace is listed by St. Paul as one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, or characteristics we can find in our lives when the Holy Spirit is present in our souls through God’s grace.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart fits well in this regard, as we know how, through His humanity, Jesus experienced so many of the emotions that we face in our humanity as well – sorrow, rejection, abandonment, physical suffering. As a result of that, He is truly able to have empathy with us. We know the experience of finding consolation from a friend who is willing to enter into suffering with us (the meaning of compassion), not in a cold, detached way, but in a way that knows suffering as well. When we bring our burdens to His Heart, He receives us not as a burden, but as a guest, and He pours into our hearts His loving consolation that brings us peace.

St. John Henry Newman had a great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and reflected on how the Eucharist is that constant presence of that beating Heart of Jesus, inviting us to find in this gift the relief for which our souls long. It is a beautiful image to think of, and one that can really help us as we come to receive the Eucharist at Mass. In those moments of quiet right after receiving Him, we can ask Him to enter those places of anxiety, fear, sorrow, or suffering. We can expect to find the gift of His consolation when we invite Him in this way in this moment of deep intimacy. While we can and should use our own words for this prayer, we could also use the following from Newman, as it summarizes this theme so beautifully:

*O most Sacred, most loving Heart of Jesus, Thou art concealed in the Holy Eucharist, and Thou beatest for us still. Now as then Thou savest, Desiderio desideravi—“With desire I have desired.” I worship Thee then with all my best love and awe, with my fervent affection, with my most subdued, most resolved will. O my God, when Thou dost condescend to suffer me to receive Thee, to eat and drink Thee, and Thou for a while takest up Thy abode within me, O make my heart beat with Thy Heart. Purify it of all that is earthly, all that is proud and sensual, all that is hard and cruel, of all perversity, of all disorder, of all deadness. So fill it with Thee, that neither the events of the day nor the circumstances of the time may have power to ruffle it, but that in Thy love and Thy fear it may have 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 25

7am - Ian Lloyd Smith  
(Sharon Sexson)  
5:15pm - NO MASS

### Tuesday, May 26

7am - Genevieve, Patty, and John Craig  
(Family)  
5:15pm - Penny Shehadeh  
(Celeste Crowley)

### Wednesday, May 27

7am - Maria Martinez  
(John Busciacco)  
5:15pm - Gaston & Gries Family  
(Gregory & Marie Fleck)

### Thursday, May 28

7am - Diana Schumacher  
(Daniel Schumacher)  
5:15pm - Father Daren Zenhle  
(Beverly & Larry Smith)

### Friday, May 29

7am - Michael Poggi  
(Family)  
5:15pm - Ralph Walter  
(Jean Moss)

### Saturday, May 30

8am - Colleen M Ishmael  
(McGee Family)  
4pm - Edna & James Freeman  
(Paul Freeman)

### Sunday, May 31

7am - Judith Ansell  
(John & Margaret Lemanski)  
10am - For the People  
5pm - Margaret Vaplon Miller  
(Eric & Joanna Miller)



As we move into the eighth chapter of the life of St. Francis, we continue to dive deeper into the great virtues which St. Francis possessed through his unity with Christ. The virtue that St. Bonaventure focuses on in this chapter is “Piety,” a virtue that is exceedingly important for our lives of faith, but one that very often gets little focus.

Generally, and sadly, it seems that “piety” is used almost in an insulting or mocking way to ascribe to some people an overly “pious” way of living their faith. This critique, however, comes from an impoverished view of piety - a view that sees the virtue of piety as something to do only with the external actions of faith. If I see someone who kneels in a church, prays the rosary, lights candles, practices devotions, I might call them pious, and rightly so. The virtue of piety, however, encompasses much more than these outward expressions of the faith. It is something deeply interior to a person, and it may or may not be expressed in these outward ways.

This chapter begins with some beautiful lines by St. Bonaventure:

*“True piety, which according to the Apostle, is helpful for all things, had so filled Francis’ heart and penetrated its depths that it seemed to have appropriated the man of God completely into its dominion. This is what drew him up to God through devotion, transformed him into Christ through compassion, attracted him to his neighbor through condescension, and symbolically showed a return to the state of original innocence through universal reconciliation with each and every thing”*  
(*The Life of St. Francis by Bonaventure 8.1*).

That is quite a quote! And immediately, we see that St. Francis’ piety had very little to do with his outward devotional practices. This is not to say that he lacked those! No, rather, he practiced his faith, but what we call “Piety” in him was something deeper than the outward practices. It was what undergirded the practices. In a footnote to this section, the editor writes, “The Latin term is pietas which has a much broader scope than the English “piety”; in the context of this chapter it includes love, devotion, affection, reverence, kindness, fidelity, and compassion” (8.1, footnote). A “pious” action filled with these characteristics is one that is full of a holy goodness, but a “pious” action without these characteristics is empty and meaningless.

St. Francis’ piety was truly the great gift of the Holy Spirit that led him to do the will of the Father in remarkable ways. It led him to love his brothers and sisters here on earth with an intense devotion. It led him to draw near to sinners and to lead them to God. It led him to care for the poor with a special love, kindness, and reverence. It led him to seek to remain poor and in that poverty to remain faithful to Christ his Lord and King. It taught him to look upon all those who were poor - whether from a lack of physical means or a lack of moral and spiritual uprightness - as his own brothers and sisters. “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Piety answers, “Yes, he is Christ to me and I serve him as I serve the Lord.”

In this way, we see that a truly pious person is someone not to be mocked but to be praised and revered! If I see a person practicing devotions, lighting candles, giving to the poor, etc., and I consider that they do it out of love, devotion, affection, etc., what a great joy it is to see the Holy Spirit at work in their life! God-willing, these exterior actions speak of a deeper interior life and lead to greater actions of love and charity in the world.

May St. Francis pray for us all that we may be filled with a greater spirit of Piety!

*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 16th & 17th

Envelopes:	\$5,031.00
Loose:	\$4,279.00
Maintenance:	\$211.00
Total:	\$9,521.00

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 Deaths

Mary Ann Willmore  
Date of Death: May 3, 2026

Kathy Heimlich  
Date of Death: May 5, 2026

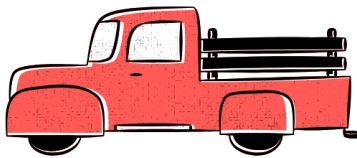
## WEEK OF MAY 25

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
NO 5:15 MASS - Memorial Day	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	Stuff a Truck After 4 PM Mass Parking Lot	Stuff a Truck After All Masses Parking Lot
	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Women' Bible Study 10am & 1pm School Library			
		Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room	K of C Meeting 6:00 PM School Classroom			

## What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

### STUFF A TRUCK FOOD DRIVE

FOR THE HOLY FAMILY FOOD PANTRY



BEFORE & AFTER  
ALL MASSES  
MAY 30 & 31

### Stuff a Truck Food Drive

The Knights of Columbus and CCCW are partnering in a "Stuff a Truck" Food Drive for the Holy Family Food Pantry. Look for the Red Trucks before & after all Masses May 30 and 31! Suggested items for donations include (no glass please): Dry pasta, Spaghetti sauce w meat, Canned complete meals, Peanut butter & jelly, Mac-n-cheese box mixes, Fruit & veggies, Box mixes of any kind, Pancake Mix & Syrup, Fruit & Pudding cups, Potatoes, Paper products, Oral Hygiene items, Feminine Hygiene items, Laundry items, Diapers. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



### 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



## May Food Pantry Needs

Holy Family Food pantry is in need of cereal, jelly and canned meals like stew, pasta, soup. Place donations in the blue bin in the atrium. Thank you for your generosity!



## Congratulations!

Congratulations to parishioner Rob Bentel, who received the State Deputy Medallion at the 128<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois State Council Knights of Columbus Convention. This is a special recognition award given by the sitting State Deputy to exemplary members, chairmen, or volunteers who demonstrate outstanding service.

## 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!

## 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/>

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:05 PM and includes an all you can eat buffet, plus soda and water, and great seats, too. Tickets are \$44 per person and 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!

## Signs of Life

If you're asthmatic, you know the phrase "as natural as breathing" doesn't always make a lot of sense.

Maybe that's because breathing isn't always natural. Sometimes, it's supernatural.

I come from a family of asthmatics. In my earliest childhood memories, my sister's nose and mouth are covered with a bulbous plastic mask connected by clear tubes to her transportable nebulizer. The machine whirs loudly as it vaporizes the medication that will open her lungs. In these memories, I watch my sister — her little eyes wide, her chest contracting and constricting with great difficulty — and wonder what it feels like.

Because I don't have asthma, and I don't think about breathing, unless I'm climbing a flight of stairs or chasing down one of my kids. It's such a utilitarian thing, breathing. It's unimpressive, unremarkable. Literally anyone can do it.

Until they can't.

Dead men don't breathe. That's what I think as I read the words of John's Gospel: "He breathed on them." (John 20:22) So much of what Jesus does in his resurrected Body is extraordinary and superhuman, making it unmistakable that here is a Body no longer playing by the rules of the physical world. He's passing through locked doors. He's in two places at once.

But today, he's just breathing.

So we have to ask ourselves: why? His Blood no longer requires oxygen. If he were asthmatic, neither bonfire nor damp night air could cause his lungs to constrict. His Flesh has been perfected.

But here we see a reality that is as spiritual as it is physical: where there is breath, there is life.

In Genesis, God breathes into dust and creates man. In today's Gospel, He breathes His Spirit onto man, and creates a Church.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

©LPi

---

## Around the Diocese

- **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@sacsipi.org](mailto:cbecker@sacsipi.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.