

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JUNE 7, 2026 | THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG

FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 23

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
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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.



King and Center of All Hearts

Shortly after I began this series of bulletin articles on the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a parishioner asked if I was going to be moving in July since I was only planning for the series to run through June. At the time, I knew full well that I was indeed going to be moving, but I was not free to share that information at that point. To be clear, my upcoming move only slightly factored into my decision to do this series. My greater reason, as I mentioned at the beginning of the series, has been to offer some reflections on the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the bishops of our country prepare to consecrate our country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus next week on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart.

In my first article, I mentioned that my favorite part of the Litany was the final invocation, which is slightly different from the others, but offers a fitting summary of the prayer: Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto Thine! But when it comes to the standard thirty-three invocations of the Litany, the one I like the best is the following:

Heart of Jesus, King and Center of all hearts, have mercy on us

Part of the impetus for the bishop's deciding to consecrate our country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is due to this year being our country's 250th anniversary of independence. Prior to that time, we were under the rule of the King of England. In the Declaration of Independence, there were several complaints enumerated against the King with the conclusion that such a leader was "unfit to be the ruler of a free people." Thus it was declared that we were absolved of our connections with the British Crown and therefore free to govern ourselves. As a result of our negative experience with the King of England, any mention of being ruled by any king has sounded somewhat offensive to our ears. But the kingship which Jesus desires to exercise over us is different altogether. In the prayers from the Solemnity of Christ the King, we hear that His kingship is one of "truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, love and peace." (Preface) With those qualities, how can we not desire Him to be the King of our lives? And yet, there is still hesitancy in our hearts to let Him be King, even if His reign promises these desirable attributes. To let Christ reign requires surrender on our part, and that is never easy. When we surrender to His reign, to His will, to His plan for our future, uncertain as it may seem, we are opening the door to a peace that the world cannot give, a peace which we cannot guarantee for ourselves if we take full control of our lives. Only in our surrender to Him can we find peace. Only in our surrender to Him can we truly find hope, the type of hope which "does not disappoint." (Rom 5:5)

Although I am writing this article just before I head on retreat, I know that I will be spending a lot of time this week inviting Jesus to reign more fully in my heart as King, and in doing so, to let His will, His plan, His love be more firmly fixed at the center of my heart. For my 15 years as a priest, I have tried to keep Him always at the center, and that has given me freedom to let Him use me as He has seen fit in a variety of ways, and in all of them, He has shown me the goodness of His love for me in blessing me with graces that have sustained me while also being of benefit to the Church. By continuing to let Him reign fully at the center of my heart, I have no doubt that He will continue to bless me abundantly in whatever lies ahead, and I have that same confidence for all of us as we continue our loving, trusting surrender to His reign as King and center of our hearts.

Mass Intentions

Monday, June 8

7am - Thomas R. McGee
(McGee Family)
5:15pm - Mary Jane Kern
(Estate)

Tuesday, June 9

7am - John W. Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Fred and Bessie Minatra
(Larry and Beverly Smith)

Wednesday, June 10

7am - Johnny Rawe
(John Lucchesi)
5:15pm - Carrie Eichen
(Daniel Schumacher)

Thursday, June 11

7am - Katherine Jobin
(Steve and Vicki Stalcup)
5:15pm - Dick Allender
(Karen Watts)

Friday, June 12

7am - Johnstone-Valdez Family
(Rosario Johnstone)
5:15pm - Intention for Bianca
(DA Drago)

Saturday, June 13

8am - William F. Logan
(Lisa Logan and Lori Motyka)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, June 14

7am - Judith Ansell
(John and Margaret Lemanski)
10am - Dick Allender
(Rebecca Woodhull)
5pm - Edward Anselment
(Anselment Family)

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



St. Bonaventure begins chapter nine of the Life of St. Francis in the usual way, with a long poetic series of verses outlining the theme he will cover during the chapter. A set of lines from this introductory poem of chapter nine sticks out to me:

St. Bonaventure writes, "In beautiful things / he saw Beauty itself / and through his vestiges imprinted on creation / he followed his Beloved everywhere, / making from all things a ladder / by which he could climb up / and embrace him who is utterly desirable. / With a feeling of unprecedented devotion / he savored / in each and every creature - / as in so many rivulets - / that Goodness / which is their fountain source" (Life of St. Francis, 9.1).

Before even going into the theme of this chapter, which I plan to do next week, I have to comment on these lines - they are absolutely incredible!

Central to these two poetic sentences is the idea that we can come to a knowledge of God and have an experience of God in and through the things he has created. This language is very dear to the heart of St. Bonaventure, who writes in depth on this theme in his most famous text, "The Soul's Journey into God." We can see God in his creatures insofar as he dwells there and he is in them, and we can see God through them as through a window or mirror. Clearly, the concept so central to St. Bonaventure's work came right out of the lived sainthood of his great model St. Francis, who learned it from Christ himself.

The word, "vestiges," used above signifies God's "footprints." The imprints that God has made in creation are seen clearly as created things reflect qualities of God himself. For example, there is a beauty in the sunset - I see God in and through the sunset's beauty; there is beauty in another human being - I see God in and through that person's beauty (and this goes for both physical beauty and beauty of soul); there is goodness in a person's kind action - I see God in and through that action; There is truth in a word or in someone's speech - I see God in and through that speech.

Was St. Francis captivated by the beautiful things of this world? He was allured by them? Well... sort of, yes. He was captivated and allured by these things - but not by the things themselves. No, he was captivated by the beauty which was the source of their beauty. He was captivated by them because they revealed God to him. He was allured by them because in them he found a "ladder" to the source of all beauty.

And this image St. Bonaventure uses - incredible! A "fountain" and its "rivulets." To carry on this image, we can say, in a word, that God "flows" himself into his creatures. This is not to say that we are God in a pantheistic sense, but that he is flowing in and through us by forming in us his attributes - virtues, goodness, beauty, truth, charity, simplicity, piety, etc. And this "flow" can be understood by those who pay attention.

St. Francis paid attention.

And "he savored in each and every creature... that Goodness which is their fountain source."

So, stop and smell the roses. Slow down. Slow. down. Slow ... down... and don't just smell them! Savor in them the Goodness of God who is the source of their goodness, beauty, truth, simplicity, etc. Savor in your friend, husband, wife, co-worker, person on the street; savor in the birds, the sky, the trees, the grass; savor in these things God's perfections.

St. Francis, pray for us so that we might pay attention to God's "vestiges" in his creation!

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 30th & 31st

Envelopes:	\$4,127.00
Loose:	\$3,962.45
Maintenance:	\$86.00
Total:	\$8,175.45

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

Finnegan Thomas O'Lone
Child of Kevin and Zoe O'Lone
Baptized on 05/31/2026



WEEK OF JUNE 8

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Rosary 4:45 PM Church Spanish Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library Gifts of the Holy Spirit 7:00 PM Atrium	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Rosary 4:45 AM Church	Women' Bible Study 10am & 1pm School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

Father Brian Alford

will be on the air for the



Radiothon

16 JUNE
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.



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OurCatholicRadio.org



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**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 for more information. Interested candidates should provide a cover letter and resume to Fr. Brian Alford, balford@dio.org.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



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!

Stewardship Reflection

"Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."
1 CORINTHIANS 10:17

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to lead holy lives and invite others to join us. We are called to be fed and to feed others. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, serves a twofold purpose. One, it helps build God's kingdom here on earth. Two, it helps us strengthen each other's relationship with God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It becomes our roadmap to Heaven. Let's help each other get there!

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/>

2026 Woman of Distinction

The votes are in and we are pleased to announce that Kathy Cutler has been named as Cathedral's Woman of Distinction for 2026. Kathy was an involved parent whose son, Sascha, graduated from Cathedral Grade School. She has been active in the Cathedral Council of Catholic Women, serving in many capacities, including as a CCCW representative on the Parish Council. Kathy serves the parish as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, money counter and in any capacity that she is needed. Please congratulate Kathy in this well-deserved honor!

Vatican II Didn't Do What You Think It Did

Vatican II in the 1960's continues to be discussed, implemented, debated, and disagreed upon all these decades later. But did Vatican II really implement changes so many people think it did? The answer is no. Go to youtube.com/diospringfield or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe. Dive Deep is the podcast of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

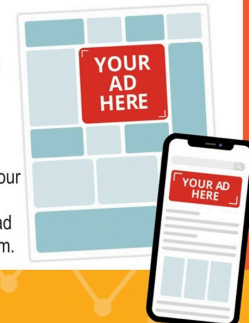
June Food Pantry Needs

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!

AVAILABLE NOW! PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Brandy Stivers from LPI, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com.



LPI Brandy Stivers
(217) 972-4974
bstivers@4lpi.com

True Food

Like most millennial women, I have a bizarre relationship with food.

I'm so busy and distracted that most days, I forget to eat — until nighttime, when I make some very questionable decisions, usually involving cake. I also came of age in a time when any woman without a visible eating disorder was labeled as “curvy” (and curvy was understood by everyone to be A Very Bad Thing). Thus, I have a deep feeling of shame whenever I do eat, even when I am hungry, and even when it's something good for me.

I'm so messed up when it comes to food that I often wonder if I even have a good point of reference for understanding the Eucharist. What is “true food” and “true drink,” when you live in a society where bodily nourishment is so plentiful — at least for certain fortunate people like me — that we reject it out of pride, that we feel a shame for needing it, and that we use it as a balm for feelings of boredom, pain, and fear?

But I suppose there's no better way to understand the Eucharist, when you really think about it. The Israelites survived on manna from Heaven — what they would have given for a grocery store. What they would have given for redemption.

I am given both. I appreciate neither to the extent that I should.

True food, true nourishment, true life — physical and spiritual — these are things we all desperately want. And so many of us have them. But our ability to understand what they mean — well, it's hampered. This isn't Eden, after all.

We are reading a book missing half its pages, singing a harmony missing half its parts. We stumble forward, knowing that the fullness can come, will come — one day.

If we keep trying.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
©LPI

Around the Diocese

- **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 or call Sister Denise Glazik, OP, 217-787-0481 for questions.
- **Called & Sent: A summer retreat for high schoolers** - Join other high schoolers looking to learn more about God's Highway to Heaven. Hear from priests, religious, and lay speakers diving into the heart of the Church - the Eucharist. Called & Sent will be July 18-23 at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in Springfield. To learn more, go to dio.org/events or contact Fr. Zach Samples, Promoter of Vocations, at zsamples@dio.org.
- **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. 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 or 217-321-1124.