

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JUNE 14, 2026 | ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 24

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

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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.



Remembering the Past with Gratitude

Several years ago, I came across an address given by Pope Francis to the various religious communities throughout the world on the occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life. In his letter, he invited these communities to do three things: to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion, and to embrace the future with hope. Unknown to me at the time was the fact that this same threefold invitation had been given more than a decade earlier by Pope St. John Paul II as he concluded the Great Jubilee Year of 2000, in which he wrote:

Duc in altum [cast out into the deep]! These words ring out for us today, and they invite us to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm and to look forward to the future with confidence: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever" (Heb 13:8). (Novo Millennio Ineunte, 1)

I have found this to be a very helpful formula when facing moments of transition, such as the one that I am facing as I prepare to conclude my time as Rector of the Cathedral. I have therefore decided that my final three articles will follow those three points. Fittingly, I begin by remembering the past with gratitude.

The Cathedral will always hold a special place in my heart. I still remember my very first visit here in 2005. I came for a priesthood ordination for a man who had been connected to my home parish. I was in awe at the beauty of the church, and even more so by the beauty of the liturgy. Though I only recently returned to practicing my Catholic faith at the time, there was something that stirred in my heart as I saw those men be ordained. I know now that that was the beginning of the Lord revealing to me His plan that led to my entering seminary. I also remember the great pride as a seminarian coming to the Cathedral to serve at significant liturgical celebrations, not the least of which was the Dedication of the renovated church in 2009. A few months later, on April 10, 2010, I was ordained a transitional deacon here in this church. A year later, on May 28, 2011, I was ordained a priest. Much to my surprise, I moved here in 2013 to live in residence as the bishop's Priest Secretary and Master of Ceremonies. Though not as heavily involved in the daily life of the parish, it was home, and I loved the opportunity to spend the early hours of the morning in prayer in this beautiful place. In the Spring of 2020, I was slated to become Pastor at another parish, but the bishop surprised me when he called and asked if I would become Rector of the Cathedral instead. I immediately said 'yes', and for the past 6 years, I have served gratefully in this role.

There is not enough space to enumerate all of the things I am grateful for in serving as Rector, but a few come to mind. First of all, I am so grateful for the gift of priestly fraternity that I have experienced here. It has been an absolute privilege to live with the bishop, who has been a true father and friend to me, and with several other priests. For most of those with whom I have served, I had the privilege of being their first pastor. These men have become such amazing priests and I am filled with gratitude for the gift of serving them and witnessing their growth. I am also incredibly grateful for the staff with whom I have served day in and day out. They have been a real gift to me and taught me much about being a pastor, but also in being a spiritual father. Finally, I am grateful for the people of the parish. There have been so many lives and situations that I have been invited to be a part of. Some of those have been the happiest moments, such as with weddings and baptisms. But there have also been times when I have been able to accompany people in the saddest moments – times of suffering, tragedy, and loss. And for everything else in between, I am so grateful for how the Lord has used me to be a part of your lives, and as I remember my time here at Cathedral, remembering your stories, your lives, your friendship, your love – I will be eternally grateful to God with a gratitude that will be a source of great peace for however much longer the Lord allows me to serve His Church.

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, June 15

7am - Don Smargiassi
(Smargiassi)
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the Chiaradonna Family (Geny Chiaradonna)

Tuesday, June 16

7am - John and Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Thomas Conway Sr
(Family)

Wednesday, June 17

7am - Richard Stalcup
(Steve and Vicki Stalcup)
5:15pm - Dr. Armando Chiaradonna
(Geny Chiaradonna)

Thursday, June 18

7am - Emery Mapes
(Jesse and Claire Presley)
5:15pm - Dick Allender
(Vicki Linderman)

Friday, June 19

7am - Carrie Eichen
(Daniel Schumacher)
5:15pm - Grigory F. Guzasky
(Larry and Beverly Smith)

Saturday, June 20

8am - Evelyn Patrick
(Gregory and Marie Fleck)
4pm - Dan "Wade" Connolly
(Bentel Family)

Sunday, June 21

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(Bill Midden)
10am - Veronica DeRosa
(Family)
5pm - For the People



When remembering the early saints of the Church, we extoll most greatly the men and women, young and old alike, who gave their lives for their belief in Christ. They were more willing to shed their blood in the course of horrifying tortures and executions than to renounce their Christianity. Over the course of time, these great witnesses of the Christian faith came to be known as “martyrs,” after the prophecy and command of Jesus, “You will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The word, “witness,” is simply an English translation of the Greek word *Martyrion* - martyr. A martyr, therefore, is one who gives a witness of their faith, and the supreme witness of Christian faith comes in a willingness to die for belief in Christ. These martyrs held fast to their faith: their belief that Jesus was the Lord of life and death, that he had conquered death, and that in Him, they too would rise from the dead.

The ninth chapter of St. Bonaventure’s *Life of St. Francis* is titled: “On the Fervor of His Charity and His Desire for Martyrdom.” With the previous intensity of the life of St. Francis, maybe this title doesn’t sound too terribly odd. And, in fact, many saints in the history of the Church desired martyrdom. Still, I think if we ponder that desire for a moment, we will realize just how far it is, generally speaking, from the desires of our own hearts.

When we think of what we want our faith to give us, we rarely think of sufferings. We want joy, peace, happiness, and tranquility. We sadly so often think that experiences of suffering - spiritual and physical - point to a distance between us and God. Saints like St. Francis and the many martyrs in the history of the Church teach us that the reality is very much the opposite. In suffering we draw close to Christ crucified. A certain level of happiness can certainly be a sign of the presence of God, but it is not the only one.

I think of a quote also of St. Rose of Lima: “Our Lord and Savior lifted up his voice and said with incomparable majesty: “Let all men know that grace comes after tribulation. Let them know that without the burden of afflictions it is impossible to reach the height of grace. Let them know that the gifts of grace increase as the struggles increase. Let men take care not to stray and be deceived. This is the only true stairway to paradise, and without the cross they can find no road to climb to heaven.” (Office of Readings)

She expresses well the reality that St. Francis knew also. In this chapter, St. Bonaventure records the journey St. Francis took to visit the Sultan King of Egypt. St. Francis knew that the King in Egypt had essentially made it a capital crime deserving of death to be a Christian in his kingdom. St. Francis, in his desire both to be a martyr and to spread the faith, journeyed precisely there to Egypt to shed his blood in witness to Christ.

He was brought before the King and proclaimed Jesus to him. St. Francis proposed a test of fire to prove the reality and existence of the Christian God. He was so willing to die in service to God that he impressed the King. No one took him up on the fire contest, and the King was so impressed with St. Francis’ zeal and poverty that he allowed him to go free. He did not kill St. Francis for being Christian. While this saddened and perhaps humiliated St. Francis a bit, he was not perturbed, and returned to Italy to continue living his religious life (*Life of St. Francis*, 9).

In order to remain free from sin in this life, we will suffer many trials of faith. May St. Francis’ prayers give us strength to persevere to the end!

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

June 6th & 7th

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!

Sacraments

Deaths

Catherine "Kay" Carol King
Date of Death: May 5, 2026



WEEK OF JUNE 15

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 PM 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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**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 15, 22, and 29, as we dive into the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the effect of the Holy Spirit on our lives!

Thank You!

A sincere thank-you to the many parishioners who donated 2 pickup loads of much needed groceries & personal care items, plus almost \$1500, to the Holy Family Food Pantry!! Your generosity will provide assistance to our most vulnerable brothers & sisters.



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!

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. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Hope to see you on Wednesday, July 8, 3:00pm-5:00pm in the Cathedral Atrium.

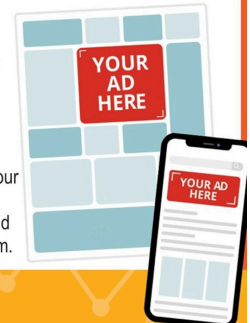
June Food Pantry Needs

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

Laborers

"The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few."

This excerpt from Matthew's Gospel has become a catchphrase in the modern Church. We give ourselves vertigo with the amount of head-shaking we do over the much-lamented "decline in numbers."

Which numbers, you ask? Well, take your pick — numbers of baptized Catholic children who continue to profess their faith in adulthood, numbers of registered parishioners, numbers of priests ordained each year. All are a fraction of what they were generations ago.

That last one — the priests — that's a particular worry for us, isn't it? So we pray, "Send us laborers, Lord! Make them holy. Make them earnest."

And then we add, in the silence of our hearts: "Make them perfect."

It's no secret that part of the reason the pews are empty is because we often find it hard to love the Church if we find it hard to love a particular priest, a particular bishop, or a particular human representative of the Church.

Because that's the thing about priests and bishops and all the laborers in the field: they are human. They are sinners. Just like you and me.

We must consider this: today's Gospel lists the Apostles whom Jesus sent out in ministry to heal, console, and evangelize, and right at the end — like a record scratch — comes the name of Judas Iscariot, the betrayer. If ever a laborer failed in his work, it was Judas.

And surely, when he did, his fellow laborers were so demoralized and so disenchanting that they considered laying down their tools and leaving the harvest to wither and die.

But they did not, and we must not.

Without cost we have received, and without cost we are called to give.

So we labor on, for the day is drawing to a close, and the threshing time is near.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
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Around the Diocese

- **Job Opportunity!** The Catholic Stewardship Foundation is hiring a Gift and Fund Administrator. This position serves as the operational backbone of The Catholic Stewardship Foundation, supporting its mission to cultivate generosity and advance the Kingdom of God throughout the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. More information can be found at dio.org/jobs under "Other". Inquiries can be sent to kprice@catholicstewardshipfoundation.org.
- **Blarney Bash for Scholarships** benefitting St. Patrick Catholic School students on Wednesday, June 24th! Join us from 5:00–8:00 p.m. at Knights of Columbus Council #364, 2200 Meadowbrook Road, for an evening of support for Catholic education. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$400 for a reserved table of eight. Tickets may be purchased online at www.st-patrick.org, by calling 217-523-7670 ext. 103, or at the door. We hope you will join us as we celebrate the legacy of St. Patrick School and support scholarships for students continuing their Catholic education.
- **Esper Figueras Memorial Golf Outing**, Saturday, July 11, 2026, at the Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 700 E Lake Shore Drive. The registration fee of \$80 includes green fees, cart, lunch, dinner, 2 drink tickets, and 2 door prize raffle tickets. The 50/50 raffle will benefit the St. John's Breadline. Registration and lunch will be from 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Opening remarks will be from 11:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon. The shotgun start / 4-person scramble begins at 12:00 noon. Dinner and awards will follow golf. Awards will be given for first place foursome, men and women longest drive, and closest to the pin. R.S.V.P. by June 25, 2026 at <https://www.esperfiguerasmemorialgolfouting.com/rsvp>. You may also email: Rfigueras1@comcast.net or mail a check to 72 Pine Cove, Springfield, IL 62712
- **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.