

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JUNE 21, 2026 | TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 25

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.



Live the Present with Passion

Having spent last Sunday's bulletin on remembering the past with gratitude, I now take up the second recommendation from Pope St. John Paul II and Pope Francis to consider what it means to live the present with passion.

Whenever a major transition is about to take place, it can be tempting to take the foot of the proverbial gas pedal and coast to the conclusion of our current circumstances. This happens in a variety of situations. Take for example in school as seniors are getting close to the end of their high school or college career. They get "infected" with senioritis, a condition in which they tend to take fewer difficult classes, not work so hard on assignments, etc. In seminary formation, we would call this deaconitis, as it affected the transitional deacons who had been in seminary for so many years and the goal of ordination to the priesthood was so close, thus becoming their primary focus with their seminary duties taking a less significant place. To that temptation, I would encourage our men as their vocation director to remember the words of St. Paul to St. Timothy: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Tm 4:7)

Wherever we find ourselves in our lives, it is there where the Lord is calling us to love Him and serve Him. To the extent that we get stuck in the good or bad from the past, or daydream about what the future might be, we are depriving ourselves of the grace of living in the present moment. It is in this present moment where we can offer the Lord the best of ourselves, our love for Him, and our service to His Church. I tell the men in formation in their final months of formation that the people of God whom they will serve deserve their very best, and the best indicator of how well they will serve their future parishioners is by their commitment to serving faithfully and totally where they are right now. I invite them to see it as a sign of their love for the Lord here and now, and their love for whatever and whoever He will have them serve in the future.

In these final weeks of my time here at Cathedral, I need to heed that very advice in how I approach these days. On my holy card for my ordination to the priesthood, I used the following words from St. Paul: "I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls." (2 Cor 12:15) I pray that I have the grace to live that out faithfully, all as an expression of my love for you, and in preparation for the men I will serve in my new assignment at the seminary.

In the past two months, two individuals whom I know quite well have lost their parents very suddenly. Those experiences have been a sobering reminder of what Jesus says in the Gospel regarding when He will return, which also applies to the uncertainty of when our earthly journey may end: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Mt 25:13) As Christians, we need to take these words seriously and not put off to later what needs to be done today. It may be granting forgiveness to somebody or asking it of somebody – including the Lord in confession. It might mean telling somebody you love them. There are countless things that we tell ourselves we will get around to, but let us heed to invitation to live the present with passion and to do what we need to do here and now to love the Lord and our neighbor, spending ourselves so that when that final moment comes, we can say that we have given our all to Him.

Mass Intentions

Monday, June 22

7am - Leo Katzenstein
(Pamela Hargan)
5:15pm - William F and Shirley Logan
(Lisa Logan and Lori Motyka)

Tuesday, June 23

7am - Patricia and John Craig
(Family)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)

Wednesday, June 24

7am - Intention for Doris and Cathy
(DA Drago)
5:15pm - Alice Bates
(Bates Family)

Thursday, June 25

7am - Micah Jude Gray
(Beverly and Larry Smith)
5:15pm - Bob Berberet Jr.
(Berberet Family)

Friday, June 26

7am - Pat and Elizabeth Piccinino
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Patricia Walter
(Jean Moss)

Saturday, June 27

8am - Cora Gaston
(Gregory and Marie Fleck)
4pm - Eulalia and Raymond Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Sunday, June 28

7am - Susan and Bob Denton
(Darrell and Terese Hurst)
10am - For the People
5pm - Mercedes and Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)

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



At some funerals I have celebrated, I have been struck by the thought of how little I know about the person who I am praying for. I may know only what I was told by a family member. Even if I had met them, or were friends with them, or even knew them as a family member, I could still say, "I knew so little about him."

There is a significance to the fact that I and many others have thoughts like these most often around the time of someone's death. I think this may be because during our lives, we give off the illusion of full self-revelation. People encounter us and think they know us or we think we know them just because we've shared a part of ourselves with them.

The amazing thing about a person, however, is just how deep he or she truly is. Human beings are like icebergs - there is far more under the surface than is apparent. No matter how deeply we come to know someone this side of eternity, we will still in so many ways be scratching the surface to a reality that is truly a mystery. There are depths we are unaware of.

One of those beautifully hidden elements of a life is generally a person's prayer life. Yes, we may be able to see a person daily go to Mass, pray the rosary, or do some devotions, but what is happening at the depths of the soul is hidden to us. What intimate conversations with God went on as he mowed the grass, as she walked through the grocery store, as he played with his kids, or as she drove the car, as he sat in adoration - these things we will never know.

But they are known to God.

So, at a funeral, I listen to the memories shared, and I wonder - I wonder with a sense of awe at the depth of relationality with God over the course of a life that we will never know. I find this reality incredibly humbling and incredibly hopeful.

St. Francis was very much a man with such a hidden depth of soul. He was seen often by his brothers as someone wrapt up in prayer, even so deeply as to lose touch with his surroundings. He loved to experience the love of God through prayer, and would gratefully accept the consolations given him by God.

St. Bonaventure shares, "[Francis] had learned in prayer that the presence of the Holy Spirit for which he longed was granted more intimately to those who invoke him, the more the Holy Spirit found them withdrawn from the noise of worldly affairs. Therefore seeking out lonely places, he used to go to deserted areas and abandoned churches to pray at night" (The Life of St. Francis, 10.3). These hidden experiences of the life of the saint are a rich source of meditation - as are the night vigils of our Lord in the Gospels. What went on in their hearts in their communication with the Holy Trinity?

Each of us is called to a contemplative life. The degree of this call may not be to the same as that of a cloistered monk or nun, but it is a necessary part of our Christian life. We cannot content ourselves to simply rote prayers or to simply acts of charity. While both of those are good and necessary too, they will lose their fire and may be nearly lifeless unless they are grounded in a deep, intimate, personal prayer life.

May St. Francis' prayers help us to give time in our lives to silence, resting in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, and sharing our hearts deeply with God. These moments may be known by no one but God, and may never be shared at a funeral, but they will be some of the most important moments of our lives.

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

Envelopes:	\$6,466.00
Loose:	\$4,064.65
Maintenance:	\$185.00
Total:	\$10,715.65

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 JUNE 22

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library	Women' Bible Study 10am & 1pm School Library	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Women of Distinction Mass 10:00 AM Church	Farewell Reception for Fr. Alford After All Masses
Spanish Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library		Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church		Farewell Reception for Fr. Alford After 4:00 PM Mass	
Gifts of the Holy Spirit 7:00 PM Atrium			K of C Meeting 6:00 PM School Classroom			

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

JOIN US FOR A FAREWELL

Reception

FOR FATHER BRIAN ALFORD

**SATURDAY, JUNE 27, AFTER
THE 4PM MASS
SUNDAY, JUNE 28, AFTER THE
7AM, 10AM, AND 5PM MASSES**



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

Second Collection - Peter's Pence

From his first appearance after his election in May 2025, Pope Leo XIV has called upon Catholics to live in peace and unity with one another within the Church and to share this invitation to peace and unity with the whole world. Throughout history, Catholics have shared the peace and unity of Christ with the world by proclaiming the Gospel and performing works of mercy that bring comfort to the poor and vulnerable. For centuries, Catholics have expressed our unity with the Pope by giving to the Peter's Pence Collection, which supports his mission to proclaim Christ's message of unity and peace with the world. For more information on Peter's Pence, please visit the Vatican's Peter's Pence website: www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html (English) or www.obolodisanpietro.va/es.html (español). Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's collection as an act of hope and charity. Join our brothers and sisters in faith from around the globe to help Pope Leo XIV carry out his ministry to the Universal Church and reach out to the most marginalized in our world. Thank you and may God bless you abundantly.

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!

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.

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



Fear No One

In the 1883 painting “Mass in a Connemara Cabin,” a small congregation of shabbily dressed faithful is huddled together in a sparsely appointed room. A priest extends his hand over them in blessing. One woman presses her forehead to the ground in prayer.

This painting, created in 1883 by Aloysius O’Kelley, depicts a “station Mass,” offered for the community in a private home. Though this practice originated in the period of the Penal Laws, when Catholic worship was illegal in Ireland, it persisted even after the “emancipation” of Catholics in the 19th century.

I have used quotation marks around the word “emancipation” because we must never forget that just because something is made legal does not mean it is made popular. And it certainly is not made safe.

In the moments that pass immediately after this scene concludes, the altar candles will be extinguished and the faithful will disperse, carrying the Body and Blood of Christ into a world suspicious of him, suspicious of them.

And yet here they are, kneeling. Foreheads pressed to the floor.

This painting sits on my family’s prayer table as a call to reflection. I make my living writing Catholic things for Catholic publications. The people who read what I write are bound to agree with me — they’re usually reading my words in a church. I must confess that in my personal life, I am far less bold. I fear controversy. I dread giving offense. I buckle beneath the weight of discipleship.

It doesn’t matter that most Americans identify as “Christians” — the world we face when we leave Mass is every bit as resentful of true Catholic teaching as the world that lies beyond O’Kelley’s Connemara cottage. And while I do not fear those who can kill my body, I do fear those who can kill my reputation.

“Mass in a Connemara Cabin” illustrates how my ancestors worshiped: in secret, in shadow.

I worship in the daylight.

Which of us acknowledges Christ more fully? More courageously?

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.