

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JUNE 28, 2026 | THIRTEENTH 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 26

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.



Embracing the Future with Hope

When I became a pastor for the first time in 2016, the thought of having to write a weekly bulletin article seemed a bit daunting. How would I be able to write something new every week and not get bored of the process, or run out of things to say? Thankfully, more than 500 bulletin articles later over these past ten years (six of which have been here at Cathedral), I have found the experience to be anything but daunting. Rather, it has been an opportunity to speak to you, my parish family, about a variety of topics, sharing from my heart and mind to yours, hopefully helping you in feeling more loved by the Good Shepherd through my ministry as your shepherd.

In this final article, I take up the third recommendation of recent popes to embrace the future with hope. Last year, as you may recall, I offered a full year's worth of reflections on Pope Benedict's encyclical on Christian hope, *Spe salvi*, to coincide with the Jubilee Year of Hope proclaimed by Pope Francis. I can see the providence in the timing of this exercise, not just in my helping all of you to better understand this important virtue, but in letting it be more firmly rooted in my heart as well. When I consider looking to the future through the lens of hope, those words of St. Paul in His letter to the Romans always help me to stay grounded in peace: "Hope does not disappoint." (Rom 5:5)

As we have reflected in the past, the hope of which St. Paul writes is related ultimately to what awaits us in eternal life. Whatever the journey in this life might present, good or bad, all can be borne when we fix our gaze on that final hope which we believe with firm faith will have no sadness or disappointment. At the same time, I have been consoled with how these words connect with another line from this same letter from St. Paul, where he writes: "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Rom 8:28) Though we may not always see it or understand it, whatever God is doing in our lives, and whatever He allows to happen in our lives, is working for our good.

The first time I was asked to move, I initially struggled. I loved the parishes where I was serving, and I loved teaching in the Catholic high school each day. People told me that it was going to be a "waste" for me to leave and to serve in a rather hidden role in my work with the bishop. I was tempted to believe those things, but when I began that new assignment, I saw how the Lord was using those circumstances to make me a better priest, stretching me in ways that I would have not chosen, but in exactly the ways that I needed to be stretched, and I learned to find great joy and peace in where the Lord had placed me. Every change since then has followed a similar pattern, but the same thing has happened every time – the Lord has used those changes for my good, and I believe ultimately for the good of those whom I had served, and to whom I was called to serve in the new assignment. It is with that peace that I accept this next instance of God's providence in my life, and it is my prayer for all of you to embrace the future of this parish, and your relationship with your new shepherd with that virtue of hope, trusting that we who love the Lord will not be disappointed.

Let my final words to you be from the very depths of my heart, having had the privilege of serving you these past six years: I love you, and I am so thankful for the love you have given to me. At the end of our journey when we are all gathered together in His Kingdom, we will be reunited once again in the love of God, rejoicing without ceasing as we enjoy the fulfillment of the hope we held throughout life, and which will be our peace together for eternity.

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 29

7am - Carrie Eichen
(Anselment Family)
5:15pm - Frank and Louise Steskal
(Riordan Family)

Tuesday, June 30

7am - Fr. Daren Zehnle
(Beverly and Larry Smith)
5:15pm - Dorothy Berberet
(Berberet Family)

Wednesday, July 1

7am - Martha Gude
(Celeste Crowley)
5:15pm - Margaret Vaplon Miller
(Eric and Joanna Miller)

Thursday, July 2

7am - Ed Sr. and Emily Riordan
(Riordan Family)
5:15pm - Bob Jannesse
(John Lucchesi)

Friday, July 3

7am - Thomas Conway Sr.
(Family)
5:15pm - Don Smargiassi
(Smargiassi Family)

Saturday, July 4

8am - Betty Rogers
(Glen Rogers)
4pm - Edward Anselment
(Deacon David Beach)

Sunday, July 5

7am - For the People
10am - Dick Allender
(Vicki Compton)
5pm - Eulalia and Raymond Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)



On June 22, 2026, just this past Monday, I finished a real project of a book: the classic *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky. Not that my judgment in this regard matters in the grand scheme of literary criticism, but I would rate it as an excellent book. The characters came to life, the philosophical questions and musings made me think, and I was drawn into the drama of the story. I might even say I was too much drawn in, based on how I felt when I finished the book.

As I finished that last page, I felt the emotion that I assume most people who read this book feel: Utter disappointment, as though something is unfinished. That might sound alarming or surprising, based on my “excellent” rating of this great work of literature. And truly, I am not disappointed in the book itself,

I am disappointed in the fact that Dostoyevsky was not. actually. finished. with the story! He planned to write another, even better, book based on the future life of the main character, and all the indications of an imminent great adventure are present there at the end of the book.

Unfortunately, however, Dostoyevsky died very soon after finishing only the first installment, which we know as the great novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*. Now, I know death is never convenient, or timely, or in any way in accord with our hopeful expectations. A case such as this unfinished story only brings out the pain of death even more. Anyone could think of a future life for that main character, but no one can think of precisely the future life that Dostoyevsky would have written. No one has his mind, his experiences, his personality, his insight into the human condition!

I wonder if, more than anything, I and those other readers of this novel feel “robbed” - robbed by death. Maybe that’s a silly feeling, but I think it is the truth.

And this experience, I believe, points to a reality that we hold dearly as Christians: we live for another world. Yes, we love this world and the gifts God has given us in it, but we hold it lightly. It is temporary, and we await a future life that is not temporary. Through hope, we hold tightly even now to a future life that will last for all eternity, in joy and peace and an utter lack of that disappointing feeling of robbery. Nothing will be robbed from us in that life; in fact, everything will be given and received in joy, with a sense of fullness that only grows and grows.

I am still very grateful I read the book and peered into the mind of Fyodor Dostoyevsky for a time. If I still care by the time I reach my heavenly goal, I'll ask him about that next novel!

With all this in mind, I have to also share that I'm signing off of writing bulletin articles for now. Fortunately, this is by my choice, not by death (God-willing!). Although I remain living at the Cathedral for the next two months, my assignment here is ending and I want to devote more of my time to studying Italian and finishing up other loose ends before I leave the country. I hope you don't feel “robbed” or disappointed that I am leaving my series unfinished. I assume even St. Francis would say, “Good, focus less on me, more on Jesus!” :)

Before I take off in September, I'll write an actual “Goodbye” article here.

I do still encourage you to read the *Life of St. Francis* by St. Bonaventure. It contains some wonderfully rich spiritual fruit, perfect for this year of St. Francis. And, if you happen to be disappointed, let this transition too be a reminder of the deep desire for Heaven that rests at the core of your heart. We await a future life where there will be no more death, decay, or disappointment. May we always seek to follow the will of the Father, to enter into his rest forever!

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 13th & 14th

Envelopes:	\$3,792.00
Loose:	\$4,575.80
Maintenance:	\$40.00
Total:	\$8,407.80

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

Leo Michael Lange
Child of Benjamin and Julia Lange
Baptized on 06/14/2026

Wedding

Dempsey Diegmiller & Catherine Costa
Married on 06/13/2026



WEEK OF JUNE 29

<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
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?



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

Cards for the Priests

If you are unable to make it to one of the receptions for Fr. Alford and would like to give him a card, please either mail the card or drop it off at the Parish Office (524 E Lawrence Ave., Springfield, IL 62703) and we will ensure it gets to him. If you would prefer to mail the card directly, please contact the Parish Office.

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!



Biking for Babies

Biking for Babies, an organization forming young adults into missionary disciples for Life and raising funds and awareness for pregnancy centers, will journey into Springfield on July 17. All are welcome to attend their mission event as this team, riding from Green Bay, WI, to St. Louis, MO, in just six days, shares about their unique approach to renewing a culture of life, starting with supporting real women in need and ending with hearts completely transformed. For more information, visit their website at bikingforbabies.com. If you'd like to donate to the mission, visit give.bikingforbabies.com.

The Wisconsin team of missionaries will be at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Friday, July 17. You are invited to pray with them at the 5:15 PM Mass, followed by dinner provided by the Council of Catholic Women, with a missionary meet-and-greet and testimony sharing. All are welcome however an RSVP is needed to plan for food. Call Cathedral, 217-522-3342, to RSVP. Any contributions for this group are welcome to be placed in the collection basket in a labeled envelope no later than July 12th, or presented to them at the July 17th dinner

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@lpi.com

Receiving

I receive a lot of junk mail. I'm on a bunch of people's asking-for-money lists, and so were the people who owned this house before me, and when you put it all together, it results in quite the pile of paper accumulating on my counter.

I leave it there because, while I have received this mail, I don't want to receive it. Do you see the difference? To really receive someone or something, you have to look at it, assess it, make space for it. Accept it. Decide it will have a place in your home or your life or whatever, and give it that place.

It's what the righteous woman did with Elisha. She received him. She had a room all ready, waiting for him, even when he wasn't there.

But I refuse to receive the junk mail. I don't have space for it, in my head or on my counter, so after a day or two, I just throw it away without looking through it.

"Whoever receives me receives the one who sent me," Jesus tells us in the Gospel of Matthew.

But what does that mean, exactly?

It's easy to receive Jesus, or at least to receive the Jesus presented to us by modern imagination — that laidback hippie who lets anyone sit at his table, no questions asked. But it's harder to receive the Christ, God the Son, who is consubstantial with God the Father who sent him.

Ah, yes, God the Father — maybe you've heard of Him? He's the one from the Old Testament who says and does a bunch of things that make modern people uncomfortable.

That's a little more of a challenge, isn't it? Takes a little bit more thought. A little more assessment. A little more making-space.

Can we do it? Well, we have to find a way. Because for the record, laidback hippie Jesus doesn't exist. And Old Testament God makes a lot of sense, if you give Him a little thought. If you make a little space.

So make the space. Receive.

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.
- **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.