

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JULY 5, 2026 | FOURTEENTH 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 27

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
NINTH BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

THE REVEREND SETH BROWN
RECTOR

THE REVEREND PIUS CHIDOZIE NWIYI
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE VERY REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING
IN RESIDENCE

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DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

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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.



Dear Friends,

I'm back!

Whether it will be like General MacArthur or a bad penny, the bishop has asked me to return to the Cathedral and follow Fr. Alford as the next rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

I'm deeply honored.

Fr. Brian has done a fine job in his tenure and I hope I can continue in the goodness he and the Cathedral staff have maintained. I thank him for his excellent pastoral care as well as the fraternal charity he's shown me over the years. We've known each other for almost twenty years, beginning in the Altiplano of Peru through the prairies of our diocese. He's been a good friend, and his willingness to make my transition to the Cathedral as smooth as possible has been a godsend.

I say I'm back because, as some will recall, I was here from 2014-2016 as the parochial vicar. After ordination, the Cathedral was my first assignment under one of my people: Fr. Chris House. I have many wonderful memories from my first time here with him, Fr. Marty Smith, Deacon Larry, Bill Vogt, and all the rest. I know there are many more good memories to come with old friends and new.

I thank the Bishop for his trust in me, the Cathedral staff for their generosity of spirit, and you, the parishioners and visitors of our mother church for your faith and support.

I'd also like to thank my former parishioners in Vandalia and Ramsey, and also my friends in New Berlin, Waverly, Franklin, and Alexander.

In the Gospel of John, Chapter 17 verse 24, as Jesus finishes his Last Supper Discourse, He prays to His Father and says of his disciples (current and future), "Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me."

Considering all the good souls I have met in all of my assignments, I know a little of the gift of which He speaks and how He feels.

Please pray for me.

With gratitude and joy for the days ahead!

Father Seth Brown is the Rector of the Cathedral.

Mass Intentions

Monday, July 6

7am - Cornelius McCue Family
(McGee Family)
5:15pm - John W. Montgomery
(John Busciacco)

Tuesday, July 7

7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Community)
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the
Chiaradonna Family
(Geny Chiaradonna)

Wednesday, July 8

7am - Adam Embrich
(Son)
5:15pm - Raymundo Figueroa
(Larry and Beverly Smith)

Thursday, July 9

7am - Carrie Eichen
(Daniel Schumacher)
5:15pm - Leo Katzenstein
(Pamela Hargan)

Friday, July 10

7am - Intention for Bianca
(DA Drago)
5:15pm - Ian Lloyd Smith
(Sharon Sexson)

Saturday, July 11

8am - Odet Gries
(Gregory and Marie Fleck)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, July 12

7am - Betty and Gene Barish
(Family)
10am - Deceased Catholic War Veterans
(Catholic War Vets Post 1916)
5pm - John A. Sestak
(Steve and Vicki Stalcup)



WEEK OF JUNE 29

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 Senior Social 3:00 PM Atrium 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?



**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



Catholic Traditions From The Gospel of James

There is a Gospel of James! Who wrote it, when, and what are the themes and traditions Catholics get from this Gospel? And Why did the Church not recognize it as fully inspired by the Holy Spirit? 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.

Cards for the Priests

If you were 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.

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



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.

Gospel Meditation

This weekend, our nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Unlike most nations, the United States was not founded primarily on a shared ethnicity, language, or culture. Instead, our founders built a political community out of diverse peoples united by a shared vision of liberty. That vision echoes something deep in the Christian mystery revealed in today's Gospel.

Jesus returns to his hometown. The people see only what is familiar: the carpenter, the son of Mary, one of their own. As Mark tells us, "They took offense at him. Jesus said, 'A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house.'" Their narrow vision blinds them. Jesus has come to inaugurate a new communion that transcends geography, bloodlines, and culture. He has come to unite all people in himself.

At its best, America's national unity reflects this possibility, which fully subsists only in the Catholic Church. Our unity is not based on ancestry or tribe, but on a shared commitment to higher ideals. For this reason, we can love our country with gratitude while situating patriotism within the broader horizon of faith.

Rooted in Christ, we are less vulnerable to the unholy tribalism that threatens civic life and faith. This weekend, let us thank God for our nation and pray that we also live as citizens of Heaven in Jesus Christ.

Father John Muir
©LPi

Everyday Stewardship - Faith Like a Child

Stewardship of Treasure

June 27th & 28th

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 Baptisms

Alora Grace O'Reilly
Child of Keegan and Olivia O'Reilly
Baptized on June 21, 2026

If you Google Search recommendations on how to raise generous children, almost every list of ideas begins with — or at least contains — the directive for adults to be good models of generosity themselves. Our children learn from our actions much more than from our words. Of course, when I think back over the years while my children were growing up, I think I may have learned as much from them as they learned from me. There is a time between early childhood and middle school where a child seems to be freer to give and share than at any other time in life. It is around the age of First Communion when the cries of "mine" turn to laughter and smiles, and the urge to be a part of something bigger than oneself leads to sharing. Before you know it, the child hits the pre-teen years, and once again, he or she becomes the center of the universe.

I believe that the previous paragraph is all true, however, the stages described seem to repeat themselves throughout adulthood. Don't you agree? Sometimes we fall into seeing ourselves as the center of the universe, or we become consumed by our state in life or with what we have acquired. Also, we at times are generous and loving people. It is sin that draws us back into ourselves and away from any meaningful life of stewardship and generosity. In order to be freed for love, we need role models to help us see what really matters. We need to reflect on the example of many of our brothers and sisters in Christ. And, yes, we need to look to children who may be at the point in their lives where sharing is fun, and love is something in abundance.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
©LPi

The Smallness of Great Faith

My children attend Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) for their faith formation. Because of its Montessori basis, CGS atriums, which are something like classrooms, contain lots of objects made from real materials — authentic glass, wood, and ceramic.

This is a polite way of saying there are lots of breakable things in there.

So when my four-year-old entered the atrium on her first day of CGS, my whole body tensed, wondering what she would shatter first. I had to restrain myself from crying out, “Don’t touch anything!” She spotted the prayer table — the low, wooden stand which holds an open Bible, candles, a vase with flowers and a statue of the Good Shepherd. It’s the centerpiece of every atrium.

She knelt before the table. She made the sign of the cross. And she sat there, still and silent.

I stopped dead in my tracks. How had she known to come here? And where did she learn to make the sign of the cross? (Obviously we’ve tried to teach her, but she does it wrong every time!) And why was she sitting there so quietly, so expectantly, in front of a book she can’t read?

A thought came to me so clearly: Well, Colleen, you can read that book. But can you understand it?

It is so easy for us to forget that great faith does not require great intelligence. It does not require great knowledge of the world and its workings. Great faith does not require the believer to possess any answers.

Great faith only requires the believer to know his own smallness.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

©LPi

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.