

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**JULY 12, 2026 | FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342  
[WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG](http://WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG)

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

# *Cathedral Weekly*

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 28

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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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## **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,

Math was never my strong suit, but I think 250 is 12.5% of 2,000.

What am I getting at?

We just celebrated the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation, which was grounded in protecting and promoting a citizen's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We love our country, the freedoms and advantages it's given us, and desire to see it and its citizens prosper.

And as long as 250 years is, it pales in comparison to how long our Holy Catholic Church has existed, founded by Jesus Christ Himself two thousand years ago.

Christ founded it for a reason, a purpose which we find in Paragraph 763 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "To fulfill the Father's will, Christ ushered in the Kingdom of heaven on earth. The Church "is the Reign of Christ already present in mystery."

Our Heavenly Father chose to raise humanity up to share in His own divine life. Christ fulfilled His Father's Holy Will by founding a Church, preaching the Kingdom, gathering disciples, instituting the sacraments, and dying and rising to everlasting life.

The Church is not an afterthought, but the concrete means of continuing to carry out the Father's salvific will: reuniting scattered humanity with God and each other in the Body of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. This happens every day in our Cathedral and in every Catholic parish throughout the world through the preaching of the Gospel, the sacramental life, and the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

So as we celebrate 250 years, let us also celebrate the Church, who has been around much longer, through whom Christ bestows eternal life, authentic freedom, and true happiness.

With gratitude and joy for the days ahead!

*Father Seth Brown is the Rector of the Cathedral.*

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, July 13

7am - Frank and Louise Steskal  
(Riordan Family)  
5:15pm - Emery Mapes  
(Jesse and Claire Presley)

### Tuesday, July 14

7am - John and Edith Bakalar  
(John Busciacco)  
5:15pm - Kenneth Marks  
(John Lucchesi)

### Wednesday, July 15

7am - Edward Anselment  
(Anselment Family)  
5:15pm - Diana J. Schumacher  
(Daniel Schumacher)

### Thursday, July 16

7am - Johnstone-Valdez Family  
(Rosario Johnstone)  
5:15pm - Mary Ann O'Shea  
(McGee Family)

### Friday, July 17

7am - Micah Jude Gray  
(McGrath Family)  
5:15pm - Ralph Walter  
(Jean Moss)

### Saturday, July 18

8am - Micah Jude Gray  
(Beverly and Larry Smith)  
4pm - Don Smargiassi  
(Smargiassi Family)

### Sunday, July 19

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(Bill Midden)  
10am - For the People  
5pm - Thomas Conway Sr.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## WEEK OF JULY 13

### **MONDAY**

Rosary  
4:45 PM  
Church

### **TUESDAY**

Adoration  
4:00 PM  
Church

### **WEDNESDAY**

Men's Bible  
Study  
6:00 AM  
School Library

Rosary  
4:45 PM  
Church

### **THURSDAY**

Women's Bible  
Study  
10am & 1pm  
School Library

The Circle  
Prayer Group  
2:00 PM  
School Library

Adoration  
4:00 PM  
Church

### **FRIDAY**

Rosary  
4:45 PM  
Church

### **SATURDAY**

### **SUNDAY**

## What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



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](http://bikingforbabies.com). If you'd like to donate to the mission, visit [give.bikingforbabies.com](http://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.

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## The Circle Prayer Group

The Circle will be starting up again at the Cathedral. In Opus Dei, the Circle is a prayer group designed to provide spiritual and doctrinal formation. It will include prayer, the rosary, and a talk. The first meeting will be Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the Atrium. In August and every month following, the meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 10am in the Atrium.

## 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](https://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.

## Parish Rummage Sale

The CCCW will be hosting our Parish Rummage Sale on Friday August 7<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 6 pm. We are gratefully accepting donations of gently used items to help support the CCCW's ministries and scholarships. Donations may be dropped off at the cathedral after the 10 am mass on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, or Monday 8/3 through Wednesday 8/5 from 7 am to 6 pm. No electronics or clothing, please! Thank you for your generosity and support! We look forward to seeing you at the sale!

## Fulton Sheen Beatification

If you have a ticket to Archbishop Fulton Sheen's Beatification on September 24 at the Dome at the America's Center in St. Louis and would like to take a bus to and from the event, please contact Vicki Compton at [vcompton61@gmail.com](mailto:vcompton61@gmail.com) or 217/725-4448. Cost is \$40 for transportation from Cathedral to the Dome, leaving at 6:00am and returning at 6:00pm. A bus has been reserved but will not go unless we have 56 people to fill the seats. Reserve your seat now.

## DCCW Annual Convention

We are excited about the upcoming Springfield in IL Diocesan Council of Catholic Women 97th Annual Convention on Thursday, September 3, 2026 in Quincy! The theme for the convention is, Handmaids of the Lord: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace. The guest speaker is Teresa Tomeo, an author, syndicated Catholic talk show host, and motivational speaker. Registrations must be received by August 15th, but if paid by July 20th, you can save \$10. Please contact the Parish Office for registration information.

## Blessing for Abundant Growth

*Dear God,*

*Bless our efforts in Your Name. Help us to understand Your will. Allow us to follow the invitation You have provided. We want to be rich soil — help us respond deeply and abundantly to every place You call.*

*Amen.*

## Gospel Meditation

Sometimes I feel capable of absorbing almost anything except God's Word. My mind soaks up song lyrics, sports trivia, and endless online content. But what was the reading at Mass this morning? I struggle to recall. That realization discourages me, and it leads to an uncomfortable question. What is my heart really for? Is it shaped for constant information and distraction, or is it truly designed for God? Am I capable of deeply receiving His Word?

Jesus speaks directly to this today with a simple image. "The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it." By comparing the Word of the Kingdom to a seed, Jesus reveals something hopeful about us. The human heart is made for that seed. Soil and seed belong together. No matter how compacted, rocky, or overgrown the ground has become, the Sower never stops sowing.

God loves our hearts. He sees them as a farmer sees his fields, full of potential. Human hearts can indeed "understand the Word." Understanding does not mean mastering information. It means letting the Word sink in, interacting with it, and giving it a home. It means trusting that, beneath the surface, God is at work in quiet and hidden ways.

When we allow the Holy Spirit to loosen the soil of our hearts through prayer, repentance, and simplicity, the same Word that created the universe begins to bear fruit in us, 30, 60, even a hundredfold.

*Lord Jesus, Sower of life, soften the soil of my heart. Let Your Word take root in me again, and bring forth the fruit You desire. Amen.*

Father John Muir  
©LPi

## Everyday Stewardship - Focus on the Good

### Stewardship of Treasure

#### June 27th & 28th

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Envelopes:   | \$4,477.00  |
| Loose:       | \$5,846.00  |
| Maintenance: | \$87.00     |
| Total:       | \$10,410.00 |

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 Received into the Church

Matthew James Geras  
June 21, 2026

### Wedding

Matthew Geras & Victoria Frazier  
Married on June 27, 2026

When I was a child, my mother had a set of sculptures resembling three human heads. One head had hands over the ears, one had hands over the eyes, and one had hands over the mouth. Of course, they depicted the phrase, "Hear no evil; see no evil; speak no evil." I have seen these images repeated many times since then, usually as the monkey heads from a Japanese proverb, which would have probably seemed a little less creepy to me when I was a small child. Apparently, there is no consensus about the full meaning or certain origin of these three images nor the phrase. At the very least, it causes us to reflect on the need to avoid evil and look for the good in things.

As I have lived my life, I have come to believe there are more people who live their lives in a contrary manner to these images. It is not that they seek evil, but it is as if they "see no good, hear no good, and speak no good." Gossiping is the way they pass the time, and they always seem to find the negative in people and situations. Being a good steward certainly means that we do not seek evil, but more than that, it means that we see the abundance of good things all around us. These gifts of God are big and little, profound and ordinary. By seeing the world in this way, we begin to change our personalities and our overall disposition. We always need to follow a new proverb: see all the good, hear all the good, and speak about the good. Amen.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS  
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## The Gardener and the Soil

I began writing this piece by googling “how do you make soil fertile?” which should tell you everything you need to know about my own abilities as a gardener.

I remember seeing a packet of seeds in the store one summer as a child and convincing my mother to buy them. They were delphiniums, which bloom into a beautiful cone shape if you know what you’re doing. Alas, I didn’t. I chose for my garden a particularly dry spot of earth right next to my backyard playset, scattered the seeds, congratulated myself, and went on my merry way. I returned occasionally to water the area, but only when I remembered to.

Nothing grew, not even a little sprout. I was more than heartbroken — my faith was shaken. I had planted these seeds! I had watered them! (A little.) There was sunlight! All my childhood books and rhymes said this was all you needed. Was it all a lie?

Of course it wasn’t a lie. Seeds need soil, sunlight, water, and oxygen — good soil, adequate sunlight for whatever the plant is, and consistent water.

So what seeds need more than anything is a gardener. (At least, delphiniums do.)

When I hear the parable of the rich soil and the rocky ground in the Gospel of Matthew, I often miss the point. I think Jesus is trying to give me a message about how I should be. “Be better.” That’s what I think he’s telling me.

I forget that I am only the soil. I cannot enrich myself; all my efforts to do so will come to nothing. What he is telling me is to ask the gardener: “Make me what I need to be.”

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](http://dio.org/jobs) under “Other”. Inquiries can be sent to [kprice@catholicstewardshipfoundation.org](mailto:kprice@catholicstewardshipfoundation.org).
- **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](http://dio.org/events) or contact Fr. Zach Samples, Promoter of Vocations, at [zsamples@dio.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:gortiz@dio.org) or 217-321-1124.