

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JULY 19, 2026 | SIXTEENTH 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 29

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.

Diocesan Victim Assistance is available. For the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, please call 217-321-1155.
Please remember that if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a nursing home or homebound, to contact the Parish Office at 217-522-3342



Dear Friends,

Some things change; some things stay the same.

As for change, I'm modifying slightly our OCIA process. OCIA (formerly RCIA) stands for Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. It's the formation process the Church provides to prepare the unbaptized for baptism and to live the Catholic Faith after the Easter Vigil.

Starting September 10th, this year's OCIA will meet weekly instead of biweekly. This means every Thursday evening from 6 to 7:30pm we will gather for a meal and then make a pilgrimage into the holy places of what Catholics believe, how we worship, how we live, and how we pray. The Bible and the Catechism will be our guides, and I will be inviting guests in to share their love for God and His Church as well as their expertise in certain areas.

We will engage our minds, hearts, souls, and yes, have some fun along the way. Jesus wants us to enjoy loving Him and our neighbors!

If you're not baptized, or if you are a non-Catholic Christian, and interested in the Catholic Faith, I invite you to consider OCIA here at the Cathedral. There's no obligation, just an invitation to learn more about Jesus, to consider becoming his disciple, and to encounter the ancient Tradition of the Catholic Church.

If you are interested, please contact the Cathedral office.

As for things staying the same, our Families of Faith program will forge ahead from where we left off. For those unfamiliar, Families of Faith is our formation program for families with school-aged children. Its purpose is to help parents be the first and best teachers of the Faith to their children.

While the children are being taught by our excellent catechists, the parents will continue with me or another presenter the topic we didn't finish last year: the Catholic Church and Science.

Topics will include Jesus' self-offering, the purpose and benefit of the Church, the four kinds of happiness, and how we transform suffering through faith and prayer. If your family would like to join us for this, please call the Cathedral office. We meet the first and third Sundays after the 5pm Mass starting with a potluck on September 6th.

With gratitude and joy for the days ahead!

Father Seth Brown is the Rector of the Cathedral.

Mass Intentions

Monday, July 20

7am - Betty and Gene Barish
(Family)
5:15pm - Matt Wendell
(Claire McGrath)

Tuesday, July 21

7am - Guido and Mildred Piccinino
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)

Wednesday, July 22

7am - Don Smargiassi
(Smargiassi Family)
5:15pm - Kevin Lee Danner Jr.
(Brenda Capranica)

Thursday, July 23

7am - Marg Munn
(Berberet Family)
5:15pm - Eulalia and Raymond Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Friday, July 24

7am - Carrie Eichen
(Celeste Crowley)
5:15pm - Intentions for Doris and Cathy
(DA Drago)

Saturday, July 25

8am - Mercedes and Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)
4pm - Dick Allender
(Family)

Sunday, July 26

7am - Susan and Bob Denton
(Darrell and Terese Hurst)
10am - Dick Allender
(Rebecca Woodhull)
5pm - For the People

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF JULY 20

<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	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 K of C Meeting 6:00 PM School Classroom	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



Senior Social

Wednesday, August 12
3:00pm-5:00pm



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, August 12, 3:00pm-5:00pm in the Cathedral Atrium.

Cathedral Women's Bible Study-Church of the Holy Spirit

Women's Bible Study at the Cathedral will begin a six-week Threshold Bible Study on the first 14 chapters of the Acts of the Apostles. The most thrilling and adventurous book of the Bible, Acts shows us Christianity being lived for the first time. It takes us to some of the great cities of the ancient world. It introduces us to all kinds of people: apostles, prophets, martyrs, philosophers, governors, kings, merchants, jailers, and sailors. It narrates for us a variety of events: dramatic spiritual experiences, missionary journeys, trials and imprisonments, powerful speeches that provoke dramatic responses, sea voyages and a shipwreck, and the clash of ancient cultures. It invites us to see the adventure continuing on and on in our lives. All women are welcome to join us for this study beginning on September 3 at 10:00 or 1:00 in the Cathedral School Library. Books are \$10.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Cathedral Meal Train

There are still lots of dates available for the Cathedral Meal Train! If you are interested in volunteering in this ministry, please visit www.spicathedral.org/cathedral-meal-train/ for available dates. We ask that meals be delivered to the rectory by 3:00pm on the chosen dates. Entrees should feed 5 to 6 people; sides are welcome, but not necessary, and please, no desserts. Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions - 217-522-3342. Thank you!

Spanish Bible Study

Everyone is Welcome!

Every Monday at 6:00 PM

Cathedral Library

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Come grow in your faith through Scripture, prayer, and fellowship. Whether you are new to the Bible or have studied it for years, you are welcome to join us. We read God's Word together, share reflections, ask questions, and encourage one another in our walk with Christ. Join us any Monday! No previous Bible study experience is required. Information Rosario Johnstone phone 217-793-9776 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

ESTUDIO BÍBLICO EN ESPAÑOL

¡Todos son Bienvenidos!

Todos los lunes en la Biblioteca de la Catedral de la Inmaculada Concepción a las 6:00 PM

Ven a crecer en tu fe por medio de la Palabra de Dios, la oración y la convivencia.

Ya sea que estés comenzando a leer la Biblia o que tengas años estudiándola, eres bienvenido(a). Leemos las Sagradas Escrituras, compartimos reflexiones, respondemos preguntas y nos animamos mutuamente a seguir a Cristo. ¡Puedes unirte cualquier lunes!

No es necesario tener experiencia previa estudiando la Biblia. Información con Rosario Johnstone teléfono 217-793-9776

tu palabra es una lampara que guía mis pies y una luz para mi camino.

Salmo 119:105

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.

Parish Rummage Sale

The CCCW will be hosting our Parish Rummage Sale on Friday August 7th, and Saturday August 8th 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 2nd, 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 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.

SDCCW Springfield Deanery August Meeting

Join the SDCCW on Saturday, August 1st at the Cathedral for their August meeting. Registration/check-in begins at 9:30am, and the meeting begins at 10am. Lunch is provided. The guest speaker will be Cathedral parishioner, Jeanette Malafa with the Catholic Conference of Illinois, who will speak about Opposing Assisted Suicide, following the passage of a bill legalizing assisted suicide in Illinois. Ladies interested in registering for the August 1st Deanery Meeting at Cathedral, can use this link by July 25:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CACAC2BABFE_C43-64518779-springfield

Gospel Meditation

A man recently told me he was losing patience with the Church. “It’s supposed to be God’s Kingdom on earth,” he said, “but it’s full of contradictions and hypocrisy. Why can’t the Church just be better?” That last word landed with a judgmental thud. It hurt. Because at times the Church can look painfully ordinary, even disappointing.

But Jesus’ parables in today’s Gospel meet that frustration head-on. He says, “The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field,” yet the weeds grow up with the wheat, and the master allows both to grow together until harvest. To his listeners, this sounded strange, even offensive. They expected God’s reign to be pure, powerful, and glorious, anything but mixed up, hidden, or small.

Jesus is showing us something essential. The Kingdom always begins small and grows amid imperfection. Grace and weakness exist side by side until the harvest. That is why the Church often looks messy. Yet within that mess, God’s quiet work continues. The weeds do not stop the wheat from growing.

When we see the Church’s flaws or our own, it helps to remember that this is exactly the field in which Christ chose to plant. The miracle is not that everything looks perfect, but that his Word keeps taking root anyway.

Lord, give me patience with Your field, the Church. Help me see Your hidden life growing even among the weeds. Amen.

Father John Muir
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Virtues, Explained! Generosity

Generosity is a hallmark of Christian discipleship. Christ placed our needs above his own, so we likewise place the needs of others above our own. Our concern for our brothers and sisters must be evident not just in what we do but in how we do it — with cheerfulness and love.

In the early Church, we read in the Acts of the Apostles, “all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need.” (Acts 2:44-45)

This doesn’t mean we are obligated to sell our homes and cars, move in with our fellow parishioners and split the water bill. But it certainly does describe the spirit with which we must live as Christians — and it is a generous spirit, a spirit of self-denial, a spirit that prioritizes the welfare of our brothers and sisters as it does our own.

Generosity is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, cultivated in our hearts by a closeness to the sacraments and a persistence in prayer: “The one who provides seed for sowing and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness.” (2 Corinthians 9:10)

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Stewardship of Treasure

July 11th & 12th

Envelopes:	\$4,572.00
Loose:	\$4,242.50
Maintenance:	\$100.00
Total:	\$8,914.50

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!

The Weeds We Need

Driving up my street in late spring, you can see which yard is mine from a whole block away: it's the one covered in dandelions. And I like it that way.

I fear neither my husband's shame nor the snarky comments of neighbors: I will never apologize for my dandelion-filled yard. "It's for the pollinators," I say, but it's a total lie. I just think it looks lovely. Who doesn't like a splash of yellow after a long, dreary winter?

People call dandelions "weeds," but it's just not true. Weeds are, by definition, any plant growing where it isn't wanted. A rosebush is a weed, if it's in the middle of a cornfield. I want my dandelions. Plants that are commonly considered weeds can even have beneficial properties. They attract pollinators, for instance, and they promote nutrient cycling, whereby soil health is improved.

We all have metaphorical "weeds" in the garden of our lives. I certainly do: facets of my personality I loathe, realities of my life I resent, limitations in my abilities I dread—these are my weeds, and their roots run deep, coiling closely around those of the plants I try to cultivate. But if I could rid my garden of any one of these weeds, would it really benefit me? And if I examined them all closely, could I tell them apart—the blessing from the curse, the struggle from the triumph?

One day, it will all become clear: what is the wheat, and what is the weed. We will be put to our ultimate purpose, and we will see ourselves for what we are meant to be.

Until then, we need the weeds. It's not harvest time yet.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
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Around the Diocese

- **The Curia is Hiring!** Join the mission. Current open positions include a Payroll Processor and an Administrative Assistant for the Office for the Missions. Benefits include full medical benefits, voluntary life, parental leave, a four-day work week, and holidays/holy days off. Check out dio.org/jobs for more information.
- **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.