

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JULY 26, 2026 | SEVENTEENTH 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 30

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

DEACON DAVID BEACH

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,

This weekend we welcome to the Cathedral Monsignor Peter Vaccari, President of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), for our annual Mission Appeal.

Pope Pius XI founded the CNEWA in 1926 as an instrument of love and a sign of hope for those in need scattered throughout the historic but unstable lands of the ancient Eastern churches — the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India, and Eastern Europe.

They pray for and with those who suffer in these lands, and they relieve suffering by rushing emergency relief to places of crisis, responding to human need, and working to develop local leadership in difficult places and situations.

Monsignor Vaccari became the president of CNEWA six years ago. But God had prepared him for such a responsibility by blessing him with varied ministries throughout his life. Ordained a priest of Brooklyn in 1977, he has served as a parish priest, seminary professor, chaplain with the Air Force Reserve, rector of the seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, Long Island, and as rector of St. Joseph Seminary in Dunwoodie, New York.

Monsignor will preach each of the masses, and we will take up a collection for CNEWA this weekend.

We thank Monsignor for being with us, and for his very important work. Please keep him and CNEWA in your good prayers.

With gratitude and joy for the days ahead!

Father Seth Brown is the Rector of the Cathedral.

Mass Intentions

Monday, July 27

7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)
5:15pm - Lemuel Moss
(Jean Moss)

Tuesday, July 28

7am - Diane Kruzick
(Steve and Vicki Stalcup)
5:15pm - Andy and Joan Forgas
(Family)

Wednesday, July 29

7am - Dick Allender
(Vicki Linderman)
5:15pm - Helena Fleck
(Gregory and Marie Fleck)

Thursday, July 30

7am - Mary Jackson
(Susan Shelton)
5:15pm - Helen Gaupel
(Berberet Family)

Friday, July 31

7am - Fr. Daren Zehnle
(Beverly and Larry Smith)
5:15pm - Robert Lucasey
(John Lucchesi)

Saturday, August 1

8am - Margaret Vaplon Miller
(Eric and Joanna Miller)
4pm - Don Smargiassi
(Smargiassi Family)

Sunday, August 2

7am - Carrie Eichen
(Sharon Sexson)
10am - Edward Anselment
(Anselment Family)
5pm - For the People

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF JULY 27

<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	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

Around the time that the gold rushes ended in the nineteenth-century West, a curious phenomenon arose in New England known as money diggers. These were men who roamed the countryside with shovels, divining rods, and superstitious hope, convinced that treasure lay buried beneath their feet. Surely there must be gold under our feet. But there was not. The craze of these wild goose chases caused many to lose farms, families, and sanity.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus inaugurates a new era of spiritual money digging. He announces, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field." He invites us to become treasure seekers who search in the right place. What is of greatest value is not money beneath our feet, but the infinite treasure hidden deep in the humanity of Jesus himself, God's own blessed life. The glory of heaven lies veiled in his ordinary life, his teaching, his suffering, his Church.

This teaching about the Kingdom changes things. Now we see the Church's doctrinal and moral teachings are not arbitrary rules. They are a treasure map. Follow them, and we will uncover divine happiness. Ignore them, and we will wander aimlessly, spade in hand, digging in empty fields, discouraged.

Where have we wasted energy seeking treasure in the wrong places? How have we given up on seeking the treasure of truly finding God's love for us? If so, let us repent of both. Then let us dust off our shovels and get back to digging deep into the field of Christ Jesus and his Church. After all, He never ceases seeking his treasure in us.

Father John Muir
©LPi

Virtues, Explained! Hospitality

When three strangers came to Abraham's tent at Mamre on a sweltering day, he rushed to offer them respite from the heat (Genesis 18:2-3). When the prophet Elisha visited Shunem, a woman set aside a special room in her house for him, so that he would return and feel comfortable (2 Kings 4:10).

These Old Testament examples show people living out the law of welcoming the sojourner (Leviticus 19:33), a law that found fulfillment in the Christian mandate to "practice hospitality" (Romans 12:13) and show "brotherly love" (Hebrews 13:1-2).

The virtue of hospitality is characterized by kindness and welcome, particularly to those who are strangers. Since the stranger, by nature, has no particular claim on our affections, the love we extend to him is true Christian love — love purely for the sake of the one "who loved us first" (1 John 4:19).

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Stewardship of Treasure

July 11th & 12th

Envelopes:	\$4,443.00
Loose:	\$2,953.00
Maintenance:	\$111.00
Total:	\$7,507.00

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!

Choosing Heaven

My children often ask me questions about Heaven. What does Heaven look like? Is there nighttime in Heaven? Do you get hungry in Heaven? Are there oceans in Heaven? Will we feel bored in Heaven?

My answer is almost always the same: "I can't tell you for sure." I guess I didn't realize how little we actually know about Heaven until I had kids who were obsessed with hearing the details.

But accepting human ignorance is liberating in a way, because it allows me to see clearly — and cling wholeheartedly to — the three things I do know for sure: Heaven is where God is, and Hell is where He isn't, and it's completely my decision where I want to be.

The choice, you see, is everything.

We need to pay attention to how Jesus describes the kingdom of Heaven in his parables. It is, he tells us, a treasure — but a treasure buried in a field owned by someone else. It is a beautiful pearl — and a very expensive pearl. It is a bountiful yield — one which must be carefully, even painstakingly sifted through.

It's so easy to imagine the delight of the man who finds the treasure, who encounters the pearl, who hauls the bursting net aboard, just as it is easy to call ourselves followers of Christ, to hang a Rosary from our windshield and go to Mass.

It's less easy, and a great deal more uncomfortable, to contemplate what comes next: the sacrifice, the commitment, the perseverance through uncertainty.

Heaven is an incredible stroke of luck — one that requires a good deal of follow-through. We can never earn it, but we must choose it. Again and again and again, we must choose it.

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.