

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

AUGUST 2, 2026 | EIGHTEENTH 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 31

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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ROSE KEHOE
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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,

The saints remind of us our destiny—that we strive by the grace of God and their good prayers to be in the future where they now are.

But the saints also remind us of our past. The saints we celebrate in August remind us of our local past, our diocesan history.

August Fourth we remember St. John Vianney, a French priest of humble birth who, after ordination was sent to the little town of Ars. For the next 41 years he served as the parish priest: celebrating mass, hearing confessions, and teaching the Catholic Faith. He had the gift of reading hearts, of being able to tell penitents their sins before they could confess them. He would often spend 8-12 hours a day hearing confessions.

Pope Pius XI named St. John Vianney the patron saint of parish priests, so this month please do pray for the Cathedral clergy, or your own parish priest.

August 8th is the Feast of St. Dominic, the founder of the Dominicans. We are fortunate in this diocese to have all three expressions of the Dominican life—the friars, the nuns, and the religious sisters. Some of you may have been taught by the Springfield Dominicans. The nuns pray for us in their monastery near Girard, and the friars are their chaplains. We thank God for the many years of blessings, preaching, and teaching the Dominicans have provided for our diocese.

August 11th is the Feast of St. Claire of Assisi, and the 14th is St. Maximilian Kolbe, both Franciscans. We give thanks for the Franciscan Friars, Sisters, and Brothers who have served in our diocese in parishes, schools, homes for the disabled, and by providing excellent healthcare and care for the poor. May God continue to bless their ministries.

With gratitude and joy for the days ahead!

PS—for those looking ahead: August 15th is the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, and normally it is obligatory to attend Mass on that day. But as it falls on a Saturday this year, it is not obligatory to attend Mass for that Solemnity (though I certainly encourage you to do so!).

Mass Intentions

Monday, August 3

7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)
5:15pm - John W. Montgomery
(John Busciacco)

Tuesday, August 4

7am - Genny Severino
(St Louise Demarillac Guild)
5:15pm - Ed Sr. & Emily Riordan
(Riordan Family)

Wednesday, August 5

7am - Thomas Conway, Sr.
(Family)
5:15pm - Kathleen Dhabalt
(Vicki Compton)

Thursday, August 6

7am - Julie Kemp
(Family)
5:15pm - Caryl Beach
(Dcn David Beach)

Friday, August 7

7am - Julie Kemp
(Family)
5:15pm - Don Smargiassi
(Smargiassi Family)

Saturday, August 8

8am - Anita Bates
(Bates Family)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, August 9

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(Bill Midden)
10am - Dick Allender
(Rebecca Woodhull)
5pm - Mercedes and Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)

Father Seth Brown is the Rector of the Cathedral.

WEEK OF AUGUST 3

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

Adoration
4:00 PM
Church

FRIDAY

CCCW Garage
Sale
8:00 AM
School Hall

Rosary
4:45 PM
Church

SATURDAY

CCCW Garage
Sale
8:00 AM
School Hall

SUNDAY

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!

Women's Evening Bible Study - The Search

Why Are We Here? What's Life All About? What Happens When We Die? The Search is an innovative video series that tackles the key questions of every human heart. In seven beautifully filmed episodes, Chris Stefanick and experts from multiple fields of science, medicine, psychology, art, and religion examine our place in the larger story of existence. Whether you're a practiced inquirer or a jaded skeptic, The Search will speak to you. You may be reassured by some parts, and challenged by others. Either way, you'll find a lot here to think about. And when all is said and done, life's questions demand to be answered. Are you ready for The Search? The women's study guide is available online \$15.95 at: <https://catholic.market/programs/the-search-womens-participant-guide/> Optional program journal \$4.95 at: <https://catholic.market/programs/the-search/the-search-journal/>
Thursdays, Sept 3rd - Oct 15th 6:15pm - 7:45pm, Cathedral School Library

Have you been married 50+ years? Time to celebrate!

On October 4 at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, all couples married 50 years or more are invited to attend a special Mass honoring their marriage vocation! The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. A reception will follow after Mass. Please register for the Mass by going to dio.org/events and clicking on the Oct 4 Mass. The reception will showcase all photos submitted in the last two years. Due to the number of couples attending, please only submit photos if you have not done so in past years. Any questions? Call Ruth Staab at 217-698-8500.

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.

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!

SDCCW 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.

Gospel Meditation

In his song, “Lose Yourself,” the artist Eminem raps, “the mood all changed.”

We all know that moment when the mood changes, when life turns from lighthearted to deadly serious. That happens in today’s Gospel. Jesus has just heard that John the Baptist, his cousin, forerunner, and friend, has been murdered. As Matthew tells us, “When Jesus heard of it, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself.” Until now, he had been teaching in parables and healing quietly. But John’s death signals a new phase. The shadow of the Cross begins to fall. Evil shows its teeth.

And how does Jesus respond? Not with rage or despair. He goes to a lonely place to go into deep communion with his Father. From that silence comes action. He feeds the multitude. Out of grief comes generosity. Out of sorrow, life. This is the rhythm of every disciple’s life. When tragedy or violence breaks our hearts, we face a choice. We can react, or we can retreat into prayer — like and with Christ. This is the hidden place where pain becomes compassion and compassion becomes self-gift.

Lord Jesus, when life intensifies, draw me into Your quiet strength. In that hidden place with You and the Father, turn my heartbreak into the bread of love for the world. Amen

Father John Muir

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Devotions, Explained! Holy Hours

A holy hour is the practice of spending one hour’s time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, praying and meditating on the agony of Jesus Christ. More broadly, a holy hour can also refer to any 60 minutes set aside in prayer and reflection, whether in church or elsewhere.

The holy hour devotion dates to the late 17th century, when St. Margaret Mary Alacoque received visions of Jesus Christ. In these visions, the Lord requested that St. Margaret Mary spend one hour every Thursday evening lying prostrate and meditating upon his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. This practice calls back to the Gospel of Matthew, which tells of Jesus’ desire for the disciples to “remain here and keep watch with me” (Matthew 26:38) as he awaited his passion.

Holy hours can be made privately or in community, and the USCCB has created a variety of different holy hour formats that can be found at usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/eucharistic-devotion.

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Stewardship of Treasure

July 25th & 26th

Envelopes:	\$3,835.00
Loose:	\$5,923.00
Maintenance:	\$10.00
Total:	\$9,768.00

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!

The Miracles We Don't See

"Why aren't there miracles anymore?"

I've heard people say this more than once. Usually, it is someone who is a believer in Christ but not a Catholic, because Catholics understand that miracles happen at every Mass, to say nothing of the other miracles the Church recognizes. But even some Catholics often find themselves wondering why it's been so long since God gave us a good show. A good sun-dance in the sky. A good, flashy reason to believe.

I don't know what it looked like when the loaves and the fishes were multiplied. I believe it happened, and I have envisioned it often, but I just can't picture it. Did everyone blink, and there was a giant pile of food? Did they just keep finding more? Was it all the same kind of bread, or did Jesus mix it up?

I think the Gospel is deliberately vague on this to test the patience of pathologically nosy people like myself. It's not important what it looked like. If those details mattered, they would be spelled out in Scripture.

How often we find ourselves unsatisfied with the answers God has for us.

I wonder if that's what Christ was thinking when he savored those last few minutes of solitude on the boat, where he had gone to be alone after hearing the crushing news of his cousin's execution. Was he imagining the crowds gathering on shore? Was he contemplating their enormous expectations for God — for him! — and anticipating their disappointment when every wish could not be granted?

Maybe. But that's not what the Scripture says.

"His heart was moved with pity," we are told. I think of him looking at them all, so weary and uncertain and hungry. Pity — this is what he felt. Not resentment, exhaustion or frustration. Pity. And his precious heart was moved.

What a miracle. No details, no explanation. No dancing sun. But what a miracle.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
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Around the Diocese

- **St. Francis Cabrini Parish's Annual Fall Festival**, Sunday September 13, 2026 from Noon to 5 p.m., 1020 North Milton Avenue, Springfield IL 62702. Music, food, family-friendly games, country store baked goods & craft sale, raffle and an alumni booth with school tours
- **St. Francis Cabrini Parish in Springfield is seeking a part time Parish Secretary**. Please contact the parish office 217-522-8555 for more information. The hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. three days a week and the person would also be required to attend various parish meetings including Pastoral Council, Liturgy Committee, etc. Computer experience is necessary. Preferably a practicing Catholic.
- **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.