

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

AUGUST 9, 2026 | NINETEENTH 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 32

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

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RECTOR

THE REVEREND PIUS CHIDOZIE NWIYI
PAROCHIAL VICAR

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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 past Thursday, August 6th, we celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord.

In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a high mountain. There, before their eyes, He is transfigured: His face shines like the sun,

and His clothes become dazzling white. Many see this great mystery as a foretaste of the Resurrected Jesus, an illuminating display of his divinity to His inner circle of disciples.

But it's not only that. Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets, appear and speak with the Lord to reveal that all Scripture finds its fulfillment in Him. Then a bright cloud overshadows them, and the voice of the Father is heard: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

That raises the question: listen to what? Jesus hadn't said anything coming up the mount. Previously, the last thing He'd said was to predict His Passion after Peter had professed his faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Then, after they'd made their way down the mount, Jesus must step in to heal a boy the disciples could not. Jesus then repeats the prediction of His passion. The glory revealed on the mountain does not remove the necessity of suffering; it makes the coming suffering meaningful.

Taken together, the before-and-after framing shows that the Transfiguration is not an isolated moment of glory. It is a revelation given in the shadow of the Cross.

- Before: the cost of discipleship is announced.
- On the mountain: the glory that awaits is revealed.
- After: the disciples are sent back into the ordinary struggles of faith and mission, carrying both the memory of glory and the call to follow the Lord.

In Matthew's Gospel, the Transfiguration stands as a hinge: it confirms who Jesus is, clarifies the path He must walk, and gives the disciples (and us) a reason to hope while walking that same path.

Pope St. John Paul II helps us to better meditate on this great mystery when he made it the Fourth Luminous Mystery of the Rosary.

With gratitude and joy for the days ahead!

Father Seth Brown is the Rector of the Cathedral and Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

Mass Intentions

Monday, August 10

7am - Louis Nicoud
(Nicoud Family)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Community)

Tuesday, August 11

7am - Mathias Bates
(Bates Family)
5:15pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)

Wednesday, August 12

7am - Carrie Eichen
(Daniel Schumacher)
5:15pm - John and Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)

Thursday, August 13

7am - Johnstone-Valdez Family
(Rosario Johnstone)
5:15pm - Dcn Frank Maynerich
(Larry and Beverly Smith)

Friday, August 14

7am - Robert "Bob" Scott
(McGrath Family)
5:15pm - Intention for Bianca
(DA Drago)

Saturday, August 15

8am - Joe Metzger
(Gregory & Marie Fleck)
4pm - Jim Steil
(The Steil Family)

Sunday, August 16

7am - For the People
10am - Don Smargiassi
(Smargiassi Family)
5pm - Mercedes and Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF AUGUST 10

<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	The Prayer Circle Group 2:00 PM Atrium 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 1:00 PM 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.

Interested in Becoming Catholic or Know Someone Who

Cathedral welcomes all those who are seeking to learn more about the Catholic faith! If you have never been baptized or if you were baptized in another Christian denomination, you are invited! If you are already Catholic and have a friend or family member interested in exploring the beauty and truth of the Catholic faith, please invite them, and please feel free to accompany them. Thursday evening sessions will include a meal, a teaching of the faith connected to Sunday Scripture, and always a chance to ask questions. The first session is Thursday, September 10 at 6:00pm. For more information, or to reserve a spot, contact the parish office at 217/522-3342 or email rkehoe@cathedral.dio.org.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Faith Formation for Children & Parents!

The Order of Baptism emphasizes that parents are the first teachers of their children in the ways of the faith. The Second Vatican Council, in *Lumen Gentium*, calls the family the "domestic church" insisting that "parents, by word and example, are the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children" [cf. *Lumen Gentium* §11]. Given the emphasis placed on parents, we want to help parents to be what they are called to be in Christ: true heralds of the Gospel to their children. To support parents in this important task, the Cathedral sponsors a whole-family catechetical program that meets on Sunday evenings twice a month. Pre-school - grade 8 children meet with catechists while parents and teens meet for formation with our priests. You and your family are welcome to our first gathering, a Potluck on September 6 at 6:15pm! Registration forms are available in the atrium. Contact the parish office for more information or to have registration forms emailed to you, rkehoe@cathedral.dio.org or 217/522-3342.

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

SDCCW Annual Convention

We are excited about the upcoming Springfield in IL Diocesan Council of Catholic Women 97th Annual Convention in Quincy 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.

The Quincy Deanery has also arranged a tour of some Quincy sites on Wednesday, September 2nd for anyone who arrives the day prior to the Convention. Everyone will travel in their own vehicles for the tour and will meet at St. Peter's Church at 2600 Maine Street, where the tour will begin, at 1:00 pm. Stops include:

- a tour of St. Peter's Church to see the Father Tolton Plaques as well as a presentation of "A Mother's Faith: The Story of Martha Jane Tolton",
- a tour of St. Francis Solanus Church by Father Arisman
- a stop at Father Tolton's Tomb

Registrations must be received by August 15th. The registration form, with additional information about the convention, is available in the Atrium.

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.

Gospel Meditation

As a young, newly ordained priest, I admired a senior priest who was gifted, beloved, and had changed countless lives. But soon I learned that he had fallen in catastrophic and destructive ways. The painful juxtaposition of good and evil was complex to process. How could someone so seemingly good also be so broken and deceptive? It forced me to confront a sobering truth: leadership in the Church is no guarantee against weakness or sin.

Peter teaches that truth in this week's Gospel. When he sees Jesus walking on the sea, Peter does what leaders do. He goes first. "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." But when he sees how strong the wind is, he becomes frightened and, beginning to sink, cries out, "Lord, save me." Immediately, Jesus stretches out his hand and catches him.

St. Thomas Aquinas observes that Peter overcomes the greater danger of the waves but falters before the lesser threat of the wind. This is the paradox leaders often face. It is not always the great trials that undo us, but the smaller, quieter temptations, such as subtle fears and compromises, that lead us to sink.

The good news is that Jesus does not abandon Peter. He saves him before it is too late. Our frail humanity lives within a rhythm of grace, risk, failure, and mercy. Jesus helps Peter overcome both the obvious and hidden sources of fear, and he promises to do the same for us. So, let us pray for all, especially our spiritual leaders.

Father John Muir
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Devotions, Explained! House Blessing

Catholics who move to a new place of residence often wish to have their dwelling blessed, to call the favor and help of God upon all those who live in the house and all those who will enter it.

The Roman Ritual (Book of Blessings) provides two formats for house blessings: one during the Easter or Christmas season (specifically for the Epiphany) and one for Ordinary Time. Those who live in the home must be present for a house to be blessed. A priest, deacon or lay person can administer the blessing, although if a lay person does so they must use the rites accorded to lay ministers in the Roman Ritual.

A house blessing includes Scripture readings, intercessions and a prayer of blessing.

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Stewardship of Treasure

August 1st & 2nd

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!

Looking for God

What do we think when we see Jesus coming to save us?

The first thing the Apostles scream is “Ghost!” when they catch sight of Jesus walking towards them on water. That always makes me laugh. After all they have witnessed thus far as the companions of the Messiah, they see someone walking on water and they still react like extras in a bad episode of Scooby-Doo.

We are always more quick to believe a bad thing than a good thing. We can easily believe gossip and hearsay about a friend, but we fear being taken for a fool when it comes to faith. We would rather look cynical than stupid.

“Save me, God, for the waters have reached my neck,” reads Psalm 69. “My eyes fail, from looking for my God.”

I think back on my life, on all the various ways that God has rescued me from slipping beneath the surface. Rarely did it ever occur to me, in the midst of it, that I was being rescued. In fact, I usually thought I was being held underwater. Did I hear His voice directing me, or did I only hear my own despairing? “Save me, God.” Was I looking for Him, or were my eyes shut in fear? “My eyes fail, from looking for my God.”

It’s never until after the fact — sometimes years after, or decades — that we see things clearly. That we see Christ in the situation, making his way toward us, hand outstretched.

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.