

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

AUGUST 16, 2026 | TWENTIETH 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 33

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

HALEY DUTTON
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
HDUTTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

MARK GIFFORD
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MGIFFORD@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

KIM GUNTER
BUSINESS MANAGER
KGUNTER@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

ROSE KEHOE
PARISH SECRETARY
RKEHOE@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

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,

This Saturday the Church celebrated the great Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, meaning we believe God assumed Mary body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly life.

It might sound strange, but I think we can learn a little about the Assumption from St. Catherine of Siena's experience of levitation. St. Catherine of Siena, a great Dominican mystic and Doctor of the Church, was widely reported by many different witnesses to have experienced levitation on multiple occasions.

In her crowning spiritual work, *The Dialogue*, St. Catherine explains the inner spiritual realities that result in levitation. The explanation comes during the Heavenly Father's concluding remarks to St. Catherine about the stages a soul must rise through to attain perfect love.

God the Father, speaking of St. Catherine, says, "Though she is mortal she tastes the reward of the immortals, and weighed down still with the body she receives the lightness of the spirit. Often, therefore, the body is lifted up from the ground because of the perfect union of the soul with me, as if the heavy body had become light."

Thus, what draws her body up from the ground is the loving union of her soul with God. In short, the soul is drawn up in love so powerfully that the body can't help but follow.

Our Heavenly Father continues, "It is not because its heaviness has been taken away, but because the union of the soul with me is more perfect than the union between the soul and the body. And for this reason the strength of the spirit united with me lifts the body's weight off the ground."

So perhaps we could say that Mary's union with God was so perfect that it led to her Assumption.

It will be a great marvel at the end of time when all our bodies are resurrected by the Love of God, and an even greater marvel to see the soul drawing the body towards God in the loving union, prefigured for us today in the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary who has joined in perfect loving union of body and soul her Resurrected Son in Heaven.

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 17

7am - Martha Gude
(Celeste Crowley)
5:15pm - Thomas Conway Sr.
(Family)

Tuesday, August 18

7am - Deceased Members of the Tobin
Family (Steve and Vicki Stalcup)
5:15pm - Rudy and Dora Piccinino
(John Busciacco)

Wednesday, August 19

7am - Emery Mapes
(Jesse and Claire Presley)
5:15pm - George Jacoby
(Berberet Family)

Thursday, August 20

7am - Betty Rogers
(Glen Rogers)
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the
Chiaradonna Family (Geny
Chiaradonna)

Friday, August 21

7am - Alfred Nicoud
(Nicoud Family)
5:15pm - Genevieve Bitschenauer
(Barbara Bitschenauer)

Saturday, August 22

8am - Adam and Emily Embrich Family
(Son)
4pm - DuBeck Family
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Sunday, August 23

7am - Betty Rogers
(Glen Rogers)
10am - For the People
5pm - James Hughes
(Family)

WEEK OF AUGUST 17

MONDAY

Rosary
4:30 PM
Church

TUESDAY

Adoration
4:00 PM
Church

WEDNESDAY

Men's Bible
Study
6:00 AM
School Library

Rosary
4:30 PM
Church

THURSDAY

Women's Bible
Study
1:00 PM
School Library

Adoration
4:00 PM
Church

FRIDAY

Rosary
4:30 PM
Church

SATURDAY

Fr. Daniel's
Farewell
Reception
After 4:00 PM
Mass
Atrium

SUNDAY

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

JOIN US FOR A FAREWELL

Reception

FOR FATHER DANIEL MCGRATH

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, AFTER
THE 4PM MASS



Farewell Reception for Fr. Daniel

A farewell reception for Fr. Daniel McGrath will be held in the atrium after the 4pm mass on Saturday, August 22nd. We thank Fr. Daniel for his very good work over the last two years here, and wish him well as he heads to Rome in September for advanced studies in the liturgy. Please keep Fr. Daniel in your good prayers.



Senior Social

Wednesday, September 9
3:00pm-5:00pm



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. Our next social is on Wednesday, September 9, 3:00pm-5:00pm in the Cathedral Atrium.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Interested in Becoming Catholic or Know Someone Who Is?

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.

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

Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated and purchased items our last weekend's rummage sale. Thanks especially to those who organized and worked it. It was a great success!

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.

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.

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.

Gospel Meditation

Does God ignore or act a bit rough with you? Jesus crosses the border into the pagan region of Tyre and Sidon, the territory long outside the covenant. There, a Canaanite woman calls out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David." At first, he is silent. Then he rebuffs her. "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." But the Church Fathers saw this not as an insult but as an initiation. Christ draws out of her heart a deeper faith.

She presses on. "Please, Lord, even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Jesus' silence and response solidify her humility and trust. She thus becomes a model for prayer for centuries of Christians. St. Augustine said she shows how sinners come to grace by moving from silence to humility to perseverance.

This woman is the Church. She is you and me. She is every soul who dares to cry out from the margins, who endures divine silence until it turns to compassion. When Jesus says, "O woman, great is your faith," it is the joyful cry of God discovering faith where the world least expects it. Even the smallest crumb of Your mercy, Lord, is enough to heal the soul. Do we have the courage to show faith like that?

Father John Muir

©LPi

Devotions, Explained! Gregorian Chant

Gregorian chant is an ancient form of sacred music used in liturgical worship and prayer. Defined by a monophonic (meaning a single melody without harmony or chords), unaccompanied song, this type of chant focuses the singer's mind on the content of the prayer being sung, which makes it uniquely suited for use in the Mass.

Dating to the first millennium, it derives its name from Pope St. Gregory the Great, though scholarship is unclear on when exactly this type of chant originated. Prior to the Second Vatican Council, it was standard to use Gregorian chant in the Roman Rite Mass. Sacrosanctum Concilium, the Constitution on Divine Worship promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1963, asserts that Gregorian chant is "specially suited to the Roman liturgy...(and) should be given pride of place in liturgical services."

©LPi

Stewardship of Treasure

August 8th & 9th

Envelopes:	\$4,897.00
Loose:	\$4,359.00
Maintenance:	\$50.00
Total:	\$9,306.00

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!

Chess, Not Checkers

There's a saying that good leaders have to play chess, not checkers.

It will surprise no one who knows me well that I am terrible at chess. It's not so much a lack of skill (although that's part of it) as a lack of effort. I find chess exhausting. To succeed at this complex game of strategy, you have to see not just the board in front of you, but the person in front of you — and more than that, you have to consider not just what is, but what could be.

I prefer checkers.

When I read a Gospel passage like today's, I think of what Jesus would be like as a chess player. It's so easy to see this account of the Canaanite woman and her tenacity and take it at face value, as a reminder to pray without ceasing, to never stop asking God for what we need. And certainly, it is that.

But it's not only that.

We see a woman begging God for help, and we see God refuse — at first. We see her persist, and we see him capitulate. At least, that's what it looks like to us.

What does it look like to Jesus?

Jesus sees this woman's face and hears her words, just as his disciples do — but he also sees her heart. He sees her whole life. He sees every moment that leads up to this one. He sees her belief, but he also sees her unbelief. He sees her wounds. He sees her daughter.

He sees the game board not just for what it is, but for what it could be.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

©LPi

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.
- **Springfield Catholic Charities** is looking for individuals to join our Advisory Board. The Board meets five times a year and helps Catholic Charities in their mission "to extend to all the healing and empowering presence of Jesus." For more information, please contact Patrick McConnell, Area Director 217-523-4551 ext. 114 or mcconnell_spfld@cc.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. 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.