

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

AUGUST 23, 2026 | TWENTY-FIRST 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 34

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
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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,

On September 12, less than a month away, Illinois' medical aid-in-dying law (commonly referred to as assisted suicide) will be in force.

While Governor JB Pritzker signed the "End of Life Options" Act into law on December 12, the delay until September was built-in to give the Illinois Department of Public Health and health care providers time to establish the required processes and safeguards.

Just a few days ago, Bishop Paprocki, the Lutheran Care Center, and four Illinois physicians sued the State of Illinois over this unjust law. The Thomas More Society filed the complaint on their behalf, asking a federal court to block the law before it takes effect on September 12.

As you know, this law is fraught with problems. Not only does the law violate the natural and moral law when it allows and promotes suicide, it also requires faithful medical professionals to help facilitate patient suicides in violation of the Hippocratic Oath, centuries of legal and medical tradition, and their deeply held religious convictions.

Dr. Mary Keen, one of the four doctors in the suit, explains the impossible situation the State has put her and many other doctors in: "The State's demand that physicians begin helping patients accomplish assisted suicide violates everything I know as a health care professional, as well as my deeply held Catholic convictions on the dignity of every human life. As a doctor, I have a responsibility to meet my patients' existential pain with loving accompaniment, not with abandonment."

Not only does this travesty strike at the vocation of the physician, it attacks the foundation of Catholic and religiously based healthcare.

"At the heart of the Catholic Church's healthcare ministry is the healing work of Christ—to stand with the suffering, to comfort the dying, and to affirm the God-given dignity of every human life," said Bishop Paprocki. "Illinois's assisted suicide law undermines that mission by forcing Catholic hospitals and those who serve in them to push death onto their most vulnerable patients. We must be free to serve the sick and the dying according to our faith, not according to the state's mandate."

While not a pleasant subject to discuss, in the coming weeks I will devote the pastor's column to the topic of assisted suicide and why the Catholic Church opposes it.

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 24

7am - Intention for Doris and Cathy
(DA Drago)
5:15pm - Mae and Marshall Hargan
(Pamela Hargan)

Tuesday, August 25

7am - Mark and Catherine McGrath
(Claire McGrath)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)

Wednesday, August 26

7am - Frank & Louise Steskal
(Riordan Family)
5:15pm - Dick Allender
(Family)

Thursday, August 27

7am - Howard Beagles
(Fr Tolton Council 16126)
5:15pm - Andy and Joan Forgas
(Family)

Friday, August 28

7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)
5:15pm - Chester Patrick
(Gregory and Marie Fleck)

Saturday, August 29

8am - Jim and Sandy Bloom
(Rebecca Peterson)
4pm - Raymond and Eulalia Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Sunday, August 30

7am - Norman Stephen Langheim
(Joe and Gail Langheim)
10am - Mercedes and Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)
5pm - For the People

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF AUGUST 24

<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
Rosary 4:30 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Rosary 4:30 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church K of C Meeting 6:00 PM School Classroom	Rosary 4:30 PM Church		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

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.

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.



Senior Social

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



Senior Social

You are invited to Senior Socials, a monthly event connecting area 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



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.

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

CCCW/Knights of Columbus Scholarship Winners

The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women (CCCW) and the Fr. Augustine Tolton Council 16126, Knights of Columbus, are pleased to announce the four winners of our annual scholarships to a local Catholic High School. The four winners for the 2026-27 academic year are: Mychael Dewalt, Joshua Eyer, Matthew Eyer, and Sophia Gunter. Each scholar was awarded \$1,000 in assistance for tuition at Sacred Heart-Griffin High School. Congratulations!

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.

5th Sunday Rosary for Cathedral Parish

On August 30, 2026, immediately after the 10 AM Mass, all are invited to join the members and families of Fr. Tolton Council 16126, Knights of Columbus, for our 5th Sunday Rosary. The Knights will be praying especially for the intentions of our parish, our parish priests, and our Bishop. You may certainly include your private intentions with the general intentions. Please join the Knights in this act of faith in asking for the Blessed Mother's intercessions for the Cathedral parish family.

Gospel Meditation

The first time I stood inside St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, its majesty overwhelmed me. The sheer beauty of Michelangelo's dome seemed to lift my soul right out of my body. Later, I joined the Scavi tour that winds below the basilica, down into the ancient pagan cemetery where Peter was buried. There, in the dim light and narrow passageways, I found myself looking at the bones of a murdered Jewish fisherman, his feet cut off so his crucified body could be taken down more easily.

What a paradox. Above me, the most glorious church ever built. Beneath me, the remains of a backwater fisherman. But this man dared to answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" And crowning that immense dome above his tomb are the words from today's Gospel, "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church."

Within you and me is the drama of the lowest and the highest. Every time we confess Christ, humbly, imperfectly, maybe even trembling, we enter that same mystery. The dust of our humanity, touched by the splendor of heaven. God's presence and our dry bones together. Humility and glory. May our lives embrace both the lowest and the highest, like that great basilica, as we profess Jesus.

Father John Muir

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Virtues, Explained! Valor

Though valor itself is not a cardinal or theological virtue, as a Latin-based word that means "strength," we often associate it with the gift of fortitude. Specifically, it conjures an image of fortitude on the battlefield — of fidelity to the good fight, regardless of the coming attack.

When Christ presides at the Last Supper in the Gospel of John, he speaks to his Apostles of the persecutions that will soon be suffered by him and by them. He also speaks of the Advocate (the Holy Spirit) who will "guide you to all truth" — a significant choice, since fortitude is not only a virtue, but a gift of the Holy Spirit.

"Behold, the hour is coming...when each of you will be scattered...and you will leave me alone," Christ tells them. "But I am not alone, because the Father is with me."

In the world, he concludes, there will be pain and suffering. "But take courage, I have conquered the world." (John 16:13-33).

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Stewardship of Treasure

August 15th & 16th

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!

Only Peter Has the Answer

"What do you think of the Pope?"

After the election of Pope Leo XIV in 2025, all my non-Catholic friends texted me this question. The result of the papal conclave was dominating the news cycle, and everyone was curious about this man who would now be so prominent on the world stage, making me temporarily popular with people who apparently need more (and better) Catholics in their lives.

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus entrust Peter and his heirs with the stewardship of the kingdom here on earth, creating an unbroken line of authority that stretches through the millennia all the way to our current Pope — whoever he is at the time you are reading this.

I don't know if you like the Pope. The same goes for your local bishop and your pastor. If a friend texted you, "What do you think of him?" I have no idea how you would respond.

All I know is this: it doesn't really matter. What really matters is what we would say if a friend texted us the same question about Jesus Christ: "What do you think of him, and why?"

In today's Gospel, Jesus doesn't ask his disciples to take an IQ test. He doesn't try to find out which one is the nicest, the hardest worker, the most humble, or even the holiest.

He asks a very simple question: "Who do you say that I am?"

Peter has the answer.

I am not Catholic because I like the Pope. I am not Catholic because the human representatives of the Church have anything to offer me (they often do, but this is beside the point).

I am Catholic because only Peter has the answer.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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Around the Diocese

- **Calling all extraordinary people!** PSR for Extraordinary People is starting a new academic season on Wednesday, September 9, 2026. This diocese-wide ministry focuses on sharing God's Word with the intellectually challenged community. We meet weekly at Blessed Sacrament School to explore the scripture for the coming Sunday, learn about our Catholic catechism & share some fellowship. For information, please contact the Blessed Sacrament Parish Office (217-528-7521) or Jane Mosey-Nicoletta (217-972-4179). Volunteers are also welcome.
- **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
- **Now Hiring - Parish Administrative Assistant**, St. Joseph the Worker in Chatham is seeking a full-time Parish Administrative Assistant, preferably a practicing Catholic in good standing, to support the daily operations of the parish office. This position includes office administration, communications, parishioner support, and recordkeeping. Candidates should be organized, welcoming, detail-oriented, and comfortable using Canva and Microsoft Office Suite. Office experience is required. Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm.
- **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.