

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

AUGUST 30, 2026 | TWENTY-SECOND 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 35

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.



Dear Friends,

Two priests in our diocese, Frs. Peter Harman and Christopher Trummer, have written an explanation of why the Catholic Church rejects assisted suicide. Over the next few weeks I will be including selections from their writing to help us better understand where we stand and why. Here's the beginning:

Christians have always been occupied with the task of healing and caring for the sick, suffering, and dying. Jesus Christ himself came into our midst, doing good, healing the sick, and preaching the arrival of the Kingdom of God. Thus God has inspired and enabled Christians to address the needs of the sick and suffering in our midst, to treat illness and bring healing.

Throughout the whole world, the Church is committed to caring for the sick, regardless of their status, income, religion, or creed. This ministry has increased the health and quality of life of countless persons. But we are also aware of the limits of our earthly life, and that God has made us for eternal life heaven. Therefore, the Church's ministry to the sick always upholds the inherent dignity of the human person in this bodily life, created as we are in God's own image and likeness, while also preparing us for our ultimate destiny in the life to come.

Recently, efforts have been undertaken to legitimize the intentional ending of human life by means of assisted suicide, which is also known as physician-assisted suicide (PAS) or, more euphemistically, "medical aid in dying" (MAiD). The Catholic Church strongly rejects such initiatives as contrary to the dignity of the human person and our vocation to care for the sick and suffering in our midst. The following are some of the most important reasons for the Church's opposition to assisted suicide.

Assisted suicide is simply a form of deliberately ending one's own life that involves the cooperation of another person or persons. Currently, because assisted suicide is primarily being promoted in the context of healthcare, these other persons are usually doctors and nurses. This medical context does not make assisted suicide more morally acceptable (in fact, it makes it even more immoral, as we will explain below). Whether done actively through the administration of drugs or passively through the removal of basic and necessary care, assisted suicide is gravely immoral, both for the patient choosing it and anyone who cooperates with this action.

Promoters of assisted suicide appeal especially to the autonomy and rights of the patient. However, while the right of a person to make his or her own healthcare decisions is real and important, it is not unlimited or absolute; it does not extend to actions or omissions that directly contradict his or her dignity as a person. Thus, in a recent document on end-of-life care, the Church states:

There is no right to suicide nor to euthanasia: laws exist, not to cause death, but to protect life and to facilitate co-existence among human beings. It is therefore never morally lawful to collaborate with such immoral actions or to imply collusion in word, action or omission. The one authentic right is that the sick person be accompanied and cared for with genuine humanity. Only in this way can the patient's dignity be preserved until the moment of natural death (CDF, Samaritanus Bonus, V, 9)

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 31

7am - Elsie Pinc

(Son)

5:15pm - John and Marcella Rosier
(Claire McGrath)

Tuesday, September 1

7am - Betty Rogers

(Glen Rogers)

5:15pm - Margaret Vaplon Miller
(Eric and Joanna Miller)

Wednesday, September 2

7am - John W. Montgomery

(John Busciacco)

5:15pm - Cesare Chiaradonna
(Geny Chiaradonna)

Thursday, September 3

7am - Brother Francis Skube

(Friend)

5:15pm - Carrie Eichen
(Daniel Schumacher)

Friday, September 4

7am - Helen "Bobbie" McCarthy
(Family)

5:15pm - Clate and Lessie Dortch
(Larry and Beverly Smith)

Saturday, September 5

8am - Patricia Giacometti

(Joanna Thompson)

4pm - For the People

Sunday, September 6

7am - Susan and Bob Denton

(Darrell and Terese Hurst)

10am - Mary Kaufman

(McGee Family)

5pm - Mercedes and Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF AUGUST 31

<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	Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, & 6:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church	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 20 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 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



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!

First Communion/Confirmation Volunteers Needed

The Diocese welcomes volunteers to help at the Cathedral for Sacraments. Duties include, but are not limited to, registration, greeters, ushers, & hospitality. You will receive a list of assignments a few days prior to each event you sign up for. For Saturday events, arrival time is 9:00 a.m. (although you can help set up at 7:00 a.m.); you will finish by 1:30 p.m. For Tuesday events, arrival time is at 5:00 p.m. (although you can help set up at 3:00 p.m.); you will finish by 9:00 p.m. You must be Safe Environment trained and background checked. There are a variety of dates available, and the sign-up is available here: <https://dio.org/volunteer-to-help-with-sacraments-at-the-cathedral-parishioner/>

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.

Second Collection: Catholic University of America

Please consider a generous gift to the upcoming special collection in support of The Catholic University of America located in the heart of our nation's capital. Founded by a pontifical charter in 1887 as the national research university of the Church in the United States, the university has served the church and our nation for more than 130 years. Your gift to this special collection, the only national collection taken for higher education in our country, will not only go to support students through various scholarship and financial aid programs but also helps the University better serve dioceses and parishes through innovative research initiatives and training programs, such as the Catholic Identity Professional Development program for teachers, staff, and school leaders in the Archdiocese of Chicago and an innovative program that provides lower-income, primarily Hispanic and Latino students access to a Catholic University undergraduate degree affordably and locally in Tucson, Arizona. Our contributions are critical to both a successful academic year and to all the important work the University does on behalf of the church and its Faithful in our country. Please make a contribution to the mission of the Catholic University, either directly at your parish or online through their site. Please be generous in supporting this important collection.

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

Do you know what it is like to be thrilled by the power of Christian faith one moment and then utterly fail in it the next? I do. That is Peter in today's Gospel. After last week's bold confession, he now hears Jesus speak of suffering and death, and something in him recoils. He takes Jesus aside and tries to correct him. Jesus responds with the shocking rebuke, "Get behind me, Satan."

Peter is the mirror of every disciple. We love Jesus until he contradicts the script we have written for our lives. Peter does not reject Jesus. He rejects a suffering Jesus. So do we, whenever we avoid a hard responsibility, resist a demanding relationship, or cling to comfort instead of choosing love. We want a Lord who supports our plans, not one who overturns them.

Yet Jesus does not discard Peter. He redirects him. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." In effect, Jesus says, stop trying to lead me. Let me lead you. Discipleship does not begin with heroism or clarity but with surrender. It means trusting that God's path to life often passes through places we would never choose.

Peter is all of us. We move from insight to confusion, from confidence to correction. That is why we should have hope. Jesus patiently teaches us again and again. Trust me. Get behind me. Follow me. When we stop fighting the crosses that come and start carrying them with him, we discover a freedom deeper than comfort and a love stronger than fear.

Father John Muir
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Stewardship of Treasure

August 15th & 16th

Envelopes:	\$3,403.00
Loose:	\$4,587.00
Maintenance:	\$110.00
Total:	\$8,100.00

August 22nd & 23rd

Envelopes:	\$5,011.00
Loose:	\$3,336.00
Maintenance:	\$65.00
Total:	\$8,412.00

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!

Sacraments Baptisms

Lucy Maria McGrath
Child of Jacob and Emily McGrath
Baptized on August 23, 2026

Devotions, Explained! Imago Divina

Imago divina (Latin for "divine image") is an extension of the ancient practice of lectio divina ("divine reading"). Imago divina is, in a sense, praying with one's eyes, or using the medium of artwork to assist in lifting the mind to God.

Believers have always connected with the divine through visual representations of faith. This can be seen in the frescoes that adorn the walls of the catacombs, in the glory of Rococo architecture, and in the stained glass windows of a simple country church. "Art is capable of making visible our need to go beyond what we see and it reveals our thirst for infinite beauty, for God," said Pope Benedict in 2011.

In practicing imago divina, just like with lectio divina, the faithful "read" (or view), reflect, respond and rest with the image, inviting the Holy Spirit to move them accordingly.

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To Carry the Cross

Carry the cross? Absolutely. I'm happy to! Hand it over. Here's the thing: I just might...set it down for a second, from time to time. That's okay, right?

How else am I supposed to have both hands free to gesture in anger? I can't do that if I'm carrying the cross. Well, fine, then let me just shift its weight, so I can catch my breath and say what I think about this person who's got it all wrong — I'll just lean it against the wall here. No? Okay, fine, I won't put it down! I'll keep holding it. That's better, actually. Then I can use it as a weapon.

What? Am I doing this "Christian" thing wrong?

"Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it," Jesus tells us in today's Gospel. "But whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

This is not an affirmation of the paradox that if you no longer care about something, you can finally have it once and for all. It's not a judgment about the worthlessness of life in this fallen world or the futility of trying to preserve that life.

It's merely a statement about priorities.

When Peter says, "God forbid!" at the thought of suffering, God is not his priority. His own safety is.

When I say, "God forbid!" at anything that comes from the mouth of God, it's a reminder to look at my hands — because they've probably put down the cross.

How merciful is our Lord — he never takes my cross from me, even when I walk far away from it. He always lets me pick it back up. In his dear and sweet goodness, he even helps me lift its weight. And he gestures, in case I've forgotten: "This way. Follow me."

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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Around the Diocese

- **Mother of the Holy Eucharist and Grace Devotion**, first Sunday of each month 2:45p in the Blessed Sacrament Church. Call Rose Amon at 217-926-2976 with any questions.
- **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.