

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 | TWENTY-THIRD 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 36

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

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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,

Patients have rights, and so do healthcare workers.

First, the rights of the patient. 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.

Healthcare workers also have rights. The first rule of the Hippocratic Oath: "Do no harm." This time-honored principle of health care is to treat each person with care and respect and to never intentionally harm a patient. By assisting in the suicide of a patient, no matter their condition or wishes, the vocation for healing and caring for the sick is completely inverted; instead of defending the inherent dignity of human life, one ignores or rejects this dignity and becomes complicit in wrongful death.

Even when an illness, disease, or injury cannot be successfully overcome, suffering and dying persons must be accompanied and cared for. This is the purpose of palliative care and hospice. Even when we cannot cure people, we can always care for them and attend to their emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs. Healthcare workers also have the right to conscientious objection.

Traditionally, the patient-doctor relationship was considered a sacred one, a kind of covenant, because it requires great vulnerability, trust, and compassion.

Today, however, in many societies such as our own, a consumeristic mentality has taken root in healthcare. This mentality has reduced the patient-doctor relationship to more of a consumer-provider contract (this is clear in the now-popular term, "healthcare providers").

While this ultimately harms patients as well, this consumeristic perspective especially diminishes the sense of dignity and duty attributed to healthcare workers. The truth is that doctors, nurses, and others in the healthcare profession are entrusted with a sacred duty to respect and uphold the dignity of every patient in their care.

This duty takes priority over the desires of the patient, which at times can contradict their own authentic good. Of course, doctors and nurses should respect the desires and treatment decisions of patients and their families or legal representatives as much as possible.

However, this respect for the patient does not require or allow doctors and nurses to violate their own consciences or to cooperate in morally evil actions. After all, "The physician is never a mere executor of the will of patients or their legal representatives, but retains the right and obligation to withdraw at will from any course of action contrary to the moral good discerned by conscience" (Samaritanus Bonus, V, 2).

Everyone is always obliged to follow his or her conscience, and one cannot ignore or override the judgement of conscience by appealing to the patient's wishes or to the civil law.

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, September 7

7am - Don Smargiassi
(Smargiassi Family)
5:15pm - NO MASS (Labor Day)

Tuesday, September 8

7am - Ed Sr. & Emily Riordan
(Riordan Family)
5:15pm - Thomas Conway, Sr.
(Family)

Wednesday, September 9

7am - Martha Gude
(Celeste Crowley)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Community)

Thursday, September 10

7am - John and Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Edward Anselment
(Anselment Family)

Friday, September 11

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(Bill Midden)
5:15pm - Intention for Bianca
(DA Drago)

Saturday, September 12

8am - Dick Allender
(Mike and Maureen Horstman)
4pm - Raymond and Eulalia Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Sunday, September 13

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(Bill Midden)
10am - For the People
5pm - Emery Mapes
(Jesse and Claire Presley)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7

<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
NO 5:15 PM MASS	The Circle Prayer Group 10:00 AM Atrium Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Senior Social 3:00 PM Atrium 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 OCIA 6:00 PM Atrium	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



CTK Fall Bible Study

Join us for an eight-week Bible study at Christ the King Parish Center called Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John. In this study guided by Dr. Edward Sri, you will see how Christ invites us not only to believe in him but to become his disciples and friends, trusting in his mercy and learning to love others as he has loved us. This study is designed to fit into your busy schedule, with minimal homework or reading. We will watch a 30 minute video each week, followed by light discussion. Meetings are on Thursday mornings, 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM beginning on Thursday September 17th, through Thursday, November 5th. The cost of materials is \$30. The registration deadline is Sunday, September 6th. All are welcome! For more information and to register, please email Cindy Lamar at cjlamar@comcast.net or phone/text her at 217-553-9027.

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/>

National Life Chain Sunday

Pro-life prayer warriors will gather in quiet prayer on Sunday, October 4 at 2pm as a public witness to the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. 519 N. Bruns Lane, Springfield. For more information, please call Dave at 217-741-8230.

Volunteers Needed - Livestreamers

The Cathedral is in great need of volunteers to livestream Mass on Sunday mornings at 10:00am. It's fun, and easy to learn! We'll train you one-on-one, and you can serve at your convenience. Please contact Haley Dutton (hdutton@cathedral.dio.org) if you are interested in serving in this ministry or have questions about what this ministry entails. Volunteers must be Safe Environment trained and background checked.

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.

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

Join the Springfield Pro-Life Civic Committee in Springfield on Saturday, September 26 at 10am for this annual inter-faith memorial service honoring the precious unborn children whose lives have been taken by abortion. We will gather at the Vision For Life building at 519 North Bruns Lane. During the memorial service we will proceed to the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood abortion facility next door where roses will be placed at white crosses in memory of the aborted children. After the service, we hope you will join us at the Vision for Life building for refreshments and fellowship. For more information, or if you would like to help set up crosses before the event, please call Dave at 217-741-8230.

St. Jude Parish - 4th Annual Doris Ray Memorial Trivia Night

Come for a fun-filled evening of trivia! Test your knowledge, enjoy great company, and honor the memory of Doris and her legacy of kindness. Saturday, September 26, Marian Banquet Hall, 335 S. 4th Street, Riverton, IL. Doors open at 6pm, trivia starts at 7pm. \$10 per person if registered online by September 25, or \$15 if registered at door day of event. Maximum 10 people per team, payment required at check-in. Door prizes and cash bar, bring your own snacks. For more information, or to register, visit the St. Jude Parish Facebook Page.

Gospel Meditation

A few summers ago, my family had a big reunion. It included my parents, my four siblings, and all their many children. One of my favorite moments was simply watching my parents' contented faces as they took in all of us together, laughing, sharing food, singing, telling stories. They loved seeing their children happily together with each other.

That is something like the heart of God we see in today's Gospel message about Christian reconciliation. These verses come right after Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. He is not giving the disciples a cold formula for dealing with conflict. He is revealing the Father's longing for children who love and reconcile with each other. His heart aches when his children are divided and isolated.

So when Jesus says, "Go and tell your brother his fault," He is not deputizing us as morality police. He is inviting us into his mission of reconciliation. When he adds, "If he listens to you, you have won over your brother," we glimpse the real goal. Not winning arguments, but reuniting a divided family.

These days, we often think religion is just between God and me. But the Father's dream is about a lively family, one in which His children forgive, gather, and rejoice together.

Lord Jesus, give me the courage to seek reconciliation where it is needed. Make my heart resemble the Father's heart, longing and working for unity among His children. Amen.

Father John Muir
©LPi

Devotions, Explained! Lectio Divina

Lectio divina ("divine reading") is a practice of praying through the reading of Scripture, opening oneself to the inspiration and communication of the Holy Spirit.

The practice of Lectio divina dates to ancient monastic communities, but it has gained popularity in modern times as a way to meaningfully engage with the word of God.

The formula for Lectio divina is simple and follows four steps. The text of the Scripture is read (lectio) multiple times, and the reader takes note of any words or phrases that resonate with him in a particular way. The reader then reflects deeply on the passage (meditatio) and the words that he noticed, turning them over in his mind. Following this, the reader prays with the passage (oratio), and dialogues with God, inviting him to illuminate the reader's understanding of the text. Finally, there is rest and contemplation (contemplatio).

©LPi

Stewardship of Treasure

August 29th & 30th

Envelopes:	\$4,874.00
Loose:	\$8,342.00
Maintenance:	\$106.00
Total:	\$13,322.00

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!

Treat Him Like a Gentile

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives instructions for ministering to those persisting in error. Here's the CliffsNotes version: If all else fails, "treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector."

In other words? Don't give up. Tell him the truth. Wash, rinse and repeat.

Technically speaking, I'm a Gentile. I've done those mail-in DNA tests, and none of my ancestors were Jewish. So whoever told my family about the God of Abraham, it wasn't Moses, and it probably wasn't Jesus himself, unless he spent some time in northwestern Europe that the Gospels fail to mention.

Nope, my ancestors were big old Gentiles living in a big old Gentile world. Lucky for me, someone evangelized them. At first, my ancestors probably didn't listen. But the evangelist, whoever he or she was, didn't give up.

I say "lucky for me" because this all means that I was born and raised Catholic. It makes it easier, I think — but it doesn't make it easy. I'm not an automaton, and I still have to accept the truth of the faith I choose to live. So do you. So do we all.

Inevitably, we falter. What then?

Who are the tax collectors? Zaccheus was one. Matthew was another. Maybe you recognize his name — he's the guy who wrote this Gospel. And who are the Gentiles? Me. You, maybe. Everyone the disciples decided not to give up on. Everyone the Church is called not to forget about, not to dismiss, and not to take for granted.

So treat them all like Gentiles, and remember that God sees the future, not just the past.

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.