

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 | TWENTY-FOURTH 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 37

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.

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,

When considering assisted suicide, we must address the difficult topic of misplaced compassion.

Disguising itself as a form of compassion, assisted suicide distorts the relationship between suffering and dying persons and their family and other loved ones. It is very common for disabled, elderly, and dying persons to feel as though they are only a burden to others and to society. This feeling of only being a burden can increase a person's temptation to suicide.

Perversely, the availability of assisted suicide sends the message to these persons: "Yes, you are a burden. Your suffering and neediness are dragging everyone down. We would be better off without you here." When assisted suicide is offered as an option, a new pressure arises for people to end their lives when they reach a certain level of dependency.

Some ethicists today have even begun proposing a so-called "duty to die." Family and loved ones, knowing that the option of assisted suicide exists, are less likely to rise to the occasion and embrace a heroic form of love by accompanying their loved one to the end. When the faster, easier option of assisted suicide is available and promoted, those who choose to continue living in spite of suffering and limitations can start to seem selfish.

But the Catholic Church does not suggest or require that a person must be allowed to suffer mercilessly or endlessly. Adequate palliative care is to be offered so that a person's pain can be managed. Realizing the limits of human bodily life, the Church recognizes that there are times when further treatments are futile and/or disproportionately burdensome.

At such times, no one is obligated to take on medical treatment to extend life as long as possible. Care in the form of pain management is to be provided to the extent needed to make a person comfortable, even when treatments are no longer helpful. This is the recognition of the limits of our earthly life. However, there is a clear moral difference between accepting death on the one hand and actively assisting in the killing of a suffering person on the other.

For many suffering persons, their initial inquiries into assisted suicide have been reversed when their pain is managed and their emotional and spiritual needs addressed. Rather than simply cooperating with a person's request for death, which comes from a place of fear and desperation, we need to listen to the underlying cry of their heart.

As Pope St. John Paul II wrote in *Evangelium Vitae*: "The request which arises from the human heart in the supreme confrontation with suffering and death, especially when faced with the temptation to give up in utter desperation, is above all a request for companionship, sympathy and support in the time of trial" (EV, 67).

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 14

7am - Howard Beagles
(Fr Tolton Council 16126)
5:15pm - Frank & Louise Steskal
(Riordan Family)

Tuesday, September 15

7am - Jim Maher
(Judy (Maher) O'Shea)
5:15pm - Josephine Beagles
(Bernie Ely)

Wednesday, September 16

7am - Betty Rogers
(Glen Rogers)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)

Thursday, September 17

7am - Paul and Emily Goeckner
(Claire McGrath)
5:15pm - Alice Bates
(Bates Family)

Friday, September 18

7am - Kenneth Beach
(Dcn David Beach)
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the
Thompson & Gairani Family (Joanna
Thompson)

Saturday, September 19

8am - Thomas Conway, Sr.
(Family)
4pm - Don Smargiassi
(Smargiassi Family)

Sunday, September 20

7am - Dick Dhabalt
(Vicki Compton)
10am - For the People
5pm - Shirley Logan
(Lisa Logan & Lori Motyka)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14

<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	Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, & 6:00 PM School Library	Rosary 4:30 PM Church		Family of Faith 6:15 PM Atrium
Spanish Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library		Rosary 4:30 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church			
			OCIA 6:00 PM Atrium			

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.



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, October 14, 3:00pm-5:00pm in the Cathedral Atrium.

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.

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.

Second Collection - Church in Africa

Your support for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa helps young people encounter the teachings of the Church and grow as disciples who are eager to share Christ's peace where so many have experienced conflict and war. Please be generous to this appeal for the Solidarity Fund through the offertory collection. To learn more about the collection and whom it supports, visit www.usccb.org/committees/national-collections. To support the Solidarity Fund with an online donation, or visit #iGiveCatholic at www.igivecatholic.org/story/USCCB-CA.

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

In my parish, there was once a new employee who frequently told me she was sorry for various imperfections in her work. It could be a little tiring. I finally told her, "You know, you don't have to say 'sorry' so often." She looked me right in the eyes and said, "Father, you're right. I'm sorry." Her ear-to-ear grin betrayed that she enjoyed the irony — and that she would keep asking for forgiveness as often as she needed it.

The Gospel reading this week proclaims to us that God, in Jesus, delights in numerous requests for, and the granting of, forgiveness. To Peter's question, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus responds, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." In other words, Peter, stop counting.

Christian life should be marked by a commitment to frequent forgiveness. God never tires of forgiving us. His limitless love has overcome the power of vengeance, hatred, and division. We tap into that each and every time we ask for forgiveness or extend it to another.

How beautiful our hearts become when they become accustomed to frequent forgiveness! How joyful and attractive become our marriages, families, and parish communities! How light our souls feel when unburdened by the habit of keeping score.

Challenge: Name one thing, small or large, for which you could ask forgiveness from someone in your life. Then do it.

Father John Muir
©LPi

Virtues, Explained! Friendliness

The modern world we all must share seems, in some ways, to be shrinking.

For good or ill, thanks to the internet, the widespread use of social media, and the omnipresence of smartphones, we are finding ourselves interacting frequently with people who live, act, and think differently than we do.

It may well be that the virtue of friendliness, known officially as affability, is more important than ever.

In fact, being attached as it is to the virtue of justice, friendliness is a debt we owe our fellow human beings, writes St. Thomas Aquinas (Sum., II:II, 114, Art. 2). The fact is, we cannot evangelize without kindness. We can see this in the instructions Christ gives his disciples in the Gospel of Matthew: "As you enter a house, wish it peace. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; if not, let your peace return to you." (Matthew 10:13)

©LPi

Stewardship of Treasure

September 5th & 6th

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!

Mercy You Can Feel

"You qualify for forgiveness," I heard the woman on the other end of the phone tell me, and I surprised myself by starting to weep.

I had called the hospital system's financial services department to set up a payment plan on a balance I owed after having some unexpected scans and tests. I was hoping to minimize the dent our family's savings took — transform one devastating wallop into a series of more easily absorbed blows, so to speak.

Imagine my surprise when I realized the hospital was pulling its punch. If you have ever had a financial debt forgiven, you know the relief that came over me in that moment.

It wasn't until a little later that the guilt set in. I know so many people who have medical debt. Why was I able to get out of paying, and they were not?

But the cold, hard truth is that I didn't "get out" of anything. My insurance, for which I pay, had given the hospital enough money to cover the true cost of the procedures. That balance would merely have increased the hospital's profit.

Make no mistake: capitalism does not forgive.

If you describe the Sacrament of Reconciliation to someone unfamiliar with theology, chances are they'll think God is a chump. "You get to go in, say you're sorry, and leave — and everything's just fine?" someone once asked me in disbelief.

Well, yeah. That's forgiveness.

Real mercy cannot be budgeted. It must be given recklessly, extravagantly, against all reason. It must cost the giver. It must scandalize any accountant worth his salt. And no one "qualifies."

If I can't wrap my head around the idea, it might mean I'm stuck in a for-profit paradigm of justice. It might just mean that I need to engage more in real mercy. Mercy I can feel.

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
- **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.