

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 | TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 38

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
NINTH BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

THE REVEREND SETH BROWN
RECTOR

THE REVEREND PIUS CHIDOZIE NWIYI
PAROCHIAL VICAR

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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,

Now we must note something that non-believers will not understand: the redemptive value of suffering. The error of those promoting assisted suicide is that the principle they promote is that to eliminate suffering we eliminate the one who suffers.

But this is not Christian. After all, the greatest revelation of God's love for us is Christ crucified. The teaching of Scripture, the life of Christ, and the witness of the saints all affirm that suffering—even great suffering—does not render life meaningless or no longer worth living.

Suffering remains an evil, and it is good to reduce and avoid it where possible. However, when humbly accepted in faith and love, suffering can be a powerful source of sanctification and intercession.

In suffering, we experience more acutely the reality of our limitation and need for God, which are always present. For a Christian in particular, to reject the value of suffering as incompatible with God's love and goodness is to reject the value of Christ's suffering death, to "empty the cross of its meaning" (1 Cor 1:17).

Through faith, we recognize that "the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us," and moreover, that "for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Rom 8:18, 28).

Keeping this in mind, we also recognize that everyone is not called to embrace suffering in the same way or to the same degree. This is why the Church has always sought to alleviate suffering wherever she has found it, and in modern times, has affirmed the legitimacy of using medications and other treatments to reduce and eliminate pain.

The Christian perspective on the value of life is utterly opposed to every utilitarian perspective, which only recognizes a person's value insofar as he or she is wanted by others or thought to be "useful" in some way. Throughout salvation history, God shows a special love for the poor and those overlooked by others. In St. Paul's words, "God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing" (1 Cor 1:28).

And of course, Christ himself radically identifies with these "least ones," to the point that we will be judged on how we treated them: "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt 25:40).

It is not up to us to judge whether another person's life is "worth living" or not. If we do make this judgement, we presume to take the role of God, the Author of Life. When people face the darkness of suffering and are tempted to despair about the value or meaning of their lives, our role is to raise them up and, humbly, to help them to see themselves and their situation from God's perspective.

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 21

7am - Grover Gaston
(Gregory and Marie Fleck)
5:15pm - NO MASS (Convocation)

Tuesday, September 22

7am - NO MASS (Convocation)
5:15pm - NO MASS (Convocation)

Wednesday, September 23

7am - NO MASS (Convocation)
5:15pm - NO MASS (Convocation)

Thursday, September 24

7am - NO MASS (Convocation)
5:15pm - Tricia McCoy
(Vicki Compton)

Friday, September 25

7am - Rudy Pinc
(Brother)
5:15pm - Intention for Doris and Cathy
(DA Drago)

Saturday, September 26

8am - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)
4pm - Judith Hubbell
(Family)

Sunday, September 27

7am - Mercedes and Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)
10am - Dick Allender
(Rebecca Woodhull)
5pm - For the People

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note, the parish office will be closed on Thursday, September 24 for the Beatification of Fulton Sheen.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21

<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
Spanish Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library		Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library	Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, & 6:00 PM School Library K of C Meeting 6:00 PM School Classroom	Rosary 4:30 PM Church		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



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



Thank You!

Thank you for participating in my survey on liturgical policy; I am grateful to the 2,558 people who submitted data on their worship patterns. Thanks also to the 12 TLM and NO parishes where I collected the information. I defended this summer and have moved to Tulsa, OK to serve as the Headmaster of the Augustinian school Cascia Hall. God bless your families and our worship! Fr. Jack Tierney OSA, jack.b.tierney@outlook.com

My dissertation is available at
<https://www.proquest.com/docview/3381009593>

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.

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.

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

Every December, the priests of my diocese gather for a Christmas dinner with our bishop. Nearly 200 of us in one room: newly ordained and long retired, pastors of large parishes and quiet confessors, men full of energy and others moving more slowly. Some carry visible success; others bear hidden wounds. It is a tapestry of vocations and lives. When the bishop thanks us, I am always moved. For a moment, none of our differences matter. What matters is that we belong to one another.

I usually leave that evening with a deep sense of peace, but also with a sober realization. Nothing drains joy from the vineyard of the Lord faster than comparison. The quiet habit of measuring, ranking, and resenting can creep in even among those who sincerely serve God.

That is what Jesus exposes in today's parable of the workers in the vineyard. The early laborers are not upset because they were treated unjustly; they are angry because others were treated generously. Their resentment blinds them to the gift already in their hands. When the landowner asks, "Are you envious because I am generous?" he names the real wound. This tension echoes throughout salvation history: the elder brother resenting the prodigal, the faithful servant scorning the latecomer. Jesus does not deny the labor of those who have borne the heat of the day, but he refuses to let God's mercy become a zero-sum game.

In the end, the vineyard's reward is not about fairness but belonging. The joy offered is communion with a generous Father, who delights in gathering early and late, strong and weak, into one household of grace.

Father John Muir

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Devotions, Explained! Jesus Prayer

Stewardship of Treasure

September 5th & 6th

Envelopes:	\$5,564.00
Loose:	\$3,995.00
Maintenance:	\$867.00
Total:	\$10,426.00

September 12th & 13th

Envelopes:	\$4,611.00
Loose:	\$4,316.63
Maintenance:	\$145.00
Total:	\$9,072.63

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!

The Jesus Prayer is a short invocation of mercy in the name of Jesus: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

The exact origins of the prayer are unclear, though it is often attributed to the tradition of Eastern Christianity, possibly via the Desert Fathers (early Christian ascetics who dwelled in Egypt). The prayer has been important to the traditions of both the Eastern Orthodox and the Eastern Catholic faithful. The text echoes the words of the publican in the parable from Luke 18:9-14, whose humble manner of prayer was praised by Jesus. Its short form and simple wording make it ideal for meditative prayer.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in paragraph 2667, highlights the Jesus Prayer, saying that "by it the heart is opened to human wretchedness and the Savior's mercy."

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The Why

Sometimes, the Gospel takes everything you think you know about Jesus, throws it in a box, shakes it violently, dumps it on the floor, looks you in the eye and says: "Clean it up."

And there you are, picking up the pieces, wondering how, after 2,000 years, someone can still keep you guessing.

Today is one of those Gospels. We know Jesus as a champion of the poor. We envision him as a social justice warrior. And now he's advocating for time theft in the workplace? Make it make sense.

Well, at its heart, today's Gospel is a story about who gets what. A story about comparison, which we are told is the thief of joy — but without comparison, nothing would ever get done. In this world, wages are set, court cases are settled, international borders are drawn, all by comparing one entity to another and evaluating that comparison to make a judgment.

What this Gospel doesn't tell us is the "why." The workers who labored longest in the vineyard feel cheated because those who showed up later earn the same wage. This would be egregious — unless we consider that the only criteria used in the comparison is the length of the work day's duration. Quality and efficiency of work is never even mentioned. For all we know, those all-day workers could have been standing around fanning themselves, and should feel lucky to get what they did.

"Why" is a question we ask a lot in this life. Why did my dad die? Why did I get cancer? Why did my husband lose his job? As we pick up the pieces of today's Gospel, we should ask ourselves this: when we know what we know about Who decides who gets what, do we have to know the "why?"

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
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Around the Diocese

- **Volunteer for the historic Beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen** - Volunteers are needed to assist with a historic moment in the Church. The Beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen will be taking place Sept 24 in St. Louis MO. We need volunteers who are 18 years or older to serve in a variety of hospitality and event support roles throughout the beatification week. Whether people are looking to deepen their faith, meet other Catholics from around the country, or simply give back through service, this is an incredible opportunity to do so. Visit celebratesheen.com/volunteer for more information.
- **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.
- **Dive Deep Podcast: Why The Devil Hates Mary More Than Jesus** - Why does the devil really hate Mary more than Jesus, do Catholics really worship Mary, what can Mary actually do for us, and why is the Rosary so powerful? We talk all things Mary with Fr. Tony Stephens, Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion in Wisconsin, the only approved Marian apparition site in the U.S. Go to youtube.com/diospringfield or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe. Dive Deep is the podcast of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.