

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 | TWENTY-SIXTH 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 39

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,

This will be the conclusion to the topic of assisted suicide, so let's end with the question: *Why does it matter if assisted suicide is legalized if I do not participate in it?*

There are many dangers to all individuals in making assisted suicide acceptable in our broader society. A society in which the elderly, disabled, and extremely sick are pressured to die is a society in which the value of human life is conditional.

The message is that life is valuable and worthy of respect so long as one experiences a certain level of pleasure and contributes something to others. This leads to what Pope St. John Paul II called the "culture of death" and what Pope Francis called the "throwaway culture."

Sometimes people are quick to dismiss such arguments as a "slippery slope fallacy." But when we witness the breakdown of respect for human life all around us, especially in countries and states where actions like abortion, assisted suicide, and euthanasia are permitted and promoted, it is not fallacious to recognize this development as morally evil and opposed to human flourishing and God's design.

Very few would have predicted in 1973 that the legalization of abortion, frequently argued for extreme situations, would have led to the cultural phenomenon of "abortion on demand" for any reason or no reason at all. It would be naïve to assume that the same pattern for undermining the objective dignity of human life would not lead to similar dismissal of the poor, handicapped, sick, and suffering.

In places where assisted suicide has been legalized and is practiced, the cultural situation has deteriorated to the point of allowing death inducing medications to be given to those who are unable to grant their desire or consent to such practices.

Finally, in terms of just access to healthcare, once the precedent of assigning value to one's life is established, government aid resources and insurance coverage will naturally begin to decrease for those whose conditions are not "worth treating." It has already been documented that in countries like Canada people with terminal illnesses have been denied various treatments but offered assisted suicide instead. Sadly, this phenomenon of death in place of care would have a disproportionate effect on the poor.

As many in the pro-life movement have argued in recent decades, the right to life is the most fundamental right of all, since life is the necessary foundation for all other rights. Like abortion, assisted suicide is a grave evil that perpetuates the lie that the value of a human life depends on a person's circumstances, especially whether or not he or she is still wanted by others and convenient enough for them.

As Christians, we believe that all human beings are valuable simply because they are created in the image and likeness of God. We also believe that Christ's own passion and death forever changed the meaning of our suffering and death. Therefore, out of love for God and our neighbor, our response to suffering and dying persons whose dignity and value is under attack must be to proclaim these truths by our words and actions.

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 28

7am - Catherine Fitzgerald
(Nicoud Family)
5:15pm - Andy and Joan Forgas
(Family)

Tuesday, September 29

7am - Jonathan and Caroline Dooley
(Claire McGrath)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)

Wednesday, September 30

7am - Thomas Conway Sr.
(Family)
5:15pm - Leo Katzenstein
(Pamela Hargan)

Thursday, October 1

7am - Margaret Vaplon Miller
(Eric and Joanna Miller)
5:15pm - Keegan McKeown
(Dcn David Beach)

Friday, October 2

7am - Dick Allender
(Family)
5:15pm - John W. Montgomery
(John Busciacco)

Saturday, October 3

8am - Deceased Members of the
Thompson and Gairani Family (Joanna
Thompson)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, October 4

7am - James Sullivan Sr.
(Darrell and Terese Hurst)
10am - Don Smargiassi
(Smargiassi Family)
5pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Community)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 28

<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	First Saturday Concert 7:00 PM Atrium	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 CCCW Meeting 6:00 PM School Hall OCIA 6:00 PM Atrium			

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



Senior Social

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

GRIEF SHARE®

**BEGINNING NOVEMBER 3
AT THE CATHEDRAL**

Bereavement Ministry - Grief Share

The Cathedral will be hosting Grief Share, a weekly, faith-based, grief support group. If you, or someone you know, would like help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend, please join us beginning Tuesday, November 3, 1:00-2:30pm in the Cathedral School Library. (Enter through the atrium doors off 5th street parking lot) Grief Share is a 13-week program, but guests may join the series at any point and can pick up content they missed during the next cycle. For more information go to <https://www.griefshare.org/> or contact Berni Ely @ 899-6637 or jackandberni96@yahoo.com. To register, call 217/522-3342 or email bevhoffman5@gmail.com. All adults, of any or no faith background, are welcome.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



SHG Mega Raffle

WIN \$100,000 with the SHG MEGA RAFFLE! Tickets are on sale NOW! Purchase your ticket(s) at SHG.org. Early bird drawing is on Friday, October 23, and final drawing is on Friday, October 30. Thank you in advance for your support of SHG!

Second Collection - Black and Indian Missions

This weekend, our diocese participates in the Black and Indian Mission Collection, established by the bishops of the United States in 1884 to support the Church's missionary work among African American and Native American Catholics. Today, the collection supports evangelization and pastoral ministry among African American, Native American, and Alaska Native communities throughout our country. Your gifts support Catholic schools and religious education, strengthen parishes, form catechists and evangelizers, and foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Please prayerfully consider supporting this collection, and thank you for your generous support.

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.

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.

SOCTOBER!

It's that time of year ago again - SOCTOBER! The Ladies of the CCCW will once again collect new and gently used (include only those you would accept for your own family) socks, hats, and gloves. These items are shared with agencies serving homeless or at risk families and individuals of all ages who are in need. White baskets will be in the Atrium throughout the month of October for your donations. Thank you for your willingness to serve our most vulnerable brothers & sisters!

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.

Gospel Meditation

This Sunday, Jesus tells a short, uncomfortable story. A father asks two sons to go work in the vineyard. One says no, but later goes. The other says yes, but never shows up. It is a parable so simple, we almost miss how sharp it is. Jesus is clear about who it is for. This is not aimed at pagans or outsiders. It is aimed squarely at religious people, people who know the right words and sound obedient.

Jesus is not condemning unbelief so much as disobedience. The polite hypocrisy that says the right things while quietly resisting the Father's will. St. John Chrysostom put it bluntly, "Not words, but deeds, are what God requires. Nothing so exasperates Him as insincere obedience, while nothing so delights Him as repentance."

Every disciple must face that mirror. Do I publicly profess faith in Christ while privately resisting what He asks of me? It is easy to say, I believe in God in my heart. But if faith never becomes action, it slowly becomes an illusion. Jesus does not expose hypocrisy to shame us. He reveals it to heal us. He wants our hearts and our deeds to speak the same word, to let our yes truly mean yes. Like the second son who initially refused but afterwards changed his mind and went, Jesus invites us to step into the Father's will, however late, however imperfectly.

Challenge: Where are your public faith and private obedience divided? Where do you say, I will go, but never enter the vineyard? Go, get to work, even if it is late. The Father's vineyard is still open.

Father John Muir

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Stewardship of Treasure

September 19th & 20th

Envelopes:	\$3,840.00
Loose:	\$15,330.00
Maintenance:	\$90.00
Total:	\$19,260.00

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

Giovanni James McCarty
Child of Chad and Adrianna McCarty
Baptized on September 20, 2026

Weddings

Robert Muller & Keely Heissinger
Married on September 19, 2026

Devotions, Explained! Morning Offering

There are many variations of the Morning Offering, but all share the same purpose: to begin each day by offering oneself to God, along with all the experiences, struggles and blessings that the day will bring.

The ancient Israelites practiced the bikkurim ("first fruits") as described in Deuteronomy, chapter 26. This was a ritual by which the first fruits of the harvest were offered back to God in a sacrificial act of gratitude and obedience. The theology behind the Morning Offering is similar: giving to God the first moments of each day.

The most traditional form of the Morning Offering, attributed to Fr. François-Xavier Gautrelet, begins "O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart..." A full version of this text can be found at usccb.org/prayers/morning-offering.

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The God of Changed Minds

I wonder what was so important.

The man gave both his sons the same order: go out and work in the vineyard today. One son said yes. One refused.

The first son doesn't show up. The second son changes his mind, and does what his father asked. I wonder what was so important, that it kept the first from fulfilling his word. I wonder what was so important, that it prevented the second from committing wholeheartedly.

I have an image in my head of the sun setting on the vineyard. The second son pauses for a moment to catch his breath while his father sits at the gate, anxiously scanning the horizon. "Any sign?" the son asks the father, who instead of answering drops his gaze into his lap.

With this parable, Jesus acknowledges that few of his disciples can anticipate a straight path to Heaven. Most of us are destined for a few bends in the road. Most of us will suffer failures of will and strength. We will become distracted. We will become preoccupied. We will doubt ourselves. There will be so many things that seem important, and it will take us too long to realize they aren't. Once we have, we may be too proud to change course.

The shadows grow long in the vineyard. Any moment and they will give way to darkness. With its dying breath, the sun illuminates the contours of a figure making his way toward the father and son. When the figure cries out, it is a voice they recognize. "Am I too late?"

We worship the God of second chances. The God of changed minds. The God of never-too-late.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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Around the Diocese

- **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.