

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

OCTOBER 4, 2026 | TWENTY-SEVENTH 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 40

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

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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,

Just a little over a week ago, on September 24, in The Dome at America's Center in St. Louis, the Church named Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen "Blessed." An estimated 50,000 people filled the arena, including Bishop Paprocki, myself, and about 60 of our priests. Nearly ninety bishops and a thousand priests concelebrated.

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, stood as Pope Leo XIV's delegate and read the apostolic letter that made the Illinois-born Bishop Sheen the first U.S.-born bishop raised to the honors of the altar.

His feast will be kept on December 9.

For those who don't know, Fulton John Sheen was born in 1895 in El Paso, Illinois, and ordained for the diocese of Peoria in 1919 in the cathedral where his body now rests. He taught at The Catholic University of America, wrote dozens of books, and served as national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

As auxiliary bishop of New York and later bishop of Rochester, he became the most recognizable Catholic voice in mid-century America: The Catholic Hour on radio, then Life Is Worth Living on television, a prime-time program that drew millions. He won an Emmy. He ended countless broadcasts at a blackboard, chalk in hand, talking about Christ as if the living room were a chapel. He died in New York in 1979.

Cardinal Tagle began with a greeting from Pope Leo XIV, "who rejoices at the beatification of his fellow countryman, his fellow Illinoisan and brother bishop." The pope's letter called Sheen "a tireless preacher of the Gospel through the modern means of communication and a diligent shepherd animated by missionary zeal."

Sheen is not blessed, the cardinal said, because he was on television, or because he traveled, or because he sold books. Blessedness has two roots. First, communion with Jesus: the risen Lord chooses friends and sends them. "Blessed are you to be seen, chosen and sent by the Lord Himself." Second, communion with people, especially the poor and the vulnerable, "in the name of Jesus Christ."

Beatification is not a lifetime-achievement award for Sheen for his groundbreaking work in media. It is the Church's judgment that his life was heroically virtuous, holy, a model for Christians, and that he intercedes for us in heaven. Sheen's faith, wit, chalkboard, and camera were instruments to evangelize. And it was so because Sheen was first a man in communion with Christ and a servant missionary. The cameras may be gone and his remains may rest in the cathedral in Peoria, but Bishop Fulton Sheen has not, and will never stop His missionary work.

Blessed Fulton Sheen, pray for us!

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 5

7am - Teresa Goeckner
(Claire McGrath)
5:15pm - Raymond and Eulalia Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Tuesday, October 6

7am - Howard Beagles
(Fr. Tolton Council 16126)
5:15pm - Lemuel Moss
(Jean Moss)

Wednesday, October 7

7am - Claude and Frances Mitchell
(Jeff and Julie Mitchell)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)

Thursday, October 8

7am - Carrie Eichen
(Daniel Schumacher)
5:15pm - Thomas Conway, Sr.
(Family)

Friday, October 9

7am - Barbara K. McGee
(McGee Family)
5:15pm - Intention for Bianca
(DA Drago)

Saturday, October 10

8am - Deceased Members of the
Thompson & Gairani Families (Joanna
Thompson)
4pm - Edward Anselment
(Anselment Family)

Sunday, October 11

7am - Betty Rogers
(Glen Rogers)
10am - For the People
5pm - Mercedes and Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)

*Father Seth Brown is the Rector of the Cathedral and Vicar for Clergy for the
Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF OCTOBER 5

<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 Spanish Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library	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 OCIA 6:00 PM Atrium	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.

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!

SOCTOBER!

It's that time of year 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!

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 Life Chain

Sunday, October 4, 2026 from 2-3:30pm
On both sides of Sangamon Avenue from 19th St. to Dirksen Parkway. Signs can be picked up starting at 2pm in the St. Aloysius Church parking lot.

Is God Calling You to Something More? Come Explore!

The Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Ill., invite you to get to the heart of the matter. Spirit and Truth Retreat: Friday, Oct. 23 – Sunday, Oct. 25 at Sacred Heart Convent. For single Catholic women ages 21-45 looking for an opportunity to grow in a deeper relationship with God. Come explore what it means and how it feels to Praise, Bless, and Preach beginning within your own heart, then sharing it with others. There is no cost. Those traveling to Springfield are responsible for their transportation expenses. Retreat begins Friday evening and concludes Sunday after mass and brunch. Housing and meals provided. Space is limited. Those interested contact: Sister Mary Jo Sobieck at 217-787-0481 or by email: smjsobieck@gmail.com.

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

Have you ever felt like your attempts at prayer are a waste of time? I have. Early in my priesthood, I noticed that my prayer life was weakening. Awe and eager expectancy of contact with God had given way to routine. I gradually spent less and less time praying. Nothing dramatic had happened, but my attitude toward God had changed, and I was losing the desire to pray.

Jesus' parable of the insane vineyard tenants speaks into this kind of experience. He says the landowner "leased it to tenants and went on a journey" (Matthew 21:33). The key to this message is that the vineyard does not belong to those who work it — they are entrusted with it. But little by little, they view it as their possession, and ungrateful entitlement follows. The servants sent by the owner are treated as intrusions. Even the owner's son becomes a means to their delusional self-will. The central tragedy is not violence but the forgetfulness that spawns it. They need reminding how lucky they are to be given so much.

Eventually, God sent friends to remind me that my relationship with Him and my prayer time are not my possessions, but rather God's tremendous gifts to me. Perhaps you are feeling discouraged for some reason or other these days in your walk with God. Ponder this parable and let it be a gentle reminder that you and I are fortunate stewards, and God is the generous giver. This allows us to rediscover the beauty of the vineyards in our lives and to remain energetic in cultivating his gifts.

Father John Muir

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Devotions, Explained! Good is Good, All the Time!

Perhaps you have been a member of a congregation to whom the pastor says, expectantly, "God is good!" The congregation responds, faithfully, "All the time." In turn, the speaker repeats: "All the time." And the congregation affirms: "God is good!"

A collective affirmation of God's faithfulness amidst the trials of life, this refrain communicates a theme presented again and again in Scripture: Come what may, God will be with us.

There is no official consensus on the origins of this saying, though it is often associated with African Christianity. Whatever this saying's roots, its message is truth: "For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endures to all generations," says Psalm 100:5. "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever," echoes 1 Chronicles 16:34. Jesus confirms this in Matthew 28:20: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

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Stewardship of Treasure

September 26th & 27th

Envelopes:	\$2,540.00
Loose:	\$4,161.00
Maintenance:	\$23.00
Total:	\$6,724.00

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 Weddings

Patrick Bruch & Sophia Mounce
Married on September 26, 2026

Hoarding the Harvest

I've always thought the Parable of the Tenants could be a storyline on one of those "world's dumbest criminals" shows.

Serial murder seems like an absolutely insane course of action simply to hoard the profits of a harvest you don't legally own. In what world did the tenants think they would get away with that? Furthermore, they must have had a contract with their landowner ensuring payment for their labor. Why, all of a sudden, is this payment not enough?

It's easy to dismiss the tenants as paranoid. Selfish. Greedy.

But then I think of my soul — my own little vineyard. Who owns it? Who bought it at great cost?

You see, the Parable of the Tenants isn't a story about greed. It's a story about trust. The tenants don't trust the landowner to give them their payment, to honor his promises. They're scared. They're resentful. They're angry.

And I get it.

Around my vineyard, there is a hedge, a protective barrier of grace shielding the fruit within from the toxic fumes of a fallen world. There is a wine press, so that the harvest of my vineyard can fulfill its ultimate purpose instead of withering, forgotten, on the branch. And there is a tower, tall and sturdy, built by capable hands. From its summit, I can see predators — animals, thieves — a long time before they reach me.

But I can see something else from the tower, too. I can see the landowner's Son, making his way to the gates of my vineyard. He is coming to claim the harvest. He is coming to give me what is promised.

Do I trust him? Do I let him in?

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.