

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

OCTOBER 11, 2026 | TWENTY-EIGHTH 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 41

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,

After the article last week on the beatification of Blessed Fulton Sheen, I wanted to include something on the miracle approved by Pope Francis that allowed the beatification.

On September 16, 2010, in a bedroom in Goodfield, Illinois, a planned home birth ended in silence. Bonnie Engstrom had carried a healthy pregnancy. Labor had been ordinary. When the

midwife placed the newborn in her arms, Bonnie said the baby did not cry, breathe, or move. An undetected knot in the umbilical cord had tightened during delivery and cut off his oxygen.

James Fulton Engstrom was stillborn.

His parents had already chosen his name and his patron. Before he was born, Bonnie and Travis Engstrom had placed the child under the care of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, the Peoria-born priest and later bishop whose radio and television ministry had reached millions in the mid-twentieth century.

They began to pray for Sheen's intercession by name. The midwife started chest compressions. Paramedics continued them on the way to OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria. At the hospital, the team exhausted every measure. For sixty-one minutes there was no pulse. Doctors were preparing to record a time of death when the heart started—strong, regular, and sustained.

What followed was as unexpected as the revival. Physicians warned of catastrophic organ failure and irreversible brain injury after so long without circulation. An MRI at three months showed none. James met every developmental milestone.

Independent medical review later found no scientific explanation for survival without lasting damage. The case file, roughly a thousand pages of records from pregnancy through a year of follow-up, went to Rome.

On March 6, 2014, the medical consultants to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints approved it unanimously. Theologians did the same on June 17. Pope Francis authorized attribution of the healing to Sheen's intercession on July 6, 2019.

That decree supplied the miracle required for beatification.

I hear there are five or six other possible miracles to verify. Perhaps Blessed Sheen will one day be known as St. Fulton Sheen. Let's pray for that!

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, October 12

7am - Martin McGrath
(McGrath Family)
5:15pm - NO MASS

Tuesday, October 13

7am - Howard Beagles
(Rose and Joann Lenn)
5:15pm - Don Smargiassi
(Larry and Beverly Smith)

Wednesday, October 14

7am - Howard Beagles
(Jay Pfister)
5:15pm - Raymond and Eulalia Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Thursday, October 15

7am - Wyatt Clark
(McGrath Family)
5:15pm - Dick Allender
(Sr. Francella)

Friday, October 16

7am - Vic and Sara Goeckner
(Claire McGrath)
5:15pm - Emery Mapes
(Jesse and Claire Presley)

Saturday, October 17

8am - Martha Gude
(Celeste Crowley)
4pm - Mercedes and Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)

Sunday, October 18

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(Bill Midden)
10am - For the People
5pm - Dr. Armando Chiaradonna
(Geny Chiaradonna)

PLEASE NOTE

There will be NO 5:15 PM
Mass and NO Confessions
on Monday, October 12th.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 12

MONDAY

Rosary
4:30 PM
Church

Spanish Bible
Study
6:00 PM
School Library

TUESDAY

The Circle
Prayer Group
10:00 AM
Atrium

Adoration
4:00 PM
Church

WEDNESDAY

Men's Bible
Study
6:00 AM
School Library

Rosary
4:30 PM
Church

Choir
7:00 PM
Classroom

THURSDAY

Women's Bible
Study
6:00 PM
School Library

Adoration
4:00 PM
Church

OCIA
6:00 PM
Atrium

FRIDAY

Rosary
4:30 PM
Church

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

Family of Faith
6:30 PM
Atrium

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.



ALL SOULS DAY MASS

**MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 2
7:00PM**

All Soul's Day Remembrance Mass

The Church has encouraged prayer for the dead from the earliest times as an act of Christian charity. A special Mass of Remembrance will be offered at 7:00 pm, Monday, November 2, at the Cathedral, devoted to remembering and praying for those who have died during the past year as well as praying for the consolation of the family members who survive and grieve. Please call the parish office at 217-522-3342 if you would like attend and remember a loved one who has died during the past year. We will have a candle prepared and provide you with instructions for lighting the candle during the Mass of Remembrance.



**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 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!

Second Collection - World Mission Sunday

We are made for mission. Before ascending to His Father, Jesus commanded His disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). That command belongs not only to missionaries who travel to distant lands, but to every baptized Catholic. On October 18, World Mission Sunday, Catholics throughout the world will unite in prayer and sacrifice for this great work of the Church. This year marks the 100th World Mission Day, with the theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV, "One in Christ, united in mission." Our diocese itself owes much to generations of missionaries who brought the Catholic faith to Illinois. Today, we have the opportunity to help carry that same faith to places where the Church is too young, too poor, or too persecuted to support herself. Our gifts help provide priests, catechists, churches, schools, and the resources necessary to proclaim Jesus Christ and celebrate the sacraments. Please pray for our missionaries and persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ and to give generously on World Mission Sunday. In doing so, we answer Christ's call to share the Gospel with all nations. May God reward you for your generosity and bless the missionary work of His Church.

Cathedral Women's Bible Study

The second half of Acts narrates the missionary journeys of Paul and his companions. We read this narrative not as objective observers, but as members of this same evangelizing church. We are invited into these courageous journeys because the adventure continues into the lives of all those who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ. Acts begins in Jerusalem and ends in Rome, but the story is open-ended, for it is lived in the church and its members in every age. Thursdays at 10:00 and 1:00, 6 week course starting on October 29, Cathedral School Library, \$10 for the book.

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

Some friends invited me to one of the most famous and expensive restaurants in the country. I was grateful and eager to go. One invited friend even flew from another state for the experience. Every bite and sip was truly memorable and delicious. But my friends' teenage children spent much of the time on their phones, complained about the food, and generally ignored the once-in-a-lifetime experience. I wanted to yell, "C'mon, you guys! Look what you're missing!"

In today's parable, Jesus describes people invited to an amazing wedding feast who respond with inexplicable indifference. He says, "Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business" (Matthew 22:5). The problem is not that they choose evil but that they allow other desires to distract them from an amazing opportunity. The feast is prepared, but their hearts are elsewhere. In Christ Jesus, God offers each of us a wildly extravagant offer: a place at the wedding banquet between heaven and earth.

What are your current excuses for the delay in engaging with Jesus? How are you postponing a deepening of your relationship with him under the guise of responsibility? The good news is that the feast is ready. His invitation remains. Hear the Lord say to us, "C'mon, guys! Look what you're missing!" Then respond with concrete action.

Father John Muir

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Devotions, Explained! Creeds

Most Catholics can recite at least portions of the Nicene and Apostles Creed by heart — but though these are perhaps the best-known two creeds of modern times, Church tradition has yielded many more.

A creed (from the Latin "credo," meaning "I believe") is a summary of the most important articles of faith agreed upon by a group of people who hold them as truth. Tradition attributes authorship of the Apostles' Creed to Christ's 12 Apostles. The Nicene Creed originated at the first worldwide ecumenical council in Nicaea in 325 AD. The Athanasian Creed is another famous statement of belief approved by the Church, this one focusing particularly on the matter of the Holy Trinity.

All approved creeds fulfill Christ's Great Commission to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19) and the need for Christians to "always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15).

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Stewardship of Treasure

October 4th & 5th

Envelopes:	\$8,356.00
Loose:	\$3,606.09
Maintenance:	\$1,800.00
Total:	\$13,762.09

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 King of Rejected Meals

"She was the Queen of Rejected Meals."

That's what I want it to say on my tombstone. Etched in marble, deeply, so the wind and rain of a thousand years can never erase it.

Humor, you see, masks my despair. I'm sure many of you know the feeling of sweating over a hot stove for an hour to create a dish that a small, picky eater will push away, lips curled with disgust.

We've all made a feast no one wanted to come to.

It strikes me that "King of Rejected Meals" is an epithet which could likewise be scrawled on the empty tomb. Don't mistake me — I'm not comparing myself to Christ! (And I'm definitely not comparing my sub-par beef-and-zucchini casserole to the Eucharist, the food of life.)

I'm just saying that a lot of evenings, when I'm clearing plates from the table, I wonder why I even bother. I wonder why I don't just give in and let the kids eat potato chips and KitKats for every meal like they want.

Why don't I? Well, mom guilt, for starters. But it's more than that, really. It's the certainty I have, underneath the resentment, that my efforts aren't in vain, despite all evidence to the contrary.

Hope springs eternal, you see. How can we Christians help but be optimistic? We have been welcomed to a feast laid for others. We find our salvation in the ultimate rejected meal, in recognizing what true nourishment looks and feels and tastes like, even — especially! — when the rest of the world does not.

Maybe one day my kids will eat grilled chicken willingly. Who knows? Miracles happen every day.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
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Around the Diocese

- **Follow Springfield Illinois Vocations!** – The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois has launched new Vocations social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram at **@spivocations**. These accounts are designed especially to reach young men who may be discerning a call to the priesthood, while also sharing stories, encouragement, events, and resources that help foster a culture of vocations throughout our diocese. You can help! Follow **@spivocations** on Facebook and Instagram, and share the accounts with young men, parents, teachers, coaches, youth ministers, and others who may know someone asking where God is calling him. Sometimes a simple share can help put the right message in front of the right person at the right time.
- **Post-Master's Spiritual Direction Certificate** – Do you feel called to accompany others in their journey of faith? Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology's Post-Master's Certificate in Spiritual Direction prepares more experienced students to serve as spiritual directors through theological study, formation, and supervised practice rooted in the Benedictine tradition. We are forming a new certificate cohort. Register your interest by October 1 to save your spot. Learn more at saintmeinrad.edu/SD.