

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

OCTOBER 18, 2026 | TWENTY-NINTH 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 42

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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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,

While we always seem to be in election season, we really are right now.

First, I wanted to share a quote with you from Pope Leo's first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* (19):

"The Church is present in the world as a sign of unity for the entire human family. ... The Church actively participates in the processes by which society grows and is organized, and she offers her own contribution to the creation of a more just and fraternal society."

So what does the Church offer to us who are preparing to vote? What is her and, by extension *our*, contribution to a better culture and country by way of elections?

The Gospel, of course.

But when lived out in this particular time and place, that looks like something. It looks like standing steadfast to protect and advocate for the *dignity of every human life*. This is the foundation, because we are each made by God in his own image and likeness and so have a unique, God-given value. Each has a worth that does not come from usefulness, health, wealth, or citizenship.

So we vote to protect the unborn. With well over a million deaths, abortion is the largest cause of death in this country and it isn't even close, surpassing heart disease by more than 400,000 deaths every year. Every innocent person has the right to life, and to take it from them is a grave moral evil. We don't kill someone because they are inconvenient or "unwanted".

We also vote to protect the sick and elderly. Living in Illinois, we are especially aware of the dangers of Euthanasia, an action or omission which of itself and by intention causes death, with the purpose of eliminating all suffering. We don't kill someone, or help them kill themselves, because they suffer. They should be cared for, not disposed of.

In the cases of both abortion and euthanasia, the Church and her children insist that in our society, we ought not allow bigger, stronger people to hurt smaller, weaker people.

To quote Pope Francis, "If society is to have a future, it must respect the truth of our human dignity and submit to that truth. . . . A society is noble and decent not least for its support of the pursuit of truth and its adherence to the most basic of truths" (*Fratelli Tutti*, no. 207).

And friends, this is your work.

The laity are called to bring the gospel to bear on the world. While many laity are involved in roles of leadership and service within the Church, it remains primarily the role of the laity to advocate for justice, to serve in public office, and to inform daily life with the gospel. "The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society is proper to the lay faithful" (*Deus Caritas Est*, no. 29).

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 19

7am - Alice Lucasey
(John Lucchesi)
5:15pm - Dennis Trickey
(McGrath Family)

Tuesday, October 20

7am - Thomas Conway Sr.
(Family)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)

Wednesday, October 21

7am - John and Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Andy and Joan Forgas
(Family)

Thursday, October 22

7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)
5:15pm - Dr. Armando & Anna Wanda
Chiaradonna (Geny Chiaradonna)

Friday, October 23

7am - Howard Beagles
(Fr Tolton Council 16126)
5:15pm - Gloria O'Neill
(Steve and Vicki Stalcup)

Saturday, October 24

8am - Don Smargiassi
(Smargiassi Family)
4pm - Intention for Doris and Cathy
(DA Drago)

Sunday, October 25

7am - Michael Poggi
(Family)
10am - Mercedes and Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)
5pm - For the People

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF OCTOBER 19

<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	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:30 PM Church		
Spanish Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library		Rosary 4:30 PM Church	OCIA 6:00 PM Atrium			
		Choir 7:00 PM Classroom				

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



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.

Music at the Cathedral

**NOVEMBER 7, 2026
7:00 PM**

*Featuring
Dual Piano*

Mark Gifford & Damien Kaplan

First Saturday Concert - November 7

Join us on Saturday, November 7 at 7:00pm for a First Saturday Concert! November's concert is Dual Piano, featuring Damien Kaplan and Mark Gifford. All 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!

Stuff a Truck Food Drive

The Knights of Columbus and CCCW are partnering in a "Stuff a Truck" event to collect non-perishable food items for Thanksgiving food baskets. Look for the Red Trucks before & after all Masses November 7 and 8! All non-perishable items as well as personal care items are needed. Cash donations will also be collected so the food pantry can purchase any additional needs. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Calvary Cemetery Board Members

Calvary Cemetery is seeking new board members. Applicants should be energetic, able to communicate well in a board setting and willing to share their talent and experience to make a difference for the Catholic families of the Springfield area. Calvary wants to establish a board that has a diverse background including finance, marketing, fundraising, management, landscaping or grounds experience, policy development, human resources, etc. The board meets quarterly and may regularly communicate through emails. Please contact Anthony Swingle by November 15th for more information at aswingle@dio.org.

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

Occasionally, I'll slip into a parish I've never visited before, pick up the bulletin, and find one of my Gospel reflections. My heart usually swells with a bit of affection for my creation. I imprint a bit of myself into my little "literary labors of love." Anyone who has created something — a piece of writing, a garden, a meal, a child — knows that feeling. We love the things into which we put ourselves. We are happy when they return to us.

With this in mind, listen to Jesus' classic line in this Sunday's Gospel: "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God" (Matthew 22:21). He presents this little riddle to deepen the theme from taxes to human beings. A Roman coin bears Caesar's image, so it belongs to Caesar. Therefore, he has a legitimate claim to it. Fair enough. But what belongs to God? What bears His image? Every human being. God has imprinted Himself on every person. Which means everyone — including Caesar — belongs entirely to Him. Jesus, who is God's perfect image, has come to draw everyone back to God.

We can be tempted to imagine that our lives are made up of "things for God" and "things not for God." The good news is that no such division is possible because everything in life is a gift from God to us. Therefore, all is meant to be placed at the service of God's kingdom. He loves everything He has created. We have the privilege of giving it all back to Him.

Father John Muir

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Devotions, Explained! The Our Father

Stewardship of Treasure

October 4th & 5th

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!

The Our Father, also known as The Lord's Prayer, is found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Universally beloved in most traditions of Christianity, its words are those of Jesus Christ himself as he answers his disciples' queries on how best to pray.

The version presented in the Gospel of Matthew is longer and more detailed than that which is contained in the Gospel of Luke. Both versions instruct the faithful to address God as "Father," to pray for the coming of His kingdom, to rely on His providence, and to embrace a spirit of forgiveness towards others, in the hope that we ourselves will be forgiven (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4). This last element, forgiveness, is also emphasized by Jesus in the Gospel of Mark (Mark 11:25) as an essential part of all prayer.

The Catechism quotes Tertullian when it calls the Our Father "the summary of the whole Gospel." (CCC 2761).

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Sacraments

Weddings

Benjamin Wiacek & Allison Wilkey
Married on October 10, 2026

Whose Image We Bear

In writing this column, I spent a lot of time mulling over a strange question: if I had a coin with Caesar's face on it, could I use it to pay for my morning coffee?

Ancient Roman artifacts are worth a lot of money, but I have no idea how to appraise the artifacts and convert that worth to cash. I doubt my local barista does, either.

Out of curiosity, I Googled it. Apparently, the value depends a lot on the emperor. If we're talking about a marquee name like Julius Caesar, a coin will go for thousands of dollars. But let's say it's a shekel from Emperor Geta, some third-century failure who got murdered by his brother. You can get his coin for less than \$200.

It matters, apparently, whose face you're stamped with. We are all only as good as the image we bear.

When Christ said, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God," he was talking about faithful citizenship and faithful discipleship. He was talking about the omnipotence of God over any political movement or historical era.

But he was also talking about our worth. Where it comes from, what it means, how long it will last. He was talking about whose image we bear.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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Around the Diocese

- **Women's Day of Recollection** - Due to the priest's availability, there will be NO Women's Day of Recollection at Sacred Heart Church in Springfield on October 22. For information, contact 626-864-6052.
- **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.