Cathedral OF THE Immaculate Conception

OCTOBER 25, 2026 | THIRTIETH 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 43

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

RECTOR'S COLUMN



Dear Friends,

The Church sets aside November to remember those in the other realms of the Church—Heaven and Purgatory. All Saints Day and All Souls Day, observed on November 1 and 2, next Sunday and Monday, express the Catholic belief that the Church is one communion uniting earth and heaven.

On All Saints the Church honors all who have reached the fullness of life with God. On All Souls she prays for the faithful departed who died in God's friendship but still undergo purification before entering heaven.

Scripture grounds both days. Revelation describes "a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation," standing before the Lamb (Rev 7:9). The practice of praying for the dead appears in 2 Maccabees. After battle, Judas Maccabeus found that some of the fallen had worn idolatrous tokens. He and his men prayed that the sin "might be wholly blotted out" and sent a sin-offering to Jerusalem. The text observes that he acted "very well and honorably, taking account of the resurrection. For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. … Therefore he made atonement for the dead, so that they might be delivered from their sin" (2 Macc 12:42–45).

The Catechism teaches that "all who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven" (CCC 1030).

This purification is called Purgatory. From the beginning the Church has offered prayers for the dead, "above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God," together with almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance (CCC 1032).

Such prayer belongs to the communion of saints. "In full consciousness of this communion of the whole Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, the Church in its pilgrim members … has honored with great respect the memory of the dead; and 'because it is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins' she offers her suffrages for them" (CCC 958). Those in glory, in turn, "do not cease to intercede with the Father for us" (CCC 956).

All Saints and All Souls therefore belong together. One day the Church rejoices with those who have arrived; the next she aids those still being purified. Let's spend this month rejoicing with those in heaven and praying for those on their way there.

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 26
7am - Brother Francis Skube (Community)
5:15pm - Albert Crispi Jr (John Busciacco)

Tuesday, October 27
7am - Howard Beagles (Stephen and Diane Schertz)
5:15pm - Padrick Mulligan (McGrath Family)

Wednesday, October 28
7am - Puring Garde (Family)
5:15pm - Lambert Fleck Sr. (Gregory and Marie Fleck)

Thursday, October 29
7am - Joe Friedel (Rose Kehoe)
5:15pm - Patricia Walter (Jean Moss)

Friday, October 30
7am - Howard Beagles (Paul and Tim Atwood)
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the Thompson & Gairani Family (Joanna Thompson)

Saturday, October 31
8am - Dave and Diane Wendell (Claire McGrath)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, November 1
7am - Carrie Eichen (Daniel Schumacher)
10am - Mercedes and Charles Nesbitt (Kathy Frank)
5pm - Deceased Members of the Chiaradonna Family (Geny Chiaradonna)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEEK OF OCTOBER 26

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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 Choir 7:00 PM Classroom	Adoration 4:00 PM Church OCIA 6:00 PM Atrium CCCW Meeting 6:00 PM School Hall	Rosary 4:30 PM Church		Family of Faith 6:30 PM Atrium

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



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.



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.



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. 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!

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.

Church Cleaning
The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women (CCCW) will be washing pews & kneelers on Tuesday, November 24th from 9am-12pm & 6pm-8:30pm. All supplies will be provided. This is a perfect opportunity to earn service hours or for a family service experience. We invite anyone interested in spending a few hours to make our Church Home Shine to join us!

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.

BEYOND THE HOMILY

Gospel Meditation

When I was in seventh grade, like most boys of that age, I was constantly hungry. I could eat at any hour of the day. Then I fell head over heels for a classmate named Kristin. One evening, while lying on my bed and pondering her perfections, my mom called me to dinner. For the first time in my adolescent life, I remember thinking: "I'm not hungry." My heart longed for Kristin more than my stomach for food. Now, I wouldn't confuse adolescent infatuation with mature love. But it was an experience of how love can reorder everything in our lives.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus says, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart" (Matthew 22:37). He is not issuing a burden or a moral goal for high achievers. He is naming the deepest orientation of the human heart. We were made for love so great that it gathers every other love into itself. Jesus does not ask us to love less the persons or things that attract us. Rather, he wants our love for God to be so total and intense that we love everything and everyone else because we love him so much.

Do we believe that such a love is possible for us? Because of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, it is! It is readily available to us. Let's repent of our half-hearted love for God and ask Him to fill our hearts to the brim with divine love.

Father John Muir
©LPi

Stewardship of Treasure

October 11th & 12th

Envelopes:	$3,971.00
Loose:	$8,222.57
Maintenance:	$65.00
Total:	$12,258.57

October 17th & 18th

Envelopes:	$3,990.00
Loose:	$9,207.00
Maintenance:	$120.00
Total:	$13,317.00

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

Callum Robert Lunt
Child of Weston and Megan Lunt
Baptized on October 17, 2026

Devotions, Explained! The Guardian Angel Prayer

The Guardian Angel Prayer, also known as the Angel of God Prayer, invokes the protection of one's guardian angel. Often one of the first prayers taught to children, it consists of two rhyming couplets: "Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide."

The exact authorship of this prayer is unknown. Scholars previously attributed it to St. Anselm of Canterbury, though many now believe a version composed by Reginald of Canterbury in his "Life of Malchus" serves as the prayer's inspiration.

Guardian Angels are referred to in Scripture in the Book of Daniel (Dan. 12:1), the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 18:10) and the Psalms (91:10-13). "From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession," says the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 336).

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Love God First

When the iconic Notre-Dame Cathedral of Paris burned in 2019, some made the argument that the money necessary to rebuild it would be better spent by the Church on providing services to the poor.

“After all,” I heard someone argue. “History is important, but humanitarianism is our religion.”

Close, but — as my father likes to say — no cigar.

Humanitarianism is actually not our religion, and you should never let anyone tell you it is. It’s a small mistake, but it can become a big one, fast. Humanitarianism is wonderful — it describes a set of principles animated by an underlying belief in the value of human life. But this is not sufficient. We can’t start with loving people and work our way up to God.

Why? Because I promise you, we will never end up reaching God.

If you have any doubt about this, you can consult literally any history book. Every war, every famine, every political disaster since the dawn of time has resulted from an attempt to put people first. “We’re putting our people first,” governments say — always right before they do something really, really heinous.

For what it’s worth, the Church hasn’t owned the Notre-Dame de Paris since the French Revolution. It was seized and rededicated to the Cult of Reason — the atheistic state religion that, it assured everyone, put people first (and put those people who disagreed to death at the guillotine).

We can’t start with love of people, because we will always displace some of the other people. Only by starting with love of God — heart, soul, and mind — can we enter the narrow gate of correctly loving other people.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
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Around the Diocese

- **St Joseph the Worker in Chatham** is having a Mostaccioli & Sausage Dinner & Bake Sale. Sunday, Nov. 1st. 11:30am-5pm, carry outs will be available.
- **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.