Cathedral OF THE Immaculate Conception

NOVEMBER 1, 2026 | SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS



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 44

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

HALEY DUTTON
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
HDUTTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

MARK GIFFORD
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MGIFFORD@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

KIM GUNTER
BUSINESS MANAGER
KGUNTER@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

ROSE KEHOE
PARISH SECRETARY
RKEHOE@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

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,

Last week I had the sad honor of presiding over a funeral Mass for a former parishioner. Afterward, I had a few minutes to connect to the funeral director whom I hadn't seen in some time.

He'd just become Catholic—and he was ecstatic!

He told me his story. While many factors and graces contributed to his conversion, one of the most significant was the way we Catholics deal with Death. "Father," he said, "having worked in the funeral business for decades, I can tell you, Catholics do it the best. They deal with Death the best."

When I asked him what he meant, he said, "Catholics grieve, but they grieve as people who have hope. Real hope." I suspect he knew well he was actually quoting St. Paul in his first letter to the Thessalonians: "We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope."

Paul is writing to the young Christian community in Thessalonica (around A.D. 51). Some of their members have died, and the Thessalonians are grieving and anxious. They had expected the Lord's return to happen quickly, and they were unsure what would happen to believers who died before that day. Would those who had "fallen asleep" miss out on the resurrection and the Lord's coming?

After telling them not to grieve like others, he grounds their hope in Jesus' own death and resurrection: "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep" (v. 14).

He then describes the Lord's coming (the parousia): the dead in Christ will rise first, and those still alive will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord (vv. 15–17).

He concludes, "Therefore, console one another with these words" (v. 18).

We set aside the month of November to pray for our beloved dead and to prepare for our own deaths. But we shouldn't be anxious. Jesus loves us, and will care for us. So we are serious in repentance, unworried in our trust in God, and joyful that the best is yet to come.

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, November 2
7am - Souls in Purgatory
(John Lucchesi)
5:15pm - Ian Lloyd Smith
(Sharon Sexson)
7:00pm - Recently Departed
(All Souls Remembrance Mass)

Tuesday, November 3
7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Friend)
5:15pm - Genevieve Severino
(Pamela Hargan)

Wednesday, November 4
7am - John W. Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Andy and Joan Forgas
(Family)

Thursday, November 5
7am - Thomas Marten
(McGrath Family)
5:15pm - Patricia Walter
(Jean Moss)

Friday, November 6
7am - Howard Beagles
(Fr Tolton Council 16126)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Community)

Saturday, November 7
8am - Betty Kavanagh-Gardiner
(Family)
4pm - Don Smargiassi
(Smargiassi Family)

Sunday, November 8
7am - Mary E. Steil
(The Steil Family)
10am - For the People
5pm - John and Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 2

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Rosary 4:30 PM Church Spanish Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library	Grief Share 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church K of C Meeting 6:00 PM School Classroom	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Rosary 4:30 PM Church Choir 7:00 PM Classroom	Bible Study 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church OCIA 6:00 PM Atrium	Rosary 4:30 PM Church	First Saturday Concert 7:00 PM Church	

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



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!

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.

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 will also host BINGO! this month. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next social is on Wednesday, November 11, 2:30pm-5:00pm in the Cathedral Atrium.

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!

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.

Gospel Meditation

At the end of her short life, my hero, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, found herself in a curious position. Audaciously, she was convinced that she would become a great saint and would be loved by many after her death. At the same time, she insisted that she was weak, impatient, and ordinary. She became arguably the greatest saint in modern times. How is it possible that an ordinary and imperfect person can also be a great saint?

On this All Saints' Day, Jesus overturns our assumptions about holiness. He says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). The blessed are not the impressive or the self-sufficient, but the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, and the persecuted. These are not heroic traits by normal standards. They are signs of a heart that has learned to rely on God rather than itself. That's what St. Thérèse, and all the saints, are all about.

All Saints' Day is not a celebration of spiritual elites. Rather, it announces what grace can do in our ordinary lives. The saints are not those who avoid weakness or suffering, but those who allow these things to deepen their trust. What good news for us! The smaller and weaker we are, the more qualified we are to be great saints.

Father John Muir
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Stewardship of Treasure

October 24th & 25th

Envelopes:	$3,651.00
Loose:	$5,375.00
Maintenance:	$1,100.00
Total:	$10,126.00

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!

Devotions, Explained! Prayer for the Dead

It may seem strange to pray for someone who is already dead and who, according to our earthly reckoning of time, has already undergone judgment. But God is not subject to the constrictions of time as we understand them. Our prayers for the dead are, like our prayers for the living, an expression of charity and the unity that exists between all members of the Body of Christ.

Prayer for the dead is a practice which not only predates Catholicism but predates Jesus Christ, as we see in the Second Book of Maccabees (2 Maccabees 12:42-45).

"By virtue of the 'communion of saints,' the Church commends the dead to God's mercy and offers her prayers, especially the holy sacrifice of the Eucharist, on their behalf," says the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1055).

The most common Catholic prayer for the dead is as follows: "Eternal rest grant unto them, o Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace."

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AROUND OUR DIOCESE AND BEYOND

The Survivors

“I’m no saint.”

We hear people say this all the time, and what they usually mean is this: “I’ve made mistakes.” Well, congratulations! You have taken that first crucial step to sainthood. You’re well on your way!

A saint is not a person with fewer-than-average mistakes. A saint is a person with greater-than-average hope.

What is hope? Hope is certainty in the promises of God over the merits of man. Hope is what makes a Christian rejoice when he hears the litany of earthly trials described in the Beatitudes, because hope makes him see not the trials but the grace promised through them.

Hope remembers, always, that God is in the business of bringing life from death.

“These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress.” (Rev. 7:14) This is how we hear the saints described in the Book of Revelation. We do not hear: “These are the ones who were perfect. These are the ones who had no faults. These are the ones who made good choices.”

No — these are the ones who survived.

We are all buried in the rubble heap of sin and death. Many of us despair and cry, “We cannot climb out!” The saint is the one who has the hope to answer, “But Someone is coming. Just wait.” The saint is the one who looks for the sliver of light, who reaches for it even when everyone else dismisses it as illusion.

Follow the saints. They know how to survive.

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.
- **Fried Chicken Dinner!** Sacred Heart Church in Virden and the Virden Knights of Columbus will be holding a fried chicken dinner on Sunday, November 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the K of C Hall (1320 N. Dye St.) in Virden. Dine-in or Carry-out! On the menu is fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, slaw, rolls, dessert, and a beverage. Adults and carry-outs are $16; children 5-10 are $7; children 4 and under are free. There will be a basket raffle and 50/50 drawing at 2 p.m. Carry-outs at rear door. Thank you for your support!
- **St. Cabrini Parish will be hosting their 2026 Nativity Festival** “O Night Divine” on Saturday & Sunday, December 5 & 6. Please call St. Cabrini’s Parish Office if you are interested in loaning us a Nativity Set for the Event, 217-522-8555, or email parishoffice@stcabrini.dio.org for more information. The dates and times to bring your Nativity Sets are: Sunday, November 15, 2026 from 10 to 11 a.m., Tuesday, November 17, 2026 from 1 to 3 p.m., and Friday, November 20, 2 to 6 p.m.