

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

722 North Springfield Street
Virden, Illinois 62690
www.sacredheartvirden.com

Reverend James Palakudy, S.A.C. • *Pastor*

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E-mail: secretary@sacredheart.dio.org

Youth Faith Formation...

Becca Yemm, *coordinator*
Phone: (217) 416-8297

Diocesan Victim Assistance...

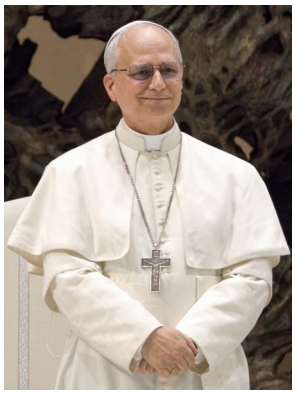
Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation number
(217) 321-1155

Pray for Vocations

God created each of us in His image with a unique purpose. He calls every person to holiness and gives each of us a vocation—the unique way we are called to love and serve Him. Whether through marriage, religious life, or the diocesan priesthood, He invites us to become saints. Through prayer, a relationship with Christ, and the guidance of His Church, we can discover the vocation He has lovingly prepared for us.

We belong to God and to God's kingdom first.

As the Father and Creator of all, God is above all powers on earth. God has called each of us by name in baptism and has entrusted us with building his kingdom in faith, hope, and love. We owe God what belongs to God – our obedience and work of faith – because we belong to God and to God's kingdom before any earthly power.



With the news of Pope Leo's diagnosis of lung cancer, the Pope is asking for prayers. "As you know, I have been unable to be among you during these days," Pope Leo said. "Entrusting each of you to the protection of the Holy Family of Nazareth, I ask you please to pray for me, as I pray for you."

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 17 • *St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr*
Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Anticipated
4:00 p.m., Girard: Lawless & Prose Families *(Mark & Lisa Prose)*
5:30 p.m., Auburn: + Bill Bolletta, Sr. *(Family)*

Sunday, October 18 • *Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:15 a.m., Auburn: + Esley Sisson *(Mike & Mary Glandon)*
10:15 a.m., Virden: Special Needs *(Virden Knights of Columbus)*

Monday, October 19 • *Sts. John de Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues, Priests & Companions, Martyrs*
No Mass

Tuesday, October 20 • *Weekday* • *St. Paul of the Cross, Priest*
5:30 p.m., Virden: + Scott Crye *(Vicky Crye)*

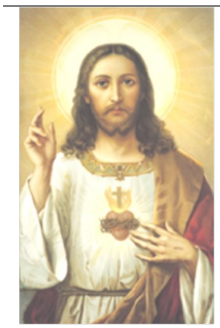
Wednesday, October 21 • *Weekday*
7:30 a.m., Virden: Brenda Kapila *(Linda Carter)*

Thursday, October 22 • *Weekday* • *St. John Paul II*
No Mass

Friday, October 23 • *Weekday* • *St. John of Capistrano, Priest*
No Mass

Saturday, October 24 • *St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop*
Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Anticipated
4:00 p.m., Girard: Veryl & Linda Reiher *(Mike Neff Family)*
5:30 p.m., Auburn: + Edward J. Burg *(Family)*

Sunday, October 25 • *Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:15 a.m., Auburn: + Hank Bork & Logan Spears *(Jim & Sheryl Spears)*
10:15 a.m., Virden: + Jake Bednar *(Elaine Grundy)*



Morning Offering Prayer

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, the reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father for this month. Amen.

October Intention of the Holy Father

For mental health ministry:

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

Weekly Calendar

Saturday *(October 17)*
4:00 p.m., Mass—Girard
5:30 p.m., Mass—Auburn

Sunday (*October 18)*
8:15 a.m., Mass—Auburn
CCD Classes
Rosary before Mass
10:15 a.m., Mass—Virden
T-shirt Sales After Mass!

Monday
No Mass

Tuesday
8:00—11:00 a.m., Parish Office Open
5:30 p.m., Mass—Virden
6:00 p.m., Catholic Funeral Seminar

Wednesday
7:30 a.m., Mass—Virden
24 Hour Adoration
8:00—11:00 a.m., Parish Office Open

Thursday
No Mass
Parish Office Closed
9:00 a.m., Global Rosary for Peace

Friday
No Mass

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 25
Coffee & Doughnuts after Mass

Tuesday, October 27
Finance Council Meeting

Sunday, November 1
Rosary & Litany of the Sacred Heart
All Souls Remembrance before Mass

Monday, November 2
7:00 a.m., All Souls Day Mass—Virden

Thursday, November 5
8:30 a.m., Rosary Walk at Virden Cemetery

Parish Ministries

Sunday, October 18 at 10:15 a.m.

Servers	John Rosier Hunter Giller Atreyu Ovington Preston Ovington
Readers	Tracy Bertolino
Greeter	Jill Murphy
Ushers	Rick Maguire Volunteers

Sunday, October 25 at 10:15 a.m.

Servers	Nicholas Pitchford Lucy & Rowan George
Readers	Larry Travis
Greeter	Beth Smith
Ushers	Steve Maynerich Adam Edwards Volunteers

Church Cleaners:
October 22: S. Goeckner
October 29: G. Jones

Prayer Line:
If you or someone you know is in need of prayers, you may contact the prayer line. Call or text Marcella at (217) 503-5034.

Special Collections:
Every month: Parish Tithe, Building & Grounds, & Vocations Builder Collection
October 18: World Mission Sunday

Weekly Offering

October 1	Regular Weekly/Holyday: $3,088 Building & Grounds: $78 Vocations Builder: $114 Parish Tithe: $188

Parish Announcements

Upcoming Masses: Father James will be out of town from October 22—27 so we will not have weekday Masses during that time. Father Jeff Grant will be here to offer Masses on the weekend of October 24/25.

All Saint's Day: This year, the Solemnity of All Saints falls on Sunday, November 1. Because All Saints Day coincides with Sunday, the obligation to attend Mass is fulfilled by attending the regularly scheduled weekend Masses. No additional Masses will be celebrated for All Saints Day.

All Souls Day: All Souls Day falls on Monday, November 2. Mass will be celebrated at 7 a.m. at Sacred Heart.

Remembering All Souls before Mass on Sunday, November 1: November 2 is All Souls Day and we will be remembering our deceased loved ones before Mass on Sunday, November 1. The names of all those from our parish who have died in the past year will be read. In addition, all names submitted for this remembrance will also be read.

If you have loved ones who you would like to be part of this remembrance, please submit names in the following ways:

- Your envelope packet contains an "All Souls' Day" envelope—fill out the back of the envelope and drop it in the collection basket.
- Contact the parish office by email or phone to submit the names.

All donations to offset the cost of the candles are appreciated!

Rosary Walk at Virden Cemetery: **On Thursday, November 5 at 8:30 a.m. everyone is invited to a Rosary Walk at Virden Cemetery.** This Rosary will be offered for the faithful departed. Come prepared for the weather as it is usually windy and cold. You may gain indulgences for first 9 days of November when you visit a cemetery and pray for the faithful departed. All the usual conditions required to gain a plenary indulgence apply. **If you attend Mass that morning, we will have a light refreshment and coffee available for you before you depart for the cemetery.**

Are you confused about the recent updates
to Catholic funeral practices?
Have you ever wondered what readings and music
may be chosen for a Funeral Mass?
Do you know what to do when a Catholic loved one dies?

Join us for our Catholic Funeral Seminar
at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20,
at Sacred Heart Church in Virden.
(Mass will be held at 5:30 p.m.)

The evening will also include helpful information about planning a Catholic funeral, such as choosing Scripture readings and sacred music, ways family members may participate, and what to expect during the funeral rites. Whether you simply want to understand Catholic funeral practices better or would like to begin making plans for yourself or a loved one, this will be a helpful and informative evening. Lots of resources will be provided—and everyone will go home with a goodie bag!

Worried about fasting for the 5:30 Mass and then attending the seminar? Don't fret!
DiCarlo's Pizza will be served AND
our Catholic Ladies Society will be providing treats!

All are welcome to join us for an evening exploring the Catholic Church's funeral rites and the practical steps involved in planning a funeral.

Catholic Funeral Seminar



Tuesday, October 20

6:00 p.m.

Mass at 5:30 p.m.

Sacred Heart Church, Virden

Presenters will Include:

Sister Mary George Brown, F.S.G.M.
Director, Office of Divine Worship
Diocese of Springfield in Illinois
&
Tyler Busby
Director of Arisman Calvert
Funeral Home, Virden

Topics will include:

- The liturgical rites of Catholic funerals
- Updates to the diocesan funeral policy
- Selecting Scripture readings and sacred music
- Funeral pre-planning and the steps to take following the death of a loved one

Take-Home Resources & Materials
Door Prize • Refreshments



Today is World Mission Sunday. Last year, Pope Leo XIV made an appeal to us in a personal video. His request last year echoed around the world: "Please help me help missionaries everywhere. " That's what World Mission Sunday does: it helps Pope Leo care for the 1,130 missionary dioceses and territories around the world. World Mission Sunday is the best way we can help the Holy Father and share in the universal mission of the Church to spread the faith through prayer and sacrifice. We may not be able to GO to the missions, but we can SEND to the missions both our prayers as well as the material means they need so much. Envelopes are available in your pews—a donation will help the Holy Father to extend the Church's missionary work to places where the Gospel has never been heard before and where the Church is too young, too persecuted, or too poor to sustain herself. Thank you for your generosity and for being part of this global mission.



Did You Know? Blessed Fulton J. Sheen was a great champion of the Church's missionary work! From 1950 to 1966, he served as National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, helping promote World Mission Sunday throughout the United States. He also introduced the World Mission Rosary in 1951, encouraging Catholics to pray for the missions throughout the world.

Orders will be taken after Mass!

Get in the Parish Spirit!



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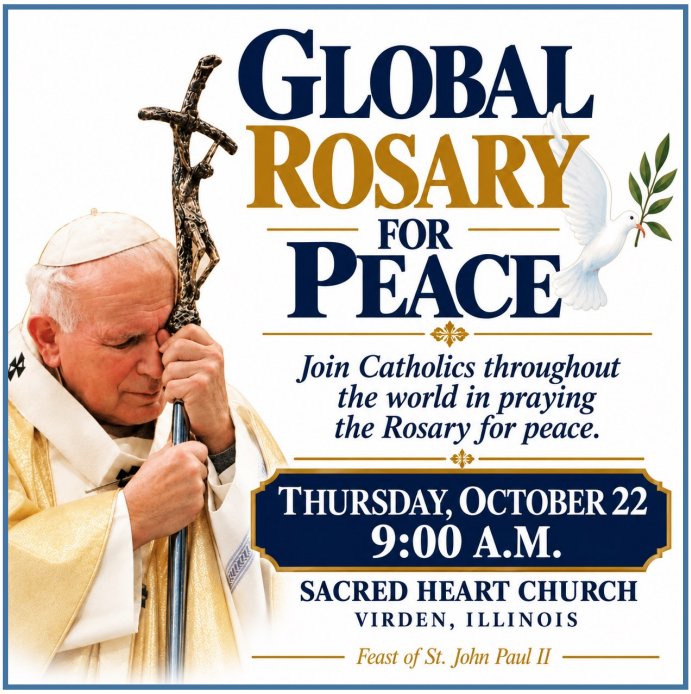
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Sacred Heart Church
Virden, Illinois



Parish Announcements



All-Parish Meeting — Sunday, November 15

There will be an All-Parish Meeting on Sunday, November 15, following the 10:15 a.m. Mass. The Annual Financial/Stewardship Report will be presented. We will also share information about the proposed parish school that was announced last month.

Some may be wondering…what school? The initial announcement appeared in the September 27 bulletin, which is available on the parish website.

Where do things stand right now? Father James has written to Bishop Paprocki requesting permission to conduct a feasibility study for a parish school. At this point, we are still in the very early stages. We all have lots of questions and not too many answers! We will have more information to share by November 15.

What is my role as a parishioner? When Bishop Paprocki grants permission to proceed with a feasibility study, one of our first major steps will be a written survey for our parishioners to complete.

Please plan to attend the November 15 meeting! We want everyone to be informed and involved as we explore this possibility for our parish.

***While we await a response from Bishop Paprocki** regarding the proposed parish school, we have a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the purpose and mission of Catholic education and the important role it plays in the life of the Church.

In his 2023 pastoral letter, *Higher Calling, Higher Standards*, Bishop Paprocki shares his vision for Catholic education in our diocese, emphasizing that its ultimate purpose is to form faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

We all share in the important responsibility of passing on the Catholic faith to future generations. Taking time to read and reflect on this document can help us better understand the Church's mission of forming faithful disciples of Jesus Christ and appreciate the important role each of us plays in carrying out that mission.

Copies of *Higher Calling, Higher Standards* are available for pickup in the church vestibule.



Basket Raffle at the Chicken Dinner! Once again, we're adding a little extra fun to our Chicken Dinner with a Basket Raffle! Purchase raffle tickets at the dinner and drop them into the containers for the baskets you'd love to win. A winner for each basket will be drawn at the end of the day!

We need your help! Would you consider donating a themed basket?

Get creative and have fun! The possibilities are endless! Just be sure all items are non-perishable and appropriate for a church event.

Here are a couple of ideas to get your creativity flowing:

- **Cozy Autumn Basket:** Hot cocoa, flavored teas, a cozy throw blanket, a fall-scented candle, and a favorite book for a relaxing autumn evening!
- **Family Game Night Basket:** Board games, playing cards, puzzles, popcorn, candy, and tasty snacks for an evening of family fun!

Who can donate a basket? Anyone! Individuals, families, and groups are all welcome to join in the fun. Have a business or side hustle? Feel free to tuck your business card into your basket for a little extra publicity!

Please donate your baskets by November 1!

Thank you for helping make our Chicken Dinner a fun and successful parish event!

Parish Announcements

Sacred Heart Church, Virden
& Virden Knights of Columbus Council #2321

Fried Chicken Dinner

Sunday, November 8, 2026
11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

K of C Hall • 1320 N. Dye St. • Virden

Dine-in or Carry-out!

(Carry-outs at rear door)

Adults & Carry-outs $16

Children 5-10 $7

Fried Chicken
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Green Beans
Cole Slaw
Roll
Beverage
Dessert



Basket Raffle & 50/50 Raffle!
Themed baskets filled with goodies!

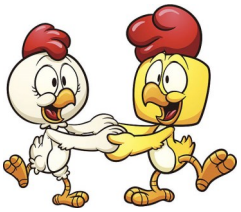
Basket & 50/50 Raffle Drawings at 2 p.m. the day of the dinner– you need not be present to win!

Volunteer to help at the dinner!



Bake a dessert!

Bring a friend to the dinner!



Pray for the success of our dinner!

We are so excited to be partnering with the Virden Knights of Columbus to host a Fried Chicken Dinner again this year!

Many Workers are Neeeded: Call Annie Schnetzler at 801-8148 if you can help! Or you can sign up on the board in the vestibule! *Reminder to helpers:* Food handlers should wear a cap and all workers are asked to park away from the building.

Chicken Cleaning: Chicken cleaning will take place on the afternoon Thursday, November 5 at the KC Hall. Anyone is welcome—if you have cutting tools or scissors, please bring them. Please contact Annie Schnetzler in advance of that day if you will be able to help.

Desserts: Please consider baking two desserts this year and dropping them off the day of the dinner. The desserts are always a big hit, so we need your support in this area!

Young People Needed!! Our young folks are always appreciated and receive many compliments on their respectful service while busing tables and carrying trays. Once again, we need their help! Please consider adding your family to the list of workers to bus the tables!

Pray for Our Parish: All are invited to join us in praying the Litany to the Sacred Heart of Jesus directly after the Rosary on Sunday, November 1. *We will be praying for the success of our Chicken Dinner* and for the financial/spiritual health of our parish and our local Knights of Columbus.

Parish Announcements

Vocations Ministry Workshop: Have you ever considered joining the prayer and promotion efforts to raise up more vocations throughout our diocese?
It begins with prayer—and with Catholics who are willing to encourage, support, and promote vocations in their own parishes and families. For those interested in helping with parish efforts to promote vocations, there is an all-day Vocations Ministry Workshop at Christ the King Parish in Springfield on Saturday, November 7. If you are interested in attending, contact the parish office for more information.

Virden Knights of Columbus 4th Sunday Market: The Virden Knights of Columbus will be holding their 4th Sunday Market from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 25. There will be indoor and outdoor vendors! KC Breakfast Menu will be available at 8 a.m. and the Lunch Menu will be available at 11 a.m. (Dine in or carry out). Free Admission for Shoppers!

Koinonia Celebrates 50 Years: Koinonia has been sharing The Paschal Mystery with over 400 weekends in Springfield, IL and nearby cities alone. Join fellow participants from Koinonia and TEC weekends in the celebration on Sunday, November 15 at St. Joseph the Worker in Chatham. We will be celebrating with a Mass at 2 p.m. and following with a social gathering with refreshments. A freewill donation will be collected for the refreshments.

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.

Attention Ladies: The Jerseyville Deanery of the Springfield Diocesan Counsel of Catholic Women will meet for our Fall Meeting on Friday November 6th at St. Agnes Parish, 216 E. Tremont St., Hillsboro, IL. Mass will be at 9:00 am with the Rosary before Mass at 8:30am. We will also be remembering those we have lost in the past year. The meeting follow in the parish hall. We will also have a little fun seeing how well we all know our saints

Majoring in the Minors:

The Gospel from this past Wednesday, Jesus warns against focusing on outward religious practices and seeking honor while neglecting justice, love of God, humility, and compassion for others.

In his daily reflection featured on Formed.org, Tim Gray had this to say:



Jesus is going to upbraid *(meaning scold or rebuke)* the scribes and the teachers of the law, because they've neglected the weightier matters of the law. They've neglected justice and mercy and love...and they've focused on the minors: tithing, even when it comes to seasoning and herbs. You know, they're tithing their mint and cumin and dill, and they're missing the bigger picture of mercy and love and justice to God.

And it's easy to major in the minors, because we find those minor little areas that we can control, that are easy for us, and we focus on that, because it makes us feel good. Like, I'm nailing it, I'm doing really well.

Jesus is like, don't major in the minors...and that is such a great lesson for us.

And so one of the things we should do in our meditation today is, Lord, where am I majoring in the minors? What am I making a big deal of and that I'm really overly focused on that's not really that important, and what am I missing?

That is a great question for ourselves in prayer, that the Word of God poses to us.

Mary, Mother of Life



When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her that she would conceive and bear a son, Mary responded with her fiat, "May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). Mary conceives Christ in her womb, becoming the mother of God, the mother of Jesus. Jesus himself tells us that he is "the way and the truth and the life" (Jn 14:6). In becoming the mother of Jesus, Mary becomes the *mother of life*. Mary's acceptance in this unforeseen moment demonstrates how each of us must welcome the gift of new human life, even when that gift is unexpected or calls us to make sacrifices.

Eve was called the "mother of all the living" (Gen 3:20). Unfortunately, her disobedience brought sin into the world. In contrast Mary, through her obedience to God, gives birth to our Salvation. Mary becomes the New Eve—the new mother of all the living. Her fiat gives us an example of perfect docility and cooperation with the will of God.

At the Annunciation, when Mary learns that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is six months pregnant, she travels in haste to visit Elizabeth, spending the next three months at her side, even while pregnant herself. In her selfless service to Elizabeth, the Blessed Mother perfectly models how we are called to accompany expectant mothers as they prepare to welcome new life into the world.

Mary's role as the Mother of Life extends from the Annunciation all the way to the Crucifixion. On

Oh Mary, "Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life."

Evangelium vitae

Calvary, Mary stands at the foot of the Cross with Saint John. The Gospel tells us: "When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold, your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home" (Jn 19:26-27).

With his final breaths on the Cross, Jesus entrusts Mary and the Beloved Disciple to one another, and by extension establishes a maternal relationship between Mary and the Church. Jesus' words are addressed not only to Saint John, but to each one of us. In this moment, the physical mother of Jesus becomes the spiritual mother of the Church and all the faithful. Saint John goes on to take Mary into his home and cares for her as she advances in age, demonstrating our responsibility to continue our care for human life, from conception to natural death. Mary, who taught us how to nurture human life, becomes the recipient of that same honor and care.

The life of the Blessed Mother teaches us to respect each human life in every stage and circumstance. Mary is our model for upholding the sanctity of all human life. O Mary, "Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life."[1]

[1] Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 105.

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United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
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Virden Council #2321
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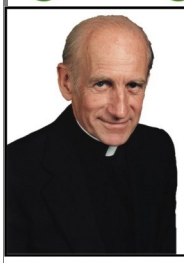
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