

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

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

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

Contact Information...

Reverend James Palakudy, *pastor*
Office Phone: (217) 438-6222
Rectory Phone: (217) 438-6196
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 168, Auburn, IL 62615

Sacred Heart Parish Office...

Marcella Rosier, *secretary*
Phone: (217) 965-4545
Mailing Address: 722 North Springfield Street
Virden, Illinois 62690
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.

The antidote to despair is to keep our hearts focused on God's gracious gifts.

In his Letter to the Philippians, Paul says to have no anxiety but rather to think about what is true, honorable, and just; what is pure, lovely, and gracious; and anything excellent and worthy of praise. When we contemplate the good around us instead of dwelling on the negative, we are reminded that life is a gift, and that we play a role in God's plan to redeem the world.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 3 • *Weekday*
Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Anticipated
4:00 p.m., Girard: Ruth "Darlene" Weller *(Chuck & Cindy DuBois)*
5:30 p.m., Auburn: Stanley Anjoski & Sally Anjoski *(Norbut Family)*

Sunday, October 4 • *Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time* • *Respect Life Sunday*
8:15 a.m., Auburn: Dolores A. Will *(John & Shiela Hemberger)*
10:15 a.m., Virden: + JoAnn Marsaglia *(Joe & Carol McGrath)*

Monday, October 5 • *Weekday* • *St. Faustina Kowalska, Virgin* • *Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest*
No Mass

Tuesday, October 6 • *Weekday* • *St. Bruno, Priest* • *Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin*
6:00 p.m., Auburn: + Jenny Opolka (Mary Jabrush & Dorothy Brown)

Wednesday, October 7 • *Our Lady of the Rosary*
7:30 a.m., Virden: Taylor Smith (Ryan Smith)
10:00 a.m., Arcadia in Auburn: + Francesco DiCarlo (Joe & Carol McGrath)

Thursday, October 8 • *Weekday*
7:30 a.m., Virden: + Frank Mathias (Catholic Ladies Society)

Friday, October 9 • *Weekday* • *St. Denis, Bishop, & Companions, Martyrs* • *St. John Leonardi, Priest*
7:30 a.m., Auburn: *Pro Populo*

Saturday, October 10 • *Weekday*
Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Anticipated
4:00 p.m., Girard: Virginia Prosperini Broccardo (Lorraine Hart)
5:30 p.m., Auburn: + Bernadine "Bernie" Burg (Holy Cross Altar Society)

Sunday, October 11 • *Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time*
8:15 a.m., Auburn: + Christine Pluester (Choir Members)
10:15 a.m., Virden: + Dorothy Peregrin (Matt & Aryn Peregrin)



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 3)*
4:00 p.m., Mass—Girard
5:30 p.m., Mass—Auburn

Sunday (*October 4)*
8:15 a.m., Mass—Auburn
CCD Classes
9:50 a.m., Rosary for Peace led by Parish Children
10:15 a.m., Mass—Virden

Monday
No Mass

Tuesday
8:00—11:00 a.m., Parish Office Open
6:00 p.m., Mass—Auburn
7:00 p.m., Ladies Society Meeting

Wednesday
7:30 a.m., Mass—Virden
24 Hour Adoration
8:00—11:00 a.m., Parish Office Open
10:00 a.m., Mass—Arcadia in Auburn
5:40 p.m., Rosary for Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

Thursday
7:30 a.m., Mass—Virden
8:00—11:00 a.m., Parish Office Open

Friday
7:30 a.m., Mass—Auburn

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 11
Remembrance of Love before Mass

Saturday, October 17
9:00 a.m., Frassati Prayer Circle
10:00 a.m., Server Training

Tuesday, October 20
6:00 p.m., Catholic Funeral Seminar

Parish Ministries

Sunday, October 4 at 10:15 a.m.

Servers	John Rosier Gabriel Maynerich Griffin Theel
Readers	Cassandra Hedges
Greeter	Carol McGrath
Ushers	Matt Maynerich Lance Hickey Volunteers

Sunday, October 11 at 10:15 a.m.

Servers	Eli Travis Andrew Rosier
Readers	Chris Smith
Greeter	Annie Schnetzler
Ushers	Dave Hacker Volunteers

Church Cleaners:
October 8: A. Schnetzler
October 15: S. Pierce, T. Sharp, R. Sexton

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
August 30: Missionary Co-op Appeal
September 6: Catholic University of America
September 20: Church in Africa

Thank you to all who are so generous in supporting our parish through prayer, work, and sacrificial giving!

Parish Announcements

Today is Respect Life Sunday

A Prayer for Life to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

O Jesus, you came that we might have *life*—and have it in abundance. Together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you form us in our mothers' wombs and call us to love you for all eternity.

As your most precious gift of human life is attacked, draw us ever closer to your Real Presence in the Eucharist. Dispel the darkness of the culture of death, for you are the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

By the power of your Eucharistic Presence, help us to defend the life of every human person at every stage. Transform our hearts to protect and cherish all whose lives are most vulnerable.

For you are God, forever and ever. Amen.

Copyright © 2024, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

Did You Attend the Fulton Sheen Beatification Mass? We would love to hear from you! We are putting together a poster featuring photos and memories from this historic and inspiring celebration.

If you attended, please consider sharing a photo of yourself at the Beatification, photos you took during the celebration, and/or a few sentences about your experience—what stood out to you, what the day meant to you, or a special moment you will remember.

Please contact Marcella to share your photos and memories.

Ladies Society Meeting: The next Ladies Society Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall. All Ladies of the parish are invited to attend!

Our Lady of the Rosary: The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is on Wednesday, October 7. We will be praying the Rosary at 5:40 p.m. that evening. Everyone is invited to attend. As an added bonus—Adoration will be going on during that time and this is an opportunity to spend time in prayer with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament!

Altar Server Training: If you missed the Altar Server Training last month, we will be holding a make-up training on Saturday, October 17 at 10:00 a.m. All new and current servers are invited to attend.



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!

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

Parish Announcements

Remembering with Love
Babies Lost Before Birth



During October, the month of Our Lady of the Rosary, we remember with love those precious little ones whose lives began at conception but who did not come to birth, as well as those whose lives after birth were all too brief.

On **Sunday, October 11**, we will have a special remembrance at Mass for these little ones.

If you have experienced a miscarriage or the loss of a child before birth—or know someone who has experienced such a loss—and would like a baby to be remembered, please submit the **number of babies you wish to remember by Thursday, October 8**. You may contact the parish office or place a note in the collection basket at Mass. **You do not need to give your name.**

At Mass on October 11, there will be **a flower and a candle for each baby remembered with love.**

As a parish family, we join in prayer with and for all parents, relatives, and friends who mourn the loss of a child—a grief that can remain in the heart even after many years. May Our Blessed Mother, who knew both a mother's tender love and sorrow, hold these little ones and their families close to her Immaculate Heart.



Save the Date: **On Sunday, November 8, we're teaming up with the Knights of Columbus for our annual Fried Chicken Dinner!** This is an important fundraiser for our parish, and **we'll need all hands on deck!** Start thinking now about how you might lend a hand. There will be plenty to do, and many hands make light work!

These parish dinners are about more than raising funds—they're a great chance to work together, enjoy one another's company, and welcome our neighbors with good old-fashioned parish hospitality.

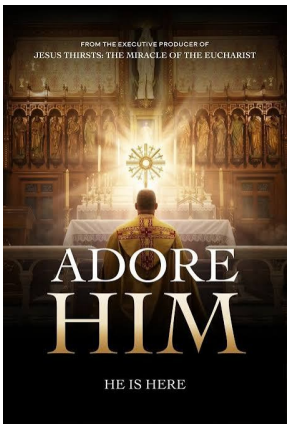
And the Basket Raffle is back! Start dreaming up a fun themed basket to donate. Get creative—the possibilities are endless!

Mark your calendar, bring your helping hands, and get ready for a fun day together!



Coming to Theaters! *ADORE HIM* is a new docudrama that invites you to enter the very presence of God.

Through cinematic reenactments that span salvation history and intimate modern-day interviews from around the world, this film explores the transforming power of meeting the Creator of the Universe face to face. From encountering the Ark of the Covenant as it traveled across the wilderness to bumping into Jesus as he taught in the marketplace, this story builds to a culmination in the Eucharist, and today millions are finding out how much God truly loves them as they adore Him in the Blessed Sacrament. He is here. Will you come?



The movie will be shown at Springfield's AMC 12 from October 4—8.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith. October 2026

Sacred Heart Church
Virden, IL

One Minute Meditations

St. John Henry Newman

St. John's path to Roman Catholicism began when he read the Church Fathers while tutoring at Oxford University. After much prayer, study, and the guidance of a Passionist priest, he converted in 1845. He was ordained a priest in 1847 and founded an Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Birmingham. In 1879, he was nominated cardinal. His famous works include *A Grammar of Assent* and his *Apologia*. He spent his office writing and offering spiritual advice.

God is closer than you think

It's easy to take God's presence for granted because we already know He is everywhere. Yet His presence is personal and relational. He is with us because He wants to be with us. We see this throughout salvation history: in the Incarnation, His earthly ministry, the Cross, the Resurrection, and the sending of the Holy Spirit.

God seeks us, draws near to us, and remains with us. So whether your "today" feels like Good Friday, Easter Sunday, or an ordinary Tuesday, God is with you. And in the Eucharist, He invites you to draw near and be with Him.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

5 Ways St. Francis can help deepen your love for God

People often associate St. Francis with nature, peace, and simplicity. Yet his entire life was centered on God, His mysteries, and His love. His example offers five ways to encounter God's love more deeply:

Christ-centered life: St. Francis was a man deeply in love with God. He put honoring God first. He embraced radical poverty yet gladly accepted the finest vestments, altar linens, and vessels for the Mass. In imitation, we can ask ourselves often: "Does this honor God? Is it aligned with the Gospel?"

Seeing the person: Captivated by the Incarnation, St. Francis sought to treat each person as "another Christ," regardless of health, wealth, or status. We follow his example when we learn to see every person as a beloved child of God.

Delight in God's creation: St. Francis famously delighted in and cared for creation, praising it as God's handiwork. Even a sunset, flower, or beautiful landscape can become an invitation to praise God and grow closer to Him.

Simplicity of life: Most of us aren't called to literally "leave everything" to follow Jesus. But we can declutter our homes, make room for silence, or limit digital distractions, freeing more of our attention for God and neighbor.

Humility of heart: St. Francis' humility flowed from his desire to love the person before him. He wanted people to walk away knowing, "God loves me!" When we're with others, do we make the conversation about elevating ourselves, or about loving them?

"At all times and seasons, in every country and place, every day and all day, we must have a true and humble faith." –St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis experienced God's love deeply and wanted everyone else to experience that same Love. His radical life points us back to the extravagant love of God and the life we're called to live in response.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics have items blessed?

Sacramentals are sacred signs instituted by the Church to praise God for His works and gifts and dedicate them to His service. While sacramentals take different forms, they involve the Church's prayer and often a blessing of a person, place, event, or object according to an approved rite. For example, wedding rings are sacramentals; marriage is the Sacrament. The rings don't make the marriage sacramental but remind and encourage spouses to live their vocation faithfully. Sacramentals deepen our devotion, support us on the path to salvation, and prepare our hearts to receive God's grace.

© Copyright 2026 Success Publishing & Media, LLC All Rights Reserved

Climb the mountain. Bring Jesus along.

Time in prayer is not a luxury or secondary to service, mission, or productivity. Nothing we do all day is more important than spending time with Jesus. Prayer gives life to our mission, and mission draws us back to prayer. We need both.

Climb the mountain: People may rightly say, "My work is my prayer." Yet spouses would struggle to stay close if they only met to divide the chores. In the same way, we need time with God apart from our work. Following Christ requires knowing Him. We sit at His feet and let Him teach us. In His presence, we learn to see as He sees, value what He values, and love as He loves.

Return to the plains: We aren't meant to stay on the mountain. Jesus sends us back into ordinary life carrying what we received in prayer: a peaceful presence, a new insight, a kind word at the right moment. Some even begin the day by asking God to place in their path the people He wants them to encounter.

The Christian life moves between the mountain and the plain: drawing close to Jesus in prayer, then carrying His presence into the world. And in both places, He remains at our side.

from Scripture — Matthew 22:34-40, The Two Greatest Commandments

The Pharisees sought to test Jesus with a difficult and much-debated question. Jewish tradition identified 613 commandments in the Torah, and a lawyer asked Jesus to name the greatest. Of all the commandments governing Jewish life, which mattered most?

Jesus answered by going to the heart of them all: love God with your whole being, and love your neighbor as yourself. Everything begins and ends with love. And loving God means learning to love what, and whom, He loves. Jesus taught that these two commandments are the foundation of the entire Law.

Loving God may seem easier than loving our neighbor. Loving others means welcoming people we might naturally exclude, dismiss, or avoid. Jesus drew near to sinners, outcasts, the sick, and even those who opposed Him. Our love of neighbor is tested especially in how we treat the poor, the vulnerable, the difficult, and even our enemies. This is how God loves, and He calls us to love the same way.

Feasts & Celebrations

October 2 – Feast of the Guardian Angels. All of us have a guardian angel in charge of protecting us and watching over us: *"For I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven"* (Matthew 18:10). Remember to thank the Guardian Angels for the work they have done in helping us.

October 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary. Pope Gregory XIII named this feast because it was believed that Christians won a critical victory at the Battle of Lepanto after praying the Rosary.

October 15 – St. Teresa of Ávila (1582). Teresa joined the Carmelites, against her father's wishes. In 1563, she was inspired to reform her order. Despite serious opposition, she founded more than 17 convents of Discalced Carmelites and helped reform the Carmelite friars.

October 16 – St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1690). Margaret joined the Sisters of the Visitation at Paray-le-Monial when she was twenty-four. In 1674, she began having visions of Jesus Christ, in which He asked for a feast dedicated to His Sacred Heart to acknowledge His love for us and to encourage reparation for sins.

October 18 – St. Luke the Evangelist (First century). St. Luke was a Christian physician from Antioch. His Gospel and Acts of the Apostles were probably written between 70 and 85 A.D.

October 19 – Saints John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues, and Companions (1649). Six Jesuits and two laymen became missionaries to Native American tribes in North America. After spending more than 20 years in a difficult ministry, St. John de Brébeuf won the Iroquois' respect by his valor in death. St. Isaac Jogues escaped only to return to his ministry but was also murdered.

Q & A — What is the Franciscan Crown?

The Franciscan Crown is a devotion that meditates on seven joys in Mary's life: the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Birth of Jesus, the Adoration of the Magi, the Finding of Jesus in the Temple, the Resurrection, and Mary's Assumption and Coronation as Queen of Heaven and Earth. The devotion is prayed using seven decades of Hail Marys and is also known as the Franciscan or Seraphic Rosary.

According to Franciscan tradition, the devotion began with a young man named James, who regularly wove crowns of roses to honor the Blessed Mother. After joining the Franciscans, he could no longer continue the practice and became so discouraged that he considered leaving the Order. Tradition holds that Mary appeared to James and gave him a new way to honor her: the Franciscan Crown.

Like the traditional Rosary, the Franciscan Crown is addressed to Mary but centered entirely on Jesus. By meditating on Mary's seven joys, we contemplate the joyful and miraculous events of Christ's life through the eyes of His mother. Rooted in the Gospel and marked by Franciscan simplicity, the Crown offers a distinctly Franciscan way to draw closer to Christ through Mary.

Our Mission
To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of *Growing in Faith*™ and *Partners in Faith*™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
http://www.infaithpublishing.com
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the *Revised Standard Version* and the *New American Bible - Revised*)

© Copyright 2026 Success Publishing & Media, LLC All Rights Reserved

Live your faith.
Join the
Knights of Columbus!

Knights are Catholic men,
18 years of age and older,
who are committed to making their
community a better place,
while supporting their Church.

Virden Council #2321
Call **965-3665**



Seton
Home Study School
Since 1982

Affordable, Accredited,
Authentically Catholic

14,000
homeschooled students
and growing

"Inside your Catholic home,
you provide an environment
in which knowing, loving,
and serving God is respected
and protected."

www.setonhome.org

MAGUIRE
Wastewater Solutions
217.965.3863

Baines Dental Wellness
1112 Rickard Road, Suite A
Springfield, IL 62704
Lisa M. Baines DMD

217-698-9300 phone
217-698-9310 fax
www.bainesdentalwellness.com
office@bainesdentalwellness.com

Hendricks
Home Furnishings
217 N. Springfield St.
Virden, IL • (217) 965-3337

Virden Hardware
Do it Best
South Side of Square
Virden, IL • (217) 965-5511

Hendricks
Furniture outlet
West Side of Square
Virden, IL • (217) 965-3331

VIA ORATIONIS
Handmade Devotionals
Rosaries, Pocket Decades,
Keychains, Custom Requests
Rooted in Tradition. Made with Reverence.
viaorationis.etsy.com
Matt Peregrin
Use code SacredHeart
to receive 20% off.

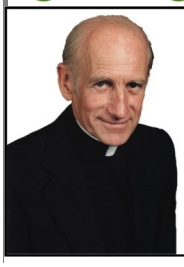
EDWARDS FARMS
Adam
Ashley
Paxton
Huxley
Lucy
3300 Quail Chase, Springfield, IL 62711
217.825.4332 • edwardsfamilyfarms@yahoo.com

Goeckner Electric
home • farm • business
(217) 381-3088
No job too small!
Paul Goeckner, *Owner*

LARRY JAMES REALTOR/BROKER
The Real Estate Group Inc
217-725-4473
See How Real Estate Should be.

All Life is Sacred
Pray to End
Abortion

MARY TV™
Medjugorje
"Medjugorje is the spiritual center of the world."
Saint John Paul II
Watch now at marytv.tv



The Caruso-Sperl
Irrevocable Charitable Trust
supports families
with Catholic School tuition subsidy.
Details found on website
www.sacredheartvirden.com
under the Parish Life/Parochial School tab

421 N BROAD ST
BEHME
BUSINESS SERVICES
217.854.2334

Sharon Behme
BEHME CPA
421 North Broad Street • Carlinville, IL 62626
217-854-2334 Phone
217-930-2226 Fax
Sharon@BehmeCPA.com