

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020 | TWENTY THIRD 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 2 ISSUE 1

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
NINTH BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.
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PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
IN RESIDENCE

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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!

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.

We hope that your visit to our Cathedral is one of grace and beauty and that you feel at home in the mother church. We also hope that you will find this edition of the Cathedral Weekly to be both informative and spiritually enriching. May God bless you and yours!

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 home-bound, to contact the Parish Office or Sr. Francella at 217-522-3342 x 142.



The Show Must Go On

Late summer / early fall is always a time of new beginnings for young people engaged in any form of study. Without a doubt, this new school year is unlike any other! Some of our students are back in school in person (though with certain modifications), others are in class virtually, while still others are in some hybrid form of education. Whatever the case may be, the common sentiment is that “the show must go on”, meaning that the pandemic cannot be a reason not to continue with something as important as education.

The same is true with the practice of our faith. While we felt the need to suspend public masses for a time, we knew that continuing along that path was not tenable. While we can be sustained for a short period with making a Spiritual Communion, doing so long-term is virtually impossible except in rare circumstances. While we know the Eucharist to be the source and summit of our lives as Catholics, we also need other ways of practicing our faith and growing in our understanding and appreciation for our faith.

With that in mind, we are trying to be more intentional here at the Cathedral in presenting all of you with ways to stay engaged and to keep moving forward, even during these challenging times. One of the ways that we hope to do that is through our Cathedral Weekly. Beginning with this issue, we will be implementing a slightly new format. We will be returning to our larger 8-page issues in order to provide some more content for all of you in your efforts to continue to grow in your faith. Each month will be dedicated to a particular theme. Those themes have been chosen to coincide with the themes we will be using this year in our Family of Faith program here at the Cathedral. The overall theme for this year is the Sacraments. In each issue, you will find content on the monthly theme with articles written by clergy and laity in the parish. We will have a weekly focus on one of the saints of the Church whose story will hopefully inspire us as we continue on our path of discipleship. Overall, it is our hope that this will be a weekly resource that continues to sustain you throughout the week.

The theme that we will be focusing on this month is **The Role of Parents in Education**. Even if you do not have children, or if your children are grown up and out of the house, I think you will still find the content helpful. And if it does not apply to you personally, I can bet that you know somebody to whom it does apply and you can share the content with them.

While our young people are heading back to school, let us see the opportunity that lies ahead for all of us to recommit ourselves to this lifelong task of formation in our Catholic faith. Keep your eyes and ears open for other opportunities for growth that will be available soon, both virtual and in person. As I mentioned earlier, “the show must go on”, and it is our hope that this “opening act” of introducing a new bulletin format will entice you to stay tuned in for what lies ahead.

Father Alford is the Rector of the Cathedral and serves in the diocesan curia as the Vicar for Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations.

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 7

7am - Barbara J. McGrath
(Family & Friends)
5:15pm - No Mass

Tuesday, September 8

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - Charles Henry DeCroix
(Betty & Glen Rogers)

Wednesday, September 9

7am - Hildegard & Herbert Rader
(Bev & Larry Hoffman)
5:15pm - Lemuel Moss
(Jean Moss)

Thursday, September 10

7am - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Special Intention for Bruce Smith
(Donna Berte)

Friday, September 11

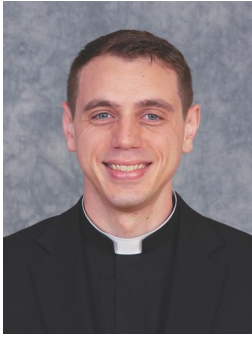
7am - Mary Priester
(Family)
5:15pm - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)

Saturday, September 12

8am - Roger David
(Lou Ann & Carl Corrigan)
4pm - Dr. Eugene Stonikas
(William & Debra Stonikas)

Sunday, September 13

7am - Devlin & Anderson Families
(Grandpa)
10am - Diana Runge
(Jim & Sandy Bloom)
5pm - For the People



Parents are Teachers

I recently saw a meme that had great insight into the role that parents play in teaching their children. It said this: "To my children: Never make fun of me for having to help me with my phone. I taught you how to use a spoon." The entirety of a child's life is spent learning – how to eat, how to talk, how to be fair with siblings and friends. Parents help their kids learn by experience – the first few times using a spoon are always a disaster. But with humor and patience, everybody learns how to use a spoon. Parents are the first teachers of their children in every respect – especially when it comes to the faith. Parents are the first catechists of their children and the first ones to teach them what it means to

live in relationship with God. The unconditional love of a child's father and mother is the first experience of God's love in the family.

Unfortunately, many parents feel unequipped to be the first catechists of their children. Through no fault of their own, maybe they did not receive a good catechesis from their own parents or during their upbringing. However, even if there is still room to grow in knowledge of the faith, this is no excuse to abdicate this responsibility. It is never too late to learn about prayer and the teachings of the Church. Most important is the witness of faith that parents give to their children. This means prioritizing one's relationship with God throughout the day by interspersing moments of prayer in the morning, and regularly talking about faith matters during meals and conversations. Attending Sunday Mass as a family may be the best witness that parents can give to their children. Prioritizing Sunday Mass above sporting events and other entertainment teaches children, without even using words, that keeping holy the Lord's Day is a commandment from God meant for our own happiness and for the glory of God.

When parents help their children to grow in holiness, this is not a one-sided exchange. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains in paragraph 2227, "Children in turn contribute to the growth in holiness of their parents. Each and everyone should be generous and tireless in forgiving one another for offenses, quarrels, injustices, and neglect." Children can also teach parents what it means to be generous and loving, usually just by being themselves! A child's love and trust teaches us how to become like children so that we can enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:3).

Father Dominic Vahling is a newly ordained priest. He serves as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and as co-chaplain of Sacred Heart-Griffin High School.

Stewardship of Treasure - August 29th & 30th

Envelopes:	\$5,518.79
Loose:	\$2,084.00
Maintenance:	<u>\$186.00</u>
Total:	\$77,88.79

August EFT: \$23,245.10

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!



Saintly Reflections - St. Anne

Have you ever stopped to contemplate the statues around our Cathedral? One month into lockdown, as one more afternoon rolled by and the strangeness of the silent church sunk a bit deeper, I was taking the chance to slowly wander around. This time, like never before, I was struck by the statue of a mother and daughter back at the southeast corner of our church. The mother is depicted as serene, beautiful, even elegant, yet what strikes even more profoundly is her love. Her demeanor and posture radiate love and delight in her young daughter whom she gently holds close and earnestly points out some detail

written upon the scroll held in her daughter's hands.

It is the perfect icon to begin our hearing here the stories of the saints.

Not because we know heaps about St. Anne – for the woman is St. Anne, and the young girl clasping the scroll in our statue is her child is Mary – and we know almost nothing about Anne. The Gospels do not even tell us her name, much less any historical details about her life or how she and Joachim raised Mary. We get a few anecdotes from the ancient “Gospel of James”, but otherwise we are left with the insights of a few mystics, and our own prayer, to imagine the characteristics, personality, and bearing of the woman carved into stone at the back of our Cathedral.

Nor also because I have some tremendous devotion to Anne. I spoke above of “our” hearing the stories of the saints, and I mean it! I am not an expert on the saints, nor an eloquent story-teller, nor even someone who feels their friendship keenly and constantly. Yet I want to be all of those things, and it is in learning their stories, walking in their shoes (or sandals), studying their words, and imagining them living out ordinary human lives with the extraordinary grace of God, that allows us to reach the same destiny and joy that they did.

Nor, lastly, is it because Anne is the most applicable or approachable of all the saints. She is the mother of Mary, how can any of us find camaraderie with someone of that significance?!

Yet still, this statue seems the perfect place to start because it depicts a real moment not only in Anne's life, but in all of ours. Anyone reading this who is a mother has told stories to their children. Probably anyone reading this has told stories to someone: a sibling, a niece, a grandchild, a friend... So did St. Anne. Yes, she was entrusted with the child who would be the mother of God. Yes, she was given a grace and dignity because of that role and call. And yet, she cared for that child the same way any mother would: she told Mary the stories of her relatives, her ancestors, her history ... and so she told Mary about God.

You see, to *evangelize* is not nearly as hard as we make it out to be. It might just be clasping a friend on the shoulder and really showing that you care about them. It might just be telling a story to a wide-eyed little girl or boy that communicates to them the truths about who they are, about who have come before them, about who God is, and how God has been a part of those stories. It might just be staying serene when storms are on the horizon and you are caring for precious cargo. It might just be pointing out to someone a word of God that you needed one time in your life when things were crazy.

St. Anne, mother of Mary, tell us the stories of God's grace written in human lives, just as you told those same stories to your little girl. Amen.

Father Dominic Rankin serves as the Master of Ceremonies and Priest Secretary to the Bishop and as an Associate Vocations Director for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. Father Rankin resides at the Cathedral.



SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Thank You From the CCCW!

The CCCW would like to thank all those who contributed to the Christ Child Shower in July. Your generous donations will make a huge difference in the lives of both mothers and children through the Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery and the Pregnancy Care Center. The CCCW truly appreciates and thanks you for your support!

2020-2021 Family of Faith Registration

It's not too late to register for the 2020-2021 Family of Faith Program!

Throughout the year, parents attend a monthly workshop where they learn through teaching, discussion and activities while their children are participating in age-appropriate and fun activities. Then parents teach their children at home with lessons and activities that involve the whole family. Each month families come together for fun events to help them develop into a community of families who pray together, support each other, and live the life of discipleship together.

Visit our website (<https://spicathedral.org/family-of-faith/>) to fill out a form for a registration packet. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Parish Office at 217-522-3342.

Holy Hour For Parents Whose Children are Away from the Church

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is hosting a Holy Hour for anyone whose heart is troubled because a loved one has fallen away from the practice of their faith. Join us on the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, September 15, at 7:00PM in the Cathedral, and bring a friend!

Holy Land Collection - Sunday, September 13

The current COVID-19 pandemic concerns many countries and in many of them preventative measures precluded the normal celebration of Holy Week in which the Holy Land collection is normally received.

The Christian communities in the Holy Land, also exposed to the risk of contagion and living in contexts already full of serious sufferings, benefit every year from the generosity of the faithful from all over the world. This solidarity enables them to continue their evangelical presence, in addition to maintaining schools and social structures that assist all citizens with healthcare, education, and peaceful coexistence, attending above all to the weakest and poorest. For this reason, Pope Francis has approved the collection for the Holy Land, for the year 2020, take place on Sunday, September 13, near the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Please prayerfully consider supporting this collection as an act of mercy and charity. Though we are not collecting donations during Mass, you can still make your donation in one of the following ways:

Online: Make a one-time donation on the Cathedral's website at <https://spicathedral.org/give-online/>, and specify that your donation is for the Holy Land Collection.

Envelopes: Include a separate check in your regular envelope and specify that the second check is for the Holy Land Collection.

Mail: Send your donation to the Parish Office (524 E. Lawrence Ave, Springfield, IL 62703).

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Fr. Franzen Memorial Golf Outing

The public is invited to join St. Joseph the Worker for our 12th Annual Fr. Franzen Memorial Golf Tournament at Edgewood Golf Course in Auburn, IL. This event has been rescheduled for September 27. Details and an updated brochure can be found on our website: <https://www.stjoschatham.org/fr--franken-memorial-golf-outing>.

Live the Gospel of Life

Join Bishop Paprocki in the Diocesan Respect Life Mass and Rosary Walk on October 10, 2020, at Holy Family Church, 2606 Washington Avenue, Granite City, Illinois. Mass begins at 9:00am, celebrated by Bishop Paprocki, with the Rosary Walk, Prayer Vigil, and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following at 10:15am. After the Vigil and Benediction, lunch will be provided at Holy Family Church with Guest Speaker Cara Paschal, Executive Director of Thrive Metro-East. This event is supported by the Annual Catholic Services Appeal. To ensure the health of all attendees, guidelines set by the Center for Disease Control and the Thomistic Institute at the Pontifical Faculty of the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. will be followed.

Dive Deep - Real World Questions, Real Catholic Answers

Join Dive Deep, the official podcast of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, as they launch a three-part series, "Real world questions, real Catholic answers." The discussions center around Hosts challenging topics that can be difficult for Catholics to tackle.

Go to www.dio.org/podcast to listen. You can also listen to Dive Deep on Apple and Google podcasts.

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

Please join the Springfield Right to Life for a prayer service on Saturday, September 12, 2020, from 11 am to 12 pm to honor the children whose lives have been taken too soon by abortion. This will be a solemn memorial service in memory of God's precious children. It will take place in front of Planned Parenthood, the very location that ends these innocent children's lives for the sake of selfishness, convenience, and greed. White crosses will be placed on the city property between the sidewalk and the street. Pastors and prayer warriors will be invited to speak. Those who wish to bring flowers to place by the crosses are encouraged to do so. Lawn chairs are welcome. Cold bottled water will be provided.

Cub Scout Pack 31 Catholic Family Scouting

For 75 years Cub Scout Pack 31 has offered Catholic Family Scouting. We'd like to extend an invitation this year to boys and girls in 1st through 5th grade in joining our pack. Participate in our "Come and See: Fishing and Knot Tying Clinic" event, September 12, 9am - 12pm at Southwind Park. We will always comply with county, state, federal, and council COVID19 guidelines. Sign up at bit.ly/Pack31Fishing or for more information email blessedsacramentpack31@gmail.com. Can't wait to see you there!

St. Thomas Gigantic Garage Sale

St. Thomas Parish in Newton, IL is excited to announce that they have decided to move forward with their garage sale! Dates and times are as follows:

October 1st, 2020 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
October 2nd, 2020 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
October 3rd, 2020 8:00 am - 11:00 am

The sale will be held at the St. Thomas Parish Center in Newton, IL, and social distancing guidelines and mask requirements must be followed. All proceeds go to St. Thomas School.