

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020 | TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

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PAROCHIAL VICAR

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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 Plague of Gossip

Earlier this week, I came across a quote from Pope Francis which came during his most recent Sunday Angelus address in St. Peter's Square. Commenting on the Sunday Gospel, he noted how easy it can be for us, when noticing the faults of others, to tell others about it. He then issued this very strong statement: "Please, brothers and sisters, let's make an effort not to gossip. Gossiping is a plague worse than COVID."

The Holy Father was not intending to downplay the significance of the current pandemic and the legitimate damage it has done, but he wants us to know how destructive gossip is to our relationships with one another and to the Church. When we speak poorly of others, the virus spreads to the person to whom we share our words, which often results in their forming a negative opinion of others. Left unchecked, a person's reputation can easily be ruined because of gossip.

You may have heard the story that has been told about St. Philip Neri, of how he responded to a person who had confessed the sin of gossip. As a penance, he told the penitent to take a feather pillow to the top of a bell tower, rip it open, and let the feathers loose over the city of Rome. The saint then told the penitent to go and pick up all of the feathers. In exasperation, the penitent said that trying to find every feather was impossible! St. Philip used that example to demonstrate the serious nature of gossip, how once we let those uncharitable words leave our mouth, they can scatter about and it will be impossible for us to take back what has been said.

The theme we are focusing on this month is the role of parents in education. One of the documents of the Second Vatican Council points out one of the most important lessons to be imparted by parents to children: "In the family parents have the task of training their children from childhood on to recognize God's love for all men." (Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, 30). An important way of transmitting this lesson is to set the example of never gossiping about people but speaking of others in a way that respects their dignity. Even though we may be painfully aware of the weakness of somebody, we can use that as an opportunity to pray for them, that the Lord will touch their lives and bring them to a place of conversion.

While this lesson is particularly important for parents, it really applies to all of us. We all probably know people who are good about fighting back gossip. There is something attractive about those types of people and they really challenge us to try to imitate their charity when it comes to speaking of others. May we all pray for the grace to be the type of people whose words about others are always used to build up and never to tear down. When we do this, we make a substantial contribution in slowing the spread of the deadly virus that is gossip and building a culture in which all come to recognize God's love for His people.

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 14

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - John D. Sullivan
(Tom Steil)

Tuesday, September 15

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - Michael Acorn
(Rose Amon)

Wednesday, September 16

7am - Helen Call
(Rebecca & Woody Woodhull)
5:15pm - Henry Charles
DeCroix
(Betty & Gene Rogers)

Thursday, September 17

7am - Jack Koester
(Cindy Vahling)
5:15pm - Alice Bates
(The Bates Family)

Friday, September 18

7am - Special Intention for
Cavaliere & Allison Post
(Donna Berte)
5:15pm - Special Intention for
Bianca
(D. A. Drago)

Saturday, September 19

8am - Helen Zeigler
(William & Debra Stonikas)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, September 20

7am - Lawrence Jaros
(Katie Konsky & Family)
10am - John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)
5pm - Michael Dillon
(Lauren Sgambelluri)



Shema!

"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest. Bind them at your wrist as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates." (Deuteronomy 6:4-9 NAB)

"Drill them into your children," as it is rendered in the New American Bible, is quite the forceful phrase! This section of scripture, commonly called the "Shema" (meaning "hear" in Hebrew), is one of the keystones of the Hebrew Scriptures. This instruction to "drill" God's words into one's children speaks to the importance of passing on what God has spoken to us and previous generations.

The main message that children need to receive about God is the same one they receive from their parents – that they are loved! God's story of how he loves us is found all through the Scriptures. This passage from Deuteronomy is in the context of reflecting on the Exodus from Egypt, and the receiving of the Law from God after this great event. We are called to return this great love from God by following the commandments he has given us.

There is a false understanding floating around our society that has caused a great deal of harm regarding religious education. This myth is that young children should not be given any guidance in religion so that they can make an unbiased choice when they are older. This logic does not hold up if we see religion as a living relationship with God and the Church. When a child is born, we give him or her both a first and last name, a home address, and before too long, enroll him or her in school. It would be absurd to wait until they were older to ask if they want to be a part of the family – that's just who they are! In the same way, we do not need to hesitate to bring children into a living relationship with our loving Father in heaven and the family of the Church.

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 - September 5th & 6th

Envelopes:	\$5,440.00
Loose:	\$1,559.50
Maintenance:	\$815.00
Total:	\$7,814.50

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!



St. Joseph, Terror of Demons

I keep choosing the hardest saints to tell stories about. Unlike St. Anne, we at least have St. Joseph's name in scripture, and a couple scenes that show him in action, but we only get the outlines of his character from those passages, and no words that he spoke at all. Well, that's not quite right, we do know one thing that he said:

"behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel.' (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus." (Matthew 1:20-25)

"Jesus". We may know none of the other words that Joseph spoke, but we know that on one particular world-changing day 8 days after his birth, Joseph named the little baby that he held in his arms "Jesus", meaning God-saves. All the fears in the face of Mary's pregnancy, all the trials of bringing his pregnant wife to Bethlehem, all the frustration of not being able to provide a place to stay in his own ancestral home, all the wonders and glories of that night above all nights faded away as he spoke that name. The heavenly hosts marveled as a carpenter held the little, mighty, Son of God in his arms. Mary smiled as her husband held his new, eternal, baby boy. Joseph trembled as he embraced the life he was now entrusted to love, protect, and raise. And the registers of Caesar's census added a new name to their list:

Jesus, son of Joseph, of Bethlehem.

Joseph's word that day did not just pass on his genealogy to Our Lord: making him a son of David and member of the tribe of Judah. Nor did his action simply incorporate Jesus into the historical, Roman, empirical, world:

welcoming him into a particular place and a particular time. No, that name, announced by the angel, had to be vocalized by the carpenter of Nazareth. Joseph was entrusted to be the first human to announce to a fallen and messy universe that, ready or not, God was invading and He had a plan to save His world, and that divinely chosen plan entailed a little baby boy, a young maiden, and a carpenter.

St. Peter's is a story for another day, but as we continue to reflect on the role of parents raising their children in the faith, St. Peter's words after Pentecost only reiterate what Joseph has taught all of us by the only word we know he said: "there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

All you fathers and dads out there. You have a hard vocation these days. It has never been easy to be an icon of God the Father! But let St. Joseph be a model, and an intercessor for you: like him, call upon the name of Jesus in your every battle in defense of your families, in every struggle for holiness, in every fight for God's presence in your home and heart, in every struggle to love your wife and children like God the Father loves all of us.

Father Dominic Rankin has been a son of his biological father, and his Heavenly Father, for 27 years, 4 months, and 4 days. He has been a spiritual father for 2 years, 3 months, and 18 days. How about you?



St. Joseph, Terror of Demons,
Available at: www.consecrationtostjoseph.org

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

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!

Second Collection: Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

Africa faces the economic and social hurdles of enormous debt, epidemic, severe poverty, and political unrest. In spite of these challenges, the Church in Africa has almost tripled in size in the past 30 years. However, it is difficult for the church to sustain its growth and maintain essential pastoral outreach. The Fund provides grants to finance pastoral projects including outreach programs, schools, evangelization, and education of clergy and lay ministers. Our solidarity is necessary to help the "salt of the Earth" Church in Africa realize its potential as a "light of the world."

The Church in Africa needs your help to ensure that all the faithful have access to resources to help them grow in the faith. Please be generous to this collection in your parishes. Your support makes a real difference in the faith lives of the people in Africa. Please continue to pray for our African sisters and brothers.

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 Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa.

Envelopes: Include a separate check in your regular envelope and specify that the second check is for the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa.

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

iVote Catholic: Family, Community, and Participation

During this first week, we focus on the call to Family, Community and Participation. Our God is Trinity, three persons, one God. These three persons are in constant relationship with each other. Being created in the image of God, we too need to be in relationships. Each human person is not only sacred but also social. We must recognize and cherish the gift of belonging to our immediate family and wider family; the Church and society. The Church teaches that in order to fully belong to a family and community, participation is essential. We encourage you to ensure you and your family are registered to vote. Get informed and educated about the candidates and issues on the ballot. Our community calls us to participate not just for our own needs but for the larger whole of society. Voting is an actionable way to love and a tool to cultivate community. Find out more at www.iVoteCatholic.org.

Knights of Columbus Special Limited Time Membership Promotional Offer

In honor of Fr. McGivney's beatification on October 31st, the Illinois State Council is offering free online membership for new membership applications submitted September 1st through October 31st, 2020 (regular dues are \$30 per year).

Visit www.kofc.org/joinus and enter the code ILKOFC today!

2020 Baby Bottle Boomerang

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is supporting First Step Women's Center's mission so they can be the first step for women facing an unplanned pregnancy, transforming their fear into confidence, and empowering them to make healthy, life-affirming decisions. Visit <http://www.fundeasy.com/m/4983461/> to be directed to our fundraising page and click the green "Give" button to make a donation. Please help us offer the help that is needed.

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--franzen-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.

Response to Beirut Explosion

Catholic Relief Services, along with other organizations are working to meet the immediate needs of people impacted by the explosion that took place in Beirut on August 4. The blast killed at least 137 people and injured more than 5,000 others. Beirut's governor has estimated that as many as 300,000 people are temporarily homeless. Hospitals, already reeling from COVID-19, have become quickly overwhelmed. People urgently need safe shelter, clean water, food and medical attention. Prayers have been requested along with donations to help take care of the needs of those affected. You may donate online or mail checks to: "Lebanon Response" Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17090 Baltimore, Maryland 21297-0303

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.

Prayer in the Public Square Rosary Rally

The 10th annual Prayer in the Public Square Rosary Rally will be October 10, 2020, 12PM - 1PM at the Illinois State Capitol Building, 2nd and Capitol streets, in front of the Lincoln Statue. We have permission to gather and pray. We will follow all CDC guidelines in place at the time. We will pray the Holy Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and sing God Bless America and Immaculate Mary. If you would like to lead a prayer, contact Donna B. 622-8576. Consider leading a prayer with your child or challenge a teen to lead. We will accommodate.