

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020 | TWENTY-FIFTH 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 3

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

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.
RECTOR

THE REVEREND PETER CHINEKE
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
IN RESIDENCE

THE REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING
PAROCHIAL VICAR

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

DEACON T. SCOTT KEEN

HALEY BENTEL
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
HBENTEL@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

VICKI DHABALT COMPTON
COORDINATOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND MISSION
VCOMPTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

LISA A. DUFFEY
PARISH SECRETARY
LDUFFEY@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

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

BILL VOGT
OFFICE AND PLANT MANAGER
BVOGT@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

SR. FRANCELLE VYVERMAN, O.P.
MINISTRY TO THE SICK
SFRANCELLE@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!

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.



Do You Clearly Understand What You Are Undertaking?

This past Sunday, I had the opportunity to celebrate a Baptism for a family I have known for a few years. At the very beginning of the Rite, after asking the name of the child and the intention of the parents to have their child baptized, I said the following words:

"You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?"

As I reflect on those words, it strikes me how significant this moment is, not just in the Rite of Baptism, but in the lives of the parents as they present their child for baptism. Notice the dynamic of the parents turning to the Church to bring new life to the child, but how the Church, for her part, reminds the parents of the role that they play in nurturing this new gift. The Church always sees the training of children in the faith as collaboration. The Church can never replace the role that parents play, thus the words that she gives to them on the occasion of the baptism of their children.

A good priest friend of mine has told the story about his own father and how he has said that when he dies, the very first question the Lord will ask him is this: "Where are your children and your wife in their faith because of you?" That is a powerful thought to ponder, to be reminded that the Lord will ask us to account for the stewardship we have practiced with regards to the gift of our family that He has entrusted to us. Therefore, the question posed by the Church on the day of a child's baptism is a question parents need to be reminded of often: "Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?"

Do not be ashamed if your answer to this question is "no", or "I'm not sure." Keep in mind what I wrote above that this task is one of collaboration with the Church. We stand ready and willing to assist you in your role of helping our families live this mission of growing in discipleship. Our Family of Faith and our Adult Faith Formation programs are just two pieces of that assistance. But you may have other questions about various circumstances and challenges you face as you undertake this task, and it can seem overwhelming at times. Know that you are not alone! Please reach out to one of us here at the parish (one of the priests or deacons, or Vicki Compton) and we will be more than happy to lend some support to assist you in this demanding, yet incredibly rewarding duty of bringing your family closer to Christ.

For all of our parents (regardless of whether your children are at home or have moved out), I invite you this week to reflect on that question about your role of training your families in the faith: "Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?"

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 21

7am - Special Intention for Harold Pettinger (Donna Berte)
5:15pm - Shirley Logan (Lisa Logan & Lori Motyka)

Tuesday, September 22

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath (Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - William F. Logan (Lisa Logan & Lori Motyka)

Wednesday, September 23

7am - Special Intention for Doug Combs (Donna Berte)
5:15pm - Jeff Shuck (LouAnn & Carl Corrigan)

Thursday, September 24

7am - Lemuel Moss (Jean Moss)
5:15pm - Our 60 Year Anniversary (Kay & Dick King)

Friday, September 25

7am - Lennart Arnell (Family)
5:15pm - Thomas Rapps (LouAnn & Carl Corrigan)

Saturday, September 26

8am - George Zeigler (William & Debra Stonikas)
4pm - Victor S. Cavazes, Jr. (Melinda Roberts)

Sunday, September 27

7am - Mary Ann Midden (William Midden)
10am - For the People
5pm - Mary Ann O'Shea (McGee Family)



The Gift of Godparents

One of the beautiful liturgies that the Church gives to us is the liturgy of baptism. This ceremony, in which the newborn baby is spiritually adopted as a child of God, also gives expression to the expectation of the parents to raise their children in the faith. In fact, this can even be seen in the Sacrament of Matrimony, when the priest asks the couple, "Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?" This commitment to teach children the faith and evangelize them is expressed at this moment of great love in the wedding ceremony. The vow to love one's spouse unconditionally expresses what kind of family in which children should be nurtured.

The liturgy of baptism makes this even more explicit, when the baptizing minister says to the parents, "In asking for Baptism for your child, you are undertaking the responsibility of raising him/her in the faith, so that, keeping God's commandments, he/she may love the Lord and his/her neighbor as Christ taught us. Do you understand this responsibility?" In addition, the minister asks the Godparents, "Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty?" In some ways, the role of Godparent has become simply a ceremonial or honorary role in our culture, like being a bridesmaid at a wedding. It is true that it is a great honor to be a godparent to a newly baptized member of the Church. However, the Church envisions that Godparents play a vital role in the upbringing of our little Catholics in the faith.

Godparents can support the parents in encouraging them to bring aspects of faith into their home life and in their travels. When children get to adolescence, it can be hard for them to receive formation in the faith from their parents, because of the stage of life that they are in. However, Godparents can play a crucial role in this time of formation. Being a little more removed from the immediate family, they can continue to foster the life of faith even when the relationship between parents and children is not perfect. Godparents should be included in events celebrating milestones in a child's life of faith, especially Confirmation, first Eucharist, one's wedding day, and even milestones like birthdays and graduations. The Church knows that young Christians need as much support from family and friends as they can get. Godparents witnessing to the life of faith is a great way of making this a reality.

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 12th & 13th

Envelopes:	\$4,853.30
Loose:	\$1,929.00
Maintenance:	<u>\$140.00</u>
Total:	\$6,922.30

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. Padre Pio: The Power of Prayer & Poverty

Feast day: September 23rd

A few weeks ago I wrote an article for our Catholic Times diocesan newspaper on patron saints for grandparents. In some ways it gave me the thought of telling the stories of the saints that led to this weekly column for our bulletin here at the Cathedral. As it turns out, that article gave me in a roundabout way the specific saint that I want to write on this week: Fr. Pio of Pietrelcina. One grandfather who read my selection of six patron saints for grandparents called me up and asked why I hadn't said a word about Padre Pio. I was a bit perplexed since he was not a grandfather, nor

a particular patron for grandparents, but as the man explained the story of this great saint, and then told me about his own personal encounter with the saintly capuchin priest while he served in World War II, I was convinced I needed to do some more digging.

Francesco, his baptismal name, was born in 1887 in the insignificant town of Pietrelcina, Italy. He had one brother and three sisters (and two siblings who died as infants). He grew up working on the family farm, but early in his life found his call from the Lord as a Capuchin, entering the novitiate at the age of 15. Struggling through bouts of sickness, he made it through the years of preparation for his vows and then on to priesthood ordination, but by then was given permission to return home with the hopes that he would recover. After some months at home, he was assigned to the little friary at San Giovanni Rotondo where he would remain for most of the rest of his life, and become famous for his holiness, piety, insight in the confessional, and numerous miracles.

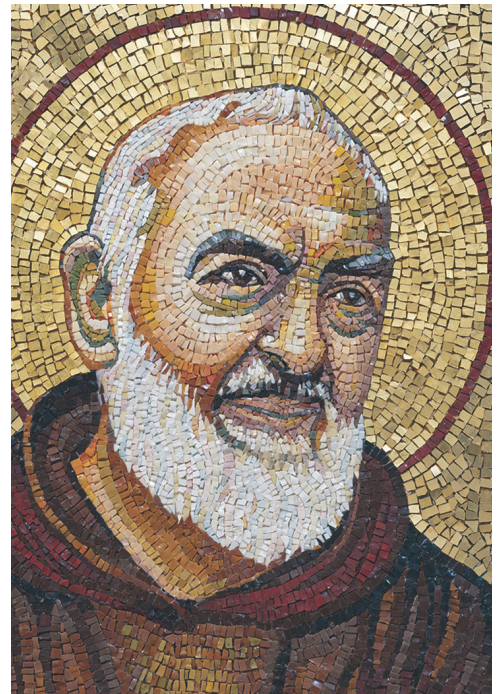
I do not mean here though to focus on the marvels God's grace worked in his life. Nor the crowds that grew over the decades, flocking to a man widely known for his closeness to Christ, manifested even by a visible stigmata, bearing in his own body the wounds of Christ. Nor even his suffering-humility when the Church asked him to cease all his public ministry for years, asking his obedience more than his miracles.

No, today I want to focus on what allowed all of that to happen through him and in him. It started very simply: his family was devoted in their attendance at Mass and recited the rosary daily, meditating on their own participation in the mysteries of Christ's life. And, because they were generous in having kids, and limited in their earthly means, they lived simply. Prayer, and poverty, combined in the all-too-normal life of a family.

There is nothing magical about it. But those are the normal, humble, ways that God has sanctified His world since the beginning. It was those basic realities that marked the passing on of His covenant and blessings through so much of the Old Testament, and it was precisely those things that marked the life of Joseph and Mary as they were entrusted for their own child the Son of God.

What has Padre Pio to do with raising our children Catholic? Well, if you need a miracle, or a spiritual father, you know who to talk to. And, if you're looking for a simple way to holiness, look to the foundations of his sanctity: generous parents, humble means, simple prayers, and God did the rest.

Fr. Dominic Rankin has a twin sister and a younger brother. A threesome was not as exciting as his cousins, who were from a family of 12, but it was the perfect number to say the family rosary. Dad led the opening bits, each member of the family got one decade, and then it was a battle to see who could lead the concluding prayers. Mystical contemplation did not happen every time, but the seeds of God's Word were sown little by little, and He did the rest.



SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Family of Faith

Our parish's whole-family catechetical program is gearing up again. If you have school age-children, we are happy to assist you with their faith formation. This year the focus is on Sacraments. At the start of each month, parents and children come to the Cathedral for instruction on a specific topic. Then, over the course of the month, parents instruct their children. Books and resources are provided to parents and children and you can work when and where it is convenient for your family. A 100% remote learning option is available this year. Click here to register your family for Family of Faith or call the Parish Office at 217-522-3342 for more information. We hope you will allow us to help you raise Catholic disciples of Jesus Christ.

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!

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

If someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic or has any questions about our faith, please invite them to participate in RCIA. RCIA is a process to help adult seekers to enter the Church. The first period of RCIA is an informal period of inquiry and introduction to the Gospel; an opportunity for the beginnings of faith. We have several adults who are exploring joining the Church, but we have room to welcome more! Our first session of Inquiry will be on Tuesday, September 29 @ 6:00PM. If you know the joy and peace of a relationship with Jesus Christ in His Church, please invite your friends and family to know the same. Invite them to participate in RCIA, and offer to come with them. Contact Vicki Compton at 217-522-3342 or vcompton@cathedral.dio.org to register or for more information.

iVote Catholic: Dignity of Work & Rights of Workers

During this second week, we focus on the Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers. In our Catholic tradition, work is more than just a way to make a living; work is one of the ways we participate in the ongoing work of creation in our world. Those who are responsible for the employment of people have a special responsibility to make decisions that uphold the dignity and safety of workers and their rights. Those rights include being able to earn fair wages, to have productive work, and to have a say in decisions that affect them, including the right to organize. Under this principle fall issues such as living wages, fair hiring practices, availability of job training/skills, discrepancy in employment for women and minorities, and job availability for thriving not just surviving. Find out more at www.iVoteCatholic.org.

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

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.

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.

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.

Second Collection: Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa - September 27

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).

National Life Chain Prayer Witness

Please join us on October 4, 2020 for the National Life Chain Prayer Witness from 2:00pm-3:30pm on Sangamon Avenue from 19th Street to Dirksen Parkway. You may pray for the entire 1 1/2 hours, or an hour within this time frame. Life Chain is a call to the Churches of all denominations to come out and pray to end abortion, praying silently, while holding signs. Signs will be available for you. Watch the bulletin for more information.