

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 | TWENTY-SIXTH 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 4

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

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.
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THE REVEREND PETER CHINEKE
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.



Teach Us To Pray

When I meet with couples preparing for marriage, I usually ask them about their prayer life together. Most couples find this question difficult to answer, apart from responding that they might go to Mass together or that they pray a prayer before meals. I remember one couple in particular who after struggling to respond, asked me for some advice on how they might approach the practice of praying together as a couple. I was delighted at the question, and it made me think of the request from the disciples of Jesus: "Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1). It was that request that led to His teaching them the Lord's Prayer (though a slightly different form than we are used to, which comes from Matthew's Gospel). So I would like to offer a few simple ideas on how to pray together – as a couple, as a family, or in some other group.

My first suggestion is to let the Lord begin the conversation. By this I mean turning to the Scriptures. Reading a passage out loud together is already praying! Even if that is the only thing you do, you have begun. You could take it a step further and spend some time sharing some thoughts about what struck you by the passage. Not sure where to start with in the Bible? Consider turning to one of the Gospels, or using the readings for the day or the upcoming Sunday.

My next suggestion is to pray the Rosary together. Even if a full five decades seems too much, start with at least one decade. Have one person say the first part of the Hail Mary, and the other person can complete it. Consider rotating who leads each decade. To step it up, maybe invite those who are praying together to voice some intentions to bring to the prayer. When I taught a combined 7th / 8th grade PSR class last year, I often started class this way and it was a wonderful beginning to the evening and I could tell that the students got something out of praying together, and they usually had no problems voicing an intention for which they wanted the class to pray.

My final suggestion gets a little more advanced. Try praying with your own words. Now, I know that sounds intimidating. But let me share a simple formula that can help you to pray like a pro. Remember these four words: "You, who, do, through" They are easy to remember because they rhyme. These four words are the basic structure to many of the prayers we hear at Mass. Here's what I mean:

You – begin by addressing the prayer to God the Father in some manner (Heavenly Father, Almighty God, Good and gracious Lord, etc...)

Who – say something about God, such as something He has done, or something about who He is (who are all good and loving, who never fail to come to our aid, etc...)

Do – ask the Lord for something (watch over our family this night, bring healing to our loved ones who suffer, help us during these difficult times)

Through – conclude by offering your prayer through Christ (through Christ our Lord, through your Son, Jesus, who lives and reigns forever and ever, etc...)

Why not give this formula a shot and you will be surprised at how you too can pray with confidence with your own words. And never forget that when you pray, it does not all depend on you. The Lord will do His part, as St. Paul reminds us: "the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought." (Rom 8:26).

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

Stewardship of Treasure - September 19th & 20th

Envelopes:	\$4,433.00
Loose:	\$682.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$1,110.00</u>
Total:	\$6,225.00

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!



The Importance of Fostering Vocations

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" Anytime we ask a child this question, we could get a variety of responses, ranging from ridiculous to serious. Little boys often want to be firefighters, astronauts, cowboys, and train conductors, while little girls have aspirations of being doctors, veterinarians, or teachers. A different way of asking this question is asking a high school senior, "What will you major in when you go to college?"

The aspirations we have for the future of our young people are and should be a common conversation we have in our schools and in our families. Parents play a key role in shaping their children's hopes and dreams for the future. It is very common to see children following in the footsteps of their parents through helping with the family business or pursuing the career that is a family tradition, such as becoming a nurse, teacher, or lawyer. This is why parents play a key role in fostering vocations to consecrated religious life and the priesthood. In *Lumen Gentium*, the Church's document from Vatican II on the Church, this key role of parents is expressed beautifully: "The family is, so to speak, the domestic church. In it parents should, by their word and example, be the first preachers of the faith to the children; they should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each of them, fostering with special care the vocation to the sacred state" (§11).

Mothers and fathers do not need to talk about the possibility of a religious or priestly vocation every day at the dinner table. Instead, through their loving witness and interactions with priests and religious, they indicate to their children that these are beautiful vocations and the result of true calls from God. When children grow up in a Catholic family, a consideration of pursuing the priesthood or religious life should be a very natural instinct. Statistically, God calls most of His children to the married vocation, but He still calls a significant minority to give their lives to Him through the witness of celibacy. Because our families tend to be smaller than they were in previous generations, some adult children feel pressure, either explicit or implicit, to get married and have a family. You might be surprised to hear how many seminarians I have spoken to whose parents were disappointed when they learned of their son's discernment of the priesthood. This is almost always because the seminarian's parents expected him to have grandkids for them! But parents come to understand and embrace their son's call over time when they see him joyfully grow in holiness and happiness during his time in the seminary.

The family is really the first seminary for any man who becomes a priest. In his family, the priest was formed in how to be a loving son and brother, which is why priests receive seminary formation. Priests are first of all beloved sons of God the Father, having been called to share in the Son's priesthood in a new way. Priests are also sons of the Blessed Mother and sons of Holy Mother Church. If a man grew up as part of a loving family, he is well on his way to being a well-formed man. One of the biggest responsibilities of parents is to help their children discover their vocational call from God, so that one day, we can all be together in the Kingdom of Heaven.

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.

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 28

7am - Helene O'Shea
(Bud O'Shea)
5:15pm - Doris Drea
(Missouri AF-CIO)

Tuesday, September 29

7am - Eric Nelson
(Family)
5:15pm - Rev. Samuel
Kothapalli
(Lenn Family)

Wednesday, September 30

7am - Deceased Members of
the CCCW
(CCCW)
5:15pm - Special Intention for
Bianca
(D.A. Drago)

Thursday, October 1

7am - Mattie Hergenrother
(Thomas Hergenrother)
5:15pm - Celena Rose DeCroix
(Betty & Glen Rogers)

Friday, October 2

7am - Mary Priester
(Family)
5:15pm - Deceased Members
of the CCCW
(CCCW)

Saturday, October 3

8am - Dr. Eugene Stonikas
(William & Debra Stonikas)
4pm - Nancy Shea
(Jim & Barb Stelte)

Sunday, October 4

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)
10am - Charles & Mercedes
Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)
5pm - For the People



Guardian Angels: Champions, Not Just Cherubs

Feast Day: October 2nd

Growing up, we had a handful of prayers that we said as a family each day. We prayed grace before meals, a quick morning offering before starting school each day, the family rosary most evenings, the scriptural readings of the major characters of salvation history during Advent, and we also said that simple prayer each night to our guardian angels: *Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide.*

How does one tell the story of the guardian angels? Well, we gotta start at the very beginning (they say it's a very good place to start ...) Genesis tells us "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1) It's a phrase that indicates not just all that territory (if heaven can be construed in terrestrial terms), but everything and everyone in it. The story of Job tells us that "there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord." (Job 1:6) The setting is not on earth, so these are not humans, and as the story unfolds and we find Satan also before God, asking to tempt Job, we realize that we've been given a view into the choirs of angels (fallen, and unfallen, at this point).

The glimpse is widened as we contemplate the rest of the great saga of Scripture. Before entering the promised land, "When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man stood before him with his drawn sword in his hand; and Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" And he said, "No; but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." (Joshua 5:13-14) Later, before the time of the Kings of Israel, "the angel of the Lord appeared to him [the Judge, Gideon] and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor." And Gideon said to him, "Please, sir, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this befallen us?" (Judges 1:12-13) Centuries later, as Daniel suffers the Babylonian captivity, he is promised that: "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time; but at that time your people shall be delivered." (Daniel 12:1)

Notice that every time we catch a glimpse of an angel, the visionary falls on his face in awe before a being of such power and splendor, but notice also that the angels are always both messengers and defenders. They announce a word from God, and they also announce the victory of God. They carry swords, trumpets, armor, and herald tremendous strife, but eventual triumph. St. John sees what this means for the story's ending:

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they were defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb. (Revelation 12:7-11)

"To light and guard, to rule and guide." These spectacular, powerful beings, flame with the very fire of God's love, and in humility and love, defend us every moment of our lives. The promise given in the psalms "For he will give his angels charge of you" (Psalm 91:11) is fulfilled as Our Lord reiterates: "in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 18:10).

Dear parents, if you are worried about your children, renew your trust in these incredible protectors that God has given to them. Pray to your own guardian angel, and those of your children; teach them to keep them in mind, to call upon their aid, to thank them for their protection, and to let them lead them to God! We face principalities and powers, as well as the pressures and pains of daily life, but none stand a chance with angels at our side.

Fr. Dominic Rankin's guardian angel has watched over him for more than 10,000 days, has increased his worship at Mass more than 7000 times, and has kept him safe (if not comfortable) for more than 5000 miles of running.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

iVote Catholic: Option for the Poor & Vulnerable

During this third week, we focus on Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you..." (Matt 25:31).

Scripture reminds us that some people's needs are so urgent and so great that their needs come first. Therefore, while everyone is important, those whose voice in our society is ignored, those whose human rights are violated, those whose dignity is not recognized, must take our first priority. When we enter into the lives and the struggles of the poor and vulnerable, we experience Jesus' presence in a real and powerful way. We need to remember in this principle persons who are elderly, disabled, marginalized, vulnerable, formerly incarcerated or otherwise discriminated against or disadvantaged. Under this principle fall issues such as addiction, mental health, healthcare, and systems that perpetuate poverty. 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.

Cathedral's Bible Study

Cathedral's Bible study group will soon begin a new series focusing on the book "A Biblical Walk Through the Mass: Understanding What We Say and Do in the Liturgy." by Dr. Edward Sri. Participants will be asked to purchase the book, and an optional online video component is also available. Meetings will be held in the school library from 6:15-7:45pm on the first and third Wednesdays of the month beginning October 7th. For more information please contact Larry Travis at Ltravisjr@gmail.com.

Covenant Network Fall Radiothon

Dear Cathedral Parishioners: On Monday, October 5, please tune into 88.9 FM for the Covenant Network Fall Radiothon. With your prayers and generosity, many more people can come to know about the availability of 24/7 Catholic radio. I'll be joining Fr. Zach Edgar on live radio during the 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. time slot on Monday, October 5th. In your generosity, could you please call in your support at 314-752-7000 or 877-305-1234? Covenant Network relies entirely on the donations of listeners. You can also listen in online from anywhere at their website www.ourcatholicradio.com or download the Covenant Network app for iPhone or Android devices. Thanks to all who have supported Catholic Radio in Springfield in the past; your generosity recently helped boost the local FM signal to be many times stronger than ever before. Together, we can help the Gospel reach even more souls. God bless you all. - Fr. Vahling

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.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Second Collection: The Peter's Pence Collection - October 4

The Peter's Pence Collection is an opportunity for the Church around the world to stand in solidarity with Pope Francis. With roots in the early Church, through the Middle Ages and down to today, Peter's Pence is a sign of unity with the Pope and a source of support for the activities of the Holy See, as well as for the Holy Father's charitable relief efforts around the world.

Your generosity support the works of the Holy See and help Pope Francis fulfill his prayer that the Church will reach out with acts of mercy.

Please join with our brothers and sisters in faith from around the globe and prayerfully consider supporting this year's 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 Peter's Pence Collection

Envelopes: Include a separate check in your regular envelope and specify that the second check is for the Peter's Pence Collection.

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

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.

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.

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.