

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

OCTOBER 4, 2020 | TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342  
[WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG](http://WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG)

FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

# *Cathedral Weekly*

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 5

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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  
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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.



## Repair My Church

As you are likely aware, the Church celebrates the feast days of saints throughout the year. Many Catholics look forward to these different feast days for various reasons. For example, in places like Poland, the feast day connected to your name is a very big deal, even bigger than your own birthday in some cases! It is also common to celebrate the feast day of the saint that was chosen for one's Confirmation. We also celebrate saints for whom we have a special devotion.

Every so often, the liturgical celebration of these feast days is skipped when there is a higher-ranking feast. Today is one such example. In a normal year, on October 4 we would be celebrating the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. But since Sundays generally take precedence over most feast days for saints, St. Francis has to take a back seat in most places, though Franciscan communities would celebrate today as a Solemnity, which would take precedence over the Sunday. Hopefully this explanation is not too complicated, and maybe you even learned a new fact!

I bring up St. Francis because he has long been one of my favorite saints. In fact, I had briefly entertained the possibility of discerning a vocation to religious life as a Franciscan before I entered the seminary for the diocese. While I realize that it is normally Father Rankin's job to reflect on the saints in our Cathedral Weekly, I could not miss the opportunity to say something about this great saint.

There is a phrase connected with St. Francis that has come up in my prayer over the past couple of months. The phrase is the words that Our Lord gave to St. Francis toward the beginning of his vocation. In the run-down church of San Damiano, he heard these words: "Francis, go and repair my house which, as you see, is falling into ruin." Other translations use the word "rebuild", but I think I prefer repair, for the Church, founded by Christ, can not be rebuilt, strictly speaking. The divine aspect of the Church is holy and not in need of anything. The human aspect, however, is always in need of repair. The Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church articulates this well:

*While Christ, holy, innocent and undefiled (Heb. 7:26) knew nothing of sin, (2 Cor. 5:21) but came to expiate only the sins of the people, (Cf. Heb. 2:17) the Church, embracing in its bosom sinners, at the same time holy and always in need of being purified, always follows the way of penance and renewal. (Lumen Gentium, §8)*

There is no doubt that the Church in our present times needs repair. And the first place we need to look to begin that process of repair is in our own hearts, acknowledging that we are in constant need of purification and renewal. When we have committed ourselves to that task, we will be making as great of a contribution to the renewal of the Church as pointing out everything other than ourselves that needs renewal in the Church. That is not to say that we remain silent or that we do not do anything to work for the needed repair in the Church. That is badly needed, but so is our renewal.

Our theme for this month is "God is the source of all life and What is a sacrament?" The sacraments are the greatest resources that we have in this important work of repairing the Church. The sacraments help us to be more firmly rooted in God's grace so that we can more closely imitate Christ and His holiness. We are also called to be missionary disciples who lead others to the sacraments in order to experience that renewal in their lives. The more the faithful center their lives in the sacraments, the more we will allow God to truly work in and through His Church. When this happens, we will experience a remarkable repair and renewal in the Church, so that she will shine with ever greater brightness and purity in a world that desperately needs the hopeful message of the Gospel entrusted to the Church.

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

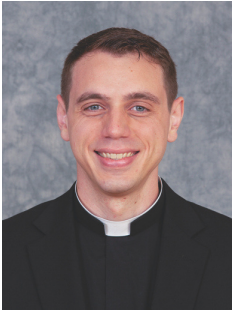
### Stewardship of Treasure - September 26th & 27th

Envelopes:	\$4,174.00
Loose:	\$950.00
Maintenance:	\$188.00
Total:	\$5,312.00

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!





## Why There Are Sacraments

As we spend this year reflecting on the seven sacraments and their role in our faith, it may be helpful to look into why we have sacraments at all. One reason we have the seven sacraments in our church is because God is the source of all life. God created the entire universe out of nothing, and the dimensions of our universe are truly mind-blowing! However, the pinnacle of God's creation is not massive stars and galaxies, but life here on earth. Specifically,

men and women are the pinnacle of God's creation because we are made in his image and likeness and share in the life of the Holy Trinity. This life that God shares with us is called grace. And this is the reason sacraments exist! The seven sacraments are the primary way that God desires to share his life with us when we live on earth. (Of course, God can and does give grace outside of the seven sacraments.) This sharing in divine life begins at baptism when Original Sin is washed away and the fire of God's love is lit in the soul of the newly baptized baby. This is symbolized by the baptismal candle being lit from the Easter candle.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "Grace is favor, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life. Grace is a participation in the life of God. It introduces us into the intimacy of Trinitarian life" (1996-1997). Grace is both the help that God gives us and a sharing in the divine life of God. The sacraments are an effective visible sign of an invisible grace which God has given us to become more united with him and to share more fully in his love.

It is possible to fall away from baptismal grace through serious sin, which is called a mortal sin. It is called "mortal" because it kills the life of grace within our souls. The Church teaches that if somebody dies in the state of unrepented mortal sin, their eternal life will be spent apart from God. This may seem harsh, but it is really a free choice of each individual to accept the free gift of God's grace or reject it and live in sin. The Sacrament of Reconciliation restores the life of grace if we do fall into serious sin after baptism. The other sacraments all work to increase the life of grace within us.

In the past century, there has been a great amount of study into genetics and how all life on earth is connected biologically through DNA. Specifically, our bodies are made of the same building blocks as other animals. However, I think we can say that we are more closely related to angels than we are to other primates. Human beings and angels are the two groups of beings that share in God's divine life. In eternal life in heaven, we will look more like the angels than we do like other animals! On September 29, we celebrated the feast day of three archangels: Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. On October 2, we celebrated the memorial of the holy guardian angels. We honor the angels that God created because they play such an important role in the history of our salvation and even in the current practice of our faith. May God increase our desire to share in his sanctifying grace – his own life within us!

*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, October 5

7am - Barbara J. McGrath  
(Family & Friends)  
5:15pm - Thomas Rapps  
(Ned & Janet Riordan)

### Tuesday, October 6

7am - Edward Hergenrother  
(Thomas Hergenrother)  
5:15pm - Frederick Frank  
(LouAnn & Carl Corrigan)

### Wednesday, October 7

7am - Edward Hergenrother  
5:15pm - Irene  
Doellman  
(Blessed Sacrament Parish)

### Thursday, October 8

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
5:15pm - Laura Palazzolo  
(Rob & Jan Sgambelluri)

### Friday, October 9

7am - Special Intention for  
Sheree Graves  
(Sheree Graves)  
5:15pm - Clate Dortch  
(Larry & Bev Smith)

### Saturday, October 10

8am - Barbara McGee  
(Tom McGee)  
4pm - For the People

### Sunday, October 11

7am - Patrick O'Shea  
(McGee Family)  
10am - Sr. M. Pauletta  
Overbeck, OP  
(Rebecca & Woody Woodhull)  
5pm - Helen Zeigler  
(William & Debra Stonikas)



## St. Francis: Sign of God's Love

Feast Day: October 4

St. Francis would be pleased; October 4th is always his Feast, but this year it is trumped by a Solemnity, namely Sunday. Every week our Sunday celebration of Mass displaces every other feast because Christ's resurrection is the most important day of history, way more important than a day associated with even the greatest of saints. Men and women are only saints because, at the end of their lives, they were united with Christ in His death, and thus, His resurrection.

We probably have already heard the story: Francesco grows up rich, popular, and charismatic, but gave *all of that up*, because one amazing day, his life having fallen apart, Christ stepped into that emptiness and said "Francis, rebuild my church." Out the window went the dreams of being famous or victorious; his life was now God's to direct. Francis gave everything away, even his earthly father, and began to rebuild that little church where the Crucified One spoke to him. Many thought him a crazy beggar as he lived in his little hut and nursed lepers, but a few were crazy enough to join him, and a year or two later (it's now 1209) they walked to Rome to see if Pope Innocent III would approve their rule. It was not a long-winded document, actually it was only one line: "To follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and to walk in his footsteps."

But that is precisely what Francis and his followers were radically about. The order was approved, women joined too, becoming the Poor Clares, and Francis began wandering the countryside, preaching the Gospel wherever people would listen (and when they wouldn't, he would just speak it to the birds and fish). He would try to go to Morocco, but would only get to Spain; He wanted to preach throughout France, but was told to stay in Italy; and in 1219, though he was able to meet with the Sultan of Egypt during the 5th crusade, many would consider it another failure since the crusade continued and the Sultan didn't convert.

I think they're wrong.

Maybe the Muslim camp did not receive the Gospel, but the Franciscans did become custodians of the most beloved sites in the Holy Land for the 800 years since. And, we need to be clear, Francis was *not looking for success, he was just looking to keep speaking about Jesus Christ*. And so, though worldly standards would be horrified that we are already at the end of his life, even (and especially) in death he was still accomplishing that mission! In 1224, as he lost his eyesight, he gained the wounds of Christ (just like Padre Pio he had the stigmata!) And, as his health dwindled, he asked to be carried from town to town, unable to preach, unable to stand, but still a beacon of poverty, humility, and charity, and that is all that God ever asks of anyone.

As I said, I suspect St. Francis is happy with his feast being trumped this year because as he died on that evening of October 3rd, 1226, he asked to be moved to the floor and instructed his followers to not build him an impressive tomb (they conceded the first wish, but not the second...) More insightful, his last prayer was from Psalm 142: "I cry to you, O Lord; I say, You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living." It was a fitting conclusion to his life, which for all those years had been a model of total trust in the Lord.

All this is why he is the perfect man to open our discussion this month of the sacraments. A sacrament, the Catechism says, is "an efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit." We only refer to the 7 sacraments as sacraments specifically, but in a larger sense, every place we glimpse God is a sacrament of sorts. St. Francis was that above everything else, a glimmer of God! He was canonized after only 2 years, and a giant basilica was built in his honor after another 2 because everyone knew him to be an *alter Christus*, another Christ. Francis had his Lord's wounds, He suffered his Savior's rejection, He endured Jesus' poverty, and He shone forth the grace of God in his life. That's our call too.

St. Francis, pray for us, that we might become signs and sacraments of God's love in the world!

*Fr. Dominic Rankin has preached the Gospel ever since he was ordained a deacon, like St. Francis, 3 years and 6 days ago. He prays that his preaching might be as bold as the humble hermit of Assisi.*



Giotto, Legend of St Francis: Sermon to the Birds, 1297, Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### Altar Server Training

All children of the parish, 5th grade and older, are invited to consider becoming an altar server. Training is this Sunday, October 4 @ 6:15 PM in the church. If you are not certain, come anyway, and see if this might be a way for you to be involved in your parish! Hope to see you there.

### 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.

### Metanoia

Metanoia means conversion, but it is much more than that. It means to change, to repent, to turn, to think differently. Metanoia is an ongoing process. As Christians we are to live a life of metanoia. The purpose of this series is to assist the viewer in this ongoing metanoia. Jesus invites everyone to a deeper more profound conversion - a metanoia - that moves us from something to someone, as metanoia ultimately turns us to Jesus. Sessions will be held in the Cathedral School Library on Thursdays, beginning October 8, from 10:00am-11:30am. Please RSVP so we can maintain social distancing: 217-522-3342 or vcompton@cathedral.dio.org

### The Second Vatican Council

Over fifty years ago, Pope John XXIII called together the bishops of the world to hold the twenty-first ecumenical council in Rome. This Council helped shape the Church and the world as we experience it today. During this series, join Fr. Dominic Vahling as he studies what an ecumenical council is and why Pope John called for Vatican II. Surveying several key documents from the Council, we will see the Church's vision for what it means to be a baptized member of the People of God and how the teachings of the Council affect our lives today. Cathedral Atrium, Mondays, October 12th, 19th, & 26th at 7:00pm

### 2020 Baby Bottle Boomerang for Respect Life Month

This weekend is the kick off for the Baby Bottle Boomerang in support of First Step Women's Center! On your way out of the church grab a bottle. Over the next few weeks fill it up with cash and checks and change and return it to the Cathedral at the end of October. The Baby Bottle campaign funds the lifesaving work that First Step offers to others making difficult pregnancy decisions. Envelopes are also available if you prefer to drop your donation in the collection basket. You can also visit <http://www.fundeasy.com/m/4983461/> to be directed to our online fundraising page and click the green "Give" button to make a donation. Please help us offer the help that is needed.

### 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](http://www.kofc.org/joinus) and enter the code ILKOFC today!

### God Is the Source for All Life & What is a Sacrament?

All are invited to join Father Alford and our Family of Faith parents as we begin this year of formation which will focus on the sacraments. Before talking about the individual sacraments, we will lay some foundations on what a sacrament is, and how a deeper understanding of the sacraments can enhance our experience of being Catholic, since the sacraments are at the heart of the practice of our Catholic faith. Cathedral Atrium, Sunday, October 4th, 6:15pm-7:15pm

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA has begun. We have three individuals seeking a relationship with Jesus in the catholic Church, but we have room for more! Our RCIA group meets every Tuesday @ 6:30PM for a meal and conversation around topics of faith. Please invite your family and friends who may be interested in joining the Church to attend. Contact Vicki for more information or to reserve a spot, vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or 217-522-3342.

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Diocese

### Eucharistic Procession and Rosary Rally

There will be a Eucharistic Procession on Saturday, October 10, 2020 departing from Sacred Heart Church in Springfield, IL at 11:30AM to the Capitol to join the Rosary Rally outside in front of the Lincoln Statue on 2nd and Capitol streets at 12PM. Benediction will take place at the Capitol, and we will walk back to Sacred Heart. Bring your rosaries, folding chairs, lawn blankets and flags and join us for all or any part of this event. Questions to Donna B. 217-622-8576 Let's raise a holy roar for our Lord! Spread the word!

### iVote Catholic: Life & Dignity of the Human Person

During this fourth week, we focus on the Life and Dignity of the Human Person which is also the focus of Respect Life Sunday. The Church teaches that we are all created in the image and likeness of God. Because of this fact, every human life is sacred. Every life is worth living. There is nothing anyone can do to take this dignity away. All of our Catholic social teaching flows from this principle. People are more important than things. Under this principle fall issues such as abortion, racism, war and terrorism, the death penalty, and assisted suicide. Find out more at [www.iVoteCatholic.org](http://www.iVoteCatholic.org).

### Covenant Network Fall Radiothon

Dear Cathedral Parishioners: On Monday, October 5, please tune into 88.9 FM for the Covenant Network Fall Radiothon. With you 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](http://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

### Riverton K of C Fish Fry

Fish fries are back! Join the men of the Riverton K of C for a fish fry on Friday, October 2 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm! Due to the virus, the public will not be allowed in the building. There will be a drive-thru, and the option to call in (217-629-7202), after 5pm. Only two items are on the menu: walleye meal with fries or baked potato, or shrimp meal with fries or baked potato. All meals are \$10 cash or check only; no credit or debit cards will be taken.

### 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.

### Adult Faith Formation at Christ the King Parish Biblical Basics - October 7th & 14th

Many Catholics are leery of cracking open the Bible, but the Lord doesn't want your Bible to be a dust-collector on a shelf in your home. Join Fr. Michael as he breaks open the structure of the Bible and shares insights for navigating the wealth of the Scriptures. All adult faith formation sessions are held in Roesch Hall in the parish center on Wednesdays with two opportunities to attend at 11AM or 7PM, unless otherwise noted. The sessions are free and all are welcome. COVID-19 protocols will be followed.

### National Life Chain Prayer Witness - October 4

This Sunday, October 4 is the day! Join us in the most important aspect to defend life by praying on Sangamon Avenue from 19th Street to Dirksen from 2:00pm-3:30pm (your choice of an hour in this time frame) for Springfield's Life Chain Prayer Witness. Life Chain signs may be picked up in the parking lot behind the St. Aloysius Church starting at 2:00pm. Drive or walk to your preferred place to stand on either side of Sangamon Avenue. Stand approximately 15 feet apart (about 3-4 sections of the sidewalk). You may stand on the grassy area between the sidewalk and the street. Please do not block any driveways. For your convenience, you may drive down and park in any of the lots along Sangamon Avenue. Please wear a mask and of course remain safely distanced from others. You may also bring a lawn chair. For over 30 years, the Life Chain Prayer Witness has been lining streets in cities throughout America, praying for an end to abortion. Please join us.