

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

OCTOBER 11, 2020 | TWENTY-EIGHTH 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 6

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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  
IN RESIDENCE

THE REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING  
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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.





## Jesus 2020

Last week I was driving somewhere and one of the many signs on the side of road caught my attention. The sign simply said: "Jesus 2020" Wondering if this was just a random sign, I did what every good detective does – look it up on Google. I found that thousands of these signs have been shipped throughout the country. In an article on the campaign, I read the following from one of the organizers: "People need Jesus with everything that's going on...He's the only one that we can count on. He's the one that keeps his promises. He's already the winner."

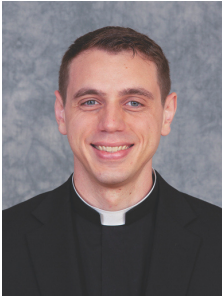
I do not mean to suggest by bringing this to your attention that our upcoming election is not important. It definitely is. And if you are hoping that I might write something that will tell you how to vote, then you can stop reading now. For good, sound, Catholic guidance, I invite you to review Bishop Paprocki's Catholic Times column from September 20, 2020. All of his columns can be found at <https://ct.dio.org/bishops-column>. My point in bringing this sign and its campaign up is to encourage all of us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus during these challenging times. We recently heard the story of St. Peter walking on the water toward Jesus. We know the story. As long as Peter kept his eyes fixed on Jesus, he was able to walk across the waters. However, as soon as his attention turned to the wind and the waves around him, he began to sink. The lesson is so timely for us. We can so easily get fixed on the commotion related to the election, or the pandemic, or whatever anxiety-creating event is going on in our lives or in the world, that we feel ourselves being pulled down, sinking as it were. But when we keep our eyes fixed on Christ, praying each day, reading the Scriptures, going to Mass, we will find that the winds do not overwhelm us, because we know that Jesus is there, He will not let us sink, no matter what happens.



Some may read this as sidestepping the whole issue and may even consider it cowardly for me not to speak up or speak more strongly on certain issues related to the election. As I said, our shepherd has provided us some good direction on forming our consciences and acting accordingly. While I am concerned about the future of our country, I am more immediately concerned about your souls, and the good of our parish community. Elections have a way of dividing people and it can get downright nasty with the things we say and think about others. Let's not let the division and anxiety of our world get to us, drawing our attention from the true center, Jesus Christ.

In the end, if our eyes are not fixed on Christ and we are not casting a vote for Him each and every day of our life, in every aspect of our life, we have more to be concerned about than the outcome of an election. So yes, get to know the issues, form your conscience, but do not take your eyes off of Christ, because if you are not in that relationship with Him, you will begin to sink, and no government leader or party can save you from that – only Jesus can rescue you, and only in Him can we truly hope.

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



## Which Sacrament is the Best?

It may seem a little silly to ask which sacrament out of the seven is the best. After all, all seven sacraments are good and necessary for the life of our Church, and all seven were started by Jesus Christ himself when he walked on earth with his disciples. Why do we need to compare them? It is important to distinguish between the role the different sacraments have in our journey of faith, from beginning to end, to better understand the gift that God is giving us in each one.

Some might say that baptism is the best sacrament because it is the first received. Baptism opens the door to the other six sacraments, and Baptism removes Original Sin from the soul and gives the person divine life within. Some might say that Confession is the best sacrament because this is how serious sins are forgiven through the absolution of the priest. Some might say that Matrimony is the most important because through it, new life is brought into the world. Some may even say that Holy Orders is the best because this passes on the authority of the Apostles and allows our Church to even have the sacraments through our priests. These are all valid reasons as to why each sacrament of the Church is good and even essential. However, there is one that surpasses all the rest: the Eucharist.

You may have heard the Eucharist referred to as the “Most Blessed Sacrament.” Describing this Sacrament as the “Most Blessed” is not just overly pious language or an exaggeration. It actually is the most blessed out of all the sacraments. In six of the sacraments, God imparts his divine grace to us when we receive the sacraments in good faith. However, in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, God imparts himself to us. In the Eucharist, we receive an abundant outpouring of grace by receiving the actual body and blood of our Creator. We can rightly say that we worship the Sacrament of the Eucharist because the Eucharist is God Himself. While Baptism is an amazing sacrament, we would never say that we somehow worship this sacrament. We truly do worship the Eucharist, especially in the celebration of the Mass. This worship can be continued through Eucharistic adoration when the consecrated Host is placed on the altar in a monstrance for all to revere. We worship the Eucharist every time we genuflect toward the tabernacle, which contains the Eucharist in reserve.

We can even better understand the other six sacraments in how they prepare us to receive the Eucharist. We receive Baptism as the beginning of our Christian initiation so that we can receive the ultimate sacrament of initiation – the Eucharist. Holy Orders is such a crucial sacrament for our Church because it is through this sacrament that we are able to continue receiving the Eucharist. The first job of the priest when he is ordained is to pray for the Church by offering the Mass. The Sacrament of Reconciliation forgives our sins so that we are once again able to receive the Eucharist worthily at Mass.

In heaven, we will no longer need the sacraments because our earthly pilgrimage will be completed. However, our worship of God in the Eucharist is the beginning of our eternal worship of God in heaven, which will never have an end. The Holy Eucharist is truly the Most Blessed Sacrament. This week, try to make a special visit to Jesus as he waits for us in the tabernacle.

*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 12

7am - Doris Drea  
(Asher, Gittler & D'Alba, Ltd.)  
5:15pm - William F. & Shirley Logan  
(Lisa Logan & Lori Motyka)

### Tuesday, October 13

7am - Lemuel Moss  
(Jean Moss)  
5:15pm - Norman & Eileen Rovey  
(Family)

### Wednesday, October 14

7am - Special Intention for Juli Rose  
(Donna Berte)  
5:15pm - Mary Ann Merano  
(LouAnn & Carl Corrigan)

### Thursday, October 15

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
5:15pm - Irene Doellman  
(Blessed Sacrament Parish)

### Friday, October 16

7am - Norma Fairweather  
(Andrew & Cheryl Klein)  
5:15pm - Special Intention for Bianca  
(D.A. Drago)

### Saturday, October 17

8am - Ralph Walter, Sr.  
(Jean Moss)  
4pm - John Montgomery  
(John Busciacco)

### Sunday, October 18

7am - John & Edith Bakalar  
(John Busciacco)  
10am - For the People  
5pm - Stephani Sandidge  
(Sue Sandidge)

## Stewardship of Treasure - October 3rd & 4th

Envelopes:	\$5,352.50
Loose:	\$1,478.05
Maintenance:	\$701.00
Total:	\$7,531.55

September EFT: \$23,522.40

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. Ignatius of Antioch: Fire-Bearer

**Feast Day: October 17**

Peter had been the first apostle to reach the large Roman city of Antioch, north of Jerusalem, outside Judea, in Syria. It was a bustling, large, pagan place, the fourth largest city in the entire Roman Empire, and, with a population above 250,000, it was not only was double the size that Springfield is now, it was also a perfect place for the Gospel to begin its march out to the whole world. The Galilean fisherman must have already been overwhelmed by the distance the Word of Christ had come in those first years after the resurrection.

Could he have imagined that that crazy city would be the first place the followers of Christ would be called “Christians”? How could he have predicted that within 10 years Paul and Barnabas would convert to Christianity, and would depart from that very city on their missions to the Greek-speaking world? Far less could he look 20 years ahead to his martyrdom in Rome itself, fulfilling Christ’s words back on the beach of the Sea of Tiberias, when Jesus told His beloved burly fisherman that “when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will fasten your belt for you and carry you where you do not wish to go...” [John 21:18] Or, that in 200 years, 100,000 of those people in Antioch would be Christian.

But perhaps he knew a little boy named Ignatius.

Ignatius was a young child there in Antioch around the time that Peter was there, and as a good friend of a disciple of Peter, St. Polycarp, it is possible that Peter met him. Some even say that Peter picked the boy out to be his successor as bishop of Antioch one day. Either way, it is from his role as bishop of that important city, that Ignatius got his famous surname, “Ignatius of Antioch”. But I want to tell the story of another name he has: Ignatius Nurono, translated: Ignatius Fire-Bearer. Many attributes must have contributed to his having this nickname: his tireless proclamation of the Gospel, his lifelong witnessing to Christ’s resurrection, his fearless embracing of martyrdom ... but I think above all this nickname came from his relentless proclamation that the piece of unleavened bread he held in his hands each Lord’s day, became Jesus Christ Himself in the Blessed Sacrament. He bore the fire of Christ in all his boldness, but never more than the humble consecration at Mass. It is not by chance that this is the man who would first use “Eucharist” to refer to Christ’s sacramental Body and Blood, nor that he first referred to the Church as “Catholic”, for to him these were just two parts of the same mysteries, two aspects of the same reality.

*I write boldly to your love, which is worthy of God, and exhort you to have but one faith, and one preaching, and one Eucharist. For there is one flesh of the Lord Jesus Christ; and His blood which was shed for us is one; one loaf also is broken to all, and one cup is distributed among them all: there is but one altar for the whole Church, and one bishop, with the presbytery and deacons, my fellow- servants. Since, also, there is but one unbegotten Being, God, even the Father; and one only-begotten Son, God, the Word and man; and one Comforter, the Spirit of truth. [St. Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Philadelphians, Chapter 4.]*

The unity of the Church is found in the unity of her members around Christ, in His Vicar, and His bishops, but most of all in His Body and Blood. This is why the Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our faith, the foundation of all the sacraments, and the greatest treasure that we have. Every other sacrament streams out from this Most Blessed Sacrament: different gleams from the same Light, different gifts from the same Lord, different sparks from the same Fire.

Want unity? Want courage? Want faith? Want love? Rely on Christ in the Eucharist. Prepare yourself and your families to receive Him well. Bear that fire boldly. Ignatius did.

His last letter was written to the Christians of Rome, as he followed in St. Peter’s footsteps to his own martyrdom in the arena: “The only thing I ask of you is to allow me to offer the libation of my blood to God. I am the wheat of the Lord; may I be ground by the teeth of the beasts to become the immaculate bread of Christ.” [Letter to the Romans, Chapter 4]. May we too, by the intercession of St. Ignatius, be united, inspired, and transformed into the Immaculate Bread of Christ.

*Fr. Dominic Rankin as of this writing, has celebrated the Holy Mass nine hundred and forty seven times, and has been re-ignited every time by a new flicker of the flame of love from Christ’s Heart that constantly seeks to set us all alight.*



Our own stained-glass window of St. Ignatius of Antioch. Crafted by Thomas A. O'Shaughnessy in 1928.



# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### Special Novena to Our Blessed Mother

Throughout the history of the Church, Christians have always implored the Blessed Virgin Mary's help but especially in times of great need. Never was it known that anyone who called on our Blessed Mother with persistence, faith, and sincerity was left unaided. For the past several months, we have been plagued by the coronavirus pandemic. Considering the enormous challenges that this pandemic has brought upon us and the uncertainties and concerns surrounding the upcoming election, Fr. Peter Chineke is inviting everyone to join him in a Nine Day Special Novena Prayers and Fasting to implore the help of our Blessed Mother. Details are below:

- The Novena will begin on Friday, October 23, and end on Saturday, October 31. It will take place in the Cathedral Church in Springfield every morning following the 7am daily Mass.
- Fasting from food and drink (other than water) from 12am until 12pm is highly encouraged for those whose health allows them to do so. Holy Communion is allowed while fasting.
- There will be Five Decades of Rosary Prayers these nine days following the 7am daily Mass. The Rosary will conclude with the Litany of Loretto (Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary). On Saturdays, the Rosary will follow the 8am Daily Mass.

Come and Be Blessed as we pray with our Blessed Mother.

### 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

### 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](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org) or 217-522-3342.

### 2020 Baby Bottle Boomerang for Respect Life Month

On your way out of the church, grab a bottle and support the Baby Bottle Boomerang, hosted by the First Step Women's Center! 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.

### Cathedral's Bible Study

Missed the first meeting of Bible Study at the Cathedral? No worries! The group meets every first and third Wednesdays of the month. The next meeting is **October 21 from 6:15-7:45pm in the school library**. Participants will be asked to purchase the book, "A Biblical Walk Through the Mass: Understanding What We Say and Do in the Liturgy." by Dr. Edward Sri. An optional online video component is also available. For more information please contact Larry Travis at [Ltravisjr@gmail.com](mailto:Ltravisjr@gmail.com).

### 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!

### iVote Catholic: Solidarity

During this fifth week, we focus on Solidarity. We believe that every human person was created by the same God. Ultimately, we are all brothers and sisters. We are all connected. As one human family, we are deeply connected to people around the world—wherever they may be. Because we are one, we are affected by the joy and suffering of all.

"If one member of Christ's body suffers, all suffer. If one member is honored, all rejoice." (1 Cor. 12:12-26).

Living in solidarity means that we take action to make sure that every member of our human family is living in conditions that honor human dignity. Under this principle fall issues such as immigration, refugees, homelessness, foreign aid, global policy and empowerment, and religious freedom. Find out more at [www.iVoteCatholic.org](http://www.iVoteCatholic.org).

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Diocese

### **Adult Faith Formation at Christ the King Parish Biblical Basics - October 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.

### **SHG Virtual Alumni Series**

NEW this fall!!! SHG'S Virtual Alumni Series featuring some of our very own alumni giving their expertise on various aspects of the pandemic: the history and science behind it, the social/emotional and psychological components, and ways to deal with the physical/mental stress of it all.

November series: Dialogues with the Docs - Wednesday, November 18th at 7pm; feeling overloaded and overwhelmed? You're not alone! Zoom in with us as Dr. Bill Moredock and Jenna Reid Yates, Ph.D. discuss the social, emotional and psychological effects the pandemic is having on our students, parents and families and ways you can deal with it.

Join us via ZOOM for these exciting and informative talks. Call the Advancement Office at 217-787-9732 to reserve your spot and for more information. Hope you will ZOOM with us!

### **World Mission Sunday is Next Week!**

Next week is World Mission Sunday. We are called through our Baptism to be part of the Church's missionary efforts, through prayer, self-sacrifice, and support of the Mission Church through material aid. This year, Pope Francis asks us to respond to that call, saying, "Here I Am, Send Me!" To "send" ourselves, we can: PRAY for the Church's worldwide missionary work and OFFER financial HELP and CHARITY through the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for vulnerable communities throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific Islands.

### **SHG Mega Raffle**

Tickets are now on sale for the 26th annual Mega-Raffle. SHG's Raffle will include 50 total cash prizes, including a grand prize of \$100,000 cash, a second prize of \$10,000 cash, and a third prize of \$3,000 cash. Only 4,200 tickets are available at \$100 each. The Final Drawing is Oct. 30. All proceeds from the Raffle benefit the school's operating budget. In addition, each of the Springfield area Catholic grade schools will receive \$1,000. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.shg.org](http://www.shg.org) or call 787-9732.

### **Second Collection: World Mission Sunday - October 18**

This year, we celebrate World Mission Sunday on October 18th. This annual, worldwide Eucharistic celebration emphasizes our shared baptismal call to mission. We are called personally to mission - especially at this time - to bring Christ's love to those most forgotten around the world.

Pope Francis, in his message for World Mission Sunday, implores us, "In this year marked by the suffering and challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the missionary journey of the whole Church continues in light of the words found in the account of the calling of the prophet Isaiah: 'Here I am, send me' (6:8). This is the ever-new response to the Lord's question: 'Whom shall I send?' This invitation from God's merciful heart challenges both the Church and humanity, in the current world crisis."

Through the Pope's own missionary society, you too can be sent out to all the ends of the earth - sent through your support of missionaries and those they serve. Your gifts sustain priests, religious and lay pastoral leaders in more than 1,100 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe as they proclaim the Gospel, build the Church, and serve the poor. With them, you answer, "Here I Am, Send Me."

You can make 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 World Mission Sunday

**Envelopes:** Include a separate check in your regular envelope and specify that the second check is for World Mission Sunday.

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