

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 1, 2020 | SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
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 9

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THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI  
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## **Sunday Masses**

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 7:00am, 10:00am, & 5:00pm

## **Weekday Masses**

Monday through Friday - 7:00am & 5:15pm

Saturday - 8:00am

## **Reconciliation**

Monday through Friday - 4:15pm-5:00pm

Saturday - 9:00am-10:00am & 2:30pm-3:30pm

Sunday - 4:00pm-4:45pm

## **Adoration**

Tuesday & Thursday - 4:00pm to 5:00pm

## **Welcome to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception!**

On behalf of our bishop, the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, our parishioners, deacons, and priests, we welcome you to the mother church of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

The seat of the diocese was moved to Springfield from Alton in 1923. In the same year, "Old St. Mary's" church of Immaculate Conception Parish was named as the pro-cathedral of the new diocese until this cathedral church was built and dedicated in 1928. Currently, our diocese comprises twenty-eight counties in central Illinois, serving over 140,000 members of the Catholic faithful.

We hope that your visit to our Cathedral is one of grace and beauty and that you feel at home in the mother church. We also hope that you will find this edition of the Cathedral Weekly to be both informative and spiritually enriching. May God bless you and yours!

Diocesan Victim Assistance is available. For the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, please call 217-321-1155.

Please remember that if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a nursing home or home-bound, to contact the Parish Office or Sr. Francella at 217-522-3342 x 142.



## The Most Important Day of Our Life

Earlier this week, I was listening to a podcast from Father Mike Schmitz, and in his homily, he referenced a Mark Twain quote that I heard once, but had forgotten. The quote goes like this: "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why." As I thought about that quote a little bit, it became clear how insightful it is, for to know our purpose in life is a great gift, as it helps us set a direction and follow it.

But as a Christian, I would like to respectfully propose a different answer to the most important day question, and that would be the day of our Baptism. On that day, we are freed from Original Sin and made adopted sons and daughters of God, destined to share eternal life in Heaven. That new birth, while dependent on our natural birth, is far more significant for us because of the gifts of God's grace and that promise of our inheritance with the saints in the Kingdom. If all of that is true (and the Lord promises that it is), then I might propose as the other most important day of our life is the day that we die. Our initial reaction is to maybe reject that proposal, but stay with me. The end of our life here on earth is not an end at all. As one of the prayers of the funeral liturgy of the Church proclaims so beautifully: "Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended." The faithful are those who have received that new life in Baptism and who, at the time of their death, are in relationship with Christ in the state of grace. It is our sure and certain hope that those who die in this state will receive their inheritance of being welcomed to the eternal wedding banquet of Heaven. This makes death the doorway to that life for which we have been created, perfect union with God for eternity.

When we become aware of the gift of our Baptism, we become aware of why we were born. In that same podcast, Father Mike Schmitz pointed back to the Baltimore Catechism which asked the simple question: "Why did God make me?" Many of you don't even need to read the answer, because you have it memorized: "God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this life, so that I can be forever happy with Him in Heaven." Our Baptism gives us our why, and it points to our final goal of being happy with Him in Heaven.

As we begin this month of November, our Family of Faith topic is the Sacrament of Baptism. November is also a month when we recall the souls of the faithful departed, prompting us to pray for them, but also calling us to be aware of our end as well. And because of the gift of our Baptism, that day is not something to be feared, but to look forward to, for it means the fulfillment of the new life received in Baptism. As Christians, then, let us be convinced that the two most important days in our lives are the day of our Baptism and the day of the end of our earthly journey which will mark our entrance into Heaven.

*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, November 2

7am - Barbara J. McGrath  
(Family & Friends)  
5:15pm - Patria & Rufino Gotanco  
(Joe & Hati Uy)

### Tuesday, November 3

7am - Doris Drea  
(Asher, Gittler, & D'Alba, LTD)  
5:15pm - Irene Doellman  
(Blessed Sacrament Parish)

### Wednesday, November 4

7am - Mattie Hergenrother  
(Thomas Hergenrother)  
5:15pm - John Montgomery  
(John Busciacco)

### Thursday, November 5

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
5:15pm - Special Intention for  
Bianca (D.A. Drago)

### Friday, November 6

7am - Mary Priester  
(Family)  
5:15pm - Thomas Rapps  
(Sharen & Kevin Post)

### Saturday, November 7

8am - Deceased Members of the  
CCCW (CCCW)  
4pm - Dr. Eugene Stonikas  
(William & Debra Stonikas)

### Sunday, November 8

7am - Mary E. Steil  
(Steil Family)  
10am - For the People  
5pm - David Paul Lucchesi  
(Mary Lucchesi)

## Stewardship of Treasure October 24th and 25th

Envelopes:	\$3,835.31
Loose:	\$1,423.20
Maintenance:	\$152.00
Total:	\$5,410.51

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!



## All Souls: Resting in the Hands of God

**Feast Day: November 2nd**

How can one tell the stories of all the souls at once? I would like to borrow from a tale told by C.S. Lewis in his book depicting a soul's departing this life and approaching heaven, *The Great Divorce*. Midway through the book we witness a ghost debating about whether to make his long way towards the heavenly mountains in the distance, or to just head home. He encounters a flaming angel as he debates, realizing that the devious red lizard on his shoulder doesn't have a place in the presence of God.

*"Yes. I'm off," said the Ghost. "Thanks for all your hospitality. But it's no good, you see. I told this little chap," (here he indicated the lizard), "that he'd have to be quiet if he came -which he insisted on doing. Of course his stuff won't do here: I realise that. But he won't stop. I shall just have to go home."*

*"Would you like me to make him quiet?" said the flaming Spirit-an angel, as I now understood.*

*"Of course I would," said the Ghost.*

*"Then I will kill him," said the Angel, taking a step forward.*

*"Oh-ah-look out! You're burning me. Keep away," said the Ghost, retreating.*

*"Don't you want him killed?"*

*"You didn't say anything about killing him at first. I hardly meant to bother you with anything so drastic as that."*

*"It's the only way," said the Angel, whose burning hands were now very close to the lizard. "Shall I kill it?"*

*"Well, that's a further question. I'm quite open to consider it, but it's a new point, isn't it? I mean, for the moment I was only thinking about silencing it because up here-well, it's so damned embarrassing."*

*"May I kill it?"*

*"Well, there's time to discuss that later."*

*"There is no time. May I kill it?"*

*"Please, I never meant to be such a nuisance. Please-really-don't bother. Look! It's gone to sleep of its own accord. I'm sure it'll be all right now. Thanks ever so much."*

*"May I kill it?"*

*"Honestly, I don't think there's the slightest necessity for that. I'm sure I shall be able to keep it in order now. I think the gradual process would be far better than killing it."*

*"The gradual process is of no use at all."*

*"Don't you think so? Well, I'll think over what you've said very carefully. I honestly will. In fact I'd let you kill it now, but as a matter of fact I'm not feeling frightfully well to-day. It would be silly to do it now. I'd need to be in good health for the operation. Some other day, perhaps."*

*"There is no other day. All days are present now."*

*"Get back! You're burning me. How can I tell you to kill it? You'd kill me if you did."*

*"It is not so."*

*"Why, you're hurting me now."*

*"I never said it wouldn't hurt you. I said it wouldn't kill you."*

*"Oh, I know. You think I'm a coward. But it isn't that. Really it isn't. I say! Let me run back by tonight's bus and get an opinion from my own doctor. I'll come again the first moment I can."*



# CONTEMPLATION CORNER



*"This moment contains all moments."*

*"Why are you torturing me? You are jeering at me. How can I let you tear me to pieces? If you wanted to help me, why didn't you kill the damned thing without asking me—before I knew? It would be all over by now if you had."*

*"I cannot kill it against your will. It is impossible. Have I your permission?"*

*The Angel's hands were almost closed on the Lizard, but not quite. Then the Lizard began chattering to the Ghost so loud that even I could hear what it was saying.*

*"Be careful," it said. "He can do what he says. He can kill me. One fatal word from you and he will! Then you'll be without me for ever and ever. It's not natural. How could you live? You'd be only a sort of ghost, not a real man as you are now. He doesn't understand. He's only a cold, bloodless abstract thing. It may be natural for him, but it isn't for us. Yes, yes. I know there are no real pleasures now, only dreams. But aren't they better than nothing? And I'll be so good. I admit I've sometimes gone too far in the past, but I promise I won't do it again. I'll give you nothing but really nice dreams—all sweet and fresh and almost innocent. You might say, quite innocent .... "*

*"Have I your permission?" said the Angel to the Ghost.*

*"I know it will kill me."*

*"It won't. But supposing it did?"*

*"You're right. It would be better to be dead than to live with this creature."*

*"Then I may?"*

*"...blast you! Go on can't you? Get it over. Do what you like," bellowed the Ghost: but ended, whimpering, "God help me. God help me."*

*Next moment the Ghost gave a scream of agony such as I never heard on Earth. The Burning One closed his crimson grip on the reptile: twisted it, while it bit and writhed, and then flung it, broken backed, on the turf.*

*"Ow! That's done for me," gasped the Ghost, reeling backwards.*

*For a moment I could make out nothing distinctly. Then I saw, between me and the nearest bush, unmistakably solid but growing every moment solider, the upper arm and the shoulder of a man. Then, brighter still and stronger, the legs and hands. The neck and golden head materialised while I watched, and if my attention had not wavered I should have seen the actual completing of a man—an immense man, naked, not much smaller than the Angel. What distracted me was the fact that at the same moment something seemed to be happening to the Lizard. At first I thought the operation had failed. So far from dying, the creature was still struggling and even growing bigger as it struggled. And as it grew it changed. Its hinder parts grew rounder. The tail, still flickering, became a tail of hair that flickered between huge and glossy buttocks. Suddenly I started back, rubbing my eyes. What stood before me was the greatest stallion I have ever seen, silvery white but with mane and tail of gold. It was smooth and shining, rippled with swells of flesh and muscle, whinneying and stamping with its hoofs. At each stamp the land shook and the trees dindled.*

*The new-made man turned and clapped the new horse's neck. It nosed his bright body. Horse and master breathed each into the other's nostrils. The man turned from it, flung himself at the feet of the Burning One, and embraced them. When he rose I thought his face shone with tears, but it may have been only the liquid love and brightness (one cannot distinguish them in that country) which flowed from him. I had not long to think about it. In joyous haste the young man leaped upon the horse's back. Turning in his seat he waved a farewell, then nudged the stallion with his heels. They were off before I well knew what was happening. There was riding if you like! I came out as quickly as I could from among the bushes to follow them with my eyes; but already they were only like a shooting star far off on the green plain, and soon among the foothills of the mountains. Then, still like a star, I saw them winding up, scaling what seemed impossible steepes, and quicker every moment, till near the dim brow of the landscape, so high that I must strain my neck to see them, they vanished, bright themselves, into the rose-brightness of that everlasting morning."*

God made us for perfection, for glory, for greatness, do not settle for anything less! Let no trial go by without allowing it to purify you: "this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison." (2 Corinthians 4:17) And let us redouble our prayers this month for all those that have already gone ahead into eternity, that they may enter fully into the purifying fire of God's love.

*Fr. Dominic Rankin encounters eternity every time he holds the Blessed Sacrament, but also every time he crosses paths with another human person. Both are aflame with the fire of God's love, both are full of the glory of God, and both will visibly shine with His splendor in the Heavenly Kingdom. Only we need purification before we get there.*



*"Christ Healing the Blind Man", El Greco, 1570, MET Museum, Public Domain.*

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### All Soul's Day Memorial Mass

November is a time in the Church when we recall our beloved faithful departed. The Church invites us to offer special prayers for them to aid them on their journey toward eternal life. Over the past year, we have all been touched by the loss of somebody we have known, especially our family members. On November 2nd, at 7:00pm, we will celebrate an All Soul's Day Memorial Mass at the Cathedral. At this special Mass, we will remember those individuals by name in a special way and commend them to God's mercy. It will also be an opportunity for continued healing for those who grieve their loss. Please call the parish office or email [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org) to make sure your loved one is included.

### Sorting It All Out Sundays

*What are you looking for?* Jesus asked this question to His first disciples, and today He offers it to you. What do you desire? Who do you want to be? Where is this all going? Why are you and I here? We all ask those questions, but how often do we have a place to look for answers together? Well, the next best thing after the Sea of Galilee is the See of Springfield, and the high-schoolers that Jesus is calling today aren't James and John, it's all of you! Come by the Cathedral for a chance to hang out, ask questions, share ideas, and have some fun. Bring yourself, and your enthusiasm. We'll bring the snacks, and a chance to solve the world's problems ... or just chill. Your call! (Seriously, we're literally going to ask you what you want out of these evenings, and that's what we're going to do.) If you're in high-school, you're invited. If it's the first Sunday of the Month, it's happening. If your name is preceded by "Father", you're the comic relief. Join us on November 1 from 6:15p-7:15p at the Cathedral!

### The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptism has been called "the door of the Church", for receiving this sacrament introduces us into the Body of Christ, which is the Church. During this session, Father Peter Chineke will unpack some of the great images of the baptismal liturgy, and reflect on how an awareness of our baptismal dignity can renew our appreciation for this gift and inspire us to draw from the graces of this gift in our daily lives. Cathedral Atrium, Sunday, November 1st, 6:15pm-7:15pm

### CCCW Clothing Sale - November 13 & 14

The CCCW has rescheduled its Clothing Sale for Friday November 13, from 7a-12p, and 4p-6p, and Saturday, November 14 from 8a-12p! The sale will be held in the Cathedral School Hall, and men's, women's, junior's, and kid's, clothing, shoes, purses, jewelry, and boutique items will be available for purchase. COVID-19 protocols will be followed and masks are required.

### Blood Drive at the Cathedral - November 7

Please consider giving back to our community through blood donation! In general, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in hundreds of blood drive cancellations and the need for blood is constant. All blood types are needed; so your donation will definitely make a huge impact, potentially saving 3 lives! Register directly by visiting [www.bloodcenter.org](http://www.bloodcenter.org), and use the group sponsor code "60354" to locate the drive. You can also email Haley at [hbentel@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:hbentel@cathedral.dio.org) to register. If you have any questions regarding this blood drive, including eligibility requirements, please don't hesitate to reach out to Haley. Hope to see you there!

### Surviving the Holidays - A Grief Share Event

Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas? Are you dreading these holidays knowing everything has changed and that memories from past years can't be recreated? Our Surviving the Holidays seminar is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death. You'll learn how to deal with the many emotions you'll face during the holidays, what to do about traditions and other coming changes, helpful tips for surviving social events, and how to discover hope for your future. Join us in the Cathedral School Hall on Thursday, November 5 at 1:00pm and repeated at 6:00pm. Please RSVP if you can, 217-522-3342 or [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org)

Cathedral will also begin hosting another cycle of Grief Share, a weekly, faith-based, grief support group. If you, or someone you know, would like help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend, please join us in the Cathedral School Library. Grief Share runs for 14 weeks, but guests may join the series at any point and can pick up content they missed during the next cycle. For more information contact Berni Ely @ 899-6637 or [jackandberni96@yahoo.com](mailto:jackandberni96@yahoo.com). Join us in the Cathedral School Library, beginning Thursday, November 5th, 1:00-3:00pm, please RSVP if you can, 217-522-3342 or [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org)

### KofC's Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Challenge

Do you have a young artist in your family? Cathedral's Father Augustine Tolton Knights of Columbus Council would love to have them show their skills in the KofC's annual Keep Christ in Christmas poster challenge! Children between five and fourteen will have until December 1st to design their own poster celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. Winners in each of three age groups will receive a \$25 gift card and their entry will advance to the next level in this international contest. The Knights will have materials, information, and entry forms available in the Atrium through November. For more information call the rectory or email Larry Travis at [Ltravisjr@gmail.com](mailto:Ltravisjr@gmail.com).

### Cathedral Cemetery

Five Guys is a burger joint. Two Guys (and A Truck) are a moving company. Eight guys are on a team in the Tour de France. Four guys are buried in our Cathedral sanctuary. Who are these characters? Why are they buried there? How did their lives impact our Cathedral, our Diocese, and our lives of faith today? These questions, their stories, along with dozens of amazing photographs, information from our diocesan archives, and tidbits of local and global history will all be woven together by two of our diocesan archivists, Katie and PJ Oubre, as well as Father Dominic Rankin over four spellbinding evenings. Join us in the Cathedral Atrium, and beyond, on Mondays, November 9th, 16th & 23rd at 7:00pm for a look back into the lives of the current residents of our own Cathedral "cemetery" during the month when we specifically pray for all the dead.

### Special Announcement

The doors of the Cathedral will be locked on Tuesday, November 10th from 9:30am until 12:00pm for recording purposes. We apologize for any inconvenience.

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Diocese

### 2020 Baby Bottle Boomerang for Respect Life Month

Did you know that First Step Women's Center shares the Good News of Jesus with their patients? You can help First Step continue to share hope and life to those in need when you return your baby bottle next weekend! 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. Thank you for your generous donations!

### March for Life 2021

Due to Covid-19, the March for Life pilgrimage will look a little different this year. Tony Cerveney (Director of Youth and Sports Ministry) and Sister M. Veritas Wilks, FSGM (Director of Youth and Women's Ministry) from the Office of Ministry and Evangelization will be heading to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life. Teens accompanied by parents/guardians and other family members are invited to join us. We will be there to greet you, feed you, organize prayer and programming, and provide a place for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois to gather. Sister M. Karolyn, FSGM (Vocations Director for the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George, in Alton, IL) will be there to speak and lead us in games, prayer, and music. Bishop Paprocki will be there to greet us, and to celebrate Mass with us. Please click here to learn more and register! <https://www.dio.org/youthministry/mfl>

### Blue Mass at the Cathedral

Law Enforcement and Firefighter personnel are the strength and courage of the communities that they serve. Out of sincere respect and appreciation for sacrifices made by these committed public safety officials, the Blue Mass is being held to celebrate the service of Law Enforcement and Firefighters and to pray for their safety and for diligence in all of their good work. This Blue Mass will provide spiritual assistance to these men and women, of all faiths, who put their lives on the line daily to ensure the rule of law and a safe society. Due to increased safety precautions, seating is limited to 200 attendees, and masks and social distancing is required. The Blue Mass will be held on Monday, November 9, at 8:15am at the Cathedral. Any questions, please contact the Cathedral Parish Office at 217-522-3342.

### St. Patrick's School Chicken Dinner Fundraiser

Want a night off from cooking and dishes?? Help support St. Pat's on Thursday, November 12th from 4:30-6:30 and pick up a delicious meal from Nelson's Catering at SHG's West Campus. Dinner includes a grilled 1/2 chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes & gravy, and comes with roll & butter. Tickets are \$10 and are available at [nelsonscatering.com/st-patricks-school](http://nelsonscatering.com/st-patricks-school) or by sending a check payable to St. Patrick School, 1800 S. Grand Ave. East, Springfield, IL 62703. Orders must be placed by 12:00 PM, November 6th.

### Knights of Columbus Membership Promotional Offer

To honor of Fr. McGivney's dream of growing the Knights of Columbus, the Illinois State Council is offering free online membership for new membership applications submitted now until the end of the year. Visit [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus) and enter the code MCGIVNEY2020 today!

### iVote Catholic: Solemnity of All Saints

Let us pray. All loving God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the wide-ranging issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond. We seek kindness, compassion and a loving heart while dialoguing with our family, friends, neighbors and community members who are also discerning their vote in this election. We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity. We ask for ears that will hear the cries of all life. We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voices of leaders who will bring us closer to Your Kingdom. We pray for courage and generosity of spirit that we may choose leaders who hear Your Word, live Your love, and keep in the ways of Your truth. We desire You, compassionate God, to guide us to Your Kingdom of justice and peace. This we ask in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Find out more about the Catholic way to vote at [www.iVoteCatholic.org](http://www.iVoteCatholic.org).

### Adult Faith Formation at Christ the King Parish

#### The Four Last Things - November 11

As the Church year comes to its end before beginning anew at Advent, the Scriptures turn our attention to the final realities that are to come for all of us. Join Fr. Chris to explore the Church's theology of Death, Judgement, Hell, and Heaven. 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!