

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 8, 2020 | THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 10

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

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

THE REVEREND PETER CHINEKE  
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN  
IN RESIDENCE

THE REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING  
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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.



## Praying for the Dead

When a loved one passes away, it is not uncommon for us to lament not having spent enough time with that person, or not telling them that we loved them enough. We can carry a guilt around that we have missed the opportunity to love them while they were with us, but now the time has passed. But as Catholics, we believe that our chances for doing good are not over after our loved ones have died. In fact, one of the greatest things we could ever do for them is to pray for the repose of their soul.

During the month of November, the Church earnestly encourages the faithful to pray for the souls of the faithful departed who are in Purgatory as they await their entrance into their heavenly reward. Those souls depend on our prayers to help them, and so the Church considers praying for our beloved dead as a spiritual work of mercy.

Our initial reaction to that suggestion might be to cringe. Why should we pray for them? Does that suggest that we think they might not be in Heaven? We can look to how the Church prays in her funeral liturgy for the dead. The language is beautiful as it expresses our hope in the Resurrection, that those who have died in Christ will rise with Him. But we also pray that the Lord will cleanse any stain of sin that might remain on them so that they can be fully prepared to enter into Heaven. Based on this, it seems pretty clear that the Church presumes that many (if not most) souls go to Purgatory for that purification before going to Heaven. Our prayers help them very much, as those prayers are used by the Lord to help our loved ones undergo this cleansing. If they are in Purgatory, it is only temporary – they will be in Heaven. And to think that we have the opportunity to help our loved ones get there quicker by praying for them, it seems like a no-brainer that we should be enthusiastic and generous in our prayers for the dead. How could we deny them that gift?

I sometimes think of the joyful reception we will receive when we get to Heaven, especially from those for whom we prayed and therefore helped to get to Heaven. We will see clearly how those acts of charity surpassed every good that we had done (or hoped to have done) for them while they were on earth. So during this month of November, call to mind those people in your life who have passed away, and instead of feeling sadness about not doing enough for them, not spending enough time with them, or whatever weighs heavy on you – pray for their soul, knowing that by doing so, we express our love for them in the most beautiful way possible.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace! Amen.

*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 9

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(William Midden)

5:15pm - Mary & Stanley Posnack  
(Rebecca & Woody Woodhull)

### Tuesday, November 10

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)

5:15pm - Joseph & Mary Schweska  
(Tom McGee)

### Wednesday, November 11

7am - Special Intention for Sheree Graves  
(Sheree Graves)

5:15pm - William F. Logan  
(Lisa Logan & Lori Motyka)

### Thursday, November 12

7am - Irene Doellman  
(Blessed Sacrament Parish)

5:15pm - Shirley Logan  
(Lisa Logan & Lori Motyka)

### Friday, November 13

7am - George Stonikas  
(William & Debra Stonikas)

5:15pm - Lemuel Moss  
(Jean Moss)

### Saturday, November 14

8am - Richiusa & Leo Families  
(Family)

4pm - Doris Drea  
(Asher, Gittler, & D'Alba Ltd.)

### Sunday, November 15

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(William Midden)

10am - Nancy Shea  
(Jim & Barb Stelte)

5pm - For the People



## Who Can Baptize?

In our faith formation discussions for the month of November, we are taking a closer look at Baptism. Baptism is so simple, often celebrated with a small group of family and friends after a Sunday Mass. Don't let this simplicity fool you! Baptism is the first of all sacraments received, and is thus described as the "basis of the whole Christian life" because of this (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1213).

Baptism is unique among the sacraments because it can be administered by anybody – that's right – anybody! In an ideal situation, an official minister of the Church such as a priest or deacon typically presides over the celebration of baptism. However, we all know that we do not live in an ideal world, and with surprising frequency, others may perform baptisms. The most common occurrence of this would be in hospitals when children are born with a health risk or prematurely. In that case, one of the parents, a chaplain, or even a nurse has the duty to baptize the baby as soon as possible to ensure that he or she enters through this doorway into God's saving love.

Since Baptism is the normal way by which Original Sin is forgiven, Jesus has made this sacrament extremely accessible. All we need is some water and the knowledge of what the Church expects regarding the formula to be said during the pouring of the water. Although rare, it is possible even for non-Christians to be the minister of baptism. Nurses and doctors in Catholic hospitals could be trained to do this, in the event that a chaplain is not available for an emergency baptism. When I found this out, I was surprised that even somebody with no belief in Jesus could be the celebrant of this sacrament. After all, why would a non-Christian care about somebody else receiving Baptism? I'm sure we all know people of good will who understand how much faith means to us as Christians, and out of respect for our beliefs, would not be opposed to helping to facilitate a celebration of baptism. This is possible because the baptizing minister does not pass along his or her own faith to the child. Nor is the child baptized into the faith of the parents. It's obviously better if both parents are people of great faith, but if one or both parents do not believe or practice their faith, this does not invalidate the baptism of the child. We are all baptized into the faith of the Church, which draws its life from Jesus Christ.

Sometimes children die shortly after receiving an emergency baptism. While nothing can compare to the pain of losing a child, the parents and family can be comforted in knowing that their child received the great gift of God's life through baptism and is now a saint in heaven. If the child does survive after an emergency baptism, we can give thanks to God and still have a ceremony at the parish church in which a priest or deacon would perform the rest of the ritual surrounding the baptism, such as the presentation of the candle, white garment, and anointing with Chrism. Baptism is such a gift from God and I am very grateful that Jesus commanded us to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

*Father Dominic Vahling is a newly ordained priest. He serves as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and as co-chaplain of Sacred Heart-Griffin High School.*

## Stewardship of Treasure - October 31st & November 1st

Envelopes:	\$6,707.76
Loose:	\$2,080.10
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$794.00</u>
Total:	\$9,581.86
October EFT:	\$21,797.40

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!





## To All God's Beloved...Who Are Called To Be Saints

**Feast Day: No particular day, and every particular day.**

The best analogy for Baptism that I have ever heard, and one that captivates confirmandi's around the diocese when I ask it of them starts "if your mom and dad were to give you any car of your choice, what would it be?" I have gotten a lot of Lamborghinis and Ferraris in response, as well as a few Teslas, Mustangs, Ford F150s, ... and one tractor. It is a good image because a free car would be a tremendous gift, and so is the grace of baptism. I am sure that Fr. Alford and Fr. Vahling will explain more of the

nuts and bolts of the graces of this first and fundamental sacrament, but I want instead for you to sit in your 'car' and take a minute to look around.

Cars do a lot for us. They carry us from place to place, they protect us in a cocoon of metal and glass and plastic, they make it possible for us to go places that would be far more arduous and dangerous without them. They have lights to illuminate dark roads; air-conditioning to keep us comfortable; seats and belts to keep us secure; screens to tell us where, how fast, and how far we are along the way; speakers to entertain us; mirrors to amplify our vision; and cupholders to keep us hydrated.

Baptism does more for us. It is the supernatural gift of divine life that pervades and transfigures every moment of our lives. It is the first dose of God's protection against the Evil One, and a continuous promise of His watching over us and protecting us. It allows us to receive graces, insights, and truths of faith that we could not acquire without it. It illuminates and transforms the dark days of life into encounters with the Crucified One. It strengthens and supernaturalizes our ability to look within, and without, seeing ourselves as God sees us, and loving others as God loves them. It makes every other adventure in the Christian life possible: watching our sins get demolished by God's mercy, receiving the influx of the Holy Spirit Himself, approaching the Wedding Feast of the Lamb, giving ourselves absolutely to a spouse and family, or God's holy church, and allowing the hardest days of life be transformed by the divine physician.

How's your car looking right now? Does it give you a thrill every time you use it, to know that Someone loves you that much? Do you know, and celebrate, the day when it was given to you? When is the last time you vacuumed out the cheerios and blasted off the clumps of mud? Have you engaged it to its fullest, or just gone back and forth to work? If a free car was available to everyone, would you tell a friend if they were still traipsing through life on foot? If somebody else was lost, broke-down, and smashed-up, would you point them in the right direction, and mention that it only costs humility to get everything fixed up?

This week's saint is all of us. That is, all who are baptized, and everybody that could be baptized ... so all y'all (that'd be "you lot" in the UK, "yous" in Ireland, Scotland, and Australia, "you-uns" in Pennsylvania, and "yees" in Ireland...), and me as well. This month we celebrate all the saints, and pray for all those who have died already, but what remains to be done is to choose today to live well the graces we were given at our baptism. We have been given a great gift, let us not neglect it!

*Fr. Dominic Rankin was baptized the same day that he was born. Eyewitnesses claim that this was because he and his twin were born a few months early, and for evidence point to the few more months that he, his sister, and mom, and dad, and the rest of the anxious family spent in the hospital after that emergency baptism. He would like to think that really it was because of all the zeal he had to get those graces early.*



The Valley of Tears, Gustave Dore, 1883, Petit Palais, Public Domain

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### Baby Bottle Boomerang

Thanks to all of you who have returned your baby bottles filled with cash and checks to support the work of First Step Women's Center! If you forgot to return the bottle please do so soon. Each bottle costs \$1.14 so please return the bottle even if it's empty. You can also still make a donation on the website:

<http://www.fundeasy.com/m/4983461/>

May God bless you for your concern for vulnerable women and babies!

### CCCW Clothing Sale - Cancelled

The CCCW has cancelled their clothing sale scheduled for November 13th and 14th. They will not be accepting any further donations until after first of the of the year. They hope to hold a sale in the Spring in conjunction with their annual garage sale. Thank you for your continued support.

### 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).

### 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.

### 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.

### SOCTOBER Continues Through November

Due to increased need and decreased attendance at Masses (thank you Covid!) the collection of new (or gently used) socks, hats and gloves for men, women & children in area shelters will continue through November. Area social service agencies and nursing homes have been very appreciative of the generosity of Cathedral parishioners in the last two years as our donations have benefitted many people of all ages. Please place donated items in the White baskets placed in the Atrium and 6th Street Entrance. Thanks so much for your generosity to the most vulnerable in our community!

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Diocese

### 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.

### 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 visit [www.dio.org/youthministry/mfl](http://www.dio.org/youthministry/mfl) to learn more and register!

### 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!

### 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!