

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 22, 2020 | SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



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

Cathedral Weekly

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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.



Christ, Our King

I recently completed reading the book *Conversion: Spiritual Insights into an Essential Encounter with God* by Father Donald Haggerty, a priest of the Archdiocese of New York. As I read it, I called to mind the many conversions I have undergone in my life, large and small. But I was also challenged to see that the Lord invites me to continue to follow the path of conversion each and every day so that I can be a better instrument in His hands as I serve the people of God.

This call to continual conversion is one that the Church invites all Christians to embrace. When addressing the role of the laity in the Church, the fathers of the Second Vatican Council wrote the following words about the laity:

They conduct themselves as children of the promise, and thus strong in faith and in hope they make the most of the present, and with patience await the glory that is to come. Let them not, then, hide this hope in the depths of their hearts, but even in the program of their secular life let them express it by a continual conversion and by wrestling "against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness." (Eph. 6:12) Lumen Gentium, 35.

Notice the mention of the wrestling against the world-rulers of this darkness, referring not so much to human opponents, but our spiritual opponent the devil and his minions. On the day of our Baptism, while the Heavens rejoiced at the gift of a new soul claimed for the Kingdom, our enemy lamented at his loss. He is a sore loser, so he will not cease to try to tempt us to take our attention away from following Christ, our King. The enemy tries to attract us by artificial lights that promise peace and fulfillment, but they only lead to darkness. In the end, the enemy is a liar, and he will do everything possible to try to convince us of the truth of his lies. Only by following Christ, who alone is "the way, and the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6) can we be assured of final victory, of true peace and true happiness. And because of our Baptism, we are God's dearly beloved children, and He will never cease to fight on our behalf, so long as we give Him permission by submitting ourselves to His rule.

As the Church comes to the end of the liturgical year, this can be a good time to thank Christ, our King, for the areas of darkness in our lives that He has conquered through our acceptance of His reign. But we are all well aware that there remain areas where we still need to let Him reign. We pray that we may not resist Him when He comes and invites us to that next conversion. While it may be uncomfortable, and even downright painful, we submit ourselves with humble trust, knowing that His reign in our souls is never one that brings slavery, but always leads to freedom.

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 23

7am - Ralph Walter, Sr.
(Jean Moss)
5:15pm - Dave Loebach
(Rebecca & Woody Woodhull)

Tuesday, November 24

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - Norman & Eileen Rovey
(Family)

Wednesday, November 25

7am - Bernice Lauduskie
(Jim & Sandy Bloom)
5:15pm - Polly Keen
(Rob & Jan Sgambelluri)

Thursday, November 26

9am - John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)

Friday, November 27

7am - Deceased Members of the CCCW (CCCW)
5:15pm - NO MASS

Saturday, November 28

8am - Richiusa & Leo Families
(Family)
4pm - George Zeigler
(William & Debra Stonikas)

Sunday, November 29

7am - Patricia Craig
(Family)
10am - For the People
5pm - Victoria Selburg
(Bernie Ely)



Baptism Foreshadowed by the Exodus

In my column last week, I explored how the story of Noah's Ark prefigured the sacrament of Baptism. St. Peter was the first one to make this connection explicit in one of his scriptural letters. Another clear image of Baptism from the Old Testament is the Exodus story. The "Exodus" is the term used to refer to the Hebrews' miraculous escape from the enslaving Egyptians. The Exodus was the foundational event for the nation of the Hebrews. Abraham was the first one called by God, and after a couple generations, there were several dozen members of his family. Abraham's great-grandson Joseph was sold to slavers and made his way to Egypt. This story of Joseph takes up a good portion of the book of Genesis and is one of the most wonderful stories in the Bible. However, this story is only building up to the foundational event of the Exodus.

Joseph was able to save the nation of Egypt and eventually his own family through the prudent storage of food before a famine. Joseph brought his whole family to Egypt where they lived in prosperity for a number of years. However, the Hebrews were such strong people that the Egyptians began to fear them and thus made them slaves. For 430 years, the Hebrews worked under the Egyptians, but their family which was so small was still becoming a great nation. The stage was set for the most dramatic event in history up to that point, when God called Moses to lead his chosen people out of slavery into freedom. In this event, the evil of the Egyptians was destroyed when they were drowned by the sea closing in on them. And here we have a great connection to Baptism. Baptism frees us from the slavery of sin into the freedom of God's love. The evil oppressors, sin and the devil, are cast off and destroyed. (The devil still exists after baptism but he no longer has authority over God's people.)

In crossing the Red Sea, God miraculously led his people out of oppression, through water, towards the Promised Land. It took forty years of wandering before God finally led the Hebrews to the "land of milk and honey," as it was called. The Exodus was only the beginning of freedom from slavery. In the same way, Baptism is only the beginning for a Christian. Baptism is the doorway, and thankfully we have six other sacraments to help us along as we also wander in the desert. During the Hebrews' wandering, God taught them and gave them the law through the Ten Commandments and other laws such as those found in the book of Leviticus.

The celebration of the Easter Vigil wonderfully dives into the mystery of Baptism through the Exodus. It is required that the story of the Exodus be read at the Easter Vigil, and those who are baptized are saved by passing through the water. If you have never attended an Easter Vigil, I highly encourage you to do so this year! It is sometimes called the "Mother of All Vigils" because it is the most solemn celebration of the entire church year. Simply experiencing this celebration can be a great way to come to a better appreciation of baptism, which is a great gift of freedom from God!

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

Collection numbers for this weekend were unavailable at the time of publication. Please check back next weekend for the collection numbers for the weekend of November 14th and 15th.

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!



Bl. Miguel Pro, a Knight in Heavenly Armor

Feast Day: November 23rd

Our story this week follows a little boy nicknamed Cocol, growing up as the 1800s became the 1900s, right at the center of Mexico, in the city of Guadalupe, Zacatecas, in a mining family. He joined the Society of Jesus at the age of 20, but just 3 years into his formation, his tremendously Catholic homeland, in 1914, after a rigged election, and subsequent power struggle, descended into revolution, and the new government suppressed and then persecuted the Catholic Church. First, no Catholic schools, then no religious orders, then the Church couldn't have property at all and finally, priests were told not to wear their clerical garb, could no longer vote, and were forbidden to speak about the political situation ... or else death. Miguel and his classmates were forced to flee the country to continue their formation and when he was ordained far from home (in Belgium at that point), he could not even offer his first blessings to his family, who remained in Mexico, persecuted and hiding, but could only beg God's grace down upon the photographs that he cherished of them.

Fr. Pro surreptitiously returned to Mexico one year later. His life emulated so many thousands of priests down through the Church's history who endured persecution and risked death to bring the sacraments to the faithful: from the persecutions of the 200s in Rome, the 700s in Arabia, the 1500s in England, the 1600s in Japan, the 1900s in Europe, ... to those currently in North Korea, Afghanistan, India, Colombia and so many other countries. Within 3 months, a warrant was out for his arrest, and by the fall of 1927, he was captured, and then executed without trial. It was crime enough that he was a priest.

So much for God's Kingdom coming, huh?

But then the voice of Christ resounds down through the ages: "My Kingdom is not of this world." Our Lord spoke that truth, beleaguered and beaten and bereft of any power or influence before the might of the Roman Empire, and was promptly crucified and killed outside the city meant to be the place where God reigned ... but as Miguel extended his arms in the shape of the cross, the firing squad raised their rifles, and the priest shouted "Viva Christo Rey!", Christ's Kingdom won another victory, because one more life had been captured by their carrying the cross after Him.

Padre Cocol, as he humbly signed his letters, received the martyr's crown that day, but lest we think that his death was still a loss for everybody else, perhaps even earthly results can give us an indication of the fruit born by his sacrifice. President Calles ordered the photographs capturing Pro's execution distributed around the country to cow any remaining Christians. But, as always, "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church", and those very images – an icon of the thousands of lives lost in those years, and during the continued persecutions in spots that lasted until the anti-Catholic laws were taken off the books in the 1990s – only invigorated and inspired the remaining followers of Christ to stay faithful to Him. 60,000 of those Christians came to Fr. Pro's funeral!

We are not, right now, torn from our family and friends, to follow God's call, but when the day comes, will we be willing to "sell everything" in order to purchase the Kingdom of God? We are not, yet, destined for the firing-squad by professing that our King is Christ, but if we are not willing today to "suffer for the sake of the Name", when that price is put on our faith, will we be willing to pay it? We were traced with the sign of the cross at our baptism, and most of the time it doesn't hurt too much, but do we act now in such a way to make that sign evident? If not, will we have the courage when our last day comes to extend our own arms, and still profess Jesus' victory within our own death?

"Cocol" is actually a simple, sweet bread found around Mexico, and loved by Miguel Pro. Perhaps it is a fitting image for his own life – the wheat flour, mixed with a little salt, a little sugar, butter, yeast, eggs, and anise – all very normal ingredients, but transformed into something wonderful by grinding and kneading and baking. Our lives are captured for Christ's Kingdom, when we allow His cross to be imprinted on us ... when we allow ourselves to be ground, and kneaded, and baked by the trials of this life, in order to become God's holy bread as we join His victory in the next.

Fr. Dominic Rankin has celebrated approximately 1000 Masses as this goes to print. That is probably more than Bl. Miguel Pro would have celebrated in his short 2 years of priesthood, yet he was ready for martyrdom when the time came. Do we allow ourselves to be conformed to Christ, crucified, when we receive His Body and Blood poured out at the Mass?



Bl. Miguel Pro, Photograph of his martyrdom, as He holds crucifix, and rosary, and shouts "Viva Christo Rey!"

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Volunteers Needed!

A new digital video system is being installed so that Cathedral can live stream Mass and other special events. This is an exciting opportunity for us but it cannot happen without you. We need a cadre of technicians who can take turns running the equipment each time we livestream an event. If you, adult or teen, have an interest in technology and would like to serve your parish, and the diocese, in this way, please let us know. Call 217-522-3342 or contact Vicki Compton at vcompton@cathedral.dio.org for more information or to volunteer

CCCW Gift Card Raffle

The ladies of CCCW will be selling raffle tickets for \$500.00 worth of gift cards after all the masses for the next three weekends. Tickets are 6 chances for \$5.00 or 1 chance for \$1.00. Proceeds will be used for scholarships for continuing Catholic Education. We are also in need of a few more gift cards if you have any you would like to donate. Please call Sandy Bloom 638-7703 with any questions. As always, thank you for your 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.

Novena in Honor of the Immaculate Conception

Beginning November 30th thru December 8th, the Cathedral will host the annual diocesan novena in honor of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States, our diocese, and the Cathedral Parish. Each night a different preacher will offer a homily on a different aspect of Marian theology and devotion. November 30th thru December 7th - 7:00pm; Last Night and Closing Mass, December 8th - 5:15pm

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!

Sacrament of Confirmation

What is the Sacrament of Confirmation? Having listened to many responses over the years, the general consensus is that it is something we do when we confirm that we want to remain Catholic. While that might be the popular opinion, it's not what the Church teaches us about this sacrament. So what does the Church teach? Come and join Father Alford to find out, and see how a more authentic understanding of this sacrament will help you not only to know this sacrament better, but draw from the abundant graces it offers to us in aiding us to live as missionary disciples. Cathedral School Basement, Sunday, December 6, 6:15-7:00pm

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 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.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Second Collection: Diocesan Campaign for Justice and Hope (DCJH) - November 21st-22nd

As Catholics, we are called upon to care for the weakest and most vulnerable among us. The Campaign for Justice and Hope gives all of us an opportunity to help our neighbors in need. Through your generosity, the money collected is distributed to organizations within our diocese that provide help and hope to the poor in accord with Catholic teaching.

As disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us offer families living in poverty our prayer, action, and financial support. Giving generously brings hope and helps individuals break out of their cycle of poverty.

You can make a donation in one of the following ways:

Online: Make a one-time donation on the Cathedral's website at <https://spicathedral.org/give-online/>, and specify that your donation is for the DCJH Collection.

Envelopes: Include a separate check in your regular envelope and specify that the second check is for the DCJH Collection.

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

Adult Faith Formation at Christ the King Parish

The Holly and the Ivy: The Symbols and Theology of Advent & Christmas - December 2nd

At the beginning of Advent, join Fr. Chris to learn more about the history, theology, practices, and celebrations of the Advent and Christmas seasons. 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.

Breadline Sunday

Due to COVID, Catholic Charities is not hosting Breadline Sunday this year. However, they are still taking donations during these trying times. \$60 will provide meals for one person for an entire month, but any donation is welcome. If you would like to make a donation, you may do so by placing it in an envelope marked "Breadline Sunday" and drop it in the collection basket after Mass. Thank you in advance for supporting the work of Catholic Charities!

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 and enter the code MCGIVNEY2020 today!

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.

December series: Go with THE FLOW Midwest Yoga
Wednesday, December 2nd -7pm

Need a break? A way to re-energize and re-invigorate yourself? Here's your chance! Bev Hopkins (owner & instructor) and Ashley Krstulovich (instructor) of The Flow Midwest Yoga will demonstrate ways to combat the physical/mental stresses of dealing with the pandemic especially as we head into the holiday season.

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!

March for Life 2021

Due to Covid-19, the March for Life pilgrimage will look a little different this year. Tony Cerveny (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 to learn more and register!