

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 29, 2020 | 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG

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

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 13

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.



Come, Lord Jesus

Happy New Year! I always look forward to sharing this greeting with fellow Catholics at the beginning of Advent, which marks the beginning of a new liturgical year for us. With this greeting, whether we do it now or with the rest of society at the beginning of January, it is expressed with hope. With the new year just beginning, we express our hope that it will be a good year ahead. I think it is safe to say that this past year has not exactly been what we had hoped. Is there any reason to think that the coming year will be any better?

As Christians, our answer to that question is an overwhelming “yes.” Why? Because the hope that we hold onto is a hope that is different from the worldly hope that always seems to come up short. I was recently reading Pope Benedict’s encyclical on hope (*Spe salvi*), and he commented on the traditional dialog that takes place between the minister and the parents at the beginning of the Sacrament of Baptism. Here is how the dialog goes:

Minister: What do you ask of the Church?
Parents: Faith
Minister: And what does faith give you?
Parents: Eternal life

And so from the very beginning of our lives in Christ, we have planted within us, through the gift of faith, the hope for eternal life. With each passing day and each passing year, we take one step closer to the realization of that hope.

The Season of Advent is a great time to renew that sense of hope within us. This season invites us to be joyful as we remember the coming of Christ in history nearly 2000 years ago. His birth brought hope to a people who had been walking in darkness for generations. His birth was a preparation for His death, when He destroyed death forever and unlocked the gates of Heaven to believers. That victory is the reason for our hope. Advent therefore is also a time to look forward in hope to Christ’s return when all who are in communion with Him in life and in death will share in His victory fully.

In the meantime, however, Advent invites us to recall that Jesus comes to us here and now in the mystery of His grace, present to us in a special way in the sacraments. He brings light to us in the midst of the darkness that surrounds us, reminding us that we are not alone. He is near to us, renewing our hope that at the end of this earthly journey, no matter how bumpy that journey may be, our hope in eternal life, given on the day of our Baptism, will be fulfilled.

May I therefore encourage you to pray the following traditional Advent prayer regularly: “Come, Lord Jesus.” We pray for His coming in glory at the end of time, but we pray for Him to come in mystery into our lives anew in this new year, so that no matter what this year may bring, our hope in Him will not waver, and as St. Paul reminds us, this “hope does not disappoint.” (Rom 5:5)

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 30

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - Cynthia Crispi
(John Busciacco)

Tuesday, December 1

7am - Barbara J. McGrath
(Family & Friends)
5:15pm - Delia Sinn
(Genny Severino)

Wednesday, December 2

7am - Special Intention for Sheree Graves (Sheree Graves)
5:15pm - Barbara Hansen
(Family & Friends)

Thursday, December 3

7am - Irene Doellman
(Blessed Sacrament Parish)
5:15pm - Puring Garde
(Family)

Friday, December 4

7am - Mary Priester
(Family)
5:15pm - Andrew McGee
(Tom McGee)

Saturday, December 5

8am - Dr. Eugene Stonikas
(William & Debra Stonikas)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, December 6

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)
10am - Charles & Mercedes Nesbitt (Kathy Frank)
5pm - Deceased Members of the CCCW (CCCW)



New Beginnings

It's hard to believe that we are already into the season of Advent. We can all agree that time flies too quickly, and each year just seems to go by more quickly. Advent is the beginning of our new liturgical year, and fittingly so as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas.

This Sunday concludes our reflections on the sacrament of baptism. I wanted to dive into a very special baptism that can be found in our gospels – the baptism of Jesus himself. This baptism was the beginning of his public ministry, when it was manifested to the world that he was the Son of

God. Let's take a look at Matthew 3:13-17:

"Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?' Jesus said to him in reply, 'Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'"

The baptism of Jesus has baffled many throughout the centuries, first of all John the Baptist himself! John states the obvious when he says that it should be the other way around, with Jesus baptizing him, and he's right! At the time of Jesus, before baptism was a sacrament of the New Covenant, the Jews had many ritual washings as part of their religious practice. Ritual washings were used to regain ritual purity as the body experienced things that were "unclean." This is a somewhat hard concept for us to grasp, because unclean did not necessarily mean immoral or sinful. For example, after a woman gave birth, she was considered unclean for several weeks, although there was clearly no sin involved in having a baby! Similarly, soldiers would undergo a ritual washing after battle, and priests would undergo a washing before offering sacrifice. We can see how Jesus used the Jewish concept of ritual washing as a foundation for his institution of the sacrament of baptism.

John was baptizing people in the Jordan in response to his call to conversion. He apparently had a successful following of people who understood the need for repentance and expressed this through the reception of a baptism in the river. Jesus had no need for this, which both he and John both recognized. However, we understand that Jesus was baptized for our sake. Jesus said that it is fitting for him to be baptized. In doing so, he sets the model for all of us and undergoes the same treatment as everyone else. This follows the pattern of Jesus always offering himself for our sake.

Jesus' baptism was a sort of reversal of roles. Typically, the water is clean and would wash the body of the unclean person. However, with Jesus it was opposite. Since Jesus is God himself and the source of all holiness, when he was baptized, he in turn sanctified the waters for our baptism. In Jesus' baptism, he was revealed to the world as the Son of God, when God the Father spoke from the heavens saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." God the Father spoke the same words to us in each of our baptisms, and what a beautiful beginning we each had! May our Advent season be filled with the graces of our baptism as we prepare to once again receive the Son of God into our hearts.

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 - November 14th & November 15th

Collection numbers for the weekend of November 21st and 22nd were unavailable at the time of publication. Please check back next weekend for these collection numbers.

Envelopes:	\$4,345.50
Loose:	\$3,095.00
Maintenance:	\$2,135.00
Total:	\$9,575.50

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!



St. Francis Xavier: A Madman for Christ

Feast Day: December 3rd

We have one more saint to meet during our investigation of baptism. This week we celebrate the saint who was baptized Francisco, and grew up in Javier [Xavier] of the Kingdom of Navarre (nowadays in North East Spain), with a prosperous farmer for a father and a mother claiming noble blood. The prosperity was tenuous at best, his homeland being invaded by King Ferdinand of Aragon (who you might know as the husband of Isabella, and sponsor of Christopher Columbus) when Francisco was 6. During the next 18 years of war, Francisco would lose his father, and most of his family's castle would be demolished.

Still, at the age of 19, he was able to begin his studies at the University of Paris, where, in God's good providence, he fell in with Pierre Favre (a long time friend) and Ignatius of Loyola (a new friend, and far older than both other men, himself a convert-by-cannonball, which is a story for another day...). These friends sought to convince the vivacious Francisco that to follow God would offer him a far more exciting life than to spend his life seeking worldly fame. As he studied philosophy (and then taught it), and then studied theology, Xavier gradually was won over by the earnest Ignatius and in 1534, chose with 5 other men to go through the Spiritual Exercises and definitively join together in poverty, chastity, and obedience (specifically, individually, in service to the Pope) and to go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem to see where God wanted them to offer their labors for the salvation of souls. Not dissimilar from 11 apostles 1500 years before, the 10 men (as it grew to a year later), praying in a nondescript chapel on a hill of Paris, would bear fruit far beyond their human abilities.

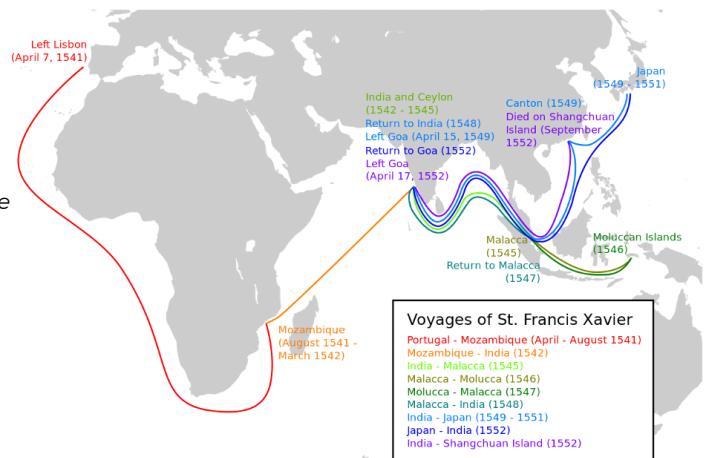
Francisco offered his services as secretary of the new order, daringly named the Society of Jesus, though Francis' role would remain mundane for 6 more years. But then, in 1540, Pope Paul III (the one who called the Council of Trent first supported Michelangelo's efforts as an artist, and also given the go ahead for the Jesuits to form) now requested that they offer their services as missionaries to the new Portuguese discoveries in the East Indies. Two other early Jesuits were tapped for the (presumably one-way) trip, but one came down sick just before they were to leave, and Ignatius asked Francis to take his spot.

The eager 34-year-old left Rome in March, arrived in Portugal in June, and spent 8 months preparing for the voyage. The pair departed Europe in April of 1541, arrived in Mozambique in August, and Goa, India, by May, 1542. The following three years would be packed with caring for the natives of Southern India, building and working in hospitals, educating the peasant population, and baptizing tens of thousands every month. He repeated this feat in Malacca (now Malaysia, in 1545), Maluku (now Indonesia, in 1546), Japan (in 1549), and China (in 1551, dying just before arriving on the mainland) facing countless deprivations, immense struggle to learn the native languages, and hostility by the cultic leaders who had previously sustained themselves off the lesser castes. His body was returned to Goa, India, where it remains to this day, though, as only Catholic are apt to do, his arm, the same one that baptized hundreds of thousands, was eventually taken all the way back to the Jesuit headquarters in Rome, where it has stayed ever since (except a few excursions "on tour" around Canada, Australia, and other countries that even this legendary missionary couldn't reach in this life).

Perhaps what we are meant to learn from this saint is a simple truth: Christianity is an incarnate religion. Everything we believe is founded upon our God becoming man. Continuing this humility: today God depends on human lips, and limbs, and learning to preach, and baptize, and teach for Him. And, for the very same reason, it is Christianity, and Christian saints, that relentlessly cherish the incarnate persons we encounter in every culture the world over, and nonetheless, desire ardently to bring them that incarnate love given to the Church in her scripture and sacraments. May we have the gumption to do the same!

Many, many people hereabouts are not becoming Christians for one reason: there is nobody to make them Christians. Again and again I have thought of going round the universities of Europe, especially Paris, and everywhere crying out like a madman. Riveting the attention of those with more learning than charity: What a tragedy: how many souls are being shut out of heaven and falling into hell, thanks to you!

Fr. Dominic Rankin keeps waiting for the growth spurt that is sure to send him above his current height of 5'6" (on a good day), but he was happy to realize that sanctity does not depend on stature, for Francis Xavier never surpassed 5'4", yet his youthful skill at running and high-jumping were surpassed one-hundred-fold by the grace with which he ran the Christian race and reached the heights of glorifying God.



Thousands of miles, and millions encountered. You and I will do the same in our lives. But do we as strongly desire to bring Christ to every parsec, and every person?

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Mask Mandate in Effect

As you may be aware, the Mayor of Springfield has issued a Mask Mandate for all public spaces in the City of Springfield, which includes religious houses of worship. The mandate requires that masks be worn at all times when in a public space. The mayor has indicated that those individuals who are in violation of this mandate will be assessed a \$50 fine for each violation, and the institution (that is, this church) will be assessed a \$250 fine for the first offense, with subsequent offenses incurring a \$500 fine. The mandate went into effect yesterday, November 18. Please be advised that the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect. Thank you for your cooperation in observing this mandate here at the Cathedral.

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.

Rorate Caeli Mass

Join us for a Rorate Caeli candlelit Mass in honor of Our Lady during Advent. The Rorate Mass is lit only by candlelight. In the dimly lit setting, priests and faithful prepare to honor the light of the world who is soon to be born and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illuminated by the sun as our Faith is illuminated by Christ. All are welcome to join us for this special Mass on Saturday, December 12th at 7:00am in the Cathedral!

December Adult Faith Formation Discussions Cancelled

We have decided to cancel the remainder of our Fall 2020 Adult Faith Formation discussions: The Sacrament of Confirmation and The Women of the Genealogy of Jesus in Matthew's Gospels. This is due to a desire to keep people safe while COVID numbers are rising. At this time, the Mass, Confession, and Adoration schedules remain the same. The Novena in Honor of the Immaculate Conception and the Rorate Caeli Mass will be held as scheduled unless otherwise noted. We appreciate your understanding.

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.

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

Cathedral Cemetery - Final Discussion Postponed

We have unfortunately decided to postpone the final discussion in our Cathedral Cemetery Adult Faith Formation Series due to the rise in COVID cases. We hope to reschedule in the future, and will announce when a new date is decided.

No Neighbor Left Behind

As COVID-19 cases rise in our community, Fr. Augustine Tolton Council #16126 would like to remind parishioners "No Neighbor Left Behind". If you or someone you know needs assistance in picking up groceries, prescriptions, or getting errands run, please reach out to Grand Knight Nick Gray at graynicholasjohn@gmail.com or contact any member of the Cathedral staff. We have a group of Knights who are willing to assist those in our community at a higher risk for COVID-19.

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

Be Not Afraid

What are you afraid of? Most people would agree we are living in fearful times. We invite you to not ignore the fear or succumb to it, but rather to invite Jesus into your fears so that they can be overcome. Visit benotafraid.dio.org to explore and experience your fears and find resources so you can have peace, hope, and courage.

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!

Breadline Sunday

Due to COVID, the St. John's Breadline largest fundraiser, Breadline Sunday, will be breadless for the first time in 35 years. Please visit cc.dio.org to watch a short video about how the St. John's Breadline impacts our community and how this fundraiser is a critical component of our work. Please consider making a donation to the St. John's Breadline so we can continue the work of this lifeline to the Springfield community. Donations can be made at cc.dio.org, by mailing a check to St. John's Breadline attn. Breadline Sunday, 430 N Fifth St, Springfield, IL 62702, or calling Laura Deutsch at 217-321-8311. Thank you for your continued support!

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!

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.

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 to learn more and register!