

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**JANUARY 3, 2021 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**



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

# *Cathedral Weekly*

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

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

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.  
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THE REVEREND PETER CHINEKE  
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN  
IN RESIDENCE

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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.



## At the Manger with the Magi

In my homily for Christmas, I mentioned that I had recently purchased a Christmas gift for myself, a Nativity Set that I have in my personal quarters in the Cathedral Rectory. When agonizing over which set to purchase, one of the final conditions I had was that I wanted the set to include the Magi, as they completed the scene of the birth of Jesus.

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been re-reading Pope Benedict's third volume on Jesus of Nazareth which focuses on the Infancy Narratives. When he gets to the section on the question of who the Magi are, he offers a helpful description which I would like to share:

*Just as the Church's tradition read the Christmas story quite spontaneously in the light of Is 1:3, with the result that the ox and the ass found their way into the crib, so too the Magi story was read in conjunction with Ps 72:10 and Is 60. Hence the wise men from the East became kings, and with them camels and dromedaries were added to the crib.*

*While the prophetic content of these texts expands the provenance of these figures to include the extreme west (Tarshish = Tartessos in Spain), tradition has further developed this idea of universality by conceiving them as kings from all three known continents: Africa, Asia, and Europe. The black king is part and parcel of this: in the kingdom of Jesus Christ there are no distinctions of race and origin. In him and through him, humanity is united, yet without losing any of the richness of variety.*

*Later, the three kings came to be associated with the phases of human life—youth, maturity, and old age. This too makes good sense, highlighting the fact that each of the various stages of human life finds its true meaning and its inner unity in companionship with Jesus.*

*The key point is this: the wise men from the east are a new beginning. They represent the journeying of humanity toward Christ. They initiate a procession that continues throughout history. Not only do they represent the people who have found the way to Christ: they represent the inner aspiration of the human spirit, the dynamism of religions and human reason toward him. (Pope Benedict XVI, Jesus of Nazareth – The Infancy Narratives, p. 96-97)*

These Magi serve as a beautiful reminder of what we experience when we come to Mass. When we come to this church, we come to Bethlehem (which translated means house of bread). We come as being one family, without distinction, while retaining our variety.



We come at every stage of our lives. We come to encounter Christ, to encounter a new beginning in our loving Him and others more and more as He feeds us with the gift of His life in the Eucharist.

*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, January 4

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
5:15pm - Mae Stribling  
(LouAnn Mack Corrigan)

### Tuesday, January 5

7am - Special Intention for Sheree Graves (Sheree Graves)  
5:15pm - William F. & Shirley Logan (Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

### Wednesday, January 6

7am - Edward F. Dombrowski (John Busciacco)  
5:15pm - William F. & Shirley Logan (Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

### Thursday, January 7

7am - Michael Poggi (Family)  
5:15pm - Special Intention for the Homeless (Linda Pierceall)

### Friday, January 8

7am - Repose of the Soul of Averil Rossiter (Jane Fornoff)  
5:15pm - Special Intention for Bianca (D. A. Drago)

### Saturday, January 9

8am - Angeline Sherman (Warren Sherman)  
4pm - Pat Mathews (Stanley & Thelma Rhodes)

### Sunday, January 10

7am - Deceased Members of the Price Family (Mark & Sharon Price)  
10am - Joseph Wichmann (Catholic Conference)  
5pm - For the People





## Where is the Eucharist in Scripture?

As we begin this new year of blessings from the Lord, it is fitting that we turn our attention to the Holy Eucharist. As I wrote a few months ago, the Eucharist is the “best” sacrament because it is God himself! The other sacraments communicate the love of God, but only the Eucharist gives the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ himself. I always enjoy seeing the sacraments in the scriptures, and it’s a helpful place to start, so this month I’m going to start with where we find the Eucharist in scripture.

We hear at every Mass the account of when Jesus took the bread and wine at the Last Supper and gave them to his disciples. He also commanded them to repeat that action in memory of him. We see four very clear accounts of this moment in the scriptures. The first is found in Matthew: “While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’ Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins’” (Matthew 26:26-28).

A second account is found in the Gospel of Mark: “While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, ‘Take it; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, ‘This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many.’ The Gospel of Luke describes it like this: “Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them saying, ‘This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.’ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.’”

The Gospel of John does not contain an explicit Institution Narrative, although the entirety of John 6 is devoted to Jesus’ description of the Eucharist as his true flesh and blood. The fourth narrative is found in St. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians. He wrote, “For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes. Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord.”

St. Paul was not present at the Last Supper with the Twelve Apostles. But it seems to me that this adds even more credibility to his account and the traditional Christian celebration of the Eucharist. He is clear that this story was handed on to him, and he in turn had handed it on to the Corinthians. The celebration of the Eucharistic meal was not invented by the Apostles or by Christians later in history. It has been handed on from the men who were present with Jesus at the last supper, fulfilling his command to remember him through the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. Of course, this celebration is no mere remembering or empty ceremony. As Jesus himself said, the Bread and the Wine are truly his Body and Blood, which were broken and poured out for us on the cross. The Eucharist is clearly described in the scriptures as a sacrament which was instituted by Christ himself.

*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 - December 19th & 20th

Collection numbers for the weekend of December 26th and 27th were unavailable at the time of publication. Please check back next weekend for these collection numbers.

Envelopes:	\$6,991.00
Loose:	\$1,228.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$380.00</u>
Total:	\$8,599.00

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!

November EFT: \$22,471.25



## St. Andre Bessette: Trust and Tiny-ness

Feast Day: January 6th

January 6th is the liturgical date of the feast of the Epiphany, concluding the highest, central part of our Christmas season, our this feast celebrating Our Lord's revelation to the gentiles can be moved to one of the Sundays between January 2nd-8th if (as in our country) it is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

So, we will celebrate the Epiphany this year on Sunday, January 3rd... Which means I can focus this article on St. Andre Bessette because we will be celebrating his feast day this Wednesday, on January

6th. I get the feeling that Andre doesn't mind often being overshadowed by Christ ... I suppose most saints don't, that's probably why they are saints!

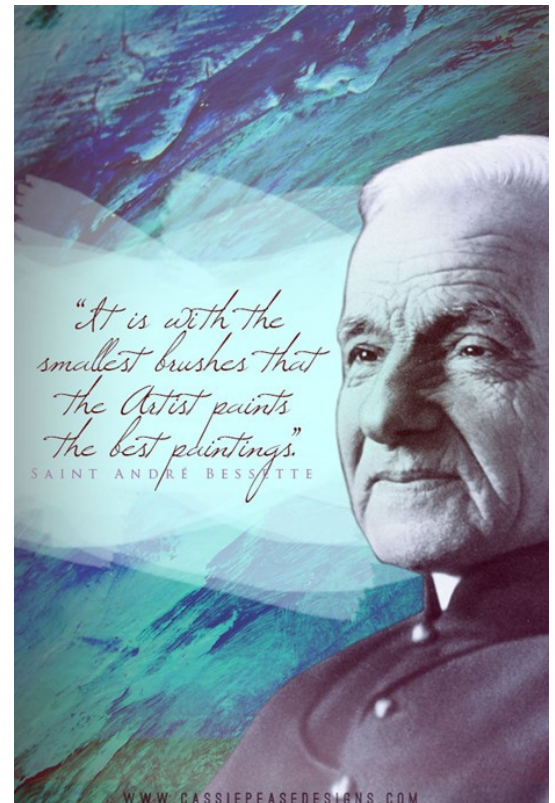
Andre, born Alfred, had been born 40 miles southeast of Montreal, Quebec, grew up in poverty, spent several years in Connecticut trying to work in the textile mills, and then, at the age of 25 walked up to the door of the Congregation of the Holy Cross. His health was frail, he had struggled to hold down a job, he was trying to join an order of teachers but couldn't read and write. His resume was ridiculously short, but he had a note from his parish priest to the superior that said all that mattered: "I am sending you a saint."

What was it that made him a saint? For the next 40 years, assigned as the porter – the brother at the door – of the Congregation's Notre Dame boy's school, he showed us all that it came down to trust. When he didn't have the strength or the mind for religious life, he went anyway, trusting that God would open the way. When he found himself assigned to menial jobs for practically his entire life, he trusted that the Lord would do His work all the same through that. When he was called to visit the sick, amid a pandemic no less, he simply prayed with those afflicted, anointed them with oil from the chapel, and told them to pray to St. Joseph. And, with copious trust, they were all cured, and they began to flock to him as a healer and miracle-worker. In the same way that Our Lord had attracted crowds 1900 years before, reams of people came with their sicknesses and broken hearts to Br. Andre, and he simply pointed them to God, and to St. Joseph.

And that is a final lesson of trust that he teaches us: in 1904, a few years after taking his vows and being assigned as porter, he asked the bishop if he could build a shrine to his favorite saint on the hill overlooking the college. The bishop gave him permission, as long as he did not have to borrow any money. With a whole lot of trust, Br. Andre started collecting nickels and dimes that he earned by giving haircuts to the boys, and gradually a windbreak, then a little shed, and then a small chapel arose upon the hill. It would be 20 years before construction began on what is now a Basilica, called St. Joseph's Oratory. 13 years later, the simple doorman died, and one million people came to his funeral.

Trust, it is the mark of every saint. In St. Andre it was trust in the powerful intercession of St. Joseph. As we plunge into this year of St. Joseph, in what area of your life can you practice trust? Caution: it might mean trusting for decades, but it might also be the source of millions of miracles in your life and in the lives of those you love.

*Fr. Dominic Rankin enters and exits doors approximately 100 times each day. If every one of those were turned into an act of trust in God, he would be as saintly as St. Andre Bessette, St. John Masias, Bl. Josep Tarrats Comaposada, or Bl. Solanas Casey, all of whom were doorkeepers at their monasteries, and became a saint because of it.*



# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### 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 [info.kofc16126@gmail.com](mailto:info.kofc16126@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.

### Carols at Noon

If you missed Carols at Noon on 12/26 at 12pm, you can still enjoy this wonderful concert hosted by our very own Mark Gifford from the comfort of your home! Check both the Sacred Sounds, Sacred Spaces and Cathedral Facebook pages for a recording of this concert.

### 2020 CCCW Raffle Winner

Fr. Peter had the honor of picking the winner of the \$500 gift card raffle on December 15, 2020. Congratulations to our winner Joann Lenn!!!

CCCW would like to thank those who donated gift cards, sold tickets, and purchased tickets. The raffle was a huge success because of your continued support. God bless you all!

### 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 on 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.

### K of C Poster Contest Winners

Cathedral's Knights of Columbus Fr. Tolton Council is proud to announce its local winners of the 2020 Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest. Congratulations to Julia Anselment (age 5-7 category), Claire Anselment (age 8-10 category) and Grace Anselment (age 11-14 category). Each of these entries will move on to District level judging to be held in January. We wish them luck at the next level, but most importantly we appreciate them and the rest of the artists for the time and effort they put in to help make us all more aware of the true meaning of Christmas. All of their entries remain on display in the Atrium and we thank everyone for their contributions!

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Diocese

### March for Life 2021

Due to Covid-19, the March for Life pilgrimage will look a little different this year. Tony Cervený (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 How Catholics Pray - January 13

The Church's prayer life continues to grow and be enriched by the lives of her Lord's example and the experiences of the saints. Join Fr. Michael as he explores some of the wealth of our prayer traditions and learn something also! 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.

### Catholic Times Subscription Renewal

Over the past year, the coronavirus pandemic has magnified the importance of communication. Whether it was announcing the closing and then reopening of the public celebration of Mass, updates on Confirmations, how our schools would reopen safely and responsibly, and how we should respond spiritually to the fear and stress of the pandemic, *Catholic Times* was consistently in your mailbox conveying these critical messages to you and the faithful of our diocese.

*Catholic Times* has been putting a greater emphasis on feature reporting, highlighting the people, parishes, and schools that are building up the Kingdom of God in our diocese. The magazine is also focusing on educating people about the faith through the "Hey, Father!" series and showcasing inspiring stories that provide a much-needed spiritual boost, especially during this uncertain time. New series in *Catholic Times* were also launched this past year including "From the Archives" and the cartoon "One Last Thing." Bishop Paprocki's column is one page 4 of each issue, and is one of the best ways that he can speak to you about the issues that we face as Catholics in Central Illinois and the nation and update you on important decisions he makes that impact the faithful.

*Catholic Times* strives to report on the people and issues in our diocese and the extraordinary work ahead of us. Whether it is your church, your neighbor, or your school, it is important the magazine highlights the incredible life-giving and spiritually giving work our people are doing. The mission of *Catholic Times* is to educate readers about our faith, inspire readers about our faith, and equip readers with information to defend our faith.

Your \$15 annual subscription will help ensure that it remains an inexpensive source of information on the vital issues I have noted. Please renew your subscription in your *Catholic Times* parish envelope during the weekend of January 9-10, or by making a one-time payment online at [www.spicathedral.org/give-online/](http://www.spicathedral.org/give-online/)