

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

DECEMBER 13, 2020 | 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 15

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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.



## Rejoice, the Lord is Near

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. It gets its title from the Entrance Antiphon for Mass: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." (Philippians 4:4-5). Gaudete is the Latin word for 'Rejoice', thus this Sunday being named this way. To highlight this joyful attitude we are commanded to have, the Church permits her clergy to wear rose vestments on this Sunday.

Joy is a word that we often associate with Advent and Christmas. The birth of Jesus was a joyful event. At the Mass during the Night on Christmas, the Gospel from St. Luke recalls that moment when the angel appeared to the shepherds outside of Bethlehem with these words: "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord." (Lk 2:10-11)

Joy is a gift that we all desire, yet it can often be elusive. In our attempt to experience joy, we grasp at things that may bring pleasure and happiness, but we often find that those feelings last only for a while, and we go back to the same source, or look somewhere else to find something that we hope will fulfill us. But true joy is a gift we cannot buy, cannot take, cannot own. Joy is a gift that can only be received from the one who alone can give it, our Lord.

In his homily last Saturday during our Immaculate Conception Novena, Deacon Larry Smith reminded us that joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Just as a piece of fruit cannot come about except from a tree or plant, so too can joy only come from the source which is to be found in God. The more we share in the life of God, living according to His will, following His teachings, and remaining in His grace, the more we will experience the true joy for which our hearts long.

The Sacrament of Confirmation increases the Gifts of the Holy Spirit within us, and the more we allow those gifts to guide us, the more plentiful will be all of the fruits of the Spirit, which, in addition to joy, are as follows: charity, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity. As we slowly read that list, do not our hearts burn within us, desiring to have those fruits a part of our lives? We cannot go to the grocery store to pick up these fruits. We cannot order them on the Internet. We cannot create them with anything that we have. Only God can give this gift. And the good news is this: He wants to give these fruits to us in abundance! With that in mind, how can we not rejoice?

As we continue our Advent journey toward Christmas, in addition to praying: "Come, Lord, Jesus", let us be quick to add: "Come, Holy Spirit", that our hearts will not put up any resistance to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, which will yield an abundant harvest of His fruits for us to enjoy.

*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, December 14

7am - Ralph Walter, Sr.  
(Jean Moss)  
5:15pm - Rosemary Patton  
(Rob & Jan Sgambelluri)

### Tuesday, December 15

7am - Doris Drea  
(Missouri AFL-CIO)  
5:15pm - Ben Garding  
(Family)

### Wednesday, December 16

7am - Ryan Williams  
(LouAnn & Carl Corrigan)  
5:15pm - Helen Ziegler  
(William & Debra Stonikas)

### Thursday, December 17

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
5:15pm - Lemuel Moss  
(Jean Moss)

### Friday, December 18

7am - Joseph Klein  
(Andrew & Cheryl Klein Family)  
5:15pm - Victoria Selburg  
(Bernie Ely)

### Saturday, December 19

8am - Frank Coffey  
(Family)  
4pm - Barbara J. McGrath  
(Family & Friends)

### Sunday, December 20

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(William Midden)  
10am - For the People  
5pm - Presca F. Simbajon  
(Lolita F. Klicker)





## A Sacred Anointing

In his article last week, Fr. Alford reflected on the use of the Sacred Chrism in the three of the sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. When I was ordained a priest in June, Bishop Paprocki smeared the Sacred Chrism on the palms of my hands to set them apart for the ministerial priesthood of Jesus, making them holy to consecrate the Eucharist and forgive sins. The Sacred Chrism carries a distinctly beautiful smell, which can often be smelled on a newly baptized baby's head for the rest of the day after his or her baptism! Unfortunately for me and my classmates, we had to use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before distributing Communion at our ordination Mass, so the smell of Chrism was gone before Mass was even over. But the important part is that our hands were consecrated, and we were ordained priests! There is a tradition that after receiving a priest's first blessing, the one receiving the blessing kisses the palms of the new priest's hands. COVID mostly prevented that tradition this time around, but once again, I am grateful to have been ordained a priest even during a pandemic.

Whenever I have the privilege of receiving a new child into the Church through baptism, I anoint the baby on the top of the head with this same Sacred Chrism which was used at my priestly ordination. The smell of the Chrism on my thumb reminds me of my ordination, and I hope it always does. The distinct smell comes from the sweet-smelling balsam perfume which is added to olive or vegetable oil when it is consecrated by the Bishop at the Chrism Mass the week before Easter. It is interesting that this annual Mass, an ancient Christian tradition, draws its name from the Chrism itself. This shows just how important this sacred oil is in the life of the Church. This Mass is the occasion for all the priests of the diocese to renew their promises to the bishop, and the unity of the diocese under one bishop is strengthened and reaffirmed. I'm looking forward to my first Chrism Mass as a priest, which I hope to attend during Holy Week of 2021.



Bishop Paprocki uses Sacred Chrism to anoint the hands of newly-ordained Fr. Dominic Vahling.

The scent of Chrism has even worked its way into other parts of our society. It is common to find candles, essential oils, and even beard balm that have been scented with the sweet balsam commonly used for the Sacred Chrism. The Church, in her wisdom, knows how to use beautiful things for the glory of God, even something simple like a sweet perfume. This sweetness signifies the love that God has for each one of us, his children!

*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 5th & 6th

Envelopes:	\$8,696.00
Loose:	\$2,099.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$625.00</u>
Total:	\$11,420.00
November EFT:	\$22,471.25

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. John of the Cross

**Feast Day: December 13**

Today I want to tell the story of a sketch. Of course, it has to do with the saint we celebrate this week – St. John of the Cross – but I think it captures so much of his heart and mysticism and sanctity, that it offers all of us a chance to follow after him on the road to heaven.

Juan was born in Spain in 1542, which means he entered a divided and violent world. Martin Luther would die 4 years later, unreconciled to the Catholic Church, and having set in motion the protestant reformation that would fracture Christianity, and insight the bloody religious then starting around Europe. Of course, much of Luther's complaints stemmed from real abuses that marred the mystical body of Christ, but, as always, the call of Christians is to assist Our Lord in building up the Church, never in tearing it asunder. Don't abandon, assist. Don't complain, cleanse. Don't reject, reform. Don't leave, love.

That call was heard by John of the Cross. It was heard by many saints that appeared during these trying years. St. Philip Neri, St. Charles Borromeo, St. Francis Xavier, St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Thomas More, St. John Fisher, St. Francis de Sales, St. Peter Canisius, Pope St. Pius V, St. Theresa of Avila... All these and more would be God's beacons of sanctity in the midst of a terrible century. God never leaves, He just keeps loving.

But back to St. John, and his drawing. At the age of 21, John entered the Carmelite Order and began his study of theology and philosophy, culminating in his ordination as a Carmelite priest in 1567. Seeing the depravity and laxity rampant around him, John seriously considered leaving them to become a Carthusian, but God had other plans. The young priest encountered a Carmelite nun, Teresa of Ávila, and was captivated by her dream to reform the Carmelite order. Don't leave, love.

In their efforts to reform the order, John (now "of the Cross") would be suppressed, then imprisoned, even tortured, and would travel many thousands of kilometers founding and leading the struggling communities, in the end being completely exhausted by his efforts. But finally in 1580, the Discalced Carmelites (literally meaning "un-shod", referring to their taking up the original penance of the Carmelites to not wear shoes) were approved as a new branch of the order by Pope Gregory XIII. It was during these, his final years that he composed Living Flame of Love, his shortest poem, but hauntingly poignant. If I might be bold, it could also be summarized: Don't leave, love.

*1. Oh, living flame of love*

*That tenderly woundest my soul in its deepest centre,  
Since thou art no longer oppressive, perfect me now if it be thy will,  
Break the web of this sweet encounter.*

*2. Oh, sweet burn! Oh, delectable wound!*

*Oh, soft hand! Oh, delicate touch  
That savours of eternal life and pays every debt!  
In slaying, thou hast changed death into life.*

*3. Oh, lamps of fire,*

*In whose splendours the deep caverns of sense  
Which were dark and blind with strange brightness  
Give heat and light together to their Beloved!*

*4. How gently and lovingly thou awakenest in my bosom,*

*Where thou dwellest secretly and alone!  
And in thy sweet breathing, full of blessing and glory,  
How delicately thou inspirest my love!*

But what about that sketch? For that we have to go back to those first years after meeting Teresa. He had just barely decided not to become a Carthusian. He had yet to be beaten by his own brothers. He had yet to crisscross Spain. And yet, as he wedged himself in the choir loft in Ávila, his prayer carried him to the cross, and then up over it, to see it as the Father did.

Christ hangs in darkness and suffering, spurned and provoked ... but He did not leave, He loved.

The Father glances down, His greatest gift rejected ... but He didn't leave, He loved.

The Spirit is poured forth, upon a world torn and terrible ... but He didn't leave, He loved.

And so did John, and so must we.



Drawing of the Crucifixion, St. John of the Cross, 1574/77.

Fr. Dominic Rankin often simply looks at the crucifix if prayer isn't easy, and he recently discovered that the Heavenly Father, speaking to St. John, Himself encourages just that: "Fasten your eyes on him alone because in him I have spoken and revealed all, and in him you will discover even more than you ask for and desire ... If you desire me to answer with a word of comfort, behold my Son subject to me and to others out of love for me, and afflicted, and you will see how much he answers you." [Ascent of Mt. Carmel, St. John of the Cross, chapter 22, 5-6]

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### Christmas Masses at the Cathedral

The Christmas Mass schedule at the Cathedral will be as follows:

Christmas Eve (12/24) - 4pm, 7pm, 9pm

Christmas Day (12/25) - Midnight, 7am, 9am

Both the 4pm Mass on Christmas Eve and the Midnight Mass on Christmas morning will be available via livestream. Please watch our website, Facebook page, and email communications for more information regarding reservations for Christmas Masses.

### 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.

### 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.

### CCCW Cancellations

The CCCW has regrettably cancelled their annual Cookie Walk/Sale this year. The CCCW meeting scheduled for December 15th has also been cancelled.

### Memorial Mass for Pius Chineke

You are invited to attend a Memorial Mass for Pius Chineke, the father of Fr. Peter Chineke. Join us on Tuesday, December 15th @ 10:00am in the Cathedral church.

### CCCW Gift Card Raffle

The ladies of CCCW will be selling raffle tickets for \$500.00 worth of gift cards after all the masses this weekend. Tickets are 6 chances for \$5.00 or 1 chance for \$1.00. The drawing will be held on Tuesday, December 15. Proceeds will be used for scholarships for continuing Catholic Education. As always, thank you for your support.

### Carols at Noon

While we may not be able to gather for our annual Carols at Noon concert this year, you will still be able to enjoy this wonderful concert hosted by our very own Mark Gifford from the comfort of your home! A recording will be available for viewing beginning at noon on Saturday, December 26 on both the Sacred Sounds, Sacred Spaces and Cathedral Facebook pages. Be sure to tune in!

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Diocese

### **Second Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious - December 12th & 13th**

In his letter to the Galatians, St. Paul urges us to remain steadfast in helping others: "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up" (Gal 6:9). During these unprecedented times, many are hurting and need our assistance, including elderly religious. As you may know, senior religious were instrumental in establishing Catholic schools, hospitals, and charitable agencies. Often this progress came at great sacrifice, and many older sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little to no pay.

Today, hundreds of religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for a growing number of elder members. Covid-19 has only increased the challenge to provide adequate care. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more.

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 Retirement Fund for Religious Collection.

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

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

### **Be Not Afraid to PRAY BIG!**

We currently have 16 seminarians, which is great! But wouldn't 40 be better?? YES!!! We invite you to pray a Hail Mary EVERY DAY at 4:40 for our diocese to have 40 seminarians. 4:40 for 40 Seminarians!

### **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 Infancy Narratives of Matthew and Luke - December 16th**

The Gospels of Mark and John do not mention the Nativity of Jesus and Matthew and Luke offer some surprisingly different details. In preparation for the celebration of Christmas, Fr. Chris will explore the similarities and the differences surrounding the birth of Jesus in these two Gospels accounts. 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.

### **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!