

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

DECEMBER 20, 2020 | 4TH 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 16

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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.





## Slowing Down

This past week, I had the opportunity to make my annual retreat. I had hoped to take it at two different times earlier in the year, but the circumstances demanded that I cancel. I can see the Providence in all of this, though, as Advent can be a very special time for making a retreat, as it is a great way to prepare for Christmas. For the first two years of my priesthood, I took my annual retreat right after Christmas, which enabled me to slow down and rest in the beauty of the season. Having had those fruitful experiences, I had no doubt that being on retreat before Christmas would likewise be fruitful.

Harkening back to those first two retreats, I recall vividly the location that I chose, the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, Alabama. You may be more familiar with this location as the place where Mother Angelica, founder of EWTN, lived for the final several years of her life. She had a great devotion to the Divino Niño, the Divine Child, which you could see throughout the shrine. It was always a wonderful thing to meditate there on the littleness of the child Jesus and His desire to be near to us.

Several years ago, I came across a little meditation that Mother Angelica composed about the Birth of Christ. And even if you are not able to make a retreat before Christmas, maybe you can use this meditation and take some time in silence, possibly before a Nativity scene, and make your final preparations to welcome Christ more deeply into your hearts this Christmas:



The Birth of Christ  
(A Meditation by Mother Angelica)

"...Suddenly the whole cave is filled with the most brilliant light: beautiful and soft. At the end of the cave is Mary. She is kneeling and she has the most lovely infant in her arms. My heart begins to pound with joy and I say to her, 'May I touch him?' She says, 'Yes. Don't be afraid. This is why He came so that you would see your God in the flesh and never be afraid again.' I go to grasp His hand and instead He clasps my little finger and holds it so tight. I realize how much God loves me – that He would come in such tiny form to such a cold, simple place. That He would consent to be so dependent on His creatures: Mary and Joseph to give Him food and drink and to care for Him. This God who created the whole universe is dependent upon two creatures, all out of love for me."

On behalf of the entire Cathedral clergy and staff, I wish all of you many blessings as you prepare to remember the Birth of our Savior on Christmas!

*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 21

7am - Mary Kay Buller Harrelson  
(Bev & Larry Hoffman)  
5:15pm - Richiua & Leo Families

### Tuesday, December 22

7am - Helene O'Shea  
(Bud O'Shea)  
5:15pm - Margaret Graham  
(Tom McGee)

### Wednesday, December 23

7am - Deceased Members of the CCCW (CCCW)  
5:15pm - Kristin King  
(Dick & Kay King)

### Thursday, December 24

4pm - John D. Sullivan  
(Jan Norris)  
7pm - Rita DesMarteau  
(Family)  
9pm - Diana J. Schumacher  
(Daniel J. Schumacher)

### Friday, December 25

12am - John Montgomery  
(John Busciacco)  
7am - Sophia E. Bartoletti  
(Family)  
9am - Barbara McGee  
(Tom McGee)

### Saturday, December 26

8am - Irene Doellman  
(Blessed Sacrament Parish)  
4pm - Thomas Rapps  
(Carolyn Yoggerst)

### Sunday, December 27

7am - Honor of the Holy Family  
(John Busciacco)  
10am - George Zeigler  
(William & Debra Stonikas)  
5pm - For the People



## Where is Confirmation in the Scriptures?

One of the trademarks of the seven sacraments is that they were all “instituted by Christ.” This is a fancy way of saying that Jesus began all of the seven sacraments, and they were not a later development of the Church. The Church has developed many forms of devotion over the centuries such as the Rosary and the different expressions of our liturgy. Even our frequency of the celebration of the seven sacraments has changed, but the sacraments themselves have been the same since the beginning.

Since we are studying the sacrament of Confirmation during December, I thought it would be helpful to look into the scriptural foundations of this sacrament of the Holy Spirit. Admittedly, Jesus’ institution of Confirmation is not as clear as his institution of baptism. However, the Church has always seen Jesus’ promise to send the Holy Spirit as the institution of Confirmation. He said, “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it.” This promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, when the small but mighty Church received the gift of the Holy Spirit to be sent out on mission.

The Apostles clearly understood the necessity of administering Confirmation after a Christian was baptized. During a persecution of Christians in Jerusalem, Philip (one of the original seven deacons), found himself in Samaria and began to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Great crowds of people were converted, and Philip the Deacon baptized many of them. However, when the Apostles heard about the success of Philip’s preaching, they sent Peter and John to pray that the new Christians would receive the Holy Spirit. We read in the Acts of the Apostles,

*“Peter and John went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit” (Acts 8: 15-17).*

It’s a bit odd to think that these Christians were baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, yet our scriptures say that they had not yet received the Holy Spirit! This needs to be properly understood, because we know that when we receive the gift of baptism, the Holy Trinity begins to dwell within us through the gift of sanctifying grace. Baptism is only a beginning, whereas Confirmation is a sacrament of Christian maturity and the gift of the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Christian life is all about growing in God’s love, and until we die, our goal should be to receive more and more of this love every day! Confirmation gives an increase of God’s love and a strengthening of his gifts within us so that we can more effectively practice our charisms to build up the Church and use the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit to grow in holiness. Let us lean on the strength of God, knowing that he has strengthened us in Confirmation!

*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 12th & 13th

Envelopes:	\$4,273.00
Loose:	\$1,591.00
Maintenance:	\$150.00
Total:	\$6,014.00
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 Kenty

**Feast Day: December 23rd**

Today we take ourselves back more than 600 years ago to the village of Kenty, in southern Poland (actually, only a handful of miles from where St. John Paul II grew up, though also very near to where the Nazi's would establish the Auschwitz concentration camp). It is one of the oldest established cities in Poland, tracing its founding back to 1277, but a century later, when Jan (John) was born, it was still a fairly small place, with little to indicate all that would come from the new little boy.

As always, perhaps the first thing that strikes us about any saint is the famous things they did or characteristics that marked them. John was an intelligent young man, and ended up attending university at the Academy of Krakow (later to become the Jagiellonian University), which is the second oldest university in Europe, and would over the course of 6+ centuries of teaching, graduate countless prestigious alumni. A few highlights include figures such as Nicolas Copernicus (discovered heliocentrism), St. Stanislaus Kazimierz (tremendous, saintly priest), King John Sobieski (who is depicted in one of our stained glass windows in the Cathedral), Karol Wojtyla (who became Pope John Paul II), as well as our own Bishop Paprocki.

Back to Jan though, he showed his mettle as a student in philosophy, theology, scripture, spirituality, and all the sorts of things you might expect a soon-to-be-ordained young man to. He also became known for his generosity and compassion towards the poor, especially, as he became a professor soon at that same university, for the students who attended his classes, for their spiritual, academic, and physical needs. His patience and holiness were shown in a different light when he was jealously ousted from the university and sent off to be a parish priest, where the famous scholar happily cared for a little flock until restored to his place at the Jagiellonian. And, of course, a bit of poverty and simplicity also marked his life: he was known to eat very simply, went on pilgrimage to Rome and Jerusalem (carrying everything he needed on his back, though he didn't have a whole lot since he gave away most of his possessions to those who needed them more than he.) He's, not surprisingly, the patron Saint of Teachers, Students, Priests and Pilgrims, which means he's a patron for almost all of us!

But I want to direct our attention here to a different interest of his life: he helped develop further Fr. Jean Buridan's theory of impetus. Now, I suspect none of us have heard of Kenty, perhaps not John of Kenty either, and most probably not Jean Buridan and his theory of impetus. But, this philosopher and physicist and priest developed a revision of the long-held Aristotelian understanding of motion (which assumed that the air/atmosphere somehow kept things moving because something had to), and instead proposed that an object's motion is imparted to it by some mover, and is proportional to the speed, and mass, that the object has (minus the resistance that air imparts). John of Kenty (I should mention, also known as St. John Cantius, the patron of the order of priests who are our nearest neighbors over at Sacred Heart), a priest, a pilgrim, a professor, and a pauper, was also a physicist, and made significant contributions to a theory that would later develop into Newton's understanding of inertia, and all the way into the classical physics we all learn in school.

What's the takeaway? Holiness doesn't mean you have to be boring. The interests, ideas, inspirations, and other things that fill your heart have a place in heaven. Give thanks to the giver of those gifts today, and use them for His glory!

*Fr. Dominic Rankin spent a lot of hours growing up with lego's, erector sets, k'nex, and other such construction/mechanical-creation sorts of toys. He does not have as much time as then to tinker with things, but continues to be entranced by physics, astronomy, aeronautics, electricity, robotics, etc. He hasn't yet made a major scientific breakthrough, but wouldn't mind if that became a small part of his walk towards holiness one day.*

# 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

Due to the high demand for the 4PM Mass on Christmas Eve and the Midnight Mass on Christmas Day, a signup is required for these masses. To make a reservation, please visit our website.

Both of these masses will also be available via livestream. Because there is a Mask Mandate in effect for the City of Springfield, masks are required at all times while at the Cathedral, including for the duration of Mass.

### 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.

### 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!

### Cathedral Nativity Festival

To celebrate the Christmas season, Cathedral will be hosting a Virtual Nativity Festival. It's easy to participate. Simply take a photo of your favorite nativity set and send it to us with a paragraph explaining why it is so special to you and your family. Between Christmas and Epiphany we'll send a daily Flocknote email to all our parishioners featuring one special nativity. Send your submission to Vicki at [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org). Thanks for your participation!

### 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.

### 2020 Christmas Food Baskets

Dear Friends, please help a struggling family this Christmas season. In a laundry basket, Rubbermaid type bin, or a cardboard box, please collect the below suggested menu items:

1 box of cereal	1 box breakfast bars
1 pancake mix & syrup	2 cans vegetables
1 drink mix (coffee, tea, kool aid, etc)	1 bag or box of snacks
3 boxes macaroni & cheese	1 bag or box of potatoes
2 cans baked beans	1 box spaghetti noodles
1 pkg muffin mix	1 can spaghetti sauce
1 pkg of cookies	2 cans of fruit
1 jar of peanut butter	1 pkg of sugar
1 jar of jelly	1 box of crackers
2 jello or pudding mixes	2 cans of soup
1 box or bag of rice	1 box of hot cocoa mix

#### Additional Items to Include:

Holiday Ham, margarine, sliced cheese, load of bread, cake, pies

Toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels, bath soap, dish and/or laundry soap

An aluminum pan to bake the turkey

Feel free to add extra holiday treats, napkins & decorations to make this a special Christmas!

Any and all donations of food are very much appreciated. Completed baskets, or any items to fill the baskets, can be dropped off at Holy Family Food Pantry, 120 S. 11th St. from now until Dec 17th between 8:00am and 1:00pm. If you need to make other arrangements for drop off, please call 217-523-4551. May God bless all your efforts to help those less fortunate!



# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Diocese

### Christmas Collection: Catholic Children's Home December 24th & 25th

*Psalm 127:3 "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him."*

The Catholic Children's Home has served as a 'beacon of hope' for thousands of children for the past 141 years. Since 1879, through the Spanish Flu in 1918 to the Coronavirus in 2020, the Catholic Children's Home has been there to give the love and compassion these children desperately need.

Today, the Catholic Children's Home continues this mission by meeting the emotional, social, academic and basic needs of all the children sent for residential care or special education services, including our newest program designed to serve the needs of children faced with the tremendous challenges of Autism.

The children of Catholic Children's Home have been chronically abused, designated "unmanageable" by their schools, or simply have had no place to call home. They are some of the most vulnerable in our society. The holidays are a particularly difficult time of year for these youth.

May God touch your hearts with his grace and mercy during these Advent and Christmas days.

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 Catholic Children's Home Collection.

Envelopes: Include a separate check in your regular envelope and specify that the second check is for the Catholic Children's Home 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

#### 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.

### 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!