

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**DECEMBER 6, 2020 | 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



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CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342  
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

# Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 14

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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.



## Be Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit

With the recent mitigations in place to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our state, we had to make the difficult decision to suspend several of our in-person activities for Faith Formation, including our Family of Faith program for our children. But we can see God's Providence working in having our parish switch to this model last year, giving our families the experience to undertake the important work of faith formation in their homes, the domestic church. Even though we are not gathering physically as a group, we continue to move forward!

As we move into December, the sacrament of the month is the Sacrament of Confirmation. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism, so it is only logical that we focus on this sacrament after having just completed a month with Baptism. I would like to focus on what is called the "essential rite" of Confirmation, which is what is absolutely necessary for the sacrament to be conferred validly. Here is what the Catechism says:

*The essential rite of the sacrament follows. In the Latin rite, "the sacrament of Confirmation is conferred through the anointing with chrism on the forehead, which is done by the laying on of the hand, and through the words: 'Accipe signaculum doni Spiritus Sancti' [Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit]."* (CCC 1300)

The use of Sacred Chrism for this sacrament is worth reflecting on for a moment. This holy oil is used anytime the Church consecrates somebody for a special mission. At Baptism, the newly baptized anointed with Sacred Chrism and is set apart as a child of God, called to live a life of holiness and to one day be in Heaven. Confirmation sets us apart for the spreading and defending of the faith, aided by the new outpouring of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Bishops and Priests are anointed with Sacred Chrism at their ordination, signifying that they are set apart for their participation in the ministerial priesthood of Jesus Christ in service to the people of God, especially through the celebration of the sacraments.

Sacred Chrism is also used to consecrate things. In particular, it is used to consecrate churches and altars, for these are set aside for the purpose of offering a sacred place in which to worship God and to offer the sacrifice of the Mass. Just this past week, on December 2, we celebrated the Anniversary of the Re-Dedication of our Cathedral. One of the greatest parts of that ceremony was the consecration of the new altar. I remember vividly that moment of the Mass as Archbishop Lucas spread the Sacred Chrism all over the altar, creating that beautiful aroma that comes from that holy oil. Since that day, the altar has served its purpose of being a place set apart for God. May we recall the day of our Confirmation (if we have been confirmed) and ask for the grace to rededicate ourselves to living our vocation to be set apart for the spreading and defending the faith in our daily lives, confident of the power of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to assist us.

*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 7

7am - William F. Logan  
(Lisa Logan & Lori Motyka)  
5:15pm - Patria & Rufino Gotanco  
(Joe & Hati Uy)

### Tuesday, December 8

7am - For the People  
12:05pm - Boyd Warner  
(Sue Warner & Family)  
5:15pm - Bobby House  
(Family)

### Wednesday, December 9

7am - Betty & Gene Barish  
(Family)  
5:15pm - Shirley Logan  
(Lisa Logan & Lori Motyka)

### Thursday, December 10

7am - Steve Hergenrother  
(Thomas Hergenrother)  
5:15pm - Mathias Bates  
(Bates Family)

### Friday, December 11

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
5:15pm - Special Intention for  
Bianca (D.A. Drago)

### Saturday, December 12

8am - Helen Zeigler  
(William & Debra Stonikas)  
4pm - Becky Morgan  
(Carol Morgan)

### Sunday, December 13

7am - For the People  
10am - Fr. Eugene Prindiville, OMI  
(Rebecca & Woody Woodhull)  
5pm - Anne Gustafon  
(Jeannette Giannone)





## Who is Confirming Whom?

This month we are focusing on the Sacrament of Confirmation in our bulletin columns. For several years now, the parishes of our diocese have been in the process of implementing the “restored order” of the Sacraments of Initiation. Confirmation is the second sacrament of Initiation, which is why it is more appropriate to receive it before receiving first Holy Communion.

There is a mistaken understanding that some hold in our Church today, which comes from the meaning of the word “Confirmation.” Confirmation in this sense means a strengthening or fortifying. It's like putting a spiritual suit of armor on a new Christian! Because Confirmation was given around the time of adolescence for several decades in the United States, the understanding has been flip-flopped. I remember at the time I was Confirmed that my classmates and I understood that we were confirming our belief in Jesus. This is obviously a very good thing to do, and one that we do every day as Christians. However, receiving a sacrament is not about what we do for God, but what God does for us.

This misunderstanding is not a new idea in the Church, and even the Council of Trent (around 1550) spoke about this. One of the statements of this ecumenical council was, “If anyone says that the Confirmation of those who have been baptized is a catechism whereby those near adolescence give an account of their faith in the face of the Church, let him be anathema.” This is a normal formula used by Church councils to explain that an idea is not in accord with the Catholic Faith. This statement was a response to some Christians who believed that while Baptism was a sacrament, Confirmation was not a true sacrament and was simply a way for youth to express their faith.

As with all the sacraments, it is important to keep in mind that the sacraments impart God's divine life to us. Expressing our faith is, of course, an essential part of the Christian life, but sacraments are all about receptivity. Some Christian traditions give babies Confirmation in the same ceremony as Baptism, which really emphasizes the receptive aspect of the sacraments!

More and more dioceses are moving to implement the restored order of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist around the country. Hopefully younger children receiving this great sacrament will be more receptive than older teenagers who have often already checked out of their faith life or abandoned it altogether. Every day, we should ask the Holy Spirit to be with us and fill with his love which was increased and strengthened in our reception of the sacrament of Confirmation.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

*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 21st & 22nd

Envelopes:	\$5,100.00
Loose:	\$310.00
Maintenance:	\$60.00
Total:	\$5,470.00

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!

### Stewardship of Treasure November 28th & 29th

Envelopes:	\$3,896.00
Loose:	\$1,281.00
Maintenance:	\$100.00
Total:	\$5,277.00

November EFT: \$22,471.25



## St. Ambrose: Silence, Scripture, and Song

**Feast Day: December 7th**

On April 4th in the year 397, early on Easter Saturday, the Bishop Ambrose of Milan was dying. His life was marvelous. He had been elected to the episcopacy by popular acclaim (before he was baptized! He had to receive all his sacraments on top of each other before being ordained bishop), fought heresies (Arianism especially, which said Jesus was not truly God), stood up to emperors (Theodosius I, for persecuting Jews and massacring the Thessalonians), and brought about the conversion of St. Augustine (of course, with the help of St. Monica's prayers).

I could speak on any of those tremendous accomplishments, but today I rejoice to stick to a simple part of his life. As he lay on his deathbed, Paulinus, his deacon, who was with him in his final moments, records: "we saw his lips moving ... but we could not hear his voice" [St. Paulinus, Life of Ambrose]. It would not be a noticeable comment – perhaps these were Ambrose's final whispered prayers – except for the fact that St. Augustine had written a similar line about Ambrose, his great mentor and friend, many years before:

*When [Ambrose] read, his eyes scanned the page and his heart sought out the meaning, but his voice was silent and his tongue was still. Anyone could approach him freely and guests were not commonly announced, so that often, when we came to visit him, we found him reading like this in silence, for he never read aloud. [St. Augustine, Confessions, Book 3, Chapter 6]*

At that time, surprisingly enough, it was uncommon for anyone to read silently. We have a few records of others in the ancient world who did so, but otherwise, the vast majority of everyone who could read, only did so out loud. Even if someone were just reading by themselves, they would still vocalize the words, or a person would have someone else read to them.

Now, that would remain just an interesting factoid except for the tremendous fact that Christianity is a religion of the Word, and Ambrose's practice came from his love for the Word of God. Augustine also tells us that Ambrose, when he was consecrated bishop, immediately sold practically all the possessions he had (as an orator and governor) except for his books. He was a very literate and studious man, but as a bishop, and saint-in-the-making, this was his choice to prioritize the Word of God over even all the other books that he treasured. His labor over the books of scripture each day – the Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Matthew, Luke... – these were His daily sustenance and informed every other aspect of his life. His courage, eloquence, simplicity, wisdom, hymnody, and generosity ... all flowed from his being saturated by the Bible.

We call Ambrose a doctor of the Church because this biblical foundation to his life flowed forth in his teaching, and his composition of some of the greatest hymns the Church has. Both are splendid tapestries of word, woven from the threads of scripture, and they have given Ambrose the nickname "honey-tongued" (for this reason he is the patron of beekeepers... Things you learn!) I will leave you with one of his best hymns, perfect for our continued meditation this Advent. (The language is even more splendid in its original Latin!)

*Veni, Redemptor Gentium*

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| <p>1. Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,<br/>and manifest thy virgin-birth:<br/>let every age adoring fall;<br/>such birth befits the God of all.</p> <p>2. Begotten of no human will,<br/>But of the Spirit, Thou art still<br/>The Word of God in flesh arrayed,<br/>The promised fruit to men displayed.</p> | <p>3. The virgin womb that burden gained<br/>With virgin honor all unstained;<br/>The banners there of virtue glow;<br/>God in His temple dwells below.</p> <p>4. Forth from His chamber goeth He,<br/>That royal home of purity,<br/>A giant in two-fold substance one,<br/>Rejoicing now His course to run.</p> <p>5. From God the Father He proceeds,<br/>To God the Father back He speeds;<br/>His course He runs to death and hell,<br/>Returning on God's throne to dwell.</p> | <p>6. O equal to the Father, Thou!<br/>Gird on Thy fleshly mantle now;<br/>The weakness of our mortal state<br/>With deathless might invigorate.</p> <p>7. Thy cradle here shall glitter bright<br/>And darkness breathe a newer light,<br/>Where endless faith shall shine serene,<br/>And twilight never intervene.</p> |
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Fr. Dominic Rankin always struggles to answer the question "what kind of music do you like?" I like many classical pieces, especially orchestral works, certainly sacred music and Gregorian chant, Christian singers, some pop pieces, many different vocal groups/individuals, especially acapella and what is unhelpfully described as "easy listening". What is a song that you are grateful for? Let me know, I want to give it a listen! For now, enjoy a video of Ambrose's

*Veni, Redemptor Omnium*



Mosaic of St. Ambrose, Basilica di Sant'Ambrogio, Milan, Italy, 5th century.  
[http://milanoarcheologia.beniculturali.it/?page\\_id=4296](http://milanoarcheologia.beniculturali.it/?page_id=4296)



# 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.

### Extended Hours for Confession - December 11th & 12th

The Cathedral will be offering extended hours for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent on Friday, December 11th and Saturday, December 12. On December 11, confessions will be held from 12pm to 8pm, and on December 12 they will be held from 7:30am to 6pm. Please take advantage of this opportunity to deepen your relationship with God and to receive the gift of grace which God desires to bestow upon his children through the Sacraments.

### 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. 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 this weekend and next. Tickets are 6 chances for \$5.00 or 1 chance for \$1.00. Proceeds will be used for scholarships for continuing Catholic Education. 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

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

# 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](http://benotafraid.dio.org) to explore and experience your fears and find resources so you can have peace, hope, and courage.

### 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.

### 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).

### 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!

### Springfield Catholic Charities Christmas Toy Store

The Springfield Catholic Charities Christmas Toy Store is in need of volunteers to help sort and distribute donated toys to families in need on December 10th and 11th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (end time may vary). The toy store will be set up at the St. Cabrini gym, 1020 N. Milton in Springfield. The 10th will consist of setting the toy store up and on the 11th we will distribute the toys to parents. Lunch will be provided both days. This year will look a little different as we are improvising for COVID-19. Toys will be pre-bagged and picked up by parents at the back door of the St. Cabrini parish hall. This will be implemented to minimize individuals inside the parish hall. Masks, hand sanitizer and gloves will be available for all volunteers. Please share to help us get the word out and if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Robyn Matson at [matson\\_spfld@cc.dio.org](mailto:matson_spfld@cc.dio.org) or at 217-523-4551 ext. 113

### 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!