

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**JANUARY 10, 2021 | THE BAPTISM 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 2

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

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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.



## The Symbol of the Dove

In the Gospel account for this Sunday's Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we hear the following words immediately after John baptized Jesus in the Jordan:

*On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. (Mark 1:10)*

The symbol of the dove is very interesting, and it has been

interpreted in various ways throughout the history of the Church, especially by the Church Fathers (those who wrote much closer to the time of the life of Jesus). One summary from a modern commentary describes the symbol of the dove in this way:

*The Fathers usually interpret the dove as a symbol of peace and reconciliation between God and men. It first appears in the account of the flood (Gen 8:10-11) as a sign that God's punishment of mankind has come to an end. Its presence at the beginning of Christ's public ministry symbolizes the peace and reconciliation he will bring. - Saint Mark's Gospel, The Navarre Bible (Dublin; New York: Four Courts Press; Scepter Publishers, 2005), 53-54.*

Another explanation can be found in the writings of St. Bede the Venerable, who comments on the nature of the dove and how it applies to how we should live in imitation of Christ whose life we share through Baptism:

*The image of a dove is placed before us by God so that we may learn the simplicity favored by him. So let us meditate on the nature of the dove, that from each one of its features of innocence we may learn the principles of a more becoming life. The dove is a stranger to malice. So may all bitterness, anger and indignation be taken away from us, together with all malice. The dove injures nothing with its mouth or talons, nor does it nourish itself or its young on tiny mice or grubs, as do almost all smaller birds. Let us see that our teeth are not weapons and arrows. -St. Bede the Venerable, Homilies on the Gospels*

A final interesting interpretation concerns the numbers associated with the Greek letters for the dove. The following summary expresses the view proposed by St. Irenaeus:

*One possible reason for the use of the word 'dove' to describe how the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus has to do with gematria - the assignment of numerical equivalents to letters. The letters of this word, 'dove' in Greek form the numerical sum of 801. 801 is also the numerical sum of the Greek letters alpha and omega. Therefore the description of the dove could mean that the one on whom the dove descends was the Alpha and the Omega - an identification the Bible ascribes to Jesus (Rev. 1:8; 21:6; 22:13) -Michael S. Heiser article in Bible Study Magazine, Nov / Dec 2017, 9*

Is there one absolutely correct way of understanding the symbol of the dove? Probably not, but what they all have in common is that they all point to Christ. As we come to the end of the Christmas Season, let us pray that when people study our lives, they will see that everything that we say and do points to Christ and reflects the gift of His life that He has given to us through the sacraments.

*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 11

7am - Tony Forlano, Sr.  
(John Busicacco)  
5:15pm - Richard Judd  
(Carl & LouAnn Corrigan)

### Tuesday, January 12

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
5:15pm - Florence Travis  
(Lou Ann Mack Corrigan)

### Wednesday, January 13

7am - Repose of the Soul of Averil  
Rossiter (Jane Fornoff)  
5:15pm - Special Intention for  
Richard and Kay King (Kathy  
Howard)

### Thursday, January 14

7am - Sophia E. Bartoletti  
(Bartoletti Family)  
5:15pm - Lawrence Jaros  
(Katie Konsky & Family)

### Friday, January 15

7am - Bonnie Donnals  
(Roberts Family)  
5:15pm - Frank Orris, Jr.  
(Phil & Celeste Furmanek)

### Saturday, January 16

8am - Diana Schumacher  
(Daniel Schumacher)  
4pm - Deceased Members of the  
McGee, Sheweska, & Kaufman  
Families (Susan Ochoa)

### Sunday, January 17

7am - Deceased Members of the  
Bee Family (Mark & Sharon Price)  
10am - For the People  
5pm - Special Intention for Carlos  
Khairallah (Carlos Khairallah)





## How Can Jesus Give Us His Flesh to Eat?!

Last week, I gave some examples of when Jesus “instituted” (started or began) the celebration of the Eucharist in the Scriptures. I mentioned that the Gospel of John does not show Jesus doing this at the last Supper, but the entirety of John Chapter 6 is devoted to Jesus’ extensive teaching on and explanation of the Eucharist. This was something that was hard for many of his followers to accept; so hard, in fact, that many of Jesus’ disciples no longer followed him and went back to their former way of life. These disciples who left Jesus seem to ask a legitimate question: “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” (John 6:52). Jesus had not yet revealed exactly what he would do at the Last Supper, although he hinted strongly when he said, “I am the Bread of Life” (John 6:35).

These people who heard Jesus at Capernaum must have wrongly thought that Jesus was encouraging some sort of cannibalism in which Jesus’ body would be destroyed. However, the Eucharist is the furthest thing from cannibalism because the Eucharist is the living and glorious body of Jesus. After his Resurrection, Jesus’ body was not just the same as it was before the Crucifixion. Afterwards, Jesus could walk through walls, and now his body is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. At the same time, Jesus is present in the Eucharist at every Mass and in every Catholic tabernacle around the world.

The Church has always firmly believed that the consecrated Bread and Wine at Mass are truly the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. There have been those who have doubted this truth from the time of Jesus until today, and it is true that many have walked away and returned to their former way of life, just as some of Jesus’ disciples did in John 6. This is a great tragedy, but one that happens frequently, sometimes because no one has ever fully explained this teaching to many Catholics!

Last year, a widely-publicized Pew research study announced that only one out of three Catholics in the United States believe the Church’s teaching that the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. While I’m skeptical of Pew’s questioning methods (it’s hard for a non-believer to make an accurate survey about a technical religious question), I was honestly not surprised at this statistic. In the United States, only 10-20% of Catholics attend Mass on Sundays. In some other parts of the world, it’s below 5%. If 95% of a population never or rarely attends Mass, it only makes sense that they have no idea what is going on at Mass. Why would somebody want to sit through an hour-long ceremony every week if they think nothing meaningful is happening during it? On the other hand, if somebody understands that Jesus Christ, the Creator of the Universe and Eternal Source of all Existence and Life, is physically present at every Mass around the world, how could they stay away?



"Fr. Dominic elevates the Body of Christ at the Consecration during his First Mass. The Consecration is the point during Mass in which the bread is changed into the Body of Christ."

This belief that Jesus is physically present under the appearance of bread and wine is called the Real Presence. Our belief in the Real Presence is why we can say that we worship the Eucharist, because the Eucharist is God Himself. This is why we are so careful and respectful of the Eucharist at Mass after the Consecration. When a consecrated host falls to the ground (which happens not infrequently by accident), we must do all we can to ensure that any particles that may have broken off are cleaned up, because that is Jesus physically present in those particles.

We have a lot of work to do to spread the Good News of the Eucharist to the world. We can start with ourselves! Let’s commit to occasionally visiting Jesus in the tabernacle whenever we pass by a church. One of the best ways we can share our belief in the Eucharist is by living a Eucharistic life: centering our lives of faith around Sunday Mass and prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

*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.*



## St. Raymond of Peñafort: Daring Discipling

**Feast Day: January 7th**

"And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it" [Genesis 1:28] ... and many years later, though in much the same galaxy ... Jesus, "lifting up his hands he blessed them" [Luke 24:50] and said "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." [Matthew 28:19-20]

The wonderful sight of many families and children at our Masses here (both on weekends and weekdays!) shows that some of you are very clearly multiplying, and discipling. Thank you, for fulfilling that part of God's first command, and Jesus' final one! But God also speaks of "subduing", and Jesus calls His followers to "baptize" and "teach", and I think these tasks are much more difficult than "multiplying" and "making disciples". It's one thing to home-grow disciples, but there "in the world", it is a darker, murkier, crazier place, and people are doing their own thing and not really mindful of us, much less the Gospel we are called to preach to them.

Furthermore, there is a general feeling these days that it is not your or my place to impose our faith on someone else. Faith is a personal thing, not meant to be foisted on someone! So, how do we strike that right balance, not imposing but proposing (as St. Pope John Paul II would say)? How do we find the courage to proclaim properly the Gospel that is our source of joy (as Pope Francis so beautiful describes it in *Evangelii Gaudium*)? We need the example and intercession of St. Raymond of Peñafort!

I neglect many other facts of his life, to just say that this scholar and priest became a Dominican at the age of 47, after 2 decades teaching and writing canon law. He could have stayed in the solid and prosperous position he held at the university, but instead he becomes a friar of the Order of Preachers. In the middle of his life, he chose to double-down on the primary vocation we all have: become a saint, and produce other saints. How did he engage this daunting task?

For one, he helped found the order of Mercedarians, a group of friars who would turn themselves in as captives, to replace a Christian who had been captured by the Moors and were at risk of losing their faith. The group still exists, and still vows to "give up our lives, as Christ gave his life for us, should it be necessary, in order to save those Christians who find themselves in extreme danger of losing their faith by new forms of captivity."

Raymond also wrote a book to train priests to be good confessors (this was not just a list of sins and suggested penances; it tied in doctrine and Church practices, distinguishing for the good of the priest and penitent such things as self-defense vs. violence done for vengeance or anger.) The book's clarity and foundation in charity allowed generations of Christians to better know how to return, and stay, in God's grace.

Raymond learned Hebrew and Arabic to preach the Gospel to Jews and Arabs, who formed the non-Christians of his own day. He established priories in non-Christian strongholds. He convinced King James of Aragon to have a respectful debate between a Moshe ben Nahman (a Jewish rabbi of Girona) and Paulus Christiani (a Jewish man of Montpellier, who had converted and became a Dominican), to speak clearly, and freely, about the identity of the Messiah.

Oh, and he floated on his own cloak back from the island of Majorca because King James had angrily forbade any ship to take him home after the good saint had challenged the royal-sinner to dismiss his concubine.

Teaching, preaching, challenging, debating, ransoming, pardoning, pacifying ... all situations were places to preach the Gospel, and Raymond did not hesitate to do so.

*Fr. Dominic Rankin has only baptized two (little) people. That's barely addition, much less multiplication. Of course, currently, my assignment as Bishop Paprocki's MC, and in the Diocesan offices does not offer many opportunities to directly create disciples, and it also offers surprisingly few opportunities to preach the Gospel to those who have not already heard it. But, this all means that I need to look more diligently, more creatively, more constantly, for ways to do just that, because God's grace is there, and the call is there, and there are plenty of people who still need Jesus, myself most of all!*



The Sepulcher of St. Ramon de Penyafort (Raymond of Peñafort) in Barcelona, Spain. It was fashioned from polychromatic marble in the 14th century by an anonymous sculptor and depicts in the small reliefs above the altar miracles, and scenes of his life. Visited in February, 2017.

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### Stewardship of Treasure December 26th & 27th

Envelopes:	\$8,834.26
Loose:	\$2,218.00
Maintenance:	<u>\$362.00</u>
Total:	\$11,324.26

November EFT: \$22,471.25

### Stewardship of Treasure January 2nd & 3rd

Envelopes:	\$5,277.00
Loose:	\$3,314.00
Maintenance:	<u>\$597.00</u>
Total:	\$9,188.00

December EFT: \$25,435.40

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!

### 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.

### Virtual Nativity Festival at the Cathedral

Did you miss our virtual nativity festival at the Cathedral? Don't worry - you can view each nativity scene and the story that went along with each on our Facebook page in our 2020 Virtual Nativity Festival photo album!

### RCIA Introductions

Over the next few weekends, we will be introducing those who are currently going through RCIA here at the Cathedral. Please keep them in your prayers, as they embark on the journey of Christian Initiation, and that they may welcome into their hearts the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus, with joy, peace and hope.

### Meet Brianne White

My name is Brianne White and I am a correctional officer for the State of Illinois. I am currently going through RCIA to become a Catholic because I want to become closer to God and be able to go through the process with my daughters. They both attend St. Agnes School, and being able to see the joy on their faces when they come home and tell me they have learned a new prayer or a new song just makes me so happy and brings me to tears. When my oldest sister passed away when I was a teenager, I was upset for the longest time at God and began to lose faith. But, over time, I came to realize it wasn't His fault; it was just her time to go to Heaven. Starting the process of RCIA, I have started to feel like I didn't lose my faith, it just needed to find its way back to me. I am very excited to go through this process with not only my daughters, but my husband as well.



# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Diocese

### Annual Signature Ad Campaign

Due to COVID and the subsequent challenges to collecting signatures, we will not be having the annual Signature Ad Campaign this year. Please look for a pro-life ad in the State Journal Register announcing SRTL's upcoming events and programs.

### Respect Life Rally

Springfield Right to Life's annual Respect Life Rally will be held at 2pm on Sunday, January 24th at Calvary Church at 1730 West Jefferson in the parking lot. Stay in your vehicle and tune in on your radio to hear our pro-life speakers inspire our community to "let the walls fall" as they did in Jericho!

### 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 this weekend, or by making a one-time payment online at [www.spicathedral.org/give-online/](http://www.spicathedral.org/give-online/)