

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JANUARY 31, 2021 | 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 5

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.

Eucharistic Fast



For the past month, our 10 am Sunday Mass has been celebrated ad orientem, which means “toward the East.” In his column for the December 13, 2020 edition of the Catholic Times, Bishop Paprocki did a great job of explaining the theology of symbolism of celebrating Mass this way. I want to highlight one line from his column that will be important for my reflection today. Bishop Paprocki wrote:

While celebrating Mass facing the people became popular after the Second Vatican Council, there is actually no document from

the Second Vatican Council that calls for Mass to be celebrated facing the people.

This point highlights a device that is often employed to justify changes in recent decades. People point to the Second Vatican Council as making changes that it did not actually call for. For example, you may hear people saying that the Council did away with meatless Fridays outside of Lent. The fact of the matter is, that still remains the expectation in the Universal Church, though here in the United States, permission has been granted to replace abstinence from meat on Friday with some other penitential practice.

Another discipline that people sometimes credit the Council for removing is the fast required before receiving the Eucharist. I have heard countless stories of people who acknowledged how difficult it was to fast from midnight on before receiving Holy Communion the following morning. In 1957, the fast was shortened to three hours, and in 1964, Pope St. Paul VI shortened the fast further to be just one hour, and now we have the following that remains the current law: “One who is to receive the Most Holy Eucharist is to abstain from any food or drink, with the exception of water and medicine, for at least the period of one hour before Holy Communion.” (Code of Canon Law, can. 919)

I find it a little surprising that many people are unaware of the Eucharistic fast, either having never heard that it ever existed, or that it is a practice that has been abandoned, done away with by the Second Vatican Council. In one of his writings early in his pontificate, Pope St. John Paul II reflected on how the faithful can become lax in their being properly disposed to receive the Eucharist, which includes observing the Eucharistic fast. He writes the following:

In fact, what one finds most often is not so much a feeling of unworthiness as a certain lack of interior willingness, if one may use this expression, a lack of Eucharistic 'hunger' and 'thirst,' which is also a sign of lack of adequate sensitivity towards the great sacrament of love and a lack of understanding of its nature.

May we all take this opportunity to examine how much we hunger and thirst for the Eucharist, expressed very tangibly in how we observe the Eucharistic fast, short as it may be, but necessary for our worthy and fruitful reception of this great gift.

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, February 1

7am - Special Intention for Steve Roach (Chris Sommer)
5:15pm - Sophia Bartoletti (Bartoletti Family)

Tuesday, February 2

7am - Jean Reno (Greenwald) (Phillipa Porter)
5:15pm - Norma Bartoletti (Carl & Lou Ann Corrigan)

Wednesday, February 3

7am - Lawrence Jaros (Emily Walton & Family)
5:15pm - Valeria Shaughnessy (Mr. & Mrs. Michael Shaughnessy and Family)

Thursday, February 4

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath (Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - Pius Onyejaju Chineke (Rob & Jan Sgambelluri)

Friday, February 5

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

Saturday, February 6

8am - For the People
4pm - Deceased Members of the McGee, Schweska, & Kaufman Families (Susan Ochoa)

Sunday, February 7

7am - Russell Steil, Sr. (Steil Family)
10am - Charles & Mercedes Nesbitt (Kathy Frank)
5pm - Mary Rita DesMarteau (Criscione Family)



Adoro Te Devote - A Eucharistic Hymn

Since January this year has five Sundays, we get a sort of bonus Sunday to reflect on the Eucharist! Because the Eucharist is the central liturgy of the Catholic Church, many hymns have been written in honor of this Most Blessed Sacrament. One of the most famous Eucharistic hymns was written by St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) in honor of the new feast day of the Body and Blood of Jesus (Corpus Christi). There is a beautiful poetic English translation by Fr. Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ, and the English text of this translation is below. It is also a great resource for personal prayer.

Godhead here in hiding, whom I do adore,
Masked by these bare shadows, shape and nothing more,
See, Lord, at Thy service low lies here a heart
Lost, all lost in wonder at the God thou art.

Seeing, touching, tasting are in thee deceived:
How says trusty hearing? that shall be believed;
What God's Son has told me, take for truth I do;
Truth Himself speaks truly or there's nothing true.

On the cross Thy godhead made no sign to men,
Here Thy very manhood steals from human ken:
Both are my confession, both are my belief,
And I pray the prayer of the dying thief.

I am not like Thomas, wounds I cannot
Jesu, whom I look at shrouded here below,
I beseech thee send me what I thirst for so,
Some day to gaze on thee face to face in light
And be blest for ever with Thy glory's sight. Amen.

I am not like Thomas, wounds I cannot see,
But can plainly call thee Lord and God as he;
Let me to a deeper faith daily nearer move,
Daily make me harder hope and dearer love.

O thou our reminder of Christ crucified,
Living Bread, the life of us for whom he died,
Lend this life to me then: feed and feast my mind,
There be thou the sweetness man was meant to find.

Bring the tender tale true of the Pelican;
Bathe me, Jesu Lord, in what Thy bosom ran
Blood whereof a single drop has power to win
All the world forgiveness of its world of sin.

I recommend reading along with this text while listening to it sung at the same time. Scan the below QR link for a listen! I hope that you have found this month of reflection and study on the Eucharist to be helpful for your faith and spiritual life. Fr. Alford, Fr. Rankin, and I hope that these weekly columns are not only informative but also help to nourish your faith life. This is why I'm including this beautiful prayer resource to conclude our reflection on the Eucharist. The Eucharist is so much more than a topic for academic study. In the Eucharist, Jesus gives the Church all of his love and his entire self.

Jesus is always waiting for us in the tabernacle at Church. Whenever you pass by a Church, make the sign of the cross to acknowledge his presence. I am always inspired by how many visitors we have during the day at the Cathedral. Many people, both local and travelers passing through, stop at the Cathedral to light a votive candle for a special intention or pray for a few moments before continuing their day. Such visits can lighten the load on our weary hearts and give us encouragement to stay faithful to our responsibilities for another day.

May we one day be with God forever in heaven, not only hidden in the Eucharist, but unveiled for our eyes to see his glory.

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 - January 23rd & 24th

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|---------------|-------------|
| Envelopes: | \$5,925.00 |
| Loose: | \$939.00 |
| Maintenance: | \$1,006.00 |
| Total: | \$7,870.00 |
| 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!





St. Don Bosco: The Pillars of the Church

Feast Day: January 31st

The words that follow are not my own, but from the saint we celebrate this week, Fr. Don Bosco, on May 30th, 1862, who told the following to his beloved sons in the Salesian Order (which he had founded):

I want to tell you a dream. It is true that he who is dreaming is not reasoning, anyway I—who would even tell you my sins if I were not afraid that they would make you all run away and make the house tumble down—will tell you this for your spiritual profit. I had the dream some days ago.

Imagine yourselves to be with me on the seashore, or better, on an isolated rock and not to see any patch of land other than what is under your feet. On the whole of that vast sheet of water you see an innumerable fleet of ships in battle array. The prows of the ships are formed into sharp, spearlike points so that wherever they are thrust they pierce and completely destroy. These ships are armed with cannons, with lots of rifles, with incendiary materials, with other arms of all kinds, and also with books, and they advance against a ship very much bigger and higher than themselves and try to dash against it with the prows or to burn it or in some way to do it every possible harm.

As escorts to that majestic fully equipped ship, there are many smaller ships, which receive commands by signal from it and carry out movements to defend themselves from the opposing fleet. In the midst of the immense expanse of sea, two mighty columns of great height arise a little distance, the one from the other. On the top of one, there is the statue of the Immaculate Virgin, from whose feet hangs a large placard with this inscription: *Auxilium Christianorum* – “Help of Christians”, on the other, which is much higher and bigger, stands a Host of great size proportionate to the column and beneath is another placard with the words: *Salus Credentium* – “Salvation of the Faithful.”

The supreme commander on the big ship is the Sovereign Pontiff. He, on seeing the fury of the enemies and the evils among which his faithful find themselves, determines to summon around himself the captains of the smaller ships to hold a council and decide on what is to be done. All the captains come aboard and gather around the Pope. They hold a meeting, but meanwhile the wind and the waves gather in storm, so they are sent back to control their own ships. There comes a short lull. For a second time the Pope gathers the captains together around him, while the flagship goes on its course. But the frightful storm returns. The Pope stands at the helm and all his energies are directed to steering the ship towards those two columns, from the top of which and from every side of which are hanging numerous anchors and big hooks, fastened to chains. All the enemy ships move to attack it, and they try in every way to stop it and to sink it. Some with writings or books or inflammable materials, of which they are full, others with guns, with rifles and with rams. The battle rages ever more relentlessly.

The enemy prows (battering rams on the front of the ships) thrust violently, but their efforts and impact prove useless. They make attempts in vain and waste all their labor and ammunition, the big ship goes safely and smoothly on its way. Sometimes it happens that, struck by formidable blows, it gets large, deep gaps in its sides, but no sooner is the harm done than a gentle breeze blows from the two columns and the cracks close up and the gaps are stopped immediately. Meanwhile, the guns of the assailants are blown up, the rifles and other arms and prows are broken, many ships are shattered and sink into the sea. Then, the frenzied enemies strive to fight hand to hand, with fists, with blows, with blasphemy and with curses.

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All at once, the Pope falls gravely wounded. Immediately, those who are with him run to help him and they lift him up. A second time the Pope is struck, he falls again and dies. A shout of victory and of joy rings out amongst the enemies, from their ships an unspeakable mockery arises. But hardly is the Pontiff dead than another Pope takes his place. The pilots, having met together, have elected the Pope so promptly that the news of the death of the Pope coincides with the news of the election of the successor. The adversaries begin to lose courage. The new Pope, putting the enemy to rout and overcoming every obstacle, guides the ship right up to the two columns and comes to rest between them. He makes it fast with a light chain that hangs from the bow to an anchor of the column on which stands the Host, and with another light chain which hangs from the stern, he fastens it at the opposite end to another anchor hanging from the column on which stands the Immaculate Virgin.

Then a great convulsion takes place. All the ships that until then had fought against the Pope's ship are scattered, they flee away, collide and break to pieces one against another. Some sink and try to sink others. Several small ships that had fought gallantly for the Pope race to be the first to bind themselves to those two columns. Many other ships, having retreated through fear of the battle, cautiously watch from far away the wrecks of the broken ships having been scattered in the whirlpools of the sea, they in their turn sail in good earnest to those two columns, and, having reached them, they make themselves fast to the hooks hanging down from them and there they remain safe, together with the principal ship, on which is the Pope. Over the sea there reigns a great calm.

Fr. Bosco asked Don Rua, "What do you think of the story?" and the other priest offered this evaluation: "It seems to me that the Pope's ship might mean the Church, of which he is the head. The ships, men, the sea, this world. Those who defend the big ship are the good, lovingly attached to the Holy See. The others are her enemies, who try with every kind of weapon to annihilate her. The two columns of salvation seem to be devotion to Mary Most Holy and to the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist."

"You are right!" our saint replied, "Only I ought to correct one expression. The enemy ships are persecutions. The most serious trials for the Church are near at hand. That which has been so far is almost nothing in the face of that which must befall. Her enemies are represented by the ships that tried to sink the principal ship if they could. Only two means are left to save her amidst so much confusion: DEVOTION TO MARY MOST HOLY and FREQUENT COMMUNION, making use of every means and doing our best to practice them and having them practiced everywhere and by everybody."

Fr. Dominic Rankin has often seen a minor version of the Eucharistic miracle given to Don Bosco. The saint was offering Mass for 360 boys in 1848 and realized that he only had 8 consecrated hosts in the tabernacle (rather than the hundreds they had expected). He calmly took the ciborium, began to distribute Jesus to all, and never fell short! His server, Guiseppe Buzzetti, testified to the miracle. I have never had that much of a shortfall, but it is uncommonly often that it appears that we will never have enough hosts at Mass, and yet there is always enough. Praise God!



Don Bosco's Dream of the Two Pillars, (M. Barberis, 1939?) All Rights Reserved. Retrieved from <http://www.donboscowest.org/saints/donbosco>, 2021.01.18.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral & the Diocese

Faith Community Nursing Program

Are you looking for a way to serve your parish while using your skills as a registered nurse?

Faith Community Nurses draw a closer link between the church and healthcare communities by acting as health educators and counselors to a parish. Carle is offering an online Spring training course. Contact the parish office if you are interested in using your healing gifts to serve the Cathedral community. Call Carle at 217-365-5495 for more information.

Second Collection: Church in Latin America

Thank you for your generous support last week for the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Your donation will be used to share the faith with our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean, so they, in turn, can share the Good News with others. Your generosity will support religious education, ministry formation, and other essential pastoral services in the Church of this region. To learn more about how your gift is making a difference, please visit <https://www.usccb.org/committees/international-justice-and-peace/latin-americanacaribbean>.

If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/latin-america and click "How to Give." Your gift makes a difference!

Hey, Father! LIVE!

Understanding Catholic teachings can be tough. Hey, Father! LIVE! will help. Join Father Daren Zehnle and Father Jeremy Paulin as they answer your questions about Catholicism LIVE on Feb. 10 at noon. Watch LIVE or on replay by going to facebook.com/diospringfield or youtube.com/diospringfield or dio.org/live. Send your question early or during the broadcast to heyfather@dio.org or text it to 217-203-5100.

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.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me." Mt 25:35

What does the Gospel demand of us in living out this passage? Join Deacon Mick Palazzolo as he helps us understand how to respond to the needs of our neighbors who are chronically homeless. Monday, March 1 @ 7:00pm, Cathedral Atrium

Alton to Springfield: From River Bluff to the Capitol

Join PJ Oubre from our diocesan archives office as he continues to explore the lives of the four men buried in the crypt of the Cathedral, specifically the lives and funerals of Msgr. Timothy Hickey and Bishop James Griffin. Wednesday, February 10 @ 7:00pm, Cathedral Atrium