

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**FEBRUARY 14, 2021 | 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



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 3 ISSUE 7

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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.



## Remember That You Are Dust

"YOU ARE DUST!" Those words still ring in my memory! They were the first three words a priest used in a Day of Recollection conference on Ash Wednesday my first year in the seminary. The enthusiasm with which he yelled those words were startling, to say the least. I honestly cannot remember anything else he had to say during his talk, but I will never forget those first three words.

These are the words that the Church's ministers will be speaking (hopefully in a less startling way) this coming Wednesday as we begin our Lenten journey of 40 days toward Easter. To be exact, the words the Church gives us are these: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." It is a sobering reminder to one who receives the ashes, and I can tell you that it is likewise humbling to speak those words to others as I sign them with the ashes, an outward sign of our inner resolution to repentance.

This year, however, will be different from our experience of Ash Wednesdays in the past. We have grown accustomed to adapting certain aspects of our liturgies in the midst of a global pandemic, and Ash Wednesday is no exception. The Holy See has instructed that instead of saying the words for each person, the priest celebrant will say the words only once as he speaks to the entire congregation present. Then, after sanitizing his hands and donning a mask, he will distribute ashes to the faithful. Even that will take on a form unfamiliar to most of us. Instead of marking the forehead of each individual, the instruction is to impose ashes on the top of the head by sprinkling, which requires no touching of the person.

The fact of the matter is that this is actually how ashes have been traditionally imposed, and much of the world still imposes ashes through sprinkling. There is no outward sign that you have attended Mass, as those ashes are hidden from the view of others. After all, does not the Gospel for Ash Wednesday seem to support this:

*But when you fast, anoint your head so that you may not appear to others to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you. (Matthew 6:17-18)*

So instead of seeing this as a negative change, let us see it as an invitation to purify our motives when it comes to the beginning of our Lenten journey. The ashes we receive (and in fact everything we do during Lent) are not for others to see. Sure, Lent is a time for us to commit to living lives of more intentional charity toward others. But Lent is first and foremost about our relationship with the Lord, and our need to turn back to Him. We should be far more concerned about our hearts being open to receiving His healing mercy, a healing that takes place in the hidden relationship we have with Him. When the Father alone sees that hidden desire, He will bless us with the reward of His grace, a grace that will overflow in mercy toward others.

*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 15

7am - Repose of the Soul of Adeline Weber Barclay (Cindy Vahling)  
5:15pm - NO MASS

#### Tuesday, February 16

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath (Augustine Eleyidath)  
5:15pm - Gavin Brandon (Bernie Ely)

#### Wednesday, February 17

7am - Sophia Bartoletti (Bartoletti Family)  
12:05pm - Mary Priestler (Becky & Woody Woodhull)  
5:15pm - Bettie Rapps (D. VanDrew)

#### Thursday, February 18

7am - Eugene Nalesnik (Father Augustine Tolton Council 16126)  
12:05pm - Otis Huber (The Huber Children)  
5:15pm - Pius Onyejaju Chineke (Jim & Sandy Bloom)

#### Friday, February 19

7am - Norma Fairweather (Andrew & Cheryl Klein Family)  
12:05pm - Gavin Brandon (Bernie Ely)  
5:15pm - Rebaq Cloyd (Ann Hosteny)

#### Saturday, February 20

8am - Lawrence Jaros (Emily Walton & Family)  
4pm - For the People

#### Sunday, February 21

7am - Deceased Members of the Price Family (Mark & Sharon Price)  
10am - Pius Onyejaju Chineke (The Anselment Family)  
5pm - Rita DesMarteau (Family)





## Mortal and Venial Sin

As we try to grow in holiness through the reception of the Sacrament of Penance, it is helpful to know what we are confessing. There are two types of sins that we can commit: mortal and venial. While some may think that this language is too old-fashioned, it actually comes straight from scripture and is relevant to our spiritual life. Let's take a look at what the Apostle John wrote about mortal and venial sin.

"If anyone sees his brother sinning, if the sin is not deadly, he should pray to God and he will give him life. This is only for those whose sin is not deadly. There is such a thing as deadly sin, about which I do not say that you should pray. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that is not deadly" (1 John 5:16-17).

The words "mortal" and "deadly" are synonyms. There are certain sins that we can commit that are deadly for our spiritual life. This means that when we commit a mortal sin, the divine life of God which was ignited in our soul through baptism is extinguished. The Church teaches that someone who dies in the state of mortal sin, that is, without ever repenting of that sin, has chosen to go to hell through their own free will. Most of the sins that we commit are considered "venial," which means small or slight.

To commit a mortal sin, three conditions must be fulfilled. First, the action done must be objectively very bad. It's impossible to compile an exact list of mortal sins, but it's commonly understood that the Ten Commandments are examples of grave or serious sins. St. Paul often lists sins in his letters, such as in his letter to the Galatians. "Now the works of the flesh are plain: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21.) While some mortal sins are obvious, like murder and adultery, some are actually not universally known. One example of this is that missing Mass on Sunday is a very serious sin for Catholics which could exclude them from the Kingdom of Heaven. Of course, during COVID time, most bishops have lifted the obligation to attend Mass. However, without a good reason such as sickness, Catholics are normally obligated to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. To miss Mass on Sunday is to directly disobey the Third Commandment: Keep holy the Lord's Day.

The second condition for something to be a mortal sin is that the person must have knowledge that the sin is serious. There are many things that we should know are wrong because of our instinct as human beings. However, some things are not so clearly understood or universally known. The example I used in the above paragraph is once again applicable. The unfortunate fact is that some Catholics do not know that they are required to attend Mass on Sunday. If someone truly does not understand this, through no fault of their own, then missing Mass would not be a mortal sin.

The third condition for an action to be a mortal sin is that it be completed with the full consent of someone's will. Sometimes through addictions or other outside influences, someone's ability to consent to an action can be substantially lessened, and thus would not be a mortal sin.

The only regular way for mortal sins to be forgiven is through the reception of the Sacrament of Penance. If we have committed a mortal sin, we should never receive Communion without first confessing this sin in the sacrament of Penance. This is to ensure that we receive the Eucharist worthily and avoid causing more spiritual harm to ourselves.

We should never despair of God's mercy, no matter how often we may fall into sin. He desires so much to have us reconciled to him. The point of discussing the reality of sin is not to make us despair or be discouraged but to help us to grow more intentionally in the spiritual life. Let us run into the Father's open arms of love and return to him with our whole hearts through the sacrament of Penance!

*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 February 6th & 7th

Envelopes:	\$6,302.00
Loose:	\$2,378.61
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$830.00</u>
Total:	\$9,510.61

January EFT: \$22,068.45

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!

## Seven Holy Founders: Victory in Numbers

**Feast Day: February 17th (in 2021, Ash Wednesday trumps their celebration)**



Florence, in the 1200s, is quickly becoming the richest and most powerful city on the Italic peninsula. It has begun minting its own currency, the Florin, which would dominate European markets for a century. But, the city is also divided. The city's most famous inhabitant, the poet Dante, would be exiled from his beloved city at the end of this century for his membership in the losing sect of the white-Guelphs. It would take centuries of street fighting, then bull-fighting, and now horse racing (the bi-annual palio still sends 10 horses careening around the central piazza of the city every year) to keep all the various sections of the city civil with each other.

But, we're here to meet seven gentlemen: Alexis, Amadeus, Hugh, Benedetto, Gherardino, Boufiglio, and Giovanni. If you did not know Florence was in Italy, their names might seal the deal! They are middle-aged merchants in Florence: two with families, two already widowers, the rest still leaving behind (or perhaps very content staying in) their well-to-do youth. They are Christians from their Italian heritage, but living during the morally troubled, heresy ridden, mid-1200s (probably a heresy you haven't heard much about: Catharism – basically saying that our bodies are bad. This comes around under different forms every century or two, and has been very wrong ever since ... oh, when God created us "very good"...). They are members of a guild of cloth merchants, which has made them friends, and made them traders of the wool fabric Florence was famous for.

They could have just as well become renowned and rich like another cloth merchant, Francesco Bernardone, almost did in Assisi just 50 years before. But, as the Magna Carta becomes the law of the land in England (1215); as the Mongols sweep in from Asia, defeating cities across Russia (1223), demolish Hungary and Poland (1241), capture Baghdad (1258), and threaten all of Europe; and, as Thomas Aquinas writes his Summa Theologiae (1265), our Lady chose these men for a very different path.

They decided to join a spiritual guild, the Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin – what we might now call a men's-group – joining their friendship by religious, not merely mercantile, bonds. They were guided by a holy priest, (maybe a Dominican priest, Pietro of Verona, who would later be martyred by those heretical Cathari) in any case his role was quickly overshadowed by advice from someone rather closer to God: our Mother Mary. She appeared to these seven normal, working, but praying men, and called them to the same thing she knows is essential for all of us: prayer, penance, perseverance in the faith.

They could have done that as merchants, maybe. But as they drew closer to God, and meditated more and more on the 7 sorrows of Mary, they found Florence to be louder, and less wholesome, and less rich than it seemed before. Piles of florins do not seem nearly as glamorous when God offers you heavenly treasure; business relationships seem pretty shallow when the Lord offers you His mother; and the busy-ness and delights of 13th century Florence paled in comparison to the offer of doing God's work.

And so, they began a penitential life. They provided for their families – however much that entailed – and then eventually formed a community and built a hermitage out in the mountains outside the city. They took up the black habit, the rule of St. Augustine, and became the Servites.

They also became saints.

*Fr. Dominic Rankin has been entrusted with the work of chaplain of our diocesan men's group, the Legion of Valor now for almost 2 years. It is such awesome work to care, and lead, and pray with dozens of great men and fathers from around the diocese. We pray morning prayer together every morning. Many of the men see each other regularly in small-groups around the diocese. And we all join together in brotherhood and formation at least quarterly. That all sounds ordinary, but the same things made the seven-holy-servite-founders saints.*

*Interested?: <https://valor.dio.org/>*



The Madonna with the Seven Founders of the Servite Order, c. 1728, Agostino Masucci. Art Institute of Chicago. Public Domain

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### Cathedral Bible Study

The Bible study group invites parishioners to a new spring/summer study focusing on the biblical foundations of the Eucharist. Meetings will be on first and third Wednesdays of the month with the exception of the opening meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, February 16th. Meetings will be held in the parish library from 6:15-7:45pm and participants are encouraged to purchase their own workbook which they may order through the parish. For more information contact Larry Travis at [Ltravisjr@gmail.com](mailto:Ltravisjr@gmail.com).

### Always in Our Prayers

In an effort to remember and continue to pray for our Cathedral parishioners even when they are no longer able to attend Mass, we invite our parishioners, or their families, to contact the Cathedral Parish office with the name of an individual who is confined to their home or a resident of a group living facility. Their information will be listed in the Cathedral Weekly. We will not share the address of an individual who is confined to their home, but will list the name of any facility that an individual lives in. Please contact the church office 217-522-3342 with the name of an individual to be added to the list as well as when a name is to be removed from the list.

### Councils and Synods to Civil Rights

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. This discussion will focus on the lives and work of Bishops O'Connor and McNicholas. Cathedral Atrium, Wednesday, February 24th, 7:00pm

### Second Collection: Pregnancy Care Center

Next week's second collection will be for the Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield. The Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield, Inc. serves pregnant teens, women and their families who reside in Springfield and the surrounding area. Their mission is to help pregnant women bring healthy babies into the world and to prepare parents for parenthood through education, advocacy, and collaborative partnerships with private and public organizations.

### Ash Wednesday (February 17) Second Collection: Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

On Ash Wednesday, we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This Collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that still struggle to recover from former communist rule. Funds from this Collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the Collection next week. More information can be found at [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee).

### 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.

### We Are Called

Join our faith community—and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the Cathedral! During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on how hunger and malnutrition affect our human family, and on the need to take action to end this global injustice. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more.

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Diocese

### Model Patients Wanted

Pregnant and looking for a free ultrasound? We will soon be holding an ultrasound training at First Step and we are in need of ladies that are expecting and will be between 6-20 weeks along during the last week of February. If you are interested in being one of our models, please call 217-523-0100 today to set up an appointment that will take place February 22nd-25th. Feel free to spread the word to help us with this training so we can better serve our patients!

### We Want to Share Your Great Photos!

Got a great photo? Whether it's of school life, parish life, or home life, the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is wanting to promote Catholic life in action. Through Catholic Times, social media, videos, or marketing materials, the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois wants to share your great photo to spread the joy diocesan-wide. Submit your photo or photos by going to [www.dio.org/submitphoto](http://www.dio.org/submitphoto).

### DCJH Grant Opportunity

The Diocesan Campaign for Justice and Hope (DCJH) is accepting applications for the 2020-2021 funding cycle. Organizations and projects that focus on changing and improving the conditions of low-income people within the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois are eligible to apply for a DCJH grant. The deadline for submitting a grant application is February 22, 2021. Early submission is encouraged so any deficiencies on the application can be corrected prior to this deadline. Details about the grant is located at: [www.dio.org/dcjh/home.html](http://www.dio.org/dcjh/home.html). Or interested applicants can call the Office for Pro-Life, Missions, and Special Ministries 217-321-1161.

### Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service

Parishes are encouraged to participate in a year-long initiative - Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service. This initiative begins March 25, 2021, the anniversary of Pope St. John Paul II's landmark pro-life encyclical - Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life), and ends March 25, 2022. This is a nationwide effort to focus on the needs of pregnant and parenting moms of young children in our parishes and our neighborhoods. Get more information about this Year of Service by going to the Office for Pro-Life, Missions, and Special Ministries webpage, or calling the office: 217-321-1161.

### 40 Days for Life

Calling all prayer warriors! There are two opportunities in our diocese to participate in a 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil. Your presence on the sidewalk matters. The "no show" rate goes up to 75% when people are praying outside of an abortion facility. Now more than ever your prayers are needed. Sign-ups are now open! Join us in prayer on the sidewalk this coming Lent to end abortion. Contact us at 217-523-2700 or [springfieldrtl@gmail.com](mailto:springfieldrtl@gmail.com) with questions on how to sign up!

### 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.