

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**FEBRUARY 21, 2021 | 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT**



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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 8

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THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI  
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THE REVEREND PETER CHINEKE  
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN  
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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.



## Follower or Admirer?

As we begin our Lenten journey, permit me briefly to look back to the conclusion of the Christmas Season. At the 10:00 am Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Bishop Paprocki preached about the difference between being a true follower of Christ and being merely an admirer. He quoted the nineteenth century philosopher Søren Kierkegaard who wrote the following:

*The admirer never makes any true sacrifices. He always plays it safe. Though in words, phrases, songs, he is inexhaustible about how highly he prizes Christ, he renounces nothing, will not reconstruct his life, and will not let his life express what it is he supposedly admires. Not so for the follower. No, no. The follower aspires with all his strength to be what he admires.*

I would like to suggest this theme for our reflection for this season during which the Church invites us to undergo the conversion that will result in our being more like Him whom we profess to be our Lord.

The Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the disciplines that the Church proposes to us as the means to bring about this reordering of our lives. But it does not suffice for us just to “do” these practices, for there is no great merit in simply going through the motions. True conversion and growth will come only when we connect these practices with our desire to grow in our love for Christ and our brothers and sisters. If this is not the motivation behind our practices, why are we even doing them? Because the Church says we are supposed to? Because that is what we have always done? In these early days of Lent, we need to make a good examination of our motivations and readjust them toward Christ, lest we fall into a sort of idolatry where we focus just on love of self over love of God and neighbor. Ensuring that we have the right motivation for how to approach Lent is critical in determining if we are an actual follower of Christ or just an admirer.

You might find it helpful to write down the practices you are resolving to undertake this Lent and then bring that list to prayer. As you look at each item in the list, ask yourself: “Am I doing this for me? Or, am I doing this for you, Lord?” If you answer yes to the former, ask for the grace to keep your resolve rooted in Him. If you answer yes to the latter, ask for the grace to purify your motives. Then, at the end of the list, I might suggest your offer all your proposed Lenten practices to the Lord with this simple line from the Responsorial Psalm we heard on Ash Wednesday: “A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me.” (Ps 51:12)

*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 22

7am - John & Edith Bakalar  
(John Busciacco)  
12:05pm - Helen Call  
(Becky & Woody Woodhull)  
5:15pm - Sharon Mester  
(Linda Pierceall)

### Tuesday, February 23

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
12:05pm - Repose of the Soul of  
Mary Ann Zerrusen (Cindy  
Vahling)  
5:15pm - Frances Klein  
(Andrew & Cheryl Klein Family)

### Wednesday, February 24

7am - Lawrence Jaros  
(Emily Walton & Family)  
12:05pm - Jean Reno (Greenwald)  
(Jim & Sandy Bloom)  
5:15pm - Catherine Ponce  
(Michael Mecava)

### Thursday, February 25

7am - Sophia E. Bartoletti  
(Bartoletti Family)  
12:05pm - Eugene Nalesnik  
(Fr. Augustine Tolton Council  
16126)  
5:15pm - George Friedel  
(Richard & Janice Willaredt)

### Friday, February 26

7am - Sophia E. Bartoletti  
(Bartoletti Family)  
12:05pm - Sr. Valeria, OSF  
(Becky & Woody Woodhull)  
5:15pm - Lawrence Jaros  
(Emily Walton & Family)

### Saturday, February 27

8am - Patricia Scherrills  
(Bill & Sara Metcalf)  
4pm - Sarah McGee  
(Tom McGee)

### Sunday, February 28

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(William Midden)  
10am - For the People  
5pm - Rita DesMarteau  
(Christ the King Staff)





## How to Make a Good Confession

One reason that Catholics sometimes stay away from the Sacrament of Confession is that they have forgotten how to go. After all, they may have received their “training” on how to go to Confession in second grade! This is an understandable hesitation, but Reconciliation has a surprisingly simple format.

Confession really begins before you walk into the confessional. First, it is important to take some time to spiritually and mentally prepare for Confession. There are many aids or

pamphlets out there which can help us call to mind our sins and our need for God’s mercy. Very simply, we can call to mind the Ten Commandments as a simple examination of conscience, which means that we think about our life and remember the ways in which we have gone against our conscience or God’s Law. These are things we need to take to Confession. Many people (myself included) find it helpful to write down a list of things to be confessed. Oftentimes going to Confession, I get nervous and forget what I need to confess in the moment. Just make sure that you throw this list away when Confession is over! Before going to Confession, St. Faustina recommends that we say a prayer for the priest, that he may listen to the Holy Spirit and give good counsel.

The penitent (the one going to Confession) or the priest can begin with the Sign of the Cross. Then the penitent indicates how much time has passed since their last Confession. This helps to provide some context for what is about to be confessed. Then, simply list your sins. It’s best to be brief and to the point. We are required to confess any mortal sins, but we are encouraged to confess venial sins also, if we have time. (See last week’s article for the distinction between these two types of sin.) This is a place to confess your own sins, not your spouse’s or your friend’s. It can be helpful to give a few sentences of background information for certain things, but it’s good to avoid long stories and get to the point. To conclude, you can simply say, “That’s all, Father.” Some people like to say, “For these and all the sins of my past life I am truly sorry.” After this, the priest will offer some words of encouragement and counsel. He also might ask a clarifying question.

Then, the priest will assign you some sort of penance to complete after you leave the confessional. In confession, all our sins are forgiven, but it does not correct all the disorder that sin has brought into our life. A penance is usually simple, such as saying some prayers, and it begins to correct what sin has damaged in our spiritual lives. The best penances correspond to what the penitent is dealing with in their life. The priest will ask you to pray the Act of Contrition, which can be said from memory or from a prayer aid. The priest then prays the prayer of absolution, which he has authority to do by his priestly ordination. Finally, he dismisses the penitent with words such as, “Your sins are forgiven; go in peace.”

Very simply, when you walk through the Confessional door, simply come with a contrite heart ready to confess your sins. The priest will walk you through the rest of the process. Most of all, learn to develop a deep trust in God’s mercy, knowing that Jesus paid a great price to forgive our sins. The number one obstacle to coming to Confession is shame, but Confession is actually the best place to have our shame taken away. The confessional is a tribunal of mercy and a place of true encounter with Jesus through the sacraments.

*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 13th & 14th

Collection numbers for the weekend of February 13th and 14th were unavailable at the time of publication. Please check back next weekend for these collection numbers.

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. Polycarp: Fleeing Faithless Affairs

**Feast Day: February 23rd**

Polycarp was fond of telling stories about his teacher. One tale stands the test of time and brings a smile to my face as I tell it here: on the famous day his teacher entered the bathhouse in Ephesus only to explode forth a few seconds later – no bath having been accomplished – “let us fly” he exclaimed, “lest even the bath-house fall down, because Cerinthus, the enemy of the truth, is within.” [Ireneaus, *Adversus Haereses*, bkIII.ch3.p4] Polycarp’s mentor had good reason to flee. Cerinthus professed, and proclaimed, a whole hodgepodge of beliefs he had drawn from Judaism, Christianity, Gnosticism, and the many other philosophies that were passed around in those days - a perfectly human reaction to the costly decision to risk one’s intellect by surrendering to real faith – but one that meant he was toxic to those who professed the Christian faith. Cerinthus claimed that Jesus was not divine, that God did not really create the world, that St. Paul was an apostate, and the Jewish Law was still required.

The man who catapulted out of that bathhouse was St. John the Evangelist. The “disciple who Jesus loved”, the man who saw with his own eyes the transformation of water into wine, the magic catch of fish, the multiplication of the loaves, the transfiguration and agony in the garden. This disciple, who had laid his head upon Jesus’ heart at the Last Supper and heard the heartbeat of God, and had seen that same heart pierced, and His blood pouring down the cross, would not remain in the presence of someone who denied his Savior’s divinity. “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son”, this apostle had penned, and he would not even remain across the room from someone who flagrantly rejected that truth.

Who of us has as great of faith as St. John the Apostle? Yet do I flee the mixed half-truths and underminings of our faith that are even more prevalent in our world as he did from that bathhouse? St. Polycarp sat at the feet of John. He saw the love and faith of the now-old apostle as John preached the Love of God, and Polycarp remembered that this staunch, bent, weather-beaten man – his life completely transformed by Jesus’ call to “come follow me and I will make you a fisher of men” – with a faith uncrushable by the might of Roman torture, yet who had scattered from the presence of one who blasphemed His Lord.

Ireneaus, in the next generation of Christian saints, points his own readers back to Polycarp: “There is also a very powerful Epistle of Polycarp written to the Philippians, from which those who choose to do so, and are anxious about their salvation, can learn the character of his faith, and the preaching of the truth.” [Ireneaus, *Adversus Haereses*, bkIII.ch3 p4]. What great truths do we find in this letter, one of the earliest that we have just decades after the Gospels were written and Paul crisscrossed the Mediterranean? He recalls the words of his friend, St. John, “For whosoever does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, is antichrist” [1 John 4:3] and continues:

*and whosoever does not confess the testimony of the cross, is of the devil; and whosoever perverts the oracles of the Lord to his own lusts, and says that there is neither a resurrection nor a judgment, he is the first-born of Satan. Wherefore, forsaking the vanity of many, and their false doctrines, let us return to the word which has been handed down to us ... “watching unto prayer” [1 Peter 4:7] and persevering in fasting; beseeching in our supplications the all-seeing God not to “lead us into temptation.” [Matthew 6:13]. [St. Polycarp, Epistle to the Philippians, ch7]*

Perhaps we should take his teaching to heart as we flee the occasions of sin and falsehood in our own lives? Is this the saintly invitation to turn away from profane words and conversations this Lent?

*Fr. Dominic Rankin continues to blast through audio books at a rate of one every 2 or 3 days. With St. Polycarp’s words on his mind, he is going to be more discerning about whether the books are bringing him closer to God, or not. Popular is not the same as good, beautiful, true, or godly.*



Mosaic of St. Polycarp, Sant’Appollinare Nuovo, in Ravenna, created in the 5th or 6th century. This is a closeup of the portraits of many male saints mosaiced upon the south wall.

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around 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 and Erica Smith as they help us understand how to respond to the needs of our neighbors who are chronically homeless. Monday, March 1 @ 7:00pm, Cathedral Atrium

### Soul Soup Supper

Join the CCCW on Wednesday, March 3 from 6:00pm-6:45pm in the atrium for a Lenten soup supper! There will be a discussion on the work of Catholic Relief Services, as well as how the CRS Rice Bowl supports the mission of CRS each Lent.

### 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: Catholic Charities

Next week's second collection will be for the Catholic Charities. The mission of the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is to extend to all the healing and empowering presence of Jesus. Funds from this collection will help to make sure that there will be fewer hungry people, less scared and uncertain families and more help and hope for those in need. Visit [www.cc.dio.org/](http://www.cc.dio.org/) to learn more.

### Sacraments

Welcome Yashawini Parth Philomena Patel, daughter of Victoria Mares and Parth Patel who was baptized here at the Cathedral on Saturday, February 6!



### Hunger in Our World

Jesus told us that whatever we did for one of these least brothers of his we did for him. Reflect on the challenge of global hunger—it is a reality for millions of our sisters and brothers. What will you do to support the hungry in our community and around the world? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more.

### 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.

### 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.

# 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!

### Journey with Us This Lent!

Go to [www.dio.org/lent](http://www.dio.org/lent) as we feature six stories of people who will challenge you and offer you six challenges that will change you! A new story and new challenge will come every week during Lent.

### 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!

### Dive Deep - Lent 101

Why fast? Why 40 days? Why purple? Why ashes? Why no meat on Fridays? Lent is full of symbolism, rooted deep in Catholic theology. Join Dive Deep, the official podcast of the Diocese of Springfield, for Lent 101. While it may sound like an introductory class, Dive Deep will teach you things about Lent you've never heard before. Go to [www.dio.org/podcast](http://www.dio.org/podcast) to listen and subscribe.

### 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).

### 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.

### 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.

### A Lenten Evening for Couples

Have you been unable or reluctant to attend mass or normal devotional practices of the Church during COVID? Grow closer to the Lord together as a couple this holy season with Lenten dinner recipes, an edifying short film, and a Couple's Lenten Habit Tracker & Devotional. Go to <https://datenight.communio.org/register-for-lent-date-night/> to learn more and to sign up.