

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MARCH 7, 2021 | 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG

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

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 10

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
PAROCHIAL VICAR

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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.



Month of St. Joseph in the Year of St. Joseph

Without a doubt, Lent is a time of the year with which most Catholics, and even many non-Catholics, are familiar. These are the 40 days before the celebration of Easter, and it is a time during which people give things up or try to do more or something. Fridays have a particular emphasis during this season, for on those days, we abstain from eating meat. Just these points give us some appreciation for how the Church invites us to be conscious of the importance of all time, and how each period of time, no matter how long or short, is an opportunity for us to grow in our Catholic faith.

Over the centuries, the Church has encouraged the faithful to be mindful of different aspects of our faith during different liturgical season of the year. But that is just the beginning, as the Church also invites us to reflect on various themes for each month and each day. At times, the Church also sets aside certain years to focus on something particular. It can be an interesting exercise to take some time to learn about the various ways that the Church invites us to celebrate various days, months, seasons, and years.

For our purposes now, I want to call to our attention two of these periods of time that coincide during this month of March in the year 2021. The month of March has been identified as a month during which the faithful are asked to deepen their devotion to St. Joseph. The Solemnity of St. Joseph is celebrated on March 19 each year, which makes it appropriate for us to set aside March for our special attention to this great figure. As you also may be aware, this year has been designated by Pope Francis as a Year of St. Joseph, marking the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of St. Joseph as the Universal Patron of the Church by Blessed Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1870.

During this season of Lent, we have been exploring the difference between being a true follower of Christ and mere admirer of Him. Apart from our Blessed Mother, St. Joseph give us the best example of how to be a true follower, so we look to him in a special way during this month and year dedicated to him.

St. Joseph also ties in well with our Family of Faith topic for this month, which is the second of the two Sacraments of Healing, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

St. Joseph is invoked as the Patron of a Happy Death, and we know that among other things, Anointing of the Sick is a powerful gift to bring peace to those who are approaching the end of their earthly journey. St. Joseph is also referred to in the Litany of St. Joseph as "Comfort of the troubled" and "Hope of the sick", so he intercedes in a special way for those who encounter suffering in any form.

Let us "go to Joseph" regularly during this month and renew our friendship with him, confident that through his example of his intercession, we will grow in our love for Christ, for whom St. Joseph dedicated his entire life, and as a result of his fidelity, now shares the gift we all hope to attain, eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

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, March 8

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
12:05pm - Pius Onyejaju Chineke
(The Anselment Family)
5:15pm - Jack Koester
(Cindy Vahling)

Tuesday, March 9

7am - Special Intention for Sheree Graves (Sheree Graves)
12:05pm - Mrs. Jack Koester
(Cindy Vahling)
5:15pm - Special Intention for Rev. Brian Alford (Chris Sommer)

Wednesday, March 10

7am - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
12:05pm - Fr. Lambert Leykam,
OFM (Cindy Vahling)
5:15pm - William F. & Shirley
Logan (Lisa Logan & Lori Logan
Motyka)

Thursday, March 11

7am - Jean Reno Greenwald
(Richard & Joan Rogers)
12:05pm - Joseph A. DelGiorno
(Patricia Kornfield)
5:15pm - Rosemary Dougherty
(Lou Ann & Carl Corrigan)

Friday, March 12

7am - Patria & Rufino Gontanco
(Hati & Joe Uy)
12:05pm - George Friedel
(Roy Ponce)
5:15pm - Special Intention for
Bianca (D. A. Drago)

Saturday, March 13

8am - Catherine Ponce
(Larry & Sue Ruder)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, March 14

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)
10am - Pius Onyejaju Chineke
(The Anselment Family)
5pm - Sally Sedlak Vaughn
(Becky & Woody Woodhull)



Where is the Anointing of the Sick in Scripture?

This month, we are turning our attention to the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. One characteristic of all seven sacraments is that they were instituted by Christ, and not a later innovation of the Church. Similar to Confirmation, the moment when Christ began the celebration of this sacrament is not as clear as baptism or the Eucharist, but there is still plenty of Scriptural evidence for the institution. The main text where we find evidence for this sacrament is found in James 5:14-15.

Is any among you sick? Let him call for the presbyters of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Another text which is found in the Gospel of Mark alludes to this sacrament, although not as explicitly as the Apostle James. "Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. They drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them" (Mark 6:7, 13). We see a few similarities between these two texts. The first similarity is who is doing the anointing of the sick. The Apostle James instructs the presbyters to pray over the sick person and anoint him. "Presbyter" means elder in the generic sense, but refers specifically to priests in the New Testament. The Apostle Paul appointed presbyters in every town and told the other bishops to do the same thing. The text from Mark shows us that Jesus instructed the Twelve Apostles to do the anointing of the sick. Because the Anointing of the Sick involves the power to forgive sins, only priests and bishops can do this. Jesus has not given this authority to deacons or other members of the Church.

A second similarity between both Mark and James is that the priests anoint with oil. This oil, called the "Oil of the Sick" is blessed by the diocesan bishop at the annual Chrism Mass, along with the Sacred Chrism (used for Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders), and Oil of Catechumens. In an emergency situation, any priest can bless oil to anoint somebody near death. Although not as common, it is a traditional part of our faith to offer other types of anointings which are not sacraments. Maybe you have heard about a special "oil of St. Joseph" or another oil associated with a saint. This oil is used in a similar way to holy water, as a physical reminder of our faith and a method for expressing devotion.

The primary fruit of the Anointing of the Sick is strengthening one's spirit through suffering. I will write more about this in future columns, but I wanted to point out the scriptural connections while we are exploring these two passages. Notice that the Apostle James talks about the prayer of faith saving the sick man, and his sins being forgiven. The Anointing of the Sick does sometimes result in physical healing of a person's ailment, but this is only a secondary fruit of the sacrament. God will sometimes use Anointing to heal somebody physically if this healing will be fruitful for their spiritual life.

Jesus came to share in our suffering, and he did so in a concrete way through his passion, death, and resurrection. This sharing in our suffering continues to this day as Jesus comes to comfort us in our darkest moments through the Anointing of the Sick.

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 27th & 28th

Envelopes:	\$4,964.00
Loose:	\$1,147.00
Maintenance:	\$156.00
Total:	\$6,267.00

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!



St. John of God: Where Can One Find Blazes of Glory?

Feast Day: March 10th

You would think the name John “of God” would set you apart from just your average João (Portuguese version of the name John), but there are at least 5 different famous men who have that tremendous title: a Portuguese actor from the first half of the 20th century; a professional soccer player, now a coach for the Benfica football club in Lisbon; a disgraced Brazilian psychic; an impulsive 14th century runaway who drifted from shepherd, to soldier, to deserter, to adventurer, to book-seller, and capped off all this with a nervous breakdown; and finally one of Portugal’s great, if absent-minded, poets from the 19th century.

Which one do you think was canonized a saint?

In this case, it was gentleman #4: the rash-boy-turned-shepherd, then soldier-turned-deserter, then African-adventurer-turned-book-seller. He had abandoned his parents (his mother died of grief; his father sorrowfully entered the Franciscans), and then left behind the shepherd who had adopted him and taught him that trade, even offering his daughter’s hand in marriage to the young John, (who would rather live the life of revelry of a soldier). He was found guilty of dereliction of duty and was thrown out of the army a few years later (though perhaps he was framed by jealous comrades? Some accounts say he had some kind of conversion at this time and they did not appreciate his newfound disapproval of drunkenness and profligacy.) In any case, he went back to shepherding ... and then various other military expeditions ... and then back to shepherding again ... and then became the servant of a noble family being exiled to Africa.

So, there he was in Morocco, nursing back to health the family that had been disgraced and rejected as they arrived in this far-flung Portuguese colony, watching his fellow servants run off to become Muslim and abandon their faith, and this good family, for glory or riches or something that might await them there. And then, I suppose, it hit him. He had done that exact same thing. He had abandoned his family, and faith in everything but name, jumping from thing to thing, hoping that something would fix the itch he had for adventure, or money, or stability, or nobility, or friendship, or whatever was the latest ambition that crossed his heart.

And now he was a middle-aged man that had still not figured out what life was about. He had finally gotten hungry, and disillusioned, and a little bit of repentance sank into that prodigal’s heart, just enough openness that God could intervene. One day John had a vision of the Infant Jesus, and received from Our Lord the surname “of God” (not unlike calling a fatherless man “Father-of-multitudes”, or an impetuous fisherman “the Rock”, I suppose...), Who also told him “Granada will be your cross.” He was heading back to Spain!

First, it was a simple call to sell devotional and chivalric books (much different from his earlier interests I suspect, and also different because moveable type had been invented just a handful of decades prior). But then, after a sermon by St. John of Ávila, John of God had what most would call a mental-breakdown (wild acts of repentance, public self-beatings, complete collapse from grief and sorrow). He was incarcerated as a mad-man, beaten and chained, and only released when the good John of Ávila advocated for him. It would take time, but gradually the great saint taught John how to turn his insensitive impulsivity into zeal for charity, his tendency to abandon into self-abandonment and complete availability to the poor, and his self-serving adventuring into the tenacity he needed to continue upon the hard road of learning to love (most avoided him, still seeing him as crazy and dangerous). It was in this that he *finally* found peace.

Some came to slowly to follow him, eventually forming a community who would dedicate their lives not to riches or glamor or adventure or impulsivity, but the simple and humble task of loving those worst off, especially the mentally handicapped. John would die at the age of 55, teaching us all that no matter what crazy path a life may take, charity can win out in the end, and Christ can convert any heart! His order continues the mission to this day, technically called the Hospitaller Order of the Brothers of St. John of God, but more commonly, and fondly, known as the Fatebenefratelli, the Do-Good-Brothers.

We would all find God in that.

Fr. Dominic Rankin has never ran into a burning building, or out of one, come to think of it. Though there was that time when the fire alarms went off in the airport in Rome and no one batted an eye as they blared away for 10 minutes before his flight... But St. John of God did run straight into a burning hospital, actually the same one where he was beaten and chained those years before, saving all the patients and then beds and whatever else he could throw out the windows. Turns out, God did not have in mind martyrdom for him because as the building collapsed in an inferno of blazing timber, the gutsy saint walked out just fine.



San Juan de Dios salvando a los enfermos de incendio del Hospital Real, Manuel Gómez-Moreno González, 1880. Museo Provincial de Bellas Artes in Granada. Public Domain.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



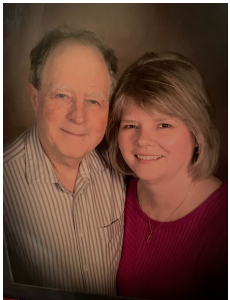
Around the Cathedral

Cathedral Parishioner Catholic School Tuition Scholarship

The Cathedral Parish believes in the value of Catholic education and is committed to assisting parishioners who choose a Catholic education for their children by providing tuition assistance. Parishioners will receive a \$500 tuition scholarship for each child enrolled in a Springfield Catholic Grade School (Grades K-8), and a \$750 tuition scholarship for each child enrolled at Sacred Heart-Griffin High School. The Scholarship is eligible to any parishioner household who is registered and active in the Cathedral parish. An active parishioner is defined as someone who regularly attends Mass on Sundays, supports the parish financially, and is active in the life of the parish. While all three of these qualifications are important, Sunday Mass participation is of the greatest importance. Faith formation begins with participation at Sunday Mass. To be eligible as a parishioner household, the family must be registered and active parishioners for a minimum of six months before the application is made for the scholarship. The scholarship will be paid directly to the school that the student attends, and funds will be attributed toward the 2020-2021 school year. A digital copy of this application can be found by visiting our website. Additional paper copies are available at the Parish Office. Applications are DUE by March 15th, 2021. You will be notified when the scholarship is being sent to the receiving school. If you have any questions, please contact the Cathedral Parish Office at 217-522-3342.

Better Meals in Madagascar

In Madagascar, half of all children are undernourished. That means 50% of kids won't grow to reach their full potential. But communities are changing this by focusing on improving health and nutrition. What role has food played in your life? How can you help those who lack access to enough nutritious food. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.



Welcome!

Welcome new Cathedral parishioners Leo and Brenda Katzenstein!

Second Collection: Catholic Relief Services

Next week, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection, and Serve Jesus by helping people in need. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Easter Sunday Masses

Easter Sunday Masses at the Cathedral will be offered at the following times:

7:00 AM | 9:00 AM | 11:00 AM

Reservations are required for ALL Easter Masses. Reservations will be taken following all the Masses next weekend, and will be open online until March 29th, 2021 at 11:59pm. **Reservations will not open until March 13th.**

Suffering as a Means of Healing and Spiritual Maturity

Jesus calls every one of us to follow him. While we try to follow this call, our utter rejection of suffering impedes our genuine experience of love – because suffering and love are mysteriously inseparable that a rejection of one is a denial of the other. Hence, Pope Benedict XVI, in his encyclical letter, *Spe Salvi*, states that “it is when we attempt to avoid suffering by withdrawing from anything that might involve hurt, when we try to spare ourselves the effort and pain of pursuing truth, love, and goodness, that we drift into a life of emptiness, in which there may be almost no pain, but the dark sensation of meaninglessness and abandonment is all the greater. Join Fr. Peter as he offers short reflections on suffering as a means of healing and spiritual maturity. Wednesdays, March 10th & 24th @ 7:00PM, Cathedral Atrium

Holy Hour for Single Parents

“Single-parent-household” is a term that sanitizes and belittles the real anguish felt in the heart of a mother or father who finds themselves raising their children alone. Are you carrying that cross? Or, do you know someone who is? As we approach the feast of the Our Lady's Annunciation and Our Lord's Passion – as Mary enters into her challenging motherhood and Christ embraces His own sufferings – let us join together in prayer before the truest and most faithful of Fathers and entrust this particular cross to His care. Child care provided. Monday, March 22 @ 7:00PM, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

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

Solidarity Meal - St. Agnes Parish

In partnership with Catholic Relief Services, the Diocesan Mission Office and Just Right Eating we are excited to offer options for you to celebrate your own SOLIDARITY MEAL at home! Recipes will be prepared by Just Right Eating for reheating at home. Choose as many items as you would like! Then pick up the food at St. Agnes on Friday March 19 between 2-6pm. Included with your meal will be prayers and resources for your use during your meal. You can even join others around the globe for a meatless meal demo on the CRS Instagram Page on Friday, March 19. Orders are due March 12th. Please contact Cathy Becker at cbecker@stagnescatholicparish.org or Cyndi Callan at ccallan@dio.org.

Journey with Us This Lent!

Go to 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.

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.

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.

Renewal of Faith & Return to Worship

Join us for a Parish Mission at St. John Vianney Parish in Sherman: Renewal of Faith & Return to Worship led by the Most Reverend Carl Kemme, current Bishop of Wichita and former SJV Pastor, is scheduled for March 16, 17, and 18, 2021 from 6:30pm - 8:30pm each evening.

Seating is Limited and a Reservation is required at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a4ea9ad2ea1fb6-stjohn> or call the parish office for assistance at 217-523-3816.

Tuesday, March 16th - Mass & Presentation.

Wednesday, March 17th - Presentation & Reconciliation

Thursday, March 18th - Adoration & Presentation

Please reserve your seat at one of three locations: In-Person at SJV Church, Livestream at the SJV Activity Center, or Livestream at Holy Family Church in Athens. Or join us from your home on Facebook @sjvchurchsherman for a live feed of the event.

Peace of Mind - Butler Funeral Homes

As our community cautiously reopens, The Butler Family of Organizations is pleased to re-introduce the lunch and learn events that we have missed for the past year. We extend an invitation to all who are interested in learning more about advance planning, veterans benefits, burial and cremation options, cemetery planning, and more. Limited seating will be available in accordance with local safety measures and social distancing recommendations. Masks will be required when not seated. Complimentary box lunches will be provided.

Our first event is a Peace of Mind Seminar scheduled for Thursday, March 18th from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at the Prairie View Reception Center, located at 8865 State Rt. 4 in Chatham. This event is free: no cost or obligation. Please call 217-544-4646 to reserve your space no later than March 15.

Keep Christ in Christmas Winners

Cathedral's Knights of Columbus Fr. Tolton Council is proud to announce its local winners of the 2020 Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest. Congratulations to Julia Anselment (age 5-7 category), Claire Anselment (age 8-10 category) and Grace Anselment (age 11-14 category). Each of these entries will move on to District level judging to be held in January. We wish them luck at the next level, but most importantly we appreciate them and the rest of the artists for the time and effort they put in to help make us all more aware of the true meaning of Christmas. All of their entries remain on display in the Atrium and we thank everyone for their contributions!

