

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MARCH 14, 2021 | 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



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 11

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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.



## St. Joseph – Patron of a Happy Death

Several years ago, I came across a drawing in an old Catholic book, probably a Catechism of some sort. One of the pictures in the book depicted a person in the hospital surrounded by a priest and family members. The person in the bed had a peaceful, joyful look on his face. The caption for the picture said something about the importance of praying for a happy death. This might strike us as a little odd today, because we generally do not like to think much about death, and when we do, it does not often evoke a happy response.

But as Christians, we should not fear death, for we believe that we who have been baptized into Christ have been baptized into His death, which grants us a share in His victory over death in the Resurrection. The funeral liturgy of the Church states it well with these words: “Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended.” (Roman Missal, Preface I for the Dead). We should therefore not fear death, but see it as the doorway through which we pass on our way to our heavenly reward where there will be no more suffering, but only joy and peace in the Lord. In our last moments, there is a particularly intense battle that goes on where the devil tries one last time to frighten us, to discourage us, and to tempt us to doubt the mercy of God. The Church offers us many gifts as we face this final struggle, especially the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, which confers a particular gift of the Holy Spirit “who renews trust and faith in God and strengthens against the temptations of the evil one, the temptation to discouragement and anguish in the face of death.” (CCC 1520)

Another gift we have at our disposal is the intercession of St. Joseph, who has among his various titles that of being Patron of a Happy Death. Tradition tells us that St. Joseph died in the peaceful presence of Jesus and Mary, who would have been a source of great comfort to him in his final moments. Having experienced this great grace, from his place in Heaven, he desires that we too should have that same opportunity, to be comforted in our final moments by the presence of Jesus and our Blessed Mother, and indeed all of the saints. The Catechism summarizes this point succinctly and beautifully:

*The Church encourages us to prepare ourselves for the hour of our death. In the litany of saints, for instance, the Church has us pray: ‘From a sudden and unforeseen death, deliver us, O Lord’; to ask the Mother of God to intercede for us ‘at the hour of our death’ in the Hail Mary; and to entrust ourselves to St. Joseph, the patron of a happy death.” (CCC 1014)*

Another title for St. Joseph is that he is the Terror of Demons. While that title could justify an entire reflection, we can simply recognize how St. Joseph comes to our aid in a special way at the moment of death, fighting against the demons who try to discourage us. We can be at peace knowing this holy man is fighting on our behalf, so that we can keep our minds and hearts fixed on the promise of Jesus who is preparing to bring us into glory in the Kingdom.

If you have not already done so, please consider making it a regular practice to ask St. Joseph to obtain for you a Happy Death. Not only can we count on his protection in those final moments, but he will also help us on this journey no longer to fear death, but to look forward with joy to what awaits us in 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 15

7am - Ben & Luna Unkraut Family (Cindy Vahling)  
12:05pm - Special Intention for Bart Rovey (Mulford Family)  
5:15pm - Catherine Ponce (Al Jenness)

#### Tuesday, March 16

7am - Stephanie Sandidge (Sue Sandidge)  
12:05pm - Deceased Members of the Rocco Piccinino Family (John Busciacco)  
5:15pm - Norman & Eileen Rovey (Family)

#### Wednesday, March 17

7am - Helene O'Shea (Bud O'Shea)  
12:05pm - Thomas McGee Family (Tom McGee)  
5:15pm - Mary Dwyer (Barbara Bitschenauer)

#### Thursday, March 18

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath (Augustine Eleyidath)  
12:05pm - Joseph A. DelGiorno (Patricia Kornfield)  
5:15pm - Delia Sinn (Pamela Hargan)

#### Friday, March 19

7am - Jean Reno (Greenwald) (Richard & Joan Rogers)  
12:05pm - Special Intention for Deborah Waitkus (Helen Toney)  
5:15pm - George Robert Cunningham (Lou Ann & Carl Corrigan)

#### Saturday, March 20

8am - Patricia Scherrills (Family & Friends)  
4pm - Deceased Members of the McGee, Schweska, & Kaufman Families (Susan Ochoa)

#### Sunday, March 21

7am - For the People  
10am - John & Edith Bakalar (John Busciacco)  
5pm - Special Intention for Michael Kelly (Chris Sommer)





## Last Rites?!

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick has sometimes been referred to as the “Last Rites.” This means that the Anointing is the last “rite” or ceremony someone would receive before death. While this is true, Anointing is not only for those on the verge of death. Vatican II specifically wanted to correct this understanding of the sacrament. As we learned last week, the Apostle James asked, “Are there any sick among you? Let them call for the priests of the Church...” The Anointing of the Sick is for any baptized Catholic who is facing a serious sickness, not just those on the verge of death. Here is what paragraph 73 of the document on liturgy from Vatican II said about the Anointing of the Sick:

*"Extreme unction," which may also and more fittingly be called "anointing of the sick," is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as any one of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived (Sacrosanctum Concilium 73).*

The Church hopes that every Catholic who is facing a serious physical illness would be Anointed in these times of difficulty. Far too often, Catholics are hesitant to call a priest until their loved one is on the point of death. Unfortunately, there are times when they do wait too long and their loved one passes before the priest can make it. In addition, it is ideal for a person who is nearing death to also receive the sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist at the time of the Anointing. If a person is unconscious, they cannot receive Reconciliation, although they can sometimes still receive a very small particle of the Eucharist.

It would be helpful if we had a slight shift in our vocabulary regarding Last Rites and the Anointing of the Sick. As the Council said, it is more fitting that we refer to this sacrament as the Anointing of the Sick, rather than Last Rites. This shift in vocabulary would help us as Catholics come to a better understanding and appreciation of this sacrament of healing.

Some people are too intimidated to call a priest and ask him for the Anointing of the Sick. This is understandable, but if you don't want to call, feel free to approach a priest after Sunday Mass and ask him if he has a few minutes to celebrate the Anointing of the Sick. Usually it is no problem, although sometimes the priest may have to be somewhere shortly after Mass. While priests have the reputation for being busy, we are never too busy to give someone the Anointing of the Sick, especially when the situation is urgent, or a new health complication has arisen. If there is an emergency, such as someone having a heart attack or accident in the evening or night-time, the Cathedral rectory has an emergency extension which rings all of the phones in all of the priests' offices and residences. Typically, at least one of us is home at any given time after-hours.

On Christmas day, I received an emergency call to come to somebody's home and offer them the Anointing of the Sick. The family was apologetic for “bothering” me on Christmas day, but I did not find it to be a bother at all, and I think almost all priests would agree with me. We do not stop being priests when the office closes, and as Catholics, our sacramental needs are not limited to business hours. We don't mind being called upon after-hours to celebrate the Anointing of the Sick. (Just please do not use the emergency line for everyday business questions!)

In the coming weeks, I will discuss why it is so good for Catholics to receive the Anointing of the Sick, not only at the point of death, but whenever they are in the face of serious suffering. It is a sacrament of encouragement and healing, which Jesus desires for us to experience!

*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 March 6th & 7th

Envelopes:	\$10,002.00
Loose:	\$2,828.00
Maintenance:	\$1,269.00
Total:	\$14,099.00

February EFT: \$21,808.40

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. Patrick: “He Who Loses His Life For My Sake Will Save It.”

**Feast Day: March 17th**

With Fr. Alford covering the more important saint this week (and year!), St. Joseph, the obvious story for me to tell is that of St. Patrick. Well, actually, let's have him tell us the tale. This is his “Confessio”.

[12: His introduction] *So I am first of all a simple country person, a refugee, and unlearned. I do not know how to provide for the future. But this I know for certain, that before I was brought low, I was like a stone lying deep in the mud. Then he who is powerful came and in his mercy pulled me out, and lifted me up and placed me on the very top of the wall. That is why I must shout aloud in return to the Lord for such great good deeds of his, here and now and forever, which the human mind cannot measure.*

[16: Enslavement in Ireland] *After I arrived in Ireland, I tended sheep every day, and I prayed frequently during the day. More and more the love of God increased, and my sense of awe before God. Faith grew, and my spirit was moved, so that in one day I would pray up to one hundred times, and at night perhaps the same. I even remained in the woods and on the mountain, and I would rise to pray before dawn in snow and ice and rain. I never felt the worse for it, and I never felt lazy – as I realise now, the spirit was burning in me at that time.*

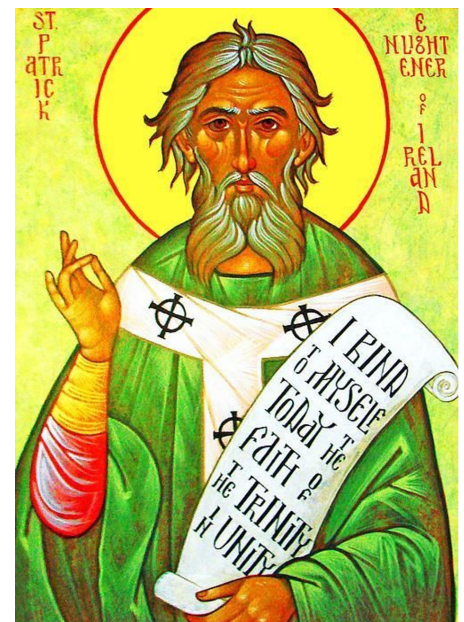
[19: Making his escape] *After three days we made it to land, and then for twenty eight days we travelled through a wilderness. Food ran out, and great hunger came over them. The captain turned to me and said: “What about this, Christian? You tell us that your God is great and all-powerful ... I said to them with some confidence: “Turn in faith with all your hearts to the Lord my God, because nothing is impossible for him so that he may put food in your way – even enough to make you fully satisfied! He has an abundance everywhere.” With the help of God, this is actually what happened! A herd of pigs appeared in the way before our eyes! They killed many of them and there they remained for two nights, and were fully restored...*

[23] *A few years later I was again with my parents in Britain. They welcomed me as a son, and they pleaded with me that, after all the many tribulations I had undergone, I should never leave them again. It was while I was there that I saw, in a vision in the night ... They called out as it were with one voice: “We beg you, holy boy, to come and walk again among us.” This touched my heart deeply, and I could not read any further; I woke up then. Thanks be to God, after many years the Lord granted them what they were calling for.*

[51: after shepherding the Irish people for decades] *I spend myself for you, so that you may have me for yours. I have travelled everywhere among you for your own sake, in many dangers, and even to the furthest parts where nobody lived beyond, and where nobody ever went to baptise and to ordain clerics or to bring people to fulfilment. It is only by God's gift that I diligently and most willingly did all of this for your good.*

[60: His concluding plea] *The sun which we see rising for us each day at his command, that sun will never reign nor will its splendour continue forever; and all those who adore that sun will come to a bad, miserable penalty. We, however, believe in and adore the true sun, that is, Christ, who will never perish. Nor will they perish who do his will but they will abide forever just as Christ will abide forever. He lives with God the Father almighty and with the Holy Spirit before the ages began, and now, and for all the ages of ages. Amen ... [62] I pray for those who believe in and have reverence for God. Some of them may happen to inspect or come upon this writing which Patrick, a sinner without learning, wrote in Ireland. May none of them ever say that whatever little I did or made known to please God was done through ignorance. Instead, you can judge and believe in all truth that it was a gift of God. This is my confession before I die.*

*Fr. Dominic Rankin immensely enjoys corned beef and cabbage, but asks himself this week whether he enjoys prayer as much as the young Patrick? He has rarely suffered serious hunger, but wonders if he would have faith-enough to ask for food miraculously? He loves his family and would find it terribly hard to leave them behind for the Gospel. He has also baptized and preached, but has never been beaten because of it. What if I were to die this week, or this year? Would my “Confessio”, my autobiography, be about me, or about Christ? That might be a good question as I pray St. Patrick's “Lorica” this week!*



# 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.

### Trying New Foods in Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste has the highest rate of child malnutrition in Asia, and many children suffer from stunting, which makes a big impact on a child's growth and future. Home gardens and fishponds are helping families provide better nutrition for their children. What do you eat to stay healthy? What can you do to ensure children have enough food to thrive? Visit [csrcricebowl.org](http://csrcricebowl.org) to learn more.

### 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 this weekend, and will be open online until March 29th, 2021 at 11:59pm.

Please visit our website for the reservation link.

### 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.

### Extended Times for Confessions at the Cathedral

Join us for Confessions, Coffee and Conversations at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Friday, March 19, 12:30pm-6:30pm. Confessions will also be heard all day on Saturday, March 20, from 9:00am-5:30pm. All are welcome!

### Second Collection: Cathedral Parish Student Assistance for Catholic Education

Next week's second collection will be for Cathedral Parish Student Assistance for Catholic Education. 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. This second collection will go towards funding those scholarships. You can support fellow parishioners by donating online at [www.spicathedral.org/give-online](http://www.spicathedral.org/give-online). Please specify in the comments section that your donation is for the Tuition Assistance Second Collection. You may also mail a check or cash to the Parish Office at 524 E. Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, IL 62703.

### 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

### 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 24th @ 7:00PM, Cathedral Atrium

# 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 reheat 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](mailto:cbecker@stagnescatholicparish.org) or Cyndi Callan at [ccallan@dio.org](mailto:ccallan@dio.org).

### Collection Letter: Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl 2021

Lent is a time of repentance and of uniting ourselves to Christ during his 40 days in the desert. During this sacred season, CRS Rice Bowl-Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program-invites us to reflect on how caring for our neighbor is caring for Christ. *For I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink (Matthew 25:35).*

CRS Rice Bowl provides resources to bring Lenten spirituality to life for families, parishes and school communities, while continuing to connect Catholics in our diocese with our global human family.

This year, CRS invites you to journey to Madagascar, El Salvador and Timor-Leste to learn about the root causes of hunger and how communities-with the support of CRS and faith communities like yours - are making sure they have the right nutritious food to thrive. Through stories, videos and lesson plans, your community will learn about the global issue of hunger and malnutrition and our Gospel call to feed the hungry. With prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we can continue Jesus' mission to care for all in need.

Bishop Paprocki encourages you to order a CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar for each family in your community. These free materials are available in English and Spanish. You may also visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) or [crsplatodearroz.org](http://crsplatodearroz.org) to find additional resources, including:

- Lenten devotions and prayers
- Lesson plans, videos and activity sheets for Catholic school teachers and religious educators
- Ideas for in-person or virtual community gatherings and simple Lenten meal events.

Thank you for inviting families in your faith community to an enriched Lenten journey through CRS Rice Bowl. Together, we can respond to Christ's call to help those in need and ensure everyone reaches his or her God-given human potential.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### Knights of Columbus Fraternal Benefit Night Virtual Webinar

The Knights of Columbus invite you to a virtual webinar featuring award winning author Tom Hegna on March 23rd at 6:30pm. Tom will be discussing how to create a secure retirement. All are invited, and you don't have to be a Knight to attend. For more information and to register please go to [kofc.link/hegna](https://kofc.link/hegna)