

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**MARCH 21, 2021 | 5TH 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 12

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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

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

DEACON T. SCOTT KEEN

HALEY BENTEL  
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS  
HBENTEL@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

VICKI DHABALT COMPTON  
COORDINATOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND MISSION  
VCOMPTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

LISA A. DUFFEY  
PARISH SECRETARY  
LDUFFEY@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

MARK GIFFORD  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
MGIFFORD@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

BILL VOGT  
OFFICE AND PLANT MANAGER  
BVOGT@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

SR. FRANCELLE VYVERMAN, O.P.  
MINISTRY TO THE SICK  
SFRANCELLE@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

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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 – Intercessor Extraordinaire

As I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, Pope Francis has designated this year to be a Year of St. Joseph, marking the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church by Blessed Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1870. To kick off the year, Pope Francis released a beautiful reflection on St. Joseph in his Apostolic Letter, *Patris corde*. I highly encourage you to read this relatively short letter, especially during this month dedicated to him.

There is a hidden nugget to be found in this letter that I did not discover when I first read it. That nugget is found not in the main text of the letter, but in the footnotes! The footnote is referenced by the following line in the text which seems rather insignificant. The Holy Father writes:

*Every prayer book contains prayers to Saint Joseph. Special prayers are offered to him each Wednesday and especially during the month of March, which is traditionally dedicated to him.*

Great. Thanks for the heads up, but who takes the time to jump to read every footnote? But reading this footnote is like finding gold, as it offers something very personal and beautiful about Pope Francis and his personal devotion to St. Joseph. Here is how the footnote reads:

*Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds I have recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary. It expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph: "Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome. My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen."*

What a moving prayer that is! When we think of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, we might think that our own needs are so minor in comparison to all of the needs of the Church throughout the world. Does he really have time to listen to my prayers and struggles? Absolutely! Just as a good father has time and concern for the individual needs of each of his children, so too with St. Joseph, our father and lord (as St. Josemaria Escriva likes to call him). I think the above prayer prayed each day by our Holy Father is a witness to that reality. Perhaps you and I could adopt that same practice of turning to St. Joseph each day, asking for his help in bringing about a happy outcome to every struggle we entrust to his intercession.

*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 22

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
12:05pm - Roger Bartley  
(Lou Ann & Carl Corrigan)  
5:15pm - Pius Onyejaju Chineke  
(Anonymous)

#### Tuesday, March 23

7am - Jean Reno (Greenwald)  
(LouAnn & Carl Corrigan)  
12:05pm - Catherine Ponce  
(Maggie & Joe Groboski)  
5:15pm - George J. Nicoud, Sr.  
(Tim Nicoud)

#### Wednesday, March 24

7am - Joseph Kohlrus, Sr.  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
12:05pm - Sophia Bartoletti  
(Bartoletti Family)  
5:15pm - William Boyle  
(Billy LeCrone)

#### Thursday, March 25

7am - Jean Reno (Greenwald)  
(LouAnn & Carl Corrigan)  
12:05pm - Patricia Scherrills  
(Family & Friends)  
5:15pm - George Friedel  
(Frank & Nancy Diak)

#### Friday, March 26

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
12:05pm - Vivian Boyle  
(Billy LeCrone)  
5:15pm - Steven Coogan  
(Lou Ann & Carl Corrigan)

#### Saturday, March 27

8am - Ben Garde  
(Family)  
4pm - Evelyn Lauer  
(Rebecca & Woody Woodhull)

#### Sunday, March 28

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(William Midden)  
10am - For the People  
5pm - Delia Sinn  
(Pamela Hargan)





## What Does the Anointing of the Sick Do?

We all know that the Anointing of the Sick should be offered to all Catholics who are nearing death, and also those who are facing a serious illness or weakness from old age. The Church talks about four specific graces that Jesus offers to those who receive this special sacrament. This can be found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 1520-1523.

The **first grace** is described as “a particular gift of the Holy Spirit.” People who have received this sacrament can probably testify to the effects of this gift of the Holy Spirit. In this moment, God gives strength, peace, and courage in the face of difficulty. This courage also helps one to be victorious in the battle that takes place “at the hour of our death” as we pray in the Hail Mary. In the moments before death, the devil knows that it is his last chance to tempt us to despair. The grace of God comes in at this very moment to strengthen us! Also, one’s sins can be forgiven if they were not able to receive Reconciliation. The soul is healed and the body is also healed, if God wills it for one’s spiritual good.

The **second grace** of this sacrament is a special union with the passion of Christ. Through our baptism, we are all united with Christ’s death and resurrection in a spiritual way. However, when our bodies die, we share with Christ’s death in a physical way. As we near this moment, our suffering is especially close to the suffering that Jesus endured in his Passion. As St. Paul tells us, our suffering fills up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ, and Jesus uses our suffering for the salvation of the world.

The **third grace** is called an ecclesial grace. “Ecclesial” refers to the Church. In addition to uniting one to Christ, the Anointing unites one more fully to the Church. They can experience a special closeness to the saints in heaven, and their suffering becomes a gift to the entire Church throughout the world.

The **fourth and final grace** of the Anointing of the Sick is a preparation for the final journey. This is the last sacrament many will receive before passing away (except for Viaticum hopefully). We all receive several anointings during the celebration of the sacraments: two anointings in Baptism, one in Confirmation, and for priests, at the reception of Holy Orders. This final anointing fortifies the end of our earthly life as we prepare for the journey from earthly life to eternal life.

The Anointing of the Sick certainly offers us many graces at what may be the lowest point of our lives. “Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.” The Lord is very close to us in our suffering, and especially in our death. This past Friday, we just celebrated the Solemnity of St. Joseph. He is the patron saint of a happy death, and we should all pray that we will die a “happy death.” God did not make death, but he has transformed it into the gateway of eternal life. May we all pray that we will receive the gift of the Anointing of the Sick before we die, so that we can receive all these gifts that Jesus desires to offer us.

*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 13th & 14th

Envelopes:	\$4,596.00
Loose:	\$1,189.00
Maintenance:	\$270.00
Total:	\$6,055.00

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!



## Caiaphas' Take on the First Palm Sunday

*The lightning had struck early in the morning, on the tenth day of Nisan, the very day on which the procurator returned to the city for his usual stay during the Passover. Not unheralded – for some days past the clouds had been gathering. Agents reported a growing feeling of unrest among the early pilgrims, a few rumors, many rumors, a sea of rumors that “he” was coming, that this time “he” would declare himself openly for what he was, that nothing and nobody would be able to stop the beginning of the “new time”, that the events at the Feast of Tabernacles were no more than a prelude, that no other day but the Passover feast could usher in the coming of the Messiah, the day commemorating Israel's delivery from bondage.*

*The old quotations ran from mouth to mouth again, about the “Son of David”, the Anointed One, who would bring peace and happiness to the world, the one of whom Jacob spoke in the forty-ninth chapter of Genesis: “The scepter shall not be taken away from Judah, or a ruler from his thigh, till he come that is to be sent, and he shall be the expectation of the nations”; quotations from the psalms of David foretelling the coming of the Messiah and Isaiah's cry, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the wilderness the paths of our God.” And they were talking of Jochanaan, the Baptist, as the forerunner Isaiah mentioned. They called up the prophets one by one, Jeremiah and Ezechiel, Amos and Zacharias and Daniel – but they meant that the day was approaching when the Messiah would scatter the Romans and make an end to their rule.*

*Then suddenly somebody spread the news that “he” had arrived, that “he” was in Bethany and preparing to enter “his” city, and the news raced across Jerusalem like wildfire, and everywhere people bunched together and shouted with excitement and broke off palm branches and streamed out to receive the King Messiah.*

*And from then on the messengers came in wild-eyed, spluttering and stammering, scarcely any one of them able to deliver a cold, clear report. And no wonder.*

*It was incredible but true. He really dared to come out in the open. He came riding on a donkey. Of course! He knew his Scripture. He had read his Zacharias: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Sion, shout for joy, O daughter of Jerusalem; Behold thy King will come to thee, the just and Savior; he is poor, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.” Many hundreds of people came with him. They had gone out to Bethany to fetch him in state, and they found him, of course, as the Romans did not, the Romans who could have prevented all this so easily, if only they had acted at once when the High Priest sent them the message.*

*That man Eleazar was with the Nazarene telling everyone that he had been raised from the dead, and a number of witnesses cried that they had seen it with their own eyes. And the crowds swelled bigger and bigger, and they shouted “Hosanna!”, “Save...”, and “Blessed be he who cometh in the name of the Lord!” The priest who came to tell the High Priest about it could scarcely articulate for anger against such blasphemy.*

- From *The Spear*, by Louis de Wohl, 1998. p275-276.

I certainly recommend all of Louis de Wohl's books, many which bring the reader vividly into the lives of different saints, but this one, *The Spear*, he rightly considered his best. If you read it, you will find in yourself the same fears and scheming that consumed Caiaphas, the same love and ardor of Martha and Mary, alongside the wonder-struck crowd as Lazarus stepped from his tomb, and moved to see Christ, filled with longing and loneliness, enter into the city of Jerusalem and take up his cross. This bringing ourselves into the Passion of Jesus, is not the story of a saint, it is the story of every saint!

*Fr. Dominic Rankin was on a mission trip in Tanzania when he first read this tremendous historical fiction by Louis de Wohl. He read it over Holy week and Easter week two years ago, and his imagination has remained transformed by the imagery and characters ever since. It is books like this that have fostered his desire to vibrantly recount the stories of the saints, as well as inspired in him a new and vivid meditation on the stories we know so well in Scripture.*

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### Second Collection: St. Martin de Porres Center

Next week's second collection will be for the St. Martin de Porres Center. St Martin De Porres uses donated funds to purchase food to give to those who may not have the resources to provide for themselves. Your generous donation will go towards assisting St. Martin de Porres Center's mission of providing for those in need.

### 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

### 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

### Community in Madagascar

Poor nutrition can lead to devastating long-term consequences for individuals, communities and entire countries. That's why communities must work together to ensure that all children have access to better food and nutrition. New planting and cooking techniques are helping many communities in Madagascar improve the health and wellbeing of their children. How does your community work together for the good of others? Visit [csrceibowl.org](http://csrceibowl.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 open online until March 29th, 2021 at 11:59pm.

Please visit our website for the reservation link, or use the camera on your smartphone to scan this QR code.



### 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

### Pay Checks and Play Checks

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 visit [kofc.link/hegna](https://kofc.link/hegna)

### Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ongoing Habitat for Humanity projects that need your help! Accessibility ramp construction, concrete flatwork and finishing, and floor joists and decking are just a few of the current ongoing projects. If you are interested in volunteering with the Habitat for Humanity, please contact Susan at [development@habitatsangamon.com](mailto:development@habitatsangamon.com) for more information!

### Riverton K of C Fish Frys

Fish Frys are back!! Pick up your meal from the Riverton Knights of Columbus on Friday, March 26, 2021 from 5:00pm-7:00pm. Only two items are on the menu: Walleye or Shrimp, with fries or a baked potato. All meals are \$10, cash or check only (no credit or debit cards). Due to the virus, no one from the public will be allowed in the building. However, there will be drive-thru and call-in options available. Call 217-629-7202 to place your order, or 217-414-6755 after 5pm. Upcoming frys: April 16 and May 7

### Shroud of Turin on Virtual Display for Holy Saturday

For the second time, the Shroud of Turin will be exposed for veneration on social media and websites on Holy Saturday, the archbishop of Turin has announced. The Shroud, which bears the image of a crucified man and has been venerated for centuries as Christ's burial cloth, will be displayed via live stream on April 3. Turin's Archbishop Cesare Nosiglia will preside over a liturgy on Holy Saturday, which will be live-streamed from the chapel of the Turin cathedral, where the Shroud is kept in a climate-controlled vault. You can find Turin's Cathedral's website here: [www.duomoditorino.it/](http://www.duomoditorino.it/)

### 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.

### 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.

### Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield Chicken Dinner Fundraiser

Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield, Inc. is hosting a Drive Thru Chicken Dinner Fundraiser with Nelson's Catering at Christ the King Parish Center on Tuesday, March 30th from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The meal includes a ½ grilled chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes and dinner roll with butter. Tickets are \$10 and orders must be placed by Friday, March 26th at 12:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased online at <https://nelsonscatering.com/pregnancy-care-center>. Meals may also be ordered and donated to the Salvation Army. Thank you for helping to support the services at the Pregnancy Care Center as they celebrate 42 years of service!