

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**MARCH 28, 2021 | PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION**



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

# Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 13

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THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI  
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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.



## Holy Week

At the beginning of Lent, I invited us to reflect on the difference between being a true follower of Christ or simply an admirer. How we have undertaken our Lenten journey will give a good indication of the camp to which we belong. The question we can pose to ourselves is simple: after this Lenten journey, is it evident that I love God more than at the beginning of Lent? And by extension, do I love others more than at the beginning of Lent? Those are the questions that are most important for us

to ask ourselves, not how successful we have been with our Lenten practices, for if they have not resulted in this increase in love for God and neighbor, they have been ineffective, at least according to what the Church expects of us from our Lenten observances. Being the so-called “best version of ourselves” must always be seen through the lens of the Gospel, not through the lens the world which focuses just on self-perfection and self-love. The true follower of Jesus comes to the beginning of Holy Week with greater love in their hearts. Admirers, however, have remained largely unchanged in their hearts, despite checking all of the boxes of Lent.

As I share these challenging words, I do not intend for them to make us as feel discouraged if we find ourselves in the admirer camp. The fact of the matter is, we all likely have a mix in our hearts of being both a follower *and* an admirer. But there is good news for us, even if we feel that we have not lived this Lent well. There is still time for us to make good use of the season, even if there are only a few days left. Just look to the example of the Good Thief who, in the final moments of the Passion of Jesus, turned to Him with that moving request: “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom”, to which Jesus responded: “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:42-43)

It is not too late for us to make that intentional decision to live as a follower of Jesus Christ, asking for His grace to overcome those areas of our hearts which still only admire Him from a distance, unwilling to make the sacrifices necessary to be more completely His. A week may not seem like enough time for this type of conversion, but this is no ordinary week! The love of Christ is on full display for us this Holy Week as we recount the gift that He won for all of us through His suffering and death.

May I suggest a final Lenten practice for each of us this week? Find a crucifix and keep it visible to you throughout the week. Look at it regularly, and as you do, make many acts of reparation for your many sins, and follow them up with acts of thanksgiving and love for the sacrifice He offered for each of us. Even if you have struggled with your Lenten disciplines, this simple practice of adoring our Lord’s Cross during this week can bear great fruit that can redeem your entire Lenten journey and so prepare you to celebrate Easter in the way the Church intends, as a follower, no longer just an admirer.

*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 29

7am - Eugene Nalesnik  
(Fr. Augustine Tolton Council #16126)  
12:05pm - Joseph A. DelGiorno  
(Lisa Duffey)  
5:15pm - Carolyn Boyle Norbits  
(Billy LeCrone)

### Tuesday, March 30

7am - Kyle Buckman  
(Mom)  
12:05pm - Joseph Kohlrus  
(LouAnn & Carl Corrigan)  
5:15pm - NO MASS

### Wednesday, March 31

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
12:05pm - Catherine Ponce  
(Bill & Sara Metcalf)  
5:15pm - Joseph Kohlrus, Sr.  
(Augustine Eleyidath)

### Thursday, April 1

6:30pm - Jean Reno Greenwald  
(Robert & Ann Schroeder III)

### Friday, April 2

3pm - NO INTENTION; GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

### Saturday, April 3

8pm - Janet Smith  
(LouAnn & Carl Corrigan)

### Sunday, April 4

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(William Midden)  
9am - Charles & Mercedes Nesbitt  
(Kathy Frank)  
11am - For the People





## The Oil of the Sick

When a priest receives a call to celebrate the Anointing of the Sick, he always brings several items along with him: the Oil of the Sick (usually in a very small vial or oil stock), a small prayer book, and a stole. In case of an emergency, the priest really only needs the Oil of the Sick, but it is good when possible to also wear a stole and pray the prayers from the book which surround the Anointing of the Sick.

The Oil of the Sick is olive oil which receives a special blessing at the Chrism Mass, which our diocese celebrates on Tuesday evening of Holy Week. Nothing is physically added to this oil when it is blessed. I was surprised to learn recently that our oil simply comes from the grocery store before it is blessed. I had never really thought about where the oil comes from until I came to the Cathedral, and our staff here is responsible for purchasing this oil every year.

God uses simple physical means in all of his sacraments: oil, water, bread, wine, and simple words spoken. However, after the oil is blessed, it is no longer regular olive oil, but instead becomes an instrument of God's healing grace. Here is the prayer of blessing which the Bishop prays over the oil.

*O God, Father of all consolation, who willed to heal the infirmities of the weak through your Son, listen favorably to the prayer of faith: send forth from the heavens, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, upon this oil in all its richness, which you have graciously brought forth from the verdant tree to restore the body, so that by your blessing, everyone anointed with this oil as a safeguard for body, soul, and spirit, may be freed from all pain, all infirmity, and all sickness. May your holy oil, O Lord, be blessed by you for our sake, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Most priests keep a small oil stock in the glovebox of their car, and some even keep a very small vial in their pocket. We do not want to be in a situation where somebody needs the Anointing, but we are not able to offer it because we forgot to bring the oil with us. In cases of emergency, a priest can bless some oil himself (using the prayer from the book) instead of going to retrieve the oil that has been blessed by the Bishop.

The Anointing of the Sick typically involves three anointings on the body. First the priest traces the sign of the cross on the patient's forehead while saying, "Through this holy anointing, may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit." Then, the priest traces the sign of the cross on the palms of each of the patient's hands while saying, "May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up." There are some situations where a person's hands or head may be bandaged after an accident, and in that case, the priest may anoint only one part of the body or even the part of the body which needs healing.

This concludes our parish's reflections on the Anointing of the Sick. If you remember one thing, just remember that when a Catholic is near death or seriously ill, do not hesitate to call a priest and ask for 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 March 20th & 21st

Envelopes:	\$5,444.00
Loose:	\$2,306.00
Maintenance:	\$88.00
Total:	\$7,838.00

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!



## The Characters of Calvary

**Celebrated whenever Our Lord Jesus Christ's Passion is Told**

Just inside the door of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher – the gigantic, ancient, Church in Jerusalem that sits on top of the locations for Jesus' Passion and Resurrection – you come across a strange sight (amongst many found in that Church, at least to us Western Catholics, who over the centuries have developed a different variety of liturgical and devotional traditions and accoutrements than the Coptic, Armenian, Russian, Greek, and Ethiopian (Orthodox) Christians, which form the most prevalent other groups visiting and praying in this tremendous Basilica). That sight is a stone slab elevated just a bit off of the uneven stone floor, flanked by large candles and situated under a rank of 8 large, glass, oil lamps. Unless you walked in just as the giant doors opened in the morning (around 5am), there is probably a crowd of pilgrims crouched and reverencing this particular stone, and bemused tourists standing around with cameras. The air around you smells of oldness and oil, the sound of the markets and streets outside has been replaced by the reverent bustle and busy-ness that saturates this beautiful, profound, mystifying place. You are standing before the Stone of Anointing long held to be where Jesus was washed, anointed, and wrapped in linen before His burial.

*After this Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him leave. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who had at first come to him by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds' weight. They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there. – John 19:38-42*

I had never considered the fact that all of the scenes we know so well of Jesus' crucifixion, passion, death, burial, and resurrection all happened within a handful of yards of each other. Of course, all four evangelists indicate that Jesus was buried once Joseph had asked for His body, and that the tomb was not far away because they had to act quickly to be done before the Sabbath started. So perhaps I should not have been surprised to find this anointing stone only a handful of yards from Golgotha, and a similar distance to the sepulcher where Jesus was buried.

Still, not only does this Basilica put in perspective the distance and reality of all those locations, it also brings us close to the characters that were present at those places, on that terrible but wonderful, horrible but good Friday. His mother, and the disciple whom He loved. Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and Mary of Clopas. Salome, and the other women. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. The Centurion, soldiers, Simon, and the Chief Priests. They stood around these same places, but they held in their heart very different perspectives on the scenes unfolding before their eyes. Last week I put us in the shoes of Caiaphas – not exactly a saint in these scenes! – yet it is helpful to put us in the shoes of all the different characters who had the grace to be present before Christ upon the cross. Some chose to believe. Some chose to run. Some chose to deny, decry, or despair. Some chose the puzzling path of asking for Jesus' body and preparing it for burial.

We get to choose our place as well. Will we act in our day, as the saints did then? The Sanhedrin? The spectators? The sorrowers? The soldiers? The sinners?

*Fr. Dominic Rankin has had the chance to visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. He will (hopefully) never forget a long night spent in prayer in the dark and locked church. It was chilling physically, but transformative spiritually. A place like none on earth: where God laid down His life, and took it up again.*



Tourists around Stone of Anointing, in the Church of the Resurrection, by Rostislav Glinsky

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### Hard Topics

St. Peter, once wrote to his persecuted brothers and sisters back in Asia Minor these tremendous words: "in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." Have you been persecuted for something your Christian faith asks you to do? Are you uncertain how to respond to arguments nowadays levied against Christ, the Church, or the Sacraments? Are you, or someone you know, unconvinced by the Church's teachings? Join Fr. Dominic Rankin for a conversation on those "hard topics" over which we find our faith challenged: Jesus' resurrection, the Eucharist, purgatory, Mary ... the Pope, the scandals, Galileo ... a male priesthood, cohabitation, contraception, gender... all these topics and more will be candidly discussed, all questions will be received, and we will come away with our Hope renewed in Christ! Wednesdays, April 14, 21, & 28 @ 7:00PM in the Cathedral Atrium

### Serving the Suffering Christ

As we enter Holy Week and celebrate Palm Sunday, let's reflect on how our Lord suffered from our indifference: those who proclaimed him king of Jerusalem were the same who called to crucify him. We recognize we are all one human family. Are we contributing to the suffering of our sisters and brothers with our indifference to their realities? How does our faith inspire us to care for them and share the gifts that God has bestowed on us? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more.

### Easter Triduum Schedule at the Cathedral

Our Easter Triduum Schedule is as follows:

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper: 6:30pm  
The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on  
Good Friday: 3:00pm  
Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday: 8:00pm

There is no need to RSVP for any of the Triduum liturgies. All are welcome to attend.

### 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

### **Second Collection: Holy Land and the Seminarian Fund**

We look forward to the liturgical celebrations of Holy Week, through which the Lord draws us more fully into the mystery of His death and resurrection.

Each year, the Holy Father asks each Catholic parish around the world to take up a Good Friday Collection to keep Christians in the Holy Land. The Collection supports the work of the Franciscans in the sacred shrines and allows them to receive pilgrims, minister to the parishes, provide formation and education in the communities and schools, and care for the basic needs of the people in the Holy Land. During such a difficult season, your support is essential to their ministry. We hope that soon, travel to the Holy Land may resume safely and pilgrims once again will be able to experience walking in the footsteps of Christ and our Blessed Mother.

At the Easter Vigil Liturgy and the Easter Sunday Masses, another special collection, the Seminarian Collection, will help our diocese to educate and form future priests. Our diocese has been blessed with an increasing number of young men who have generously said yes to God's call. We now have fifteen seminarians, one of whom at this time will be ordained a priest for our diocese in June. You can take a personal role in their formation by a generous gift in the special Easter collection.

You can make a donation to either of these second collections in any of the following ways:

Online: Make a one-time donation on the Cathedral's website, and specify which second collection you would like your donation to go towards.

Envelopes: Include a separate check in your regular envelope and specify which second collection you would like your donation to go towards.

Mail: Send your donation to the Parish Office (524 E. Lawrence Ave, Springfield, IL 62703).

### **Springfield Catholic Charities Virtual Auction**

Springfield Catholic Charities is hosting a virtual auction starting March 26th and ending April 5th at [www.benladage.com](http://www.benladage.com). There are 30 unique packages and experiences that would make great gifts for a graduation or anniversary present, Mother's Day gift, Father's Day Gift, or just because! The proceeds raised from this event stay in our local community to help people get through tough moments in life. Visit our Facebook event page for daily updates on some of the items we will be auctioning off! Springfield Catholic Charities Virtual Auction | Facebook. If you are not interested in the items but still want to make a donation to Catholic Charities, you can do so by visiting [cc.dio.org](http://cc.dio.org).

### **It's Time... Welcome Back to Mass**

Bishop Thomas John Paprocki announced that, effective April 11, the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days will be modified to be limited to the following groups: Those 65 years of age or older; Those at risk for severe illness due to underlying medical conditions as described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Those who care for the sick, homebound, or infirmed; Those women who are pregnant; Those who cannot be accommodated at Mass because the church was at safe-distancing capacity. Those who are sick or came in contact with someone with COVID-19/flu are obligated to stay home and are therefore excused. All other Catholics not in those categories in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois are obligated to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation, effective April 11, beginning with the Saturday anticipated Masses the evening before. Answers to questions can be found at [www.dio.org/backtomass](http://www.dio.org/backtomass).

### **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/)

### **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!

### **Dive Deep - What You Didn't Know About Mark's Gospel**

This year, we hear from the Gospel of Mark at Mass. But who is Mark and what should we know about his writings? Dive Deep explores the many interesting facts, pious legends, and fun insights about the shortest gospel in the bible. Go to [dio.org/podcast](http://dio.org/podcast) to listen and subscribe.