

CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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EASTER

SUNDAY



Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 14

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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.



Alleluia! He is Risen!

"Do not be afraid!" (Mt 28:5) These are the first words the angel announced to the women who came to the tomb on Easter morning. The tomb was empty, and there must have been a sense of fear that the body of Jesus had been taken, but the angel assures them: "I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said." (Mt 28:5-6)

Just a year ago, we faced the unthinkable on Easter morning. We had to celebrate Easter Mass virtually with nobody able to attend Mass in person due to the fear of spreading COVID-19. While our hearts tried to rejoice at the victory of the Resurrection, we still had many fears about the uncertainties of what would follow. At that time, few of us actually knew anybody close to us who had contracted the virus. But within a few months, few of us did not know somebody close to us who had contracted the virus, some of whom, sadly, died as a result of getting sick.

With the number of cases going down and many people getting vaccinated, many of the fears that paralyzed us are slowly lifting. An encouraging sign of that is the announcement from our Bishop a couple of weeks ago about the modification of the dispensation from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation effective next weekend, Divine Mercy Sunday. No longer is there need for a general dispensation for everybody. It is time for us to take seriously the invitation to return to Mass, especially if we have been away for some time, or if we have used the dispensation as rationale for not coming to Mass regularly.

There are many of us who are greeting this modification with gratitude and joy. But we must also acknowledge those whose reaction is not so enthusiastic. In fact, for some, this news has resulted in their having more fear. "Does not this create a more dangerous situation?", some may ask. The Bishop has accounted for those who might have a legitimate reason for fear when it comes to returning to Mass, as seen in his maintaining a particular dispensation for the following cases:

1. Those 65 years of age or older;
2. Those at risk for severe illness due to underlying medical conditions as described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
3. Those who care for the sick, homebound, or infirmed;
4. Those women who are pregnant;
5. Those who cannot be accommodated at Mass because the church was at safe-distancing capacity.

It is also helpful to remind Catholics that certain situations do not require a dispensation at all to miss Mass. Here are those situations in which we would be excused and expected not to attend for the good of others:

1. Those who are currently ill;
2. Those who have a fever or exhibit flu-like symptoms;
3. Those who have good reason to think they might be asymptomatic of a contagious illness (e.g., those who were in recent contact with someone who tested positive for a contagious illness such as COVID or influenza).

For more information about the modification of the dispensation, please go to dio.org/backtomass

In light of the above points, there may be very legitimate reasons for not coming back to Mass yet, but for many of us, there is no reason not to return. The words of the angel to the women at the tomb on Easter morning is spoken to us as well: "Do not be afraid!" We have nothing to lose, but everything to gain!

So if you have been away, I invite you back to Mass. If you have been coming, I invite you to invite somebody you know who has been away, encouraging them to not be afraid, but to rejoice in the opportunity to return to the feast of victory that Christ has made possible for us through His Passion, death, and Resurrection.

*Father Alford is the Rector of the Cathedral and serves in the diocesan curia as the
Vicar for Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations.*



Holy Orders in Scripture

Happy and joyous Easter to all our parishioners! This year, our bulletin articles have been focusing on the theme of the seven sacraments to correspond with our Family of Faith formation program. The final two sacraments that we are going to reflect on are the two sacraments at the service of communion: Holy Orders and Matrimony. These two sacraments are for the building up of the Church. And while those individuals in each of these vocations certainly become holier through fidelity to these sacraments, the primary reason these sacraments exist is for the good of others.

Easter is a very appropriate time to reflect on Holy Orders. The time surrounding the Passover was when Jesus chose to institute several of the sacraments: Holy Orders and Eucharist on Holy Thursday, and Penance on Easter Sunday. In fact, the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday focuses almost exclusively in its prayers on the gifts of the Eucharist and the Priesthood.

Jesus began the sacraments of the Eucharist and Holy Orders on the same evening because they are so closely interconnected. The Church has always believed that the Eucharist can only be consecrated by a priest, whose authority has been passed down through the generations, from Christ and the Apostles, to the present day. At the Last Supper, Jesus gave the Apostles the Eucharist and commanded them to repeat this action in memory of him. It is not a coincidence that Jesus said this only to his twelve apostles at the Last Supper, and not to all of his disciples, when he taught them for three years during his ministry. Here is Luke's account of this event: "Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which will be given up for you; do this in memory of me.' And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you'" (Luke 22:19-20). Jesus could only command them to "do this in memory of me" if they had the power to do so.

Another gift that Jesus gave his apostles on the night of the Last Supper was an example of humble service. The authority of the priesthood is not to be lorded over others, and Jesus made this clear when he washed the feet of his apostles before the Last Supper: "[Jesus] poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist...When he had washed their feet and put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, 'Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me "teacher" and "master," and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do'" (John 13:5, 12-15).

Later in the scriptures, we see the Apostles already passing on the authority they received from Jesus. Shortly after Pentecost, the Apostles were moved by the Holy Spirit to find a replacement for Judas, and Matthias was then counted as the twelfth apostle (Acts 1:15-26). A short time later, the first seven deacons were chosen to help with the practical administration of the Church: "They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them" (Acts 6:6). In 2 Timothy 1:6, Paul encouraged Timothy, "I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands."

All of these are example of the Apostles handing on the ministry that they received from Jesus. This sacrament is known as Holy Orders.

Father Dominic Vahling serves as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and as co-chaplain of Sacred Heart-Griffin High School.

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 5

7am - Rose Crispi
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Repose of the Soul of
Anna A. Eleyidath (Augustine
Eleyidath)

Tuesday, April 6

7am - Jean Reno Greenwald
(Phillipa Porter)
5:15pm - Thomas Rapps
(Family)

Wednesday, April 7

7am - Betty & Gene Barish
(Family)
5:15pm - Eugene Nalesnik
(Fr. Augustine Tolton Council
#16126)

Thursday, April 8

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - Jerry Allan Smith
(The Bentel Family)

Friday, April 9

7am - Jean Reno (Greenwald)
(Robert & Anne Schroeder)
5:15pm - NO MASS

Saturday, April 10

8am -Patrick Michael LeCrone
(Billy LeCrone)
4pm - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)

Sunday, April 11

7am - For the People
10am - Jean Reno (Greenwald)
(The Sordyl Family)
5pm - Goldie Lowry
(Billy LeCrone)



Neaniskos

Celebrated with the Resurrection, so every day of Eternity

"Neaniskos" is not the name of a saintly somebody you should get to know. Nope, that is the Greek word for "young man" that St. Mark used when describing a minor incident that occurred during Our Lord's arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

*And they all deserted him and fled. And a **young man** followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body; and they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked. [Mark 14:50-52]*

Scholars, of course, have debated who this might be. It is one of those funny little details that St. Mark's gospel is peppered with, and seems so particular and precise that some have conjectured that it is a young Mark himself. Who else would have been paying enough attention at that moment to notice? And yet, there is more here than even just a minor intriguing minutiae that adds color and depth to the scene we know so well. St. Mark will use that word one more time in his Gospel:

*And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a **young man** sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid. [Mark 16:4-8]*

Everything about the passage indicates that this is, of course, an angel: right side, white robe, the women's amazement, the angel's "be not afraid" and communication of direction from God ... and yet Mark uses again that term "neaniskos", "young man". Why?

Why? Because that young man stands in for each one of us, and we will not be standing next to Christ's empty, triumphant, tomb, and we will not be clothed in His resurrection and glory, if we have not first acknowledged that we have previously fled in fear and disgrace from His agony and passion. It is so easy to consider the paschal mystery – Christ's freely chosen passion and death, and freely offered resurrection – as something far from us. So easy to consider it something we simply recall on occasion, a story that moves us for a week or two and then we get on with our lives!

But, Christ's death and resurrection go together, and they are received together, or not at all. If our lives are not marked and changed by His cross, they will not be marked and transformed by His resurrection. If we do not surrender to Him our sins, He has no way to offer us salvation. If we are not bold enough to come to Him with hands empty, hearts broken, and the human nature He gave us wretched and shamed and divested of everything, He cannot redeem it, and us.

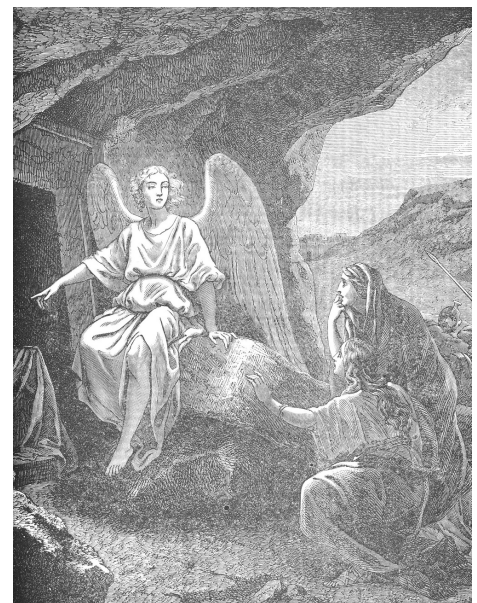
But everything changes when we give Jesus our brokenness. That young man fled. He left everything behind and didn't follow Jesus. We have abandoned Christ too. That has to be our humble claim: "I am a sinner." "I have chosen death, not life; myself, not Christ; my truth, rather than His truth; my comfort, not His cross." I have nothing left, not even the appearance of grace and sufficiency.

And at that moment, when we have fallen so low, but have come back with nothing to give Our Lord. Then He can clothe us again in His life, and His love, and His glory. And we can find hope, and courage, and strength, and wonder in seeing His resurrection in our used-to-be-broken humanity!

Fear not, you will not be put to shame! Leave all of yourself at the feet of Christ! Trust that He can carry you through sin and death and darkness and fear, and bring you into His resurrection. There is no greater gift than our sins that we can give God, because for nothing less than winning us back from sin did He endure His cross, and offer us His resurrection.

He is Risen. He wants nothing less for us. Let us receive that greatest of gifts!

Fr. Dominic Rankin is a sinner, and a priest. It is a hard gift to receive when I know myself so unworthy of it. And yet aren't all God's gifts to us more than we could ever hope or imagine? Let us boldly take up His gift, and put down our sins, and simply trust that He can carry us through that tomb!



An Angel appears to the women at the tomb, saying that Jesus is alive, pictured in Half Hours With the Bible, New Testament, Published by New York: Clifton Pub. Co.; Public Domain.

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

Cathedral Merchandise for Sale!

We are selling Cathedral merch! T-shirts, sweatshirts, polos, and jackets are available for purchase. The store closes on Sunday, April 11th at midnight. You will be notified by email once your order is ready. Visit https://shop.primodesigns.net/Cathedral_of_immaculate/shop/home to shop!

Happy Easter!

We prayed, fasted and gave alms—and now we rejoice because Christ is risen! Our Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl challenges us as we begin the Easter season to share the joy of having a loving God that is alive and accompanies us always. Let's do the same by being present to our global family by caring for their material and spiritual needs. Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl at the Cathedral or donate online at crsricebowl.org/give.

CCCW Garage Sale

It's happening!! The Annual CCCW Garage Sale will be held on Friday, April 23rd from 7am-7pm and on Saturday April 24th from 8am-12pm in the Cathedral School Hall! Facilities are handicap accessible and masks and social distancing guidelines will be enforced. Come check it out!

Divine Mercy Sunday Prayer Service

Join us on Sunday, April 11th from 2:00pm to 3:00pm for a Divine Mercy Sunday Prayer Service. This prayer service will include exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Scriptural readings and devotional prayers, Veneration and Image of Divine Mercy, the Recitation of the Chaplet and Benediction, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All are welcome.

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

Dive Deep - Running for a Higher Purpose: Eight Steps to Spiritual and Physical Fitness

That's the theme of Bishop Thomas John Paprocki's new book, *Running for a Higher Purpose*, now available for purchase at holygoalie.net. Perfect for runners, Bishop Paprocki joins Dive Deep to explain why the book may be exactly what you need to give your spiritual and physical well-being a boost. Go to dio.org/podcast to listen and to register to win a free, signed copy of the book!

Springfield Catholic Charities Virtual Auction

Springfield Catholic Charities is hosting a virtual auction starting March 26th and ending April 5th at 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.

Rosary for Healing and Protection

Join the Office for Safe Environment in praying the Rosary with special intentions for the healing and protection of those affected by childhood abuse on April 28, 2021 @ 12:00 PM. As we offer our prayers for their healing and the protection of all children, we ask for the intercession of the Holy Family to bless our efforts as we strive to help children around us live the full and abundant life God desires for them. Please join us in lifting their needs in prayer. Where to join in person? Location: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception | Where to join virtually? Livestream at www.dio.org/live, Facebook at www.facebook.com/diospringfield or YouTube at www.youtube.com/diospringfield.

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.

Building the Kingdom, One House at a Time

Springfield Deanery, check this out! Build # 114, the Catholic Build, is moving right along! Spring weather is challenging and occasionally volunteer days will be changed, extended or re-scheduled. Check the Habitat VolunteerHub website to see opportunities that are available, knowing that there is a possibility that the schedule might change. As always, food provision is an important part of a build site. If you are available to assist with food provision or being a Site Host (check volunteers in and out of the build site), please contact Susan Carrigan, or 217-523-2710, ext. 213 or visit Catholicbuild.com