

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

APRIL 11, 2021 | 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)



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[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 15

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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  
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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.



## Divine Mercy Sunday

On this Octave Day (8th day) of Easter, the Church celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday. This feast was instituted for the Universal Church by Pope St. John Paul II in 2000 at the Canonization Mass for St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who received a series of revelations from Jesus about the great gift of Divine Mercy He offers to His children. In her famous Diary, she recorded the following words from our Lord Himself about the feast day He intended to be celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter:

*My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy. (Diary, #699)*

Those final words stand out to me, for we hear the promise of peace that comes from turning to the Divine Mercy. In nearly 10 years as a priest, I count my time in the confessional as some of the most fruitful ministry I have done. I am constantly moved by the peace a penitent experiences as they encounter the gift of Divine Mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our sins deprive us of peace, but God's mercy restores it in a powerful way that encourages us to not give up, but to begin again in our following the Lord, renewing our experience of the newness of life given on the day of our Baptism, and restored each time we encounter the Divine Mercy.

It is fitting that our topic for Family of Faith this month is the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Ordination incorporates men into the ministry of Jesus Christ Himself. Each degree of Holy Orders (Bishop, Priest, Deacon) participates in this ministry of Christ in different ways, but all of them share the common trait of being directed toward the salvation of others. And since we cannot be saved apart from the Divine Mercy, all those called to serve the Church in Holy Orders have the special task of being instruments of Divine Mercy in various ways through service (primary role of deacons) and the celebration of the sacraments, especially Reconciliation and the Eucharist (primary role of bishops and priests).

Please pray for the clergy of our Cathedral Parish, that we may be ever mindful of the duty entrusted to us to share the message of Divine Mercy in word and in deed, so that many may approach the Divine Mercy, especially in the Sacrament of Mercy, and experience the peace His Mercy bestows in this life as a preparation for the fullness of peace that 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, April 12

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
5:15pm - Pius Onyejaju Chineke  
(The Anselment Family)

#### Tuesday, April 13

7am - Michael Poggi  
(Family)  
5:15pm - Grace Forlano  
(John Busciacco)

#### Wednesday, April 14

7am - Repose of the Soul of Averil  
Rossiter (Jane Fornoff)  
5:15pm - Jean Reno Greenwald  
(Larry & Betsy Heman)

#### Thursday, April 15

7am - Leroy Lowry, Sr.  
(Billy LeCrone)  
5:15pm - William F. & Shirley  
Logan (Lisa Logan & Lori Logan  
Motyka)

#### Friday, April 16

7am - Catherine Ponce  
(Bill & Sara Metcalf)  
5:15pm - Special Intention for  
Bianca (D.A. Drago)

#### Saturday, April 17

8am - Janet Smith  
(Lou Ann & Carl Corrigan)  
4pm - Betty & Gene Barish  
(Family)

#### Sunday, April 18

7am - Sophia Bartoletti  
(Bartoletti Family)  
10am - For the People  
5pm - Jean Reno Greenwald  
(Joan M. Miller)





## The Three Degrees of Holy Orders

The Sacrament of Holy Orders is unique among the seven sacraments, in that it has three distinct but related “degrees” or levels. Other sacraments can be repeated, such as Eucharist and Penance, but the Church does not really speak about “repeating” the sacrament of Holy Orders. Rather, a man receives ordination, which confers another degree of the sacrament. The three degrees of Holy Orders are the diaconate, the priesthood, and the episcopacy. Men in the episcopacy are called “bishops.”

The first degree of Holy Orders is known as the order of deacons, or the diaconate. Deacons are usually married men who have full-time careers, but are ordained to official ministry in the Church in both the liturgy and in parish life. The word “deacon” comes from the Greek word for “service.” In the Acts of the Apostles, the deacons were entrusted with the burden of the administration of food and money when it became overwhelming for the apostles. Today, deacons assist the priest at Mass, preach, celebrate baptisms and weddings, visit the sick, among many of forms of service to God’s people.

Priests are celibate men (although there are some married priests) who have been called by Christ to continue his ministry on earth through the celebration of the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Penance. Priests remain celibate in imitation of Jesus himself, who was unmarried in order to more clearly be the image of the Bridegroom, wedded to the Catholic Church. Priests usually spend a year in ministry as a deacon before being ordained priests. However, they never cease to be deacons sacramentally.

Bishops receive the fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders. There are provisions laid out in Canon Law for the process of choosing priests to become bishops. Every few years, a bishop of a diocese submits a list of names of priests to the pope’s delegate. In the bishop’s judgment, these priests would be good candidates to become a bishop. When a bishop dies or retires, the pope’s delegate will begin the search for a new bishop from the names of priests which have been submitted. Confidential questionnaires may be sent out to people who know these candidates so that a full profile can be submitted to the Vatican. From there, a committee of bishops will put forth the three best candidates for the pope to choose a new bishop for the diocese. This entire process is extremely confidential, and a priest may not know he is under consideration until he gets a phone call, asking him to become a bishop. In the past, the practice of careerism, or priests jockeying to become a bishop, has been a problem. The Church clearly wants to avoid any careerism or even an appearance of careerism. In fact, it seems that the opposite has become true today.

It is widely known among priests that being a bishop is an extremely difficult calling and a very heavy burden to carry. Even St. Paul, as one of the first bishops, said, “there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches” (2 Corinthians 11:28). Imagine having the responsibility for the salvation of hundreds of thousands, sometimes even millions, of both Catholics and non-Catholics in your diocese. Being the chief shepherd of a diocese is certainly a huge responsibility. I have heard being a bishop described as a “living crucifixion” because of the constant criticism which inevitably comes from the media, priests, and parishioners. Because of this, some priests turn down the request to become a bishop. However, as with any calling that comes from God, we can trust that God will sustain those who are faithful to him. Faithfulness to God is a source of a great joy that even the heaviest burdens cannot take away. Those who have received the sacrament of Holy Orders are set apart for a special service of God’s people. Let us keep our bishop, priests, and deacons in our prayers so that they may remain faithful to Christ, who called them to share in his ministry.

*Father Dominic Vahling 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 27th & 28th

Envelopes:	\$4,669.00
Loose:	\$1,534.00
Maintenance:	\$0.00
Total:	\$6,203.00

February EFT: \$21,808.40

### Stewardship of Treasure April 4th

Envelopes:	\$8,864.00
Loose:	\$2,836.00
Maintenance:	\$790.00
Total:	\$12,490.00

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!



## Pope Saint Martin I

**Feast Day: April 13th**

Intriguingly, one article I read about Pope Martin said that he was the last pope to be martyred when he was exiled to starvation on the island of Cherson (in the Crimea) in 655. A little bit of research indicated that he is truly the last pope acclaimed as a martyr, though there have been plenty of successors to St. Peter in these intervening 1400 years who have been strangled, poisoned, maltreated, or starved until their demises ... but are not acclaimed as martyrs because their death was not out of hatred for the Christian faith.

Pope Martin's death was ... and yet he was killed by Christians. How? Why? ... We should probably rewind the story a bit.

Martin was born in Italy, and blessed with a honorable family and an intelligent mind. The haze of history obscures his early years, but by the time he is in his 40s, he is an abbot of a monastery of St. Basil and is being sent by Pope John IV to Dalmatia (nowadays Crete) with money to aid the inhabitants there who were suffering from ruinous invasions. Martin had been known for his generosity, but would soon be known also for his diplomacy, because Pope Theodore (another two popes down the line from John IV) tapped Martin to be his apocrysiary (basically a legate/envoy) to Constantinople.

This would not turn out to be a cushy assignment.

The Council of Chalcedon was now 2 centuries in the past, but the truth that the Church had pronounced then – that Christ had two natures: human and divine – was now apparently up for debate again, at least the court of Constantinople (an impossible to discern jumble political and religious leaders, with emperor and patriarch contending for authority and admiration) where the latest twist on the ancient Christological heresies was to say that Christ did have two natures but only one will. Pope Honorius I had feebly avoided controversy and let the falsehood fester, and now his successors were dealing with the consequences as the Eastern lung of the Church threatened to slide into denying the full humanity of their Savior. Ambiguity, heresy, avoiding hard decisions, stubbornness, recalcitrancy... none of it is new!

Martin would be elected Pope in 649 and one of the first things he did was call an ecumenical council to be held at the Lateran Basilica in Rome. One of the first things he did not do was ask for the Emperor of Constantinople (Constans II) to ratify his election as Pope. He ruffled plenty of feathers with both actions. 105 bishops from around the Christian world rejected as heresy the claim that Christ had only one (divine) will, and notwithstanding the threats of force, coercion, and attempted assassination against Martin, the saintly pope wrote of this truth in an encyclical and had the translated decrees sent as well over to Constantinople.

Constans ordered the Pope arrested, which would take place in that same Lateran Basilica a few years later, after which Martin was brutally transported to Constantinople, marched through the frozen streets stripped, bloodied, and hobbling, and condemned to death, though, in the end, he would be merely banished to the pagan island of Cherson in 655. Every conceivable political crime had been heaped upon him, but it was his refusal to sign off on heresy that sent him to his death.

His words, perhaps more than mine, should inspire us all: *"It is now forty-seven days since I have been permitted to wash myself either in cold or warm water. I am quite wasted and chilled, and have had no respite either upon sea or land from the flux which I suffer. My body is broken and spent, and, when I would take any nourishment, I want such kind of food as is necessary to support me; and have a perfect aversion and loathing to what I have. But I hope that God, who knows all things, when he shall have taken me out of this world, will bring my persecutors to repentance."*

*Fr. Dominic Rankin often prays for the grace of perseverance (and repentance!). It is hard enough to stay faithful through an average day's duties, much less the brutality, deprivation, and scorn suffered by Pope St. Martin. Yet the truth he gave his life to defend – that Christ has a human will, one united with His Divine Will – was one that the saintly pope also lived out. "Not My will, but Yours, be done" were words spoken by Our Lord, but they have been repeated by every saint since, whether in word or deed. May we have the grace to do the same.*



# 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

### Holy Week Photos

Check out a few photos from our Holy Week Liturgies. The photo below shows the consecration of the Body and Blood of Christ on Holy Thursday, and the photo on the right shows the Veneration of the Cross on Good Friday.



### 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](https://shop.primodesigns.net/Cathedral_of_immaculate/shop/home) to shop!

### 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

### 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](http://Catholicbuild.com)

### 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](http://crsricebowl.org/give).

### 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](http://www.dio.org/live), Facebook at [www.facebook.com/diospringfield](https://www.facebook.com/diospringfield) or YouTube at [www.youtube.com/diospringfield](https://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](http://www.dio.org/backtomass).

### An Open Door Session on Funerals, Cremation, Cemetery, and Advance Planning

The Butler Family of Organizations extends an invitation to all who are interested in learning more about advance planning, veterans benefits, burial and cremation options, cemetery planning, and more to join us for a lunch and learn program. We will host An Open Door Session on Funerals, Cremation, Cemetery and Advance Planning on Thursday, April 22nd from 11:30 am-1:30 pm at the Prairie View Reception Center, located at 8865 State Rt. 4 in Chatham. 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. This event is free: no cost or obligation. Please call 217-544-4646 to reserve your space no later than April 19.