

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**APRIL 18, 2021 | 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER**



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 16

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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.



## Sacramental Bonanza

This past Sunday, Divine Mercy Sunday, the priests of the Cathedral sat down for a late dinner after the end of a packed day. We all reflected on how much had taken place on that day, including:

1. Regular Sunday Masses
2. Reception into Full Communion of the Catholic Church of one of our RCIA candidates
3. Baptism of the youngest daughter of the young woman received in #2
4. Baptism / Confirmation Party for #2 and #3
5. Divine Mercy Service, during which MANY confessions were heard
6. More Confessions before the 5:00 pm Mass
7. Family of Faith Teaching Meeting

While there was hardly a moment to take a breather in between all of these events, we all agreed how life-giving that day was because all of the events of the day were connected to our identity and mission as priests, a mission we are so privileged to share with all of you here at the Cathedral.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders (which bishops, priests, and deacons receive) falls under a category of sacraments known as Sacraments at the Service of Communion. The Catechism describes this sacrament, as well as Holy Matrimony, in this way:

*Two other sacraments, Holy Orders and Matrimony, are directed towards the salvation of others; if they contribute as well to personal salvation, it is through service to others that they do so. They confer a particular mission in the Church and serve to build up the People of God. (CCC 1534)*

As I said, it is our privilege to minister to all of your needs, for we know that doing so helps to strengthen your communion with God and the Church, especially in the celebration of the sacraments. We are very much aware that our ministry is at the service of your salvation, and we want you to know that we take that very seriously. And as the Catechism suggests, it is through our service to you that we ourselves will be saved. In other words, if we are serious about wanting to get to Heaven, the only hope we have is to spend ourselves in the service of your salvation. I think this point was demonstrated well in a brief conversation we had with one of our parishioners at the end of that long, yet joy-filled day. This parishioner said something like: "We cannot do it without you", to which one of the priests responded: "Nor can we do it without you!"

During this Easter Season, we are all (clergy and laity alike) invited to recognize that none of us can be saved apart from Jesus Christ, whose Resurrection makes possible our salvation. May we thank Him for His gift of salvation as we all work together to help one another on our journey toward full communion with Him forever in His Kingdom.

*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 19

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(William Midden)  
5:15pm - Special Intentions for  
Tammy Pritchett (Family)

### Tuesday, April 20

7am - Anna Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
5:15pm - Frank Coffey  
(Family)

### Wednesday, April 21

7am - Repose of the Soul of Averil  
Rossiter (Jane Fornoff)  
5:15pm - Catherine Ponce  
(Bill & Sara Metcalf)

### Thursday, April 22

7am - Special Intention for Laura  
Fjelstul (Chris Sommer)  
5:15pm - Joseh Kohlrus  
(Augustine Eleyidath)

### Friday, April 23

7am - John Montgomery  
(John Busciacco)  
5:15pm - Diana J. Schumacher  
(Daniel Schumacher)

### Saturday, April 24

8am - Jack Ely  
(Wife)  
4pm - For the People

### Sunday, April 25

7am - Herman & Helen Koester  
Families, (Living & Deceased)  
10am - Richard Shaughnessy  
(Mr. & Mrs. Shaughnessy & Family)  
5pm - John & Edith Bakalar  
(John Busciacco)





## Celibacy as Spiritual Fatherhood

One of the most striking things about the priesthood, especially to non-Catholics, is the priestly witness of celibacy. Celibacy is sometimes misunderstood as a spiritual practice in the Church. Since the earliest days of Christianity, followers of Jesus have given up marriage and family to more fully imitate Jesus and his state in life. In Judaism, celibacy was not a common practice. Jesus is the one who brought full meaning to both marriage and celibacy as signs of the kingdom of God. The primary reason that priests are celibate is in imitation of Jesus, who is espoused to the Church. Some mistakenly think that priests are not married because they are

too busy to have a family. While it is true that it does make sense for priests to give their time to their parishioners, this is only a good which is allowed for by the primary reason of dedicating our whole selves to Christ and his Church. Since priests are “married” to the Church, priests give their lives in service to her.

It is true that there are married priests in the Church, especially in the Eastern (non-Latin) Churches. We even have a married priest in our own diocese here in Springfield. However, even in the Eastern Churches, their monks and their bishops are celibate, and they clearly esteem this practice also. Having some married priests in the Church does not take away the symbolic and spiritual value of celibacy among many of the clergy and men and women religious.

It is beautiful that in our culture, we call priests by the title “Father.” As priests, we give up physical marriage and children for the sake of bearing spiritual fruit. It is not always common to think of Jesus as a spiritual father because we often hear in the Gospels that he is the Son of the Father. However, in his ministry, Jesus exercised a spiritual fatherhood with his disciples by showing them the love of his own Father. One of the funny and interesting things about being a young priest is being called “father” by parishioners who are (much) older than me. In many ways, these parishioners are my spiritual fathers and mothers, as they are helping me to grow in holiness by their guidance and encouragement. However, when I minister as a priest, especially during the Mass and Reconciliation, I am acting as a spiritual father to those who are present.

As I grow older as a priest, I hope to always grow into my identity as a spiritual father. The best way to do this is to continue to grow in my identity as a son of God. Jesus could be a father to his disciples because he received his identity from his heavenly Father. By our baptism, we are also sons and daughters of God, like Jesus. The Church is immensely blessed by the witness and ministry of older priests in our parishes. There is a certain joy which comes with being a new, young priest. However, there is also a certain joy which comes with being an old, experienced, and wise priest. There are many older priests who exercise a very clear spiritual fatherhood (or spiritual grandfatherhood) with their parishioners. This is made much more clear by their witness of celibacy and their sacrifice of kids and grandkids for the sake of their spiritual children.

Celibacy is a gift from God. Jesus said that not everyone can accept this practice (Matthew 19:12), nor does he ask us all to do so. He obviously wants us to be fruitful and multiply! However, for those who are called to imitate Jesus by remaining celibate, it is a joy!

*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 April 10th & 11th

Envelopes:	\$5,179.00
Loose:	\$2,432.00
Maintenance:	\$285.00
Total:	\$7,896.00

March EFT: \$22,506.25

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!



## Saint Anselm of Canterbury: Philosophy, Politics, Prudence, And a Whole Lot of Prayer

**Feast Day: April 21st**

These past weeks, as we have continued to celebrate Easter, we have also begun to examine the sacrament of Holy Orders. As it turned out, we started with the young man who fled Jesus' agony in the garden in shame, but astonishingly reappears at the tomb, now splendid, and bearing a message of hope. Priests are not much different: somewhere deep in the heart of the priesthood is that spectacular truth that God calls men, sinners still so much in need of His mercy, yet then He literally clothes them in white for the celebration of the Mass, a sign of the Lord's grace at work in the priest's hands, and words, and love.

Last week we found ourselves watching the drama unfold around Pope Martin I, as he struggled to stay faithful to His Lord and Savior as errors, emperors, assassins, and intrigue pummeled him from all sides. In his life we have another facet of priesthood: not the sinner-supernaturalized but the shepherd-suffering, scorned, and surrounded. How did that grace of ordination cascade through his life? I see it in Martin's divine doggedness in the face of horrific attacks upon him, his papacy, and his Divine Master.

First Poverty. Then Perseverance. This week: Prayer. (Next week: Preaching)

And for this third pillar of what it means to be a priest, to be someone immersed in prayer, a pray-er, a mediator, an intercessor – someone who stands before God and communicates to Him the weaknesses and worship of His people, and communicates to the people the Word and wealth of God – we turn to St. Anselm of Canterbury. Of course, I choose him because his feast day will occur on April 21st, the day he died in 1109 in Canterbury England. He was a philosopher, an abbot, and a bishop, and found himself immersed in the chaos and challenges of his day in all those roles (all of which, at first, he was forced into, and yet from all of them he learned the characteristics of prudence, patience, and prayerfulness that would make up his sanctity)... but we catch a glimpse of him as a priest ... simply a priest ... in his most famous writing, the Proslogium. Most people read it because there he is the first one to describe an ontological argument for God's existence, but the work is truly at its heart a prayer. Here is how Anselm begins:

*Come on now little man, get away from your worldly occupations for a while, escape from your tumultuous thoughts. Lay aside your burdensome cares and put off your laborious exertions. Give yourself over to God for a little while, and rest for a while in Him. Enter into the cell of your mind, shut out everything except God and whatever helps you to seek Him once the door is shut. Speak now, my heart, and say to God, "I seek your face; your face, Lord, I seek." – St. Anselm of Canterbury, Proslogion, Chapter 1.*

Might I invite you into that place of silence and prayer as well? Can you and I say those same words: "I seek Your face." Anselm tends through philosophy, theology, scripture, and much more in the course of his great philosophical work, but at the end, he reminds us that it is really a great prayerful work:

*God, I pray, let me know and love You, so that I may rejoice in You. And if I cannot in this life [know, love, and rejoice in You] fully, at least let me advance day by day until the point of fullness comes. Let knowledge of You progress in me here and be made full [in me] there. Let love for You grow [in me here] and be [made] full [in me] there, so that here my joy may be great with expectancy and there may be full in realization. O Lord, You command—or, rather, You counsel—[us] to ask through Your Son; and You promise [that we shall] receive, so that our joy may be full. O Lord, I ask for what You counsel through our marvelous Counselor; may I receive what You promise through Your Truth, so that my joy may be full. O God of Truth, I ask; may I receive, so that my joy may be full. Until then, may my mind meditate upon [what You have promised]; may my tongue speak of it. May my heart love it; may my mouth proclaim it. May my soul hunger for it; may my flesh thirst for [it]; may my whole substance desire [it] until such time as I enter into the joy. St. Anselm of Canterbury, Proslogion, Chapter 26.*

Anselm's writing, and life, and ministry, began and ended in prayer, can ours do so as well? Can our thirst for joy, peace, love, and meaning finds its answer in the Lord?

*Fr. Dominic Rankin begins every day with an hour of prayer. It is not usually filled with mystical moments or felt phenomenon, more than anything it is a conversation that often begins and ends with "I seek your face", and that challenging yet thrilling continued yearning for God's love, for myself and all those entrusted to my care. This is Christ's priesthood too.*



*Sant'Anselmo che benedice la chiesa di San Paolo, Francesco Borgani, around 1600. Located in the Francesco Gonzaga Museum, Mantua Italy.*

# 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 21 & 28 @ 7:00PM in the Cathedral Atrium

### Grief Share

Cathedral parish will be hosting Grief Share, a weekly, faith-based, grief support group. If you, or someone you know, would like help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend, please join us beginning Monday, June 7, 6:00-8:00pm in the Cathedral School Library. (Enter through the atrium doors off 5thstreet parking lot) Grief Share runs for 14 weeks, but guests may join the series at any point and can pick up content they missed during the next cycle. For more information go to <https://www.griefshare.org/> or contact Berni Ely @ 899-6637 or [jackandberni96@yahoo.com](mailto:jackandberni96@yahoo.com) To register call 217/522-3342 or email Vicki at [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org) All adults, of any or no faith background, are welcome!

### LiveStreaming from the Cathedral

Every Sunday, at the 10:00am Mass a faithful crew livestreams the Mass so that those who are unable to attend in person, can still participate. This is a wonderful service to the homebound and a beautiful tool for evangelization! We are in need of more volunteers to run the camera and computer system. It is easy and it is fun! If you are not serving your parish in some way already, consider this opportunity. Contact the parish office at 217-522-3342 or Vicki to volunteer [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org)

### 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!

### Welcome!

We welcome Persephone Ann White who was baptized last Sunday, April 11th, on the same day her mother, Brianne entered the Church. Welcome Persephone and Brianne!



### 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

### Strengthening the Church at Home

In their 2000 pastoral letter *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration*, the bishops of the United States called the faithful to embrace an approach to criminal justice that takes into account the dignity of crime victims and their families, communities, and offenders.

The Catholic Home Missions-funded Diocese of Santa Rosa is answering this call for an approach that upholds justice and healing in its six counties of northwestern California, stretching from Napa in the south along the coastline to the Oregon border. The diocese's Catholic Restorative Justice Ministries program works to fulfill the bishops' vision through various activities that include support for inmates reentering society, as well as pastoral ministries for crime victims and their families, justice system personnel, and inmates. The program's broad range of goals are being implemented, expanded, and refined yearly with financial assistance from the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. When you participate in the appeal, you join in the Church's healing mission of mercy to all.

Your support of this appeal makes a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters right here in the United States. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the appeal this year. To learn more about the appeal and those who benefit from it, visit [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions). Thank you for strengthening the Church at home.

### 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).

### 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.

### 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).