

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

APRIL 25, 2021 | 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG

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

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 17

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.



Good Shepherd Sunday

On the 4th Sunday of Easter, the Church places before us a section of the 10th chapter of John's Gospel where Jesus speaks of Himself at the Good Shepherd. Some of the earliest images of Jesus depicted in the artwork found in the Roman Catacombs show Him as a shepherd, highlighting how well this image resonated with the early Christians. And it is an image the Church invites us to consider on this day.

When I was preparing for my ordination to the priesthood, I looked at hundreds of pictures of Jesus to use on the ordination holy card that I would give out to family and friends. I came across an image of the Good Shepherd that was different from the other images I had seen of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Many pictures had Jesus looking very meek and peaceful as He gently carried a sheep around his shoulders. But in the image that I chose, the artist Alfred Soord proposed a picture of the Good Shepherd that showed something very different. The Good Shepherd was reaching over the edge of a cliff to rescue a sheep who was in danger of plummeting down to the ravine below. There were scratches on his arms as He pushed aside the thorny brush in order to get access to the sheep whose life was in peril. This image resonated as it depicted the sacrificial nature of being a shepherd who was willing to put his own life at risk in order to save his sheep. Such was the life of Jesus who laid down His life for His sheep, and such should be the life of those the Lord has called to be His shepherds, particularly bishops and priests who share in His work of being a shepherd in a more direct way.

In 1992, Pope St. John Paul II issued a beautiful document on the priesthood titled *Pastors Dabo Vobis*, the Latin for the words from the Prophet Jeremiah: "I will give you shepherds after my own heart" (Jer. 3:15). The Lord promises that He will continue to provide shepherds for His Church, but the Holy Father offers the following reminder:

The Church must never cease to pray to the Lord of the harvest that he send laborers into his harvest, (cf. Mt. 9:38). She must propose clearly and courageously to each new generation the vocational call, help people to discern the authenticity of their call from God and to respond to it generously, and give particular care to the formation of candidates for the priesthood. (PDV, 2)

Today is a good day for us to pray for young men, especially here in our diocese, to hear and respond to the invitation to consider serving as a shepherd of the Church as a priest. Let us also pray for the shepherds of our diocese, particularly that they might be shepherds after the heart of the Good Shepherd, being willing to make the necessary sacrifices to their comfort, their preferences, their reputations, even their own lives in order to save those entrusted to their care. Along those lines, I would also invite all of us to consider making some regular, small sacrifices for the benefit of more vocations to the priesthood in our diocese and for holy, sacrificial shepherds who care for only one thing – helping us to get to 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 26

7am - Patricia Scherrills
(Al & Bobbie Lewis)
5:15pm - Jean Reno Greenwald
(Joan M. Miller)

Tuesday, April 27

7am - Jim McCaslin
(Tom Steil & Sharon Oldfield)
5:15pm - Cathy Furkin
(Marlene Mulford)

Wednesday, April 28

7am - Ellen Mattox
(Mary & Jim Burrus)
5:15pm - Repose of the Soul of
Joseph Kohlrus, Sr. (Jean Borre & Family)

Thursday, April 29

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - Blake Anderson
(Sharon Oldfield & Tom Steil)

Friday, April 30

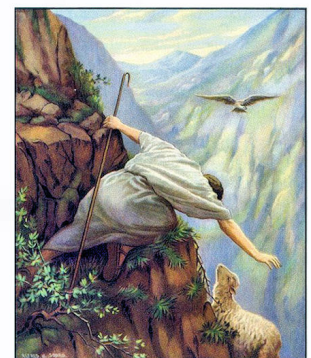
7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - Jean Reno Greenwald
(McGee Family)

Saturday, May 1

8am - Blake Anderson
(Richard & Teresa Steil)
4pm - Joseph Kohlrus, Sr.
(Augustine Eleyidath)

Sunday, May 2

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)
10am - Charles & Mercedes
Nesbitt (Kathy Frank)
5pm - For the People



*The Good Shepherd, 1899.
Painted by Alfred Usher Soord (1868-1915).*



Why Can't Women Be Ordained?

One of the biggest criticisms that many non-Catholics and Catholics alike share is that there are no female clergy in the Catholic Church. These criticisms deserve to be heard and answered. As with many questions in our faith, those who have gone before us have spent a lot of time and energy answering these questions, so it can be helpful to look to them for help. In 1994, Pope John Paul II issued a very short (a page or two) letter definitively stating that the Church only has the authority to ordain men, meaning that all Catholics must believe this as part of the Catholic faith. This does not mean that we are not allowed to ask questions; quite

the contrary! If you have never understood why there are only male clergy, I ask you to follow up on this and find the answer in the Scriptures and the Church's Tradition. In the letter of John Paul II, he quoted Pope Paul VI who laid out the reasons for the male priesthood. These reasons are:

1. The example recorded in the Sacred Scriptures of Christ choosing his Apostles only from among men;
2. The constant practice of the church, which has imitated Christ in choosing only men;
3. Her living teaching authority which has consistently held that the exclusion of women from the priesthood is in accordance with God's plan for his Church.

Essentially, the basic reason for a male priesthood is that Jesus only chose men to be priests in the Scriptures, and the Apostles in the Scriptures only chose men to assist them as clergy. Some say that Jesus was constrained by the culture of his time and he did not want to challenge a sexist norm in ancient Israel. I think it is impossible to believe that Jesus would allow sexism to rule his actions, given that he is the Word made flesh and he is the very God who made humanity in his own image, male and female.

However, this does not explain why Jesus chose only men to be Apostles. The answer is found in the anthropology (human makeup) of the Church. Jesus wants priests to be spiritual fathers of his people. When priests celebrate the sacraments, they are acting as Christ who is the bridegroom of the Church. Jesus is espoused to the Church as a male, and he wanted male priests to represent him in the sacraments.

In no way does this need to take away from the role of women in the Church. John Paul II also wrote several letters addressed to the women of the world when he was pope. Jesus wants women to be spiritual mothers in the Church as counterparts to a male priesthood. Women religious embody the Church in a special way that men cannot: as mothers who love their spiritual children. Women also have a special connection to Mary, who is the mother of God and the mother of the Church. Mary is the only non-divine person in the history of the world who never committed a sin, and for this she is the most exalted of all the saints in heaven.

In God's plan for the human race and the Catholic Church, he created a beautiful complementarity between male and female. This is clearly seen from the first book of Genesis to the last book of Revelation. When these distinct roles are obscured, the reality of marriage and the specific gifts of being male or female are often discounted. This has happened in many ways in our culture today. I hope that this article proves helpful to those who do not understand the male priesthood, but I hope it is only a piece of your journey as we all continue to grow deeper in our understanding and faith in God.

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 17th & 18th

Envelopes:	\$6,597.00
Loose:	\$2,180.00
Maintenance:	\$73.00
Total:	\$8,850.00

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!



St. Peter Chanel: Preaching to the End.

Feast Day: April 28th

This week, we turn to the saints to find a final attribute or characteristic of the priest: as preacher of the Gospel.

First a step back: every Christian is united to Christ's priesthood, and is called to poverty, perseverance, prayer, and preaching within his or her own circumstances. Every one of us is called into priestly service, acting as intermediaries between God and His creation. However, there is a special way that a ministerial, ordained, priest is further stamped with these particular characteristics (and mission).

Poverty: because it is only by "the Spirit of holiness ... which comes from you, O God", that he "possess[es] this office".

Perseverance: because the priest's life is consecrated to be a lasting witness of fidelity, being "faithful stewards of your

mysteries". **Prayer:** because he uniquely is entrusted to intercede for the Church "that your people may be renewed in the waters of rebirth and nourished from your altar; so that sinners may be reconciled and the sick raised up." Finally, preaching because the priest is ordained so that "through the grace of the Holy Spirit the words of the Gospel may bear fruit in human hearts and reach even to the ends of the earth." (Above quotations from the Prayer of Ordination of Priests.)

And that brings us to the island of Futuna in the year 1837. We are 2000 miles east of Brisbane and 2800 miles south west of Hawaii (so, not too far from Fiji, or the American Samoa). As a small schooner, the Raiatea, approached the coast of the volcanic island in November, it had already transversed some 2000 miles since departing Tahiti, and had aboard Bishop Pompallier and a few remaining Marianist missionaries on their way to Rotuma having left Father Bataillon and Brother Joseph Xavier on the nearby island of Wallis.

They were there to drop off an English trader, Thomas Boog, and twelve natives of Futuna who needed passage from Willis. But things took longer than expected (it seems they did not want to repeat the near capsizes they had at Willis) ... and then the crew of a beached English whaleboat came hollering up ... and then the natives of Futuna swarmed over the little Raiatea ... and then the good bishop turned to Fr. Chanel and asked if the intrepid young priest would be willing to stay there in Futuna. The future of the small island (its land-mass is smaller than that of Springfield), and all the souls upon it hung in the balance as the young priest considered his response. "My Lord, I am quite willing and ready."

Willing? Ready? Fr. Peter Chanel did not know the king, Niuliki, who accepted him and Br. Michael into his abode after one of courageous chiefs, Maile, argued for their reception. He did not know that cannibalism had been practiced on the island until the beginning of Niuliki's reign. He had no idea that Niuliki was the leader of the Alo tribe, in bitter conflict with the Sigave population.

He had probably never tasted the kava that was shared with them to welcome them to the island, nor seen the kind of tree on the beach upon which he affixed a Miraculous Medal, entrusting his life and efforts to the patroness of his order.

He would not be fluent in their language for three long years.

And yet he preached the Gospel: By his patience as the locals pillaged his garden. By his simplicity as the king shuttled him from one (inadequate) shelter to another. By his hunger, subsisting off the single daily meal of bananas and yams that the inhabitants enjoyed. By his tending the wounded on both sides as the Alo and Sigave battled for control of the island. And, by his constant efforts to tell the people of a God who loved them, and wanted them for His own, rather than the dismal spirit-world they assumed controlled their destinies and were embodied in their leaders.

Yet few accepted the Father's love.

Maile did accept baptism, but it was slow work driving the demons from the minds and hearts of any others. After a month, for their first Christmas, Fr. Chanel celebrated his 7th Mass on the island with 15 locals attending. After three hard years, he had still only baptized a few children and dying adults, whereas on Willis the entire island was converting.

Finally, several locals, and the king's son, Meitala, became catechumens, but hope would quickly fade. On April 28, 1841, when preparing medicine for Musumusu, the (angered, un-injured) warrior attacked Fr. Chanel. He spoke in his assailant's language: "Malie fuai", "it is well for me", and yielded his life to his murderer, and into the hands of God.

But, within 2 years, every soul on the island would be baptized and in 2021, 99% of the island remains Catholic! He was willing and ready enough for God!

Fr. Dominic Rankin is currently working on a series of talks on the "Tough Topics" related to our faith. Science, sin, shame, sex ... he could not think of any other parts of the Gospel more misunderstood or rejected. Yet that is nothing compared to proclaiming that Gospel to a culture that has no concept of God's love, and of whom you do not know the first word of their language!



Pierre Chanel (Petelō Saineha), window of the Catholic Church of Lapaha, Tonga. Glass-in-lead stained glass.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Taking Up the Collection

Back at the beginning of the Church, one of the great questions facing the Apostles was how to draw together a quickly-growing, and now Jewish and Gentile community. The apostles agreed that the Rabbinical Law had been fulfilled in Jesus, and was thus no longer obligatory, but sent Paul back to his Gentile Churches still asking for one particular work: "that we remember the poor", "which" Paul reports "was actually what I was eager to do." (Galatians 2:10) So began one of the lesser-known but long-standing works of Paul's life: collecting money for the poor Church in Jerusalem. In town after town, and in letter after letter we find him asking Gentile Christians to support Jewish Christians, and the astonishing thing is that they did! "Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem" the apostle to the Gentiles happily proclaims in his final letter. (Romans 15:25)

Nowadays we think fundraisers, charity drives, and kick-starters are normal, but nobody back then did. The only people that collected money over large swaths of land were Romans ... collecting taxes. This collection for the poor was the genesis of the hitherto unprecedented, but utterly Christian, work of Ecclesial Charity, and at the same time Paul trumpeted again the Church's relentless invasion of public space to announce and incarnate the Gospel. It was not just Caesar's troops who would move the world, now it was soldiers of Christ, the true King, acting not with force, but love. We do the same thing, and should have the same heart, when we offer ourselves and our goods for Christ's work during the offertory at Mass! Our ushers have resumed taking up the collection during Mass. Renew your own self-gift to Christ as we return to that beautiful Christian witness together!

40 Hours Devotion

The Cathedral will be hosting a 40 Hours Devotion from May 21-23, leading up to the celebration of the Feast of Pentecost, which concludes the Easter Season. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Adoration for 40 continuous hours for the faithful to spend time before our Eucharistic Lord. Please consider signing up for an hour during that time to pray in thanksgiving for the Lord's blessings and for greater openness to the working of the Holy Spirit in your lives.

Friday, May 21 – Mass of Solemn Exposition at 5:15 pm, with adoration beginning at 6:00 pm
Sunday, May 23 – Solemn Benediction at 12:00 pm

We are requesting a minimum of two people at a time for each hour. Please visit <https://spicathedral.flocknote.com/signup/52189> to sign up for a time slot.

The Loud Silence of St. Joseph

During this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, Catholics are being invited to give special attention to this great saint who played such a pivotal role in Salvation History. Although the Scriptures are silent on anything that he may have said, the witness of his life speaks volumes to us on what kind of man he was, and how we can learn from his example as we continue to strive to be disciples of Jesus.

May 3, 10, 17 @ 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 To register call 217/522-3342 or email Vicki at vcompton@cathedral.dio.org All adults, of any or no faith background, are welcome!

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! Wednesday, April 28 @ 7:00PM in the Cathedral Atrium



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Cathedral parishioner Mychael, grandson of Toni Rolando, who received Confirmation and First Communion at the Church of the Little Flower on April 14. Please keep Mychael in your prayers!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Mother's Day Tribute Event - Butler Funeral Homes

Mother's Day is a special day that we pay tribute to our mothers, grandmothers, wives, children, or other loved ones that have touched our hearts and lives. We would like to invite you and your family to join us for a memorial tribute service on Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. honoring all mothers and the important roles they have played in our lives. This brief ceremony will be open to the public and led by our on-staff Certified Celebrant, Judy Woerner. Refreshments will be served and a special tribute keepsake will be given in honor of your loved one. CDC guidelines will be followed and masks will be required. Please do not plan to attend if you or a household member are exhibiting symptoms similar to those observed with COVID-19. We sincerely hope that you and your family can join us for this tender reflection on the importance of the special women in our lives that we have lost, but will never forget.

Sacred Heart Church, Virden

"Drive-Thru Only" Fried Chicken Dinner

Sacred Heart Church in Virden will be holding a "Drive-Thru Only" Fried Chicken Dinner on Sunday, May 2, 2021 beginning at 11:00am and serving while supplies last at eh K of C Hall at 1320 N. Dye St. in Virden. The packaged meal includes our signature fried chicken (1/2 chicken pieces), mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, and a cookie, all for \$10. Because of COVID restrictions, the meal will be drive-thru only - just follow the directional signs. 50/50 Raffle tickets will be sold - \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Thank you for all your support!

SHG 2021 Dominican Family Teach-In: Live the Four Pillars!

Treat yourself to a spiritual retreat day and learn how to pray, study, preach, and live like a Dominican! Join us on Saturday, May 1, beginning at 9AM for small-group conversation on the Four Dominican Pillars (Community, Preaching, Study, Prayer). RSVP: <http://evite.me/j7QjyAGdgq> or email Michael Carlson: carlson@shg.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.

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

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.

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.