

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MAY 2, 2021 | 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
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 18

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
PAROCHIAL VICAR

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Sunday Masses

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 7:00am, 10:00am, & 5:00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday through Friday - 7:00am & 5:15pm

Saturday - 8:00am

Reconciliation

Monday through Friday - 4:15pm-5:00pm

Saturday - 9:00am-10:00am & 2:30pm-3:30pm

Sunday - 4:00pm-4:45pm

Adoration

Tuesday & Thursday - 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Welcome to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception!

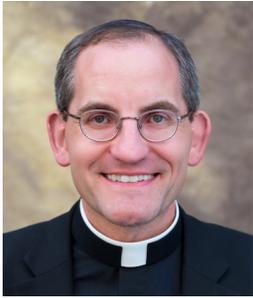
On behalf of our bishop, the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, our parishioners, deacons, and priests, we welcome you to the mother church of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

The seat of the diocese was moved to Springfield from Alton in 1923. In the same year, "Old St. Mary's" church of Immaculate Conception Parish was named as the pro-cathedral of the new diocese until this cathedral church was built and dedicated in 1928. Currently, our diocese comprises twenty-eight counties in central Illinois, serving over 140,000 members of the Catholic faithful.

We hope that your visit to our Cathedral is one of grace and beauty and that you feel at home in the mother church. We also hope that you will find this edition of the Cathedral Weekly to be both informative and spiritually enriching. May God bless you and yours!

Diocesan Victim Assistance is available. For the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, please call 217-321-1155.

Please remember that if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a nursing home or home-bound, to contact the Parish Office or Sr. Francella at 217-522-3342 x 142.



Complementary Vocations

Later this month, I will have the joy to celebrate the 10th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. While there were so many things that made that day special, there is one thing that stands out of which I am particularly proud. At a dinner celebration the night of my ordination, I had the opportunity to say a few words to the family and friends who

were gathered to celebrate the event, and my first words were to acknowledge my parents. I drew attention to the fact that the following Saturday, they were going to be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. I was also happy to share that my grandparents on my father's side (both of whom were there) had earlier that month celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. It struck me in that moment how the fidelity of my parents and grandparents to their marriage commitment provided a powerful witness to me as I was beginning my life as a priest. Just as God's grace in their lives enabled them to persevere in love, so too was I hopeful that God would do the same for me in the years ahead as a priest. And after 10 years, I have experienced how God's grace has indeed been the sustaining factor in my ministry, filling me with so much gratitude for the graces He has showered upon me.

As I mentioned two weeks ago, the Sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony are known as Sacraments at the Service of Communion, for they are ordered toward the salvation of others. More than just being categorized together in the Catechism, there is a very real way in which these two sacraments are complementary to one another. After ten years as a priest, I can see the many positive ways that I have been influenced by the example of how my parents have lived (and continue to live) their lives. Beyond my parents, I also think of the many married couples I have known in my 10 years as a priest, and how they have been a source of encouragement and inspiration to me. I can only hope that the witness of living my priestly commitment has done the same for married couples or those preparing for marriage.

I know that I am not alone when I say how important married couples are to priests and deacons. I have no doubt that all of the clergy of this parish could point to the example of their parents, grandparents, and parishioners who have been sources of support and inspiration to them, helping them to live their ministerial commitment more fully. So on behalf of all of the clergy here at the Cathedral, I offer a special thank you to the many married couples in our Cathedral Parish for your witness. You help to make us better ministers who are privileged to help you in living out your vocations, as we all work together to help one another 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, May 3

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - Blake Anderson
(Kluckman Family)

Tuesday, May 4

7am - Jean Reno Greenwald
(Patricia K. Siehr)
5:15pm - Daniel Cadigan
(Genny Severino)

Wednesday, May 5

7am - Maria Martinez
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - NO MASS

Thursday, May 6

7am - Wallace Hall
(Julie & Joe Morrison)
5:15pm - Ben & Monique Gaston
(Marie Fleck)

Friday, May 7

7am - Elizabeth & Paul Tellor
(Norma & Tom Lesko)
5:15pm - David Flatt
(Phil Flatt)

Saturday, May 8

8am - James & Emily Gibbs
(Mike & Jo Gibbs)
4pm - Special Intention for Rev.
Dominic Rankin (Chris Sommer)

Sunday, May 9

7am - For the People
10am - Norma & Eileen Rovey
(Family)
5pm - Rita DesMarteau
(Nancy Schrenk & Harvey)



Marriage in Scripture

This year, we have been aligning the theme of our bulletin articles with the theme of our Family of Faith formation program here at our Cathedral parish. The last sacrament we are studying this year is the sacrament of Marriage. It is always helpful to me to begin with where we find this sacrament in Scripture. Part of the definition of a sacrament is that it was instituted by Christ, so we can always find something about the sacraments in the scriptures.

Marriage is unique among the sacraments in the way that it was instituted. Jesus did not “invent” marriage; marriage was a part of the human race since the very beginning with Adam and Eve. Marriage has been the most basic part of society in every culture in all parts of the world. This is why we say that Jesus raised marriage to the level of a sacrament. Any man and woman in the world can get married, but only baptized Christians have the sacrament of Marriage as a source of grace and strength.

The most clear example of Jesus raising marriage to be a sacrament is found in the story of the wedding feast at Cana (John 2:1-11). Jesus attended this wedding of somebody who was presumably his friend or at least a friend of his family. During the feast, the wine ran out, causing a clear panic among the servers and a potential point of embarrassment for their newlywed hosts. When Mary said to Jesus, “They have no wine,” she interceded for the couple as she does for us even today. We know how the story ends and that Jesus turned approximately 150 gallons of water into wine. This is clearly way too much wine for even the best wedding reception! The Church has always seen this abundance of wine (which gives joy to the heart, according to the Psalms) as a symbol of God’s abundant grace given through this new sacrament. The Catechism says, “The Church attaches great importance to Jesus’ presence at the wedding at Cana. She sees in it the confirmation of the goodness of marriage and the proclamation that thenceforth marriage will be an efficacious sign of Christ’s presence” (CCC 1613).

By becoming a sacrament, marriage for Christians is a sign of God’s faithful love for his Church. The Gospels describe Jesus as a “bridegroom” who lays down his life for his spouse, the Church. When describing the reasons for celibacy, I often say that Jesus was never married. While this is true, this renouncing of marriage is for the sake of another marriage: being married to the Church. Christ and his Church are united in a mystical union which gives birth to new life, such as in baptism! Christ laid down his life for his bride, which St. Paul encourages all husbands to do for their own wives. Since marriage is a fairly common sacrament, the depth and beauty of this great mystery is sometimes forgotten about. During this month, I hope to at least begin the exploration of this sacrament of spousal love.

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 24th & 25th

Envelopes:	\$4,672.00
Loose:	\$2,530.05
Maintenance:	\$77.00
Total:	\$7,279.05
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 Joseph the Worker

Feast Day: May 1st

“This simple word sums up Joseph’s entire life” says Pope St. John Paul II in *Redemptoris Custos* (Guardian of the Redeemer). That simple word that he references is not “guardian”, as the great pope described him, nor one of the words from scripture that defined Joseph’s vocation towards Jesus: “father”, “husband [of Mary]”, or “just [man]” ... Nor is this word any of the titles upon which the Church calls upon St. Joseph: “most chaste”, “most prudent”, “most obedient”, “patron of the dying”, “terror of demons” or “protector of the Church.” That word is “carpenter”, *tektōn* in the Greek that the authors of the Gospels wrote, by which Joseph is remembered by Jesus’ friends and family when Our Lord returned to his synagogue in Nazareth: “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter’s son?” (Matthew 13:54-55).

There is a spectacular humility to our spiritual father Joseph! As his son Jesus steps into His public ministry, we hear nothing more about him, even his great Old Testament name, Joseph, is left by the wayside as everyone simply remembers “the carpenter”. It points to the unimportance of Nazareth: there were not a dozen *tektōn*’s listed in the yellow pages for the village to enlist, nope, just “the” carpenter, who everyone knew was Joseph! And perhaps humility is the first lesson learned from good, honest, simple labor. There is something simple, in the end, unimportant, about the work we do. It comes and goes, a hundred years from now it probably will not matter too much, and in the big scheme of things, it does not even make all that much of a difference right now. And yet the greatest saint after our Lady was known as “the carpenter”, and that delighted him.

You and I – both of us entities destined-for-forever – put our day’s effort, attention, energy, and love into whatever work we are called to do today, which probably brings us into countless interactions with other human persons, and suddenly the smallest of labors takes on the importance of eternity. Furthermore, our work is done not just with others, but for someone. Well, it can be. Our work can be done with love, or not. Our work can be done for others, or just ourselves. Our work can strengthen, complete, and sustain us, or it can be a burden, a complaint, a worry, a fruitless, facile, futile expenditure of our energy. Your choice.

Back to Joseph: nothing brought our saintly Carpenter more delight than when he worked alongside his son. Watch a father and son mow the yard or paint a wall, and you will see a glimmer of the delight that flickered from the workshop in Nazareth. Beyond that was the love with which he worked. Even working alone late into the night, a supernatural fire propelled his heart and hands. But Joseph was brought to even greater happiness as Jesus Himself took on the role of *tektōn*. Mark passes on that little detail, when he narrates Jesus’s description not just as the “son of the carpenter”, but the carpenter himself. “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary...” (Mark 6:3) Could anything make a dad happier than when his son takes up the work that the father had done out of love for so long? Could anything move a mother more than watching her son learn the ways of manly work from her husband?

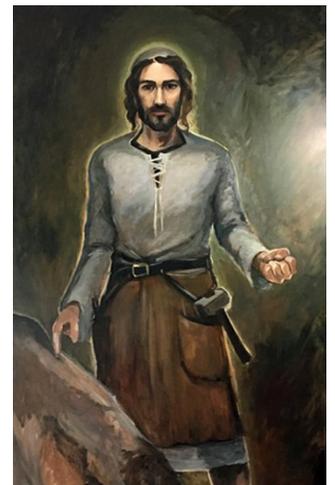
We begin this month examining the sacrament of marriage stopping to learn from St. Joseph, not generically, but specifically as a worker, a carpenter, a craftsman, a laborer.

The fact is that marriage depends fundamentally on one man giving himself to one woman. That takes place in the splendid moment of matrimony itself. It happens as they speak and begin to share a story together. Perhaps most supernaturally, it happens when they pray together and come to the sacraments together. Perhaps most splendidly, it happens when they join together body and soul and create a new life.

But the other 90% of the time, their self-gift is done by work.

We approach their cubicle, or car, their computer, or kitchen counter ... and can choose love, and other, and spouse, and God. Or not. It is our choice. We choose one way or another with every work we do. Let us labor with love.

Fr. Dominic Rankin has stripped many drywall screws trying to help his dad around the house. He has broken a lot of cutting disks off the Dremel tool, and blades off the reciprocating saw. He might have sliced a 100-foot extension cord down to something much shorter while trimming the bushes out front... And he definitely pushed the limits that a lawnmower blade can handle. And he learned of his father’s love as he did it, and learned how to love like a father as he did it.



Michael Corsini, St. Joseph, Father of All, 2021 (still being painted).
<https://michaelcorsini.com/store/st-joseph-father-of-all-preorder>, Reprinted with Permission.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

IMPORTANT - Weekday Mass Change

There will be no confessions or 5:15pm Mass on Wednesday, May 5. The priests will all be out for a diocesan priests event. The 7am Mass will still be held as regularly scheduled. The Parish Office will remain open.

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!

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.
Mondays, May 3, 10, & 17 @ 7:00pm in the Cathedral atrium

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.

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

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.

Welcome to Saint Joseph's Home

Saint Joseph's Home that has been providing Loving Care to Springfield's elderly since 1903, is overjoyed to announce that we are now accepting applications for new admissions. To be part of a tradition of caring and quality care, call for information. (217) 529-5596. All admissions are done under the IDPH COVID-19 Guidelines.

Catholic Schools Appeal 2021

Plans are underway for the 2021 Catholic Schools Appeal to benefit the Springfield Catholic elementary schools and Sacred Heart-Griffin High School! This year's Catholic Schools Appeal kick off will be this weekend, so be on the lookout for a mailing to make your contribution. The proceeds of the Appeal will be distributed fairly among the schools represented at year end. The division of funds will be the same as the previous years: 3/5 of the funds will be divided equally, and 2/5 of the funds will be divided based on the number of students enrolled in each school. Thank you for your support of Catholic education.

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.

It's Chicken Dinner Time; We're Back!

The Knights of Columbus #4175 North Council and the Ursuline Academy Alumni Foundation will be hosting their 47th Annual Chicken Dinner Sunday, May 2nd, 2021, from 11 AM To 7 PM. Tickets are \$11 for adults and \$7 for Children. Eat in, take out and drive-through are available. Adult dinners will include a 1/2 a chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cole slaw, a roll and a dessert. These are the same recipes people have come to love over the years. Tickets are available from members of both the Council and the Foundation and area merchants.

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.