

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MAY 9, 2021 | 6TH 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 19

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!

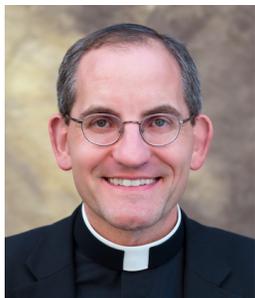
On behalf of our bishop, the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, our parishioners, deacons, and priests, we welcome you to the mother church of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

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.



Fruitful Marriages

Many years ago, somebody asked me a rather interesting question. It went something like this: "What was God's first commandment? And does He still ask it of us?" I thought about the question for a moment, then I did what many people do when looking for an answer related to the faith...I went to Google! Thankfully, the algorithm in Google pointed

me to where I should have started in the first place, the Bible, specifically in the Book of Genesis.

After the creation of Adam and Eve, and before the Fall, God issued this command: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it." (Genesis 1:28) To be fertile (or fruitful) is understood to be a command to cooperate with God in the creation of new human lives. Even though the Fall damaged humanity's relationship with God and one another, He nevertheless desires for this command to remain in effect and asks that couples who are entering into the Sacrament of Matrimony to be open to this important aspect of married life. We see this in the Celebration of Matrimony itself. Just before the couple exchanges their vows, the Church asks them: "Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and His Church?"

Today, as our country celebrates Mother's Day, everybody who reads this can be thankful that their mother chose to say yes to God's first command to be fruitful and multiply. I am more than aware that not every child who is born into the world comes from the context of a couple who is married. And while not ideal, we must still rejoice because every life is a gift from God, and the mothers who chose to accept that life lovingly from God are to be commended and praised. I know that I will be thanking God in a special way for my mother today.

When I was younger and more foolish, I used to tell people that after having had two boys, my mother really wanted a girl. She was indeed blessed with a girl, and I tagged along in the womb with my sister. I remember how my mother reacted one time when she heard me say that. She was clearly not in agreement with my assessment of the situation, and through that rather awkward experience, I realized that my mother had lovingly welcomed both my twin sister and me. I was not just an extra to what she really wanted, I was a double blessing to her. And so I thank her in a special way for lovingly welcoming me as a gift from the moment I was conceived in her womb up to the present moment.

Let me express my gratitude to all mothers on this day for their willingness to lovingly welcome their children into this world. And for those mothers who may have had to endure the pain of losing that gift to death too early, we pray in a special way for their healing and comfort from the Lord, who looks upon all mothers with tender love for their willingness to obey His first command.

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 10

7am - Special Intention for Rev. Christopher House (Chris Sommer)

5:15pm - Angelo Family (Genny Severino)

Tuesday, May 11

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath (Augustine Eleyidath)

5:15pm - Delores Hebig (Nick & Teresa Gray)

Wednesday, May 12

7am - Special Intention for Janet Vespa (Chris Sommer)

5:15pm - John Garvey (Lentz Family)

Thursday, May 13

7am - Roy Carter, Sr. (Lindat Carter)

5:15pm - Special Intention for Bianca (D.A. Drago)

Friday, May 14

7am - Jean Reno Greenwald (Dennis & Sharalyn Lochman)

5:15pm - John Montgomery (John Busciacco)

Saturday, May 15

8am - Angeline Sherman (Hattie Pinski)

4pm - Jesse & Lorraine Conterman (Mike & Jo Gibbs)

Sunday, May 16

7am - Dean & Mary Helen Conrad (Mike & Jo Gibbs)

10am - John & Edith Bakalar (John Busciacco)

5pm - For the People



The Effects of the Sacrament of Matrimony

In our American society today, there seems to be skepticism about the goodness of marriage. This is also a reflection of our skepticism about the world in general. As the Catechism quotes from Vatican II, "The well-being of the individual person and of both human and Christian society is closely bound up with the healthy state of conjugal and family life" (CCC 1603). Marriage is a human reality even before it is a Christian reality, but the degradation of the esteem in which marriage is held has serious consequences for us as Catholics, because this sacrament is a great source of grace for those who need it.

Marriage is hard. It is a way that most people in our Church are called to lay their lives down in service of God and his Church. Since God never expects us to do the impossible, we can know that he gives the help that is needed to live out such a sublime calling. Without the eyes of faith, it may be easy to discount the value of marriage as a simple social construct (even though this is not true). For Christians however, marriage is a source of incredible grace.

When two Christians enter into a marriage, a special, invisible bond is formed, and this bond is the source of strength for the married couple. This covenant between the spouses does not remain simply on a human level but is "integrated into God's covenant with man: 'Authentic married love is caught up into divine love'" (CCC 1639). Christ dwells in a special way with a married couple. The graces that Jesus gives through the sacrament of matrimony are quite remarkable: "Christ dwells with them, gives them the strength to take up their crosses and so follow him, to rise again after they have fallen, to forgive one another, to bear one another's burdens, to 'be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ,' and to love one another with a supernatural, tender, and fruitful love" (CCC 1642). Marriage sounds like quite the sacrament! Couples who choose to forego marriage in favor of simply living together are forfeiting all of these possible graces, and sadly the results often reflect this.

True love is found in commitment. It can be very attractive to keep our options open indefinitely, and never make a true life commitment. But true freedom is found through giving ourselves away in love. This is true for married couples, priests, religious, and for all of us who are generous with ourselves in any way. "It can seem difficult, even impossible, to bind oneself for life to another human being. This makes it all the more important to proclaim the Good News that God loves us with a definitive and irrevocable love, that married couples share in this love, that it supports and sustains them, and that by their own faithfulness they can be witnesses to God's love. Spouses who with God's grace give this witness, often in very difficult conditions, deserve the gratitude and support of the ecclesial community" (CCC 1648).

I used a lot of quotes from the Catechism this week, because I thought that these quotes expressed the great value of marriage so well. Let us give thanks to God for all the wonderful examples of married love that we have in our parish and in our families!

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 May 1st & 2nd

Envelopes:	\$5,959.00
Loose:	\$2,760.59
Maintenance:	\$1,149.00
Total:	\$9,868.59

April EFT: \$22,212.40

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!



Saint Joseph, the Carpenter

Feast Day: May 1st

Last week we stepped into Joseph's workshop and spent a few moments watching love transform his simple efforts into joy, and grace, and peace. We saw the delight spread across his face as Jesus learned from him to work with his hands, and to offer his heart. We learned from his humility: to be forgotten, and yet to send ripples of hard-won love out into eternity...

But what exactly was his work? What tools were scattered across Joseph's, and then Jesus', workbench? Matthew tells us that Jesus is the "carpenter's son" (Matthew 13:55) using the Greek word *tektōn* [τέκτων], but this is a less precise term than our typical translation, "carpenter". *Tektōn* referred to a craftsman in a more general sense, someone who had technical knowledge of forming wood, metal, or stone, even someone who constructed things from those natural resources, an architect of some sort. In the Old Testament, the wood-workers and stone-masons who built David's palace (2 Samuel 5:11) are both described with that same word, *tektōn*. Now, around Nazareth, there were not many trees in Jesus' day. Some 90% of the homes in the area were constructed from stone, and there was a giant quarry about a mile and a half from their home. So was Joseph a stone mason, a builder? Making the question even more incisive, Mark describes Jesus as "the carpenter [*tektōn*], the son of Mary" (Mark 6:3), so was Jesus a stone mason or builder?!

If we look elsewhere in the Gospels, we see plenty of examples and parables that Jesus gives with rocky-references: He acknowledges the beautiful stones of the temple (Mark 13:1-2), He refers to himself as the cornerstone (Luke 20:17), He calls Peter to be the rock upon which he will build the church (Matthew 16:18), and describes the life of discipleship as one founded upon rock (Matthew 7:24). Perhaps it is fitting that the human work of the Creator of the world was to again shape stone and house humans?

Perhaps...

Yet one of the earliest Christian writers after the New Testament was St. Justin Martyr (who lived in the 100s), and he tells us that Jesus "was in the habit of working as a carpenter when among men, making ploughs and yokes; by which He taught the symbols of righteousness and an active life." Ah, now this is interesting! There was not much wood around Nazareth, but they would have used wood to make plows, yokes, and other such implements. No other material at the time would have been practical.

And, once again, we find a number of references in Our Lord's words to such things as these. "My yoke is easy, and burden is light" (Matthew 11:30) Jesus says describing the role of discipleship. What a beautiful thought it is to consider Jesus fashioning a yoke for you or I, gradually shaping it to fit His and our shoulders perfectly! Or, consider Luke 6:41, when the Gospels record Jesus' teaching on judging others, retaining the vivid words "karphos" and "dokos" for "speck" and "beam". He could have used many other analogies, but chose this one – of a splinter of wood in one's eye. Did the image come naturally to our God, who very well could have endured that pain Himself?

We do not know for sure what occupied Joseph, and Jesus, in their workshop. Probably it was a mix of various humble tasks, but I think that we have learned another important lesson from the workshop of Nazareth: the no task is too menial for the God-man to do, and neither should it be for us.

This past week, Pope Francis has added a few titles to those we use in the Litany of St. Joseph. They are all wonderful - Guardian of the Redeemer, Servant of Christ, Minister of Salvation, Support in Difficulties, Patron of Refugees, Patron of the Afflicted, and Patron of the Poor – but perhaps that second one should inspire our understanding of marriage, and discipleship, this week: "Servant of Christ". If last week we learned self-gift, maybe this week would be a good one to work on servant. I think none of us much likes the idea of servitude, but when the apostles describe their relationship to Christ, the first title they choose is that of "servant". "Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus" (Philemon 1:1). "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" (James 1:1). "Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:1). "Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James" (Jude 1:1). And, Jesus chose the same identity for Himself: "the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve" (Mark 10:45).

How did Christ serve? Well, for about 20 years, by carving wood or carrying stone, and during His public ministry, but sleeping on stones and shouldering the cross. May we find ourselves close to Him as we seek to do the same this week!

Fr. Dominic Rankin has recently begun working out (with Fr. Dominic Vahling) at the gym. He has not had a tremendous amount of experience doing such things, but has quickly come to realize the difficulty of trying to lift hundreds of pounds with his arms or legs. Hopefully it is good practice for shouldering his daily yoke that often has greater spiritual, rather than material, weightiness.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

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.

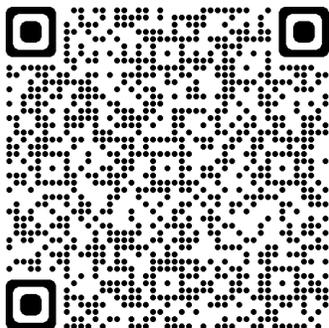
Mondays, May 10, & 17 @ 7:00pm in the Cathedral atrium

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

CCCW Scholarships

The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women and the Knights of Columbus Council #16126 are offering scholarships to students who are (1) registered members of the Cathedral parish and (2) attending a Catholic high school or entering 7th or 8th grade a Catholic grade school in the fall of 2021. Scholarship applications will be processed electronically. Scan the QR code below to apply, or visit the Cathedral's website for the application. The deadline to submit completed scholarship applications is midnight on Friday, May 21, 2021. Late applications will not be accepted. Please email questions to cathedralcccw@gmail.com.



Cathedral Confirmation

Congratulations to our children who received First Communion and/or Confirmation on April 17. Please keep Tommy, Liam, Connor, Peyton and Sarah in your prayers.



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 5th Street 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!

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.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC)

This past year in many ways has been the "year of communication." Announcements about the pandemic, the return of the public celebration of Mass, what safety precautions would be in place in our churches, and how we would keep our schools open for in-person learning, what time Masses would be, and the end of the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass are just some of the important announcements the diocese, parishes, and schools have communicated this year.

Over the past year, our diocese has been able to build upon the popular "Hey, Father!" and "Motivational Monday" video series; "Dive Deep," the official podcast of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois; broadcasting LIVE Masses and ordinations from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception; making the coverage in Catholic Times only local; and helping parishes establish online giving web pages.

With your generosity, we can continue these popular initiatives, and bring people closer to our faith or even back to our faith. Please prayerfully consider supporting the Catholic Communication Collection this year. 50% of collected funds stay right here in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, and the other 50% support communications projects in the United States and around the world. You may make your donation online at www.parishgiving.dio.org/secondcollections. You can also mail your donation to the parish office.

For more information about the collection and the projects it supports, visit www.usccb.org/cc. Support the collection and build community.

4:40 for Seminarians

Six months ago, the diocese launched a campaign called 4:40 for 40 Seminarians. We invited the entire diocese to pray a Hail Mary every day at 4:40 so that, with the help of Mary, we can have 40 men answer the call to be a seminarian for our diocese. If you have been faithfully praying every day, thank you! If you are just hearing about this, we invite you to jump on board. May is the month of Mary and we know with her help, anything is possible! PRAY BIG!

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.

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.

Covenant Network Catholic Radio

Covenant Network offers informative and inspiring Catholic radio programming. In addition to daily Mass, we also pray the Rosary, the Regina Caeli, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and other prayers. You will find live call-in shows, question and answer programs about Catholic teaching, music, as well as faith-nourishing programs on Scripture, saints, and Church history. You can listen on the radio, the Covenant Network app on your phone or on our website OurCatholicRadio.org. Tune in on 88.1 FM and find out how Catholic radio will change your life!

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.