

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MAY 16, 2021 | 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER - THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



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 20

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
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THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.
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PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
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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.



Sacred Bond of Matrimony

Two weeks ago I mentioned that I will be celebrating my 10th anniversary as a priest later this month. Since I was ordained a deacon in 2010, I have kept a record of the various sacraments that I have celebrated. Since this we are considering the Sacrament of Matrimony this month, I decided to look back at the list of weddings at which I have presided. To date, I have witnessed the marriage vows of 34 couples (35 by the time I finish this weekend), not necessarily a huge amount for 11 years of ordained ministry, but not insignificant either.

As I looked over the names on the list, I thought of a question that was recently posed to me. A brother priest asked what part of the wedding ceremony is most memorable. For me, I am always moved when it comes time for the couple to exchange their vows with one another. After declaring their intention to enter Matrimony, I say the following words to them: "Since it is your intention to enter the covenant of Holy Matrimony join your right hands and declare your consent before God and His Church." As they join hands and look one another in the eyes, it is a beautiful moment to behold, and I count myself to be so privileged to be closer than anybody else in the church to see this special moment as the two prepare to enter into the one flesh union of Holy Matrimony.

Because they are often nervous, the couples that I have worked with rarely choose to memorize their vows. They choose to repeat after me as they pronounce their vows to their future spouse. Once again, it is a great privilege to be so close to the couple at this moment of great intimacy. It has happened on many occasions that the voice of one or both crack as they are flooded with emotion, an emotion no doubt of great joy. Then after the vows have been exchanged, the peace that floods their faces is a sight to behold.

When preparing couples for marriage, I like to remind them that this brief moment in the ceremony, not much longer than a minute or two, is what marriage is all about. Everything else, from the dresses, to the flowers, to the reception, to the guests, and the countless other details that go into the day, pale in comparison to what happens in this sacred moment of the exchange of vows. At that moment, they stand before one another and before God, asking the Lord for the grace to keep together the bond that is created. And with God's grace, it is indeed possible to do so, but the couple must never forget to keep Him at the center of their lives. The couple is not alone in this, of course. All of those who are privileged to witness this sacred moment are also reminded of the obligation that we all have to pray for married couples that they might remain rooted in the grace of the sacrament they have received so as to persevere until death do they part.

I therefore invite each of us to call to mind those we know who are married. Bring them before the Lord and ask Him to bless and strengthen their union. Whether they have been married 50 years, or less than one year, every couple can benefit from our prayers for them. Let us also pray in a special way for those couples who are preparing for marriage, that amidst all of the details to attend to in planning their weddings, they will ever keep before their eyes the love of God who has drawn the two of them together, and who alone can guarantee that their marriages will be able to withstand the trials of life and so be a source of joy for the remainder of their lives.

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 17

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - Delia Sinn
(Pamela Hargan)

Tuesday, May 18

7am - Jean Reno Greenwald
(Dennis & Sharalyn Lochmann)
5:15pm - Ben & Monique Gaston
(Marie Fleck)

Wednesday, May 19

7am - Andrea Obregon
(Barbara Federico)
5:15pm - William F. Logan &
Shirley Logan (Lisa Logan & Lori
Logan Moyka)

Thursday, May 20

7am - James & Emily Gibbs
(Mike & Jo Gibbs)
5:15pm - Repose of the Soul of
Joseph Kohlrus, Sr. (Jean Borre)

Friday, May 21

7am - George Freidel
(Janny & Chip Hagnauer)
5:15pm - Richard Willaredt
(Nancy Nekoll)

Saturday, May 22

8am - Angeline Keller
(Hattie Pinski)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, May 23

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)
10am - Jean Reno Greenwald
(Dennis & Sharalyn Lochmann)
5pm - Kyle Buckman
(Mom)



Getting Married “in the Church”

Although most Catholics are aware of this, I have recently encountered some people who were surprised to hear that Catholics must get married “in the Church.” By this phrase, I do not necessarily mean that Catholics must get married in a church building, but this should happen too. To get married “in the Church” means to get married according to the ritual of the Catholic Church in the presence of one of her ministers, usually a priest or deacon. If a Catholic gets married in a different way, such as at a courthouse, he or she is in fact not married at all according to the laws of the Church.

So why do Catholics have to get married in the Church? There are several important reasons, although this has not always been the case. As I have said in previous columns, marriage was not invented by Christianity, but it was raised to the level of a sacrament by Jesus. In the time of the early Church, Christians probably did not have a distinct marriage ceremony from other people in their communities. At that time, most people would have taken marriage for granted, and the cultural understanding of marriage would have been that it was lifelong, faithful, and open to children, which is how our nature is built for marriage. However, at a certain point in history, the Church judged that there would be a great spiritual benefit for Catholics to get married in the presence of the Church’s official minister. The Catechism lists four of these reasons in paragraph 1631.

- Sacramental marriage is a liturgical act. It is therefore appropriate that it should be celebrated in the public liturgy of the Church;
- Marriage introduces one into an ecclesial order, and creates rights and duties in the Church between the spouses and towards their children;
- Since marriage is a state of life in the Church, certainty about it is necessary (hence the obligation to have witnesses);
- The public character of the consent protects the “I do” once given and helps the spouses remain faithful to it.

A sacramental marriage is a union in Christ of the two spouses. With this in mind, it only makes sense to enter into this sacred covenant in the presence of the Church and in the house of God. Some couples would prefer to enter into marriage on an island somewhere as part of a vacation. While this might be fun, it does not reflect a good understanding of what marriage is. Marriage is certainly not just a vacation, and to place the beauty of a beach before the beauty of being in the presence of God is not a correct prioritization.

There are exceptions to this rule. Catholics can ask for permission from their local bishop to get married outside of the presence of the Church’s minister. Bishops may give this permission for a good reason, such as when a Catholic is marrying a Jewish woman, and her family will not come to a Christian wedding ceremony. As long as there is not a danger of the Catholic losing his faith, a bishop could give permission for him to get married in the Jewish ceremony. While not a sacrament, this marriage is still a natural good and blessed by God.

Marriage can get complicated and a little messy, as I’m sure we have all witnessed at some point in our lives. Christian marriage is no exception. If you have questions regarding the validity of a marriage, or if you would like help rectifying a complicated situation, contact your local parish or one of the priests at the Cathedral; we would be happy to help. Marriage is a beautiful gift from God, and it is worth the effort to ensure that our married couples are receiving all the graces they can from this great sacrament.

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 8th & 9th

Envelopes:	\$5,783.00
Loose:	\$3,878.13
Maintenance:	\$185.00
Total:	\$9,846.13

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!



Mary, the Mother at the Ascension

Feast Day: 40 days after Easter, this year, Sunday, May 16th

We are contemplating marriage this month, and having given two weeks to St. Joseph, it now seems the right time to turn to his spouse, and Jesus' mother, Mary. But, we find ourselves at a particular place in the Church's liturgical life: the last days leading from Easter to the day of Our Lord's Ascension and Pentecost, when He fulfils His promise of sending the Holy Spirit upon the Church. How does Mary fit into this? And marriage?

... as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ...Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away; and when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. (Acts 1:9-14)

I include this entire passage because this week I want to invite you to **pray through this scene with Mary**. This is the very last time that Mary will be mentioned in Scripture (though St. Paul references Jesus' birth in Galatians 4:4), but what last example does our Spiritual Mother offer us?

She is with the apostles and disciples (that would be us!) – begging for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit – and Mary is the perfect person to show what it means to be open and available for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, because that was precisely the gift she received at the annunciation, 30-something years before.

They are of “one accord” – of one mind, one heart, one mission, one hope; they are united, in communion, with the Lord – but wasn't Mary the first one to be centered on Christ? She held Him in her womb for 9 months, and in her heart every minute since, how much she can teach us about unity around, and union with, Jesus?!

They are praying – united in worship of God, and entrusting their lives to Him – and as all the scriptures come into clearer focus, and all the teachings and actions of Jesus begin to set their hearts afire, isn't it proper that Mary, the one who had so long pondered the Lord's working in her own life, is there to teach them the ways of trust and surrender?

They are joyful, indefatigable, hopeful, on fire – but Jesus just ascended! – wouldn't most disciples be discouraged by their master's disappearance? Not these disciples, for Christ goes to prepare a place, and promises to remain with them, and once again Mary's discipleship has preceded the Church's. She had already said goodbye to her son as He began His ministry, and then called a new family of disciples around Him, and then took up the cross ... and each time she found herself even closer to Her savior and son.

And lastly, we are considering the Ascension, when Jesus takes our humanity with Him up to heaven. What a glorious transformation, and promise of future transformation for us?! Mary is the only saint to have been carried aloft to life with God in this complete and bodily sense. There too, she follows closely after her Son, and shows us the path towards our own bodily resurrection.

In all these ways, Mary knows that **discipleship and motherhood are related**. Both the disciple and the mother have to be open to life from on high ... or else fail to bear fruit. Both must be centered, captivated, consumed by love ... lest their activities become scattered and meaningless. Both need a deep, quiet, personal life of prayer ... because without relationship the burdens of either life can crush. Both must find joy in surrendering the life entrusted to them by God ... for to grasp that gift is to lose it. And, both must surrender their bodies to the vocation to which they are called ... to give our spirits to God, but not our bodies, is to fail to receive the fullness of His gift for us.

Fr. Dominic Rankin prays the rosary every day. One day stands above all the others as including a profound encounter with God in that devotion. His spiritual director on the retreat before Theology I invited him to pray each decade imagining Mary, as a young girl, holding his hand and walking him through the mysteries she would live out in the years to come. Many blessings were found that afternoon allowing her to show me her Son.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Holy Family Food Pantry

Catholic Charities is so grateful for the food donations that are donated each week by generous members of the Cathedral. The items most in demand, but short in supply right now are: Mayo, mustard, ketchup, dishwashing soap, toilet paper, paper towels, napkins and cleaning supplies. Donations can be dropped in the blue bin in the atrium. Thank you for your goodness!

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.

Monday, May 17 @ 7:00pm in the Cathedral Atrium

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10

The Cathedral Parish needs you. We have the tremendous privilege of serving the entire community by offering several daily Masses in addition to Sunday Masses. But it doesn't happen without dedicated liturgical ministers. Please prayerfully consider how you are called to serve. We are in need of:

Altar Servers – adults who could serve at 5:15 daily Mass or 7:00am Sunday or 8:00am Saturdays. Youth to serve on weekdays during the summer or at 4:00pm Saturday or 5:00pm Sunday Masses.

Lectors – at all Masses, but especially weekday 7:00am and 5:15pm Masses and Saturday morning Mass

Ushers/Greeters – at all Sunday masses. This is a job for individuals as well as families. If you can smile, you can do this!

Cantors – for Saturday evening Mass and Sundays at 10:00am and 5:00 pm masses. If you've got a gift don't hide it under a bushel!

Cantors contact Mark at markcicmusic@gmail.com All other volunteers contact Vicki at 217/522-3342 or vcompton@cathedral.dio.org THANK YOU!

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.



Single & Parenting – Hard Work, Real Hope

As a single parent, you know there aren't many people who truly understand the unique challenges you face. You deeply desire to do what's best for your kids, and you worry that you aren't. Sometimes, it's all you can do to survive from one day to the next. Single & Parenting is a special group that will bring practical help and hope to your life. Gather with other single parents to watch dynamic videos featuring single-parenting experts and enjoy small-group discussion. For more information and to register, contact Vicki at 217/522-3342 or vcompton@cathedral.dio.org

Single & Parenting meets on Thursdays, 6:00-8:00pm, June 3 – Aug 26, Cathedral School Library. FREE Child care available.

SDCCW Scholarship Award Winner

The Cathedral is pleased to announce that Ms. Lauren Blair, parishioner of the Cathedral, was selected to receive the Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (SDCCW) Scholarship Award! Four young women out of 45 were selected. Every young woman was an outstanding candidate and Lauren has much to be proud of in being selected for this award. The future of our church, our country and our world depends on the faith and hard work demonstrated by Lauren. Congratulations Lauren!

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

Retired Diocesan Priests Collection

Each year on the feast of Pentecost, we rejoice that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to the Church in every age. As we celebrate this feast, we ask you to consider a generous response in the Retired Diocesan Priests Collection to meet the immediate retirement and health care needs of our priests. Please pray for our priests who serve so generously in various apostolates throughout our diocese. Please thank God for all that we have received from our priests who are now retired, many of whom continue to offer generous service in every way that they are able throughout our diocese. If you are unable to make an in-church contribution, please make your donation online at www.parishgiving.dio.org/secondcollections. You can also mail your donation to the parish office. May the Holy Spirit give us every gift we need to build up the Body of Christ in our time and place.

Peace of Mind Seminar

The Butler Family of Organizations extends an invitation to all who are interested in learning more about planning for their final wishes to help their families celebrate their lives to join us for a lunch and learn program. We will host a Peace of Mind Seminar on Thursday, May 20th 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 May 17.

Dive Deep – Our Lady of Fatima: What you didn't know

Mary appeared to three children in Fatima, Portugal just over 100 years ago. Her message holds true today. So, what did she say, and what about all the miracles and other signs associated with these visions? Dive Deep interviews a Marian expert on all things Our Lady of Fatima. Go to dio.org/podcast to listen and subscribe.

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!

Called and Sent - High School Encounter

The Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry and the Office of Vocations is hosting Called & Sent: a High School Encounter July 4-7 at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in Springfield. This encounter allows you to gain the skills and tactics necessary to practice your faith and have a deeper understanding of who Jesus Christ is. You will also explore how Jesus is calling you to live out your mission. You will gain tools and learn techniques that will help you strengthen and share your faith. This encounter will allow you to answer the call! Registration is \$250 and includes 3 nights' accommodation, 8 meals, lots of snacks, and program materials. Register online at www.dio.org/vocations/cas. Any questions, please email vocations@dio.org.

Ave Explores: Stress, Anxiety, and Mental Health

Do you feel stressed out, anxious, or depressed? Are you afraid to talk with a professional because you're worried that someone will find out and think less of you? What steps can you take to regain a sense of balance and peace? Ave Explores: Stress, Anxiety, and Mental Health has some answers to your questions and concerns. Katie Prejean McGrady and a team of experts help you explore a variety of mental health issues such as addiction and recovery, forgiveness, grief, practicing mindfulness, therapy, and spiritual direction. You learn why it's important to take care of your mental health and what you can do to get back on track. Plus, we offer a variety of practical resources where you can find out more. Visit www.avemariapress.com/aveexplores-series/signup for more information.

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!