

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MAY 23, 2021 | PENTECOST SUNDAY



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 21

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
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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.



Come, Holy Spirit!

"Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated." (1 Cor 13:4) These words from St. Paul are words we often associate with weddings. I would say that the vast majority of couples for whom I have witnessed their marriage vows have chosen this reading for the Second Reading of their wedding liturgy. After all, at the heart of marriage is love, and St. Paul's words are indeed a beautiful description of this gift of love.

However, I never miss the opportunity to invite the couples to listen more deeply to the type of love that St. Paul is describing. He is not describing a feeling, which can sometime be how our world looks at love. And in fact, when a couple no longer "feels" love for the other, they question whether it is worth staying in the marriage. The love of which St. Paul speaks is the same love that Jesus Himself speaks to us, which we heard in the Gospel two Sundays ago: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (Jn 15:13) This love (in Greek agape) is a self-sacrificing love for the good of the other. It is a love that sets aside personal interests and feelings in service of the one who is the object of the action of that love.

Listen to the words that describe this type of giving love, that it is: "patient, kind, not jealous, not pompous, not inflated, not rude, does not seek its own interests, is not quick tempered, does not brood over injury, does not rejoice over wrongdoings." To live this type of love is HARD – in marriage, in family life, in Holy Orders, in everything! But is it impossible? No, because the Lord never commands anything that is impossible. But it only becomes possible when His love is within us through the gift of sanctifying grace. After all, as St. John tells us: "God is love." (1 Jn 4:16) The Lord makes it possible to live this type of love through the Sacrament of Matrimony, which He gave to the Church so that couples could persevere through "sickness and health, in good times and in bad" and so realize the promise that St. Paul mentions at the conclusion of his treatment on love, that "love never fails." (1 Cor 13:8) All of the sacraments, in fact, impart this love to aid us in the fulfillment of our duties as Christians. This agape love, this self-sacrificing love cannot fail because God cannot fail. If there is a failure, it is never because God's love has failed, but that we have not let God's love work in us and through us.

As we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, we are reminded of how powerful God's love in the gifts of the Holy Spirit can be. The same Holy Spirit that was able to do so many remarkable things throughout the Acts of the Apostles, and throughout the life of the Church, is available to each of us. These gifts enable us to live the Christian agape love in any and all of the circumstances of our lives through the sacraments which the Lord gave to His Church to ensure that this love could be lived. Let us all make that earnest plea: "Come, Holy Spirit" today, asking that our hearts will be more open to letting God's love work in us and through us in ways that can transform marriages, families, relationships, our parish, the diocese, the Church, and the world!

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 24

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

Tuesday, May 25

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

Wednesday, May 26

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

Thursday, May 27

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

Friday, May 28

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

Saturday, May 29

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

Sunday, May 30

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



What is an Annulment?

For the past several weeks, we have been looking into the great beauty of the sacrament of Matrimony and the many graces that Jesus gives to married couples through this sacrament. However, human sin is still very much a part of our everyday life, and all relationships are affected by sin. This has negative effects on marriages. You may have heard the word “annulment” used in the conversation about Catholics and divorce. My intention with this column is to briefly explain the distinction between a divorce and an annulment and hopefully dispel a few misconceptions.

It is true that the Catholic Church does not allow for divorce, and this is for a very simple reason: Jesus condemned divorce by his teachings. He said, “I say to you, whoever divorces his wife (unless the marriage is unlawful) causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery” (Matthew 5:32). Moses allowed for divorce in his teachings, but the words of Jesus explain why this is no longer the case: “Because of the hardness of your hearts Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so” (Matthew 19:8). In the same conversation, Jesus said, “So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate” (Matthew 19:6). God is the one who joins a couple together in a sacramental marriage, and human beings have no authority to separate what he has joined.

A declaration of nullity is not the same thing as a divorce. A declaration of nullity declares that a marriage never took place to begin with. This declaration can be granted for several reasons. A common reason is that the marriage did not take place in the Church. (Read last week’s article for why Catholics must get married in the Church.) Another reason why a Catholic could seek a declaration of nullity from the Church is that one of the spouses on the wedding day was not capable of entering into marriage, or simply lied at the statement of the vows. At the wedding, both the bride and groom promise to be faithful in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, etc. Tragically, some people later find out that their (apparent) spouse had actually lied on the wedding day, because they were having an affair at the time of the marriage. Sometimes, a man or woman is not psychologically capable of entering into a marriage, but this is not discovered until later on. There are priests, psychologists, and laypeople who are trained to help investigate situations like these to determine whether a failed marriage ever took place to begin with.

There are some situations when Catholics can and should seek a physical separation or even a legal divorce from their spouse. In a case where one of the spouses is abusive, it is best for the physical and spiritual well-being of the spouses that they live separately for a time or permanently. However, a legal divorce does not mean that the sacrament of matrimony never took place. It is possible that even a sacramental marriage can fall apart because of the presence of sin and the choices that people make. Even if a Catholic seeks a legal divorce, the Church still considers that person to be married sacramentally. This is not in itself a reason to stop coming to Church or stop receiving Holy Communion. However, a Catholic is not free to enter another marriage unless a declaration of nullity is granted by the diocese.

Talking about divorce and annulments is not easy. We do not live in a perfect world, and some marriage situations are admittedly complicated. However, God gives many graces to married couples, and it is worth the time and effort to make sure that the marriages among our parishioners are valid and receiving all the graces that God desires to give them.

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 15th & 16th

Envelopes:	\$4,603.00
Loose:	\$2,284.82
Maintenance:	\$133.00
Total:	\$7,020.82

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 – Wife & Mother & Saint – at Pentecost

Feast Day: 7 weeks after Easter; this year, Sunday, May 23rd

Last week we stood with Mary at Jesus' Ascension, and realized that her motherhood is actually a prefigurement for all of our being/becoming disciples of Christ. And so we continued talking about the vocation of marriage, and the call within/beyond that to also being a disciple and saint. The idea seems pretty simple: when you're in your first few decades of life, figure out if you're supposed to be a priest (for the guys), religious, or married (or, if worse comes to worse, just find yourself in one of them one day...) and then spend the rest of life figuring out the particular way that you are going to be a saint/disciple within that (pray before work each morning?, volunteer time at the breadline?, go to daily Mass?, read the bible or catechism?)

The image that comes to mind is going to get an ice-cream: first you pick the main flavor (chocolate?, vanilla?, strawberry?), and then you have to choose the mix-ins (peanut-butter?, fudge sauce?, brownies-bits?) Oh, and the rest of life – kids and work and oil changes and watching movies – is the hamburger you already ate for dinner: it takes up most of the calories of the meal, but then, when we have the chance, we go above and beyond all that natural stuff and go out to Coldstone.

But Mary challenges all of us beyond this cherry-on-top idea of vocation and discipleship. We already saw that her motherhood and her discipleship were much the same thing: insofar as she was a good mother, she was a good disciple, and insofar as we are good disciples, we will fulfil the vocational-identity we have been given (as husband and father, or as wife and mother), so the two things are far more interwoven than even the best-blended concrete-mixer. But Our Lady draws us deeper in another way as well, and it is one we discover at Pentecost. Luke continues his narrative:

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. – Acts 2:1-4

We know Mary is there because she is part of the “all together” that we saw last at the Ascension, but Luke does not mention it. This allows our imaginations to fill in the details, but it also prompts us to ask how she remains in her vocation as wife and mother? Mary's Son has departed for heaven. Her husband already passed years before. Now what? Where do you put the sprinkles if the ice-cream is melted?!

And there in the upper room we realize that our Christian identity goes far deeper than merely the unique commitment+particulars that make up our vocation+discipleship. Mary is no less a wife and mother here as when she was in the stable at Bethlehem, but now her feminine vocation as wife and mother is shifted towards the Church, which is conceived with her continued cooperation and receptivity to the Father's will, and is born as the Holy Spirit once more overshadows her, and all members of Christ's Body.

This is the reality for every one of us too! Vocation and discipleship are not just parts of our lives, they aren't just the dessert to top off the meal, they are foundational to our way of being human. We are either male and female, and so we are all called to be husbands/fathers or wives/mothers. That is the way God created us from the beginning, and His love – to which our vocation and discipleship is merely a fitting response – is what draws us into life, and through our life, onto a particular path of making that love present in our own way. Every action we do, every choice we make, every breath we take ... all are opportunities to choose love, or not, and if we choose to truly love, then we are on the way of following our vocation, and of being faithful to the particular kind of fatherhood/motherhood that the Good Lord knows will bring us to eternal joy.

Fr. Dominic Rankin likes to think he has a decent amount of energy and endurance. He also thinks Ven. Fulton Sheen is right when he remarked: “A woman is capable of more sustained sacrifice than man. Man is more apt to be the hero in one great, passionate outburst of courage. But a woman is heroic through the years, months, and even seconds of daily life, the very repetition of her toils giving them the semblance of commonplace. Not only her days but her nights, not only her mind, but her body, share in the Calvary of Mothering. She, therefore, has a greater understanding of redemption, for she comes closer to death in bringing forth life.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

In Our Prayers

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jean Anne Staab, as she was called to eternal rest last week. Jean was a longtime parishioner of the Cathedral. She was a member of the Cathedral Council of Catholic Women, and received the 2019 Woman of Distinction Award. May she rest in peace.

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!

Memorial Day Mass Change

There will be no 5:15pm Mass on Monday, May 31st in observance of Memorial Day. There will be no confessions, and the Parish Office will be closed.

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

Family of Faith Potluck

All families with children at home are invited to meet new friends and old at a family BBQ potluck on Sunday, June 13 at 6:30pm in the Cathedral Parking Lot! Please bring a dish to share. Our priests will be grilling hotdogs and hamburgers for everyone! The Cathedral Parish has a family-based catechetical program, Family of Faith, which we'll be starting again in September. You and your children are welcome to join us! Anyone at the picnic can answer your questions about Family of Faith. For more information or to RSVP please call 217-522-3342 or email vcompton@cathedral.dio.org.

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 @ 217-899-6637 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!

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. Single & Parenting meets on Thursdays, June 3-August 26 from 6:00pm-8:00pm in the Cathedral School Library. FREE child care will be available. For more information and to register, contact Vicki at 217/522-3342 or vcompton@cathedral.dio.org

Upcoming Mass Changes

Due to the diocesan priest retreat, there will be no daily masses or confessions June 7-11. Also, due to the Priesthood Ordination on Saturday, June 12, we will not be celebrating the 8am Mass or 9am Confessions. Please watch the bulletin and our social media and website for further updates.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Cathedral parishioners Litina Carnes, Jantzen Eddington and Angelic Thompson who have recently made their commitment as Dominican Associates. According to Angelic, "Being a Dominican Associate is a wonderful opportunity to learn how to be a disciple by preaching the gospels in our everyday life. The associate program teaches you not only about the 4 pillars of the Dominican Life, but how to incorporate them in our daily life. It gives you the opportunity pray, learn, and share your gifts with others who want to make a difference in this world. Spend any length of time with a Dominican Sister or associate and you can see the passion they have for preaching through their own lives and actions." Litina adds, "Becoming a Dominican Associate is like coming home after spending K-8 and high school in Catholic schools. The impact the Dominican Sisters have made on my life has been immeasurable. The Holy Spirit was at work as my Sponsor was actually my Religion teacher at Sacred Heart Academy!" For more information on becoming a Dominican Associate visit <https://springfieldop.org/join-us/dominican-associates/> or contact Sr. M. Joan Sorge, OP at 217/787-0481.

The Opus Dei Women Cooperators' Study Circles

Want to learn more about our Lord and His Holy Church? The Opus Dei women Cooperators' study Circles about Our Lord and His holy Church will restart on June 3rd. Non-members are welcome to come to this Circle to see how they are conducted. The Circles are held in the library of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 524 East Lawrence, Springfield. There are two Circles on June 3rd: Noon-12:50 and 5:55 PM-6:35 PM. Use the the parking lot behind the Cathedral and enter the doors, come up the stairs to the atrium or take the elevator up to the first floor, and look for the person who will lead you up to the library. Please call Kay King (217.836.9493), and advise her of which Circle you would like to attend to assure that we have sufficient hand-outs.

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.

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.

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.

Annual Catholic Services Appeal/Parish Community Tithe

Several months ago, you should have received information about the Parish Community Tithe, which supports the various ministries offered by our diocesan offices to parishes throughout the diocese. While the name is new, the basic idea is similar to the Annual Catholic Services Appeal (ACSA), with which many of you are likely familiar. The appeal for this Fiscal Year is coming to a close, and we still have about \$35,000 left to cover from our annual assessment. To date, many of you have been very generous in supporting this effort, for which I express my profound gratitude. Every gift makes an impact and I encourage you, if you haven't already, to consider contributing toward the Diocesan Annual Appeal/Parish Community Tithe. If you have any questions you can contact Diocesan staff directly by reaching Katie Price at kprice@dio.org or 217-321-1121. If you would like to contribute, you can send your donation to the parish offices or you may make your gift online at dio.org/give.