

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MAY 30, 2021 | THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342  
[WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG](http://WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG)

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

# *Cathedral Weekly*

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 22

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THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI  
NINTH BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.  
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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.



## Family of Faith

In late March of last year, as the pandemic restrictions were just beginning, I recall various people making comments about finding the good in the midst of such challenging circumstances. Many people commented on how those restrictions made possible more time together as a family. Those hectic schedules that often defined the lives of families prior to the pandemic were no longer an issue, and families found themselves together in ways they had not before. Families commented on how they

appreciated having the opportunity to have meals together and to spend time doing activities together with the free time that the pandemic had afforded them.

At the same time, our parish families really suffered as we were forced to suspend public masses and indeed all of our gatherings as a family. We had to settle for virtual community. It was something, but it was far from sufficient as our sense of being a part of a parish family was strained. In an attempt to foster some sense of parish family unity, we have used the pages of our Cathedral Weekly to focus on the Sacraments, in parallel with our families involved in our Family of Faith family catechesis program.

With much of our society returning to “normal”, it is my hope that our experiences, particularly with these two types of families, have left an impression upon us. For our physical families, many of the demanding schedules are returning. And while there may be some sense of relief in going back to some of those fulfilling experiences, it is my prayer that the time of togetherness during the pandemic has instilled a desire to make time as a family more a part of the new normal moving forward. Going back to “normal” where our lives are so hectic that we barely meet one another in the family is not our goal, but to create a new experience of family life that values time together in the midst of the lives we live.

As a parish family, it is my hope that our being deprived of being together has instilled a desire in us to place a higher priority on making our parish family an important part of our lives. Going back to “normal” parish family life as it existed before the pandemic is not our goal here. As positive as some of our experiences may have been, I think we can all admit that there was a lack of family unity in our parishes. This is something with which virtually every parish has experienced in recent decades. We want to move forward with a greater sense of belonging to this family, not just individuals who drop in and drop out, but who gather together joyfully as brothers and sisters united who long to be together as a family of love.

While we use the title Family of Faith for our family catechesis program, I hope we can see it in a broader sense as a phrase that describes our larger parish family. We are a family of faith, we are a family of hope, and we are a family of love. As we celebrate the perfect family of love in the Holy Trinity this Sunday, let us pray that our own families and our parish family will move forward renewed in our desire for greater unity in love with and for one another.

*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 31

7am - Vincenzo Giannone  
(Jeanette Giannone)  
9am - Jean Anne Staab  
(Bill Vogt)  
5:15pm - NO MASS

### Tuesday, June 1

7am - John Montgomery  
(John Busciacco)  
5:15pm - Bettie Rapps  
(Hank & Mary Lou Smith)

### Wednesday, June 2

7am - Jean Reno Greenwald  
(Dennis & Sharalyn Lochmann)  
5:15pm - George Friedel  
(Jim Ridenour)

### Thursday, June 3

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
5:15pm - Special Intention for  
Bianca (D.A. Drago)

### Friday, June 4

7am - Jean Anne Staab  
(Fred & Rita Greenwald)  
5:15pm - Richard Willard  
(Mary Bowers)

### Saturday, June 5

8am - Millard Winfield  
(Mike & Jo Gibbs)  
4pm - Robert & Joyce Alford's  
50th Wedding Anniversary (Rev.  
Brian Alford)

### Sunday, June 6

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(William Midden)  
10am - For the People  
5pm - Steve Gregrich  
(Linda Pierceall)





## Pray for the Renewal of Marriage!

The devil hates marriage. The devil in fact hates all of us because we are made in the image and likeness of God. However, the devil especially hates marriage because marriage is a particularly beautiful reflection of God's own love for his people, and marriage is the setting for God to create new life in his image. St. Peter tells us, "Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in faith" (1 Peter 5:8-9). When the devil first tempted Eve, his goal was

to turn Adam and Eve against each other, which also turned them against God. There is a spiritual battle going on between good and evil, and this battle will continue until the Lord comes again. We need to play our part in this battle by praying for the spiritual protection of our families, and by praying for our young people whom God is calling to the great vocation of marriage.

There is a prayer for families by Pope Francis that the Knights of Columbus have promoted over the past several years. I hope we can all say this prayer at least one time this week. Going forward, may we all remember to keep families and engaged couples in our prayers. Many of our good people have been called by God to pray for seminarians and priests. Thanks to their prayers, we have been given many vocations to the priesthood, especially in this diocese. However, I believe that God is also calling our prayer warriors to pray for couples who are getting married. Having and forming a family is one of the most concrete ways to leave a spiritual legacy in the world, but it is no small task.

Pope Saint John Paul II laid the foundation during his pontificate for both a renewal in our seminary formation and in our understanding of the sacrament of marriage. For many years, he taught the world about the theology of the body: how our bodies are an expression of our personhood and of God's plan for our lives. We are a pilgrim Church on earth, meaning that we have a long way to go before we are perfect. Our seminaries and marriage preparation programs will never be perfect. However, we know that God provides for all of our needs. Let us commit ourselves to praying for our married couples and to supporting them in any way we can. I thank God today for the gift of all of our parish families who are great witnesses to love and generosity through the grace of God.

### Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

Prayer composed by Pope Francis and offered on the feast of the Holy Family,  
Dec. 29, 2013.

*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 22nd & 23rd

Envelopes:	\$4,933.06
Loose:	\$2,269.21
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$1,095.00</u>
Total:	\$8,297.27

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!



## Visiting Jesus with Mary

**Feast Day: May 31st**

These past months, we have watched the saints through the lens of the sacraments, gradually getting to know these exemplars of faith, these icons of living a Christ-ian life, with an eye to what they teach us about the 7 sacraments. However, for the summer, we will no longer have an overarching theme for each month (until September when we will make it to the third pillar of the Catechism: our life in Christ). It took me a bit of brainstorming to find some aspect of our faith not covered in the Catechism, but after some thinking on it I would like to take these summer months to examine the lives of the saints each week interwoven with scripture. Of course, scripture comes up all the time in the Catechism, and we'll find ourselves especially

digging into praying with scripture in year 4 (so after next year), but it does not examine particular passages of scripture, which is what I want to do during these essays over the summer, but, as always, taking the saints as our guides in that endeavor!

For this first week, we remain with our Mother Mary. The feast of the visitation happens each year on May 31st, as we conclude the Marian month, and our scripture passage then is an obvious one:

*In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the child leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." [Luke 1:39-45]*

Much of what we might learn from this passage begins with the lovely detail Luke mentions of John's leaping within Elizabeth's womb. From many centuries before, we find the story of Jacob and Esau's squirming within their mother Rebekah told with the same words. Bringing her own pregnancy into her conversation with God, the Old Testament matriarch heard these alarming words: "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you, shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." [Genesis 25:23] How different is the cavorting of John! When Jacob reached maturity, he would make off with Esau's birthright and blessing, whereas John would boldly, and humbly, proclaim, "He must increase, but I must decrease" [John 3:30].

Yet if John's reverence and delight at the coming of Christ offer us an inspiration for our own approaching before the Lord, perhaps another Old Testament character sheds further light on the scene. We now fast-forward several more centuries and find ourselves watching David as he finally brings the Ark of the Covenant, the throne and promise of God's presence, into his capital city, Jerusalem. He asks, standing in the same hill country of Judea outside of Jerusalem, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" [2 Samuel 6:9], words that would be echoed by Elizabeth's "what is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" [Luke 1:43]. "And David", like John, "danced before the Lord with all his might", but more than that, "David was belted with a linen ephod" [2 Samuel 6:14]. David, robed like a priest, dances as his Lord comes to him; John, the son of a priest, does the same.

But there is more. (When it comes to the Bible, there is always more!) Elizabeth praises Mary "blessed are you among women", as we do in every Hail Mary, and these words too come from the heritage of Israel. Judith is praised in like manor after saving the Israelites from the Assyrian attacker, Holofernes – "O daughter, you are blessed by the Most High God above all women on earth" [Judith 13:18] as was Jael, even further back in Israelite lore, when she assassinated the Canaanite general, Sisera – "Most blessed of women be Jael." [Judges 5:24] Now, I can't leave us standing by Judith holding Holofernes head and Jael showing the dead body of Sisera to the beleaguered Israelites! We see here, in even stronger words than before, Mary's role in which she untwists the broken history of Israel. Just as the leaping of John now shows delight and humility (rather than the deception of Jacob), and just as his celebration is without ulterior motive (unlike David's bringing the Ark into his city), so the high praises of Mary, come not from her conniving in order to save the nation, but her willingness to allow God to fight the true enemies of Israel with His own invasion.

*Fr. Dominic Rankin reads the Bible every day. And every day the Holy Spirit takes him down an unexpected road that always carries him one step closer to God.*

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### Memorial Day Mass Change

Bishop Paprocki will celebrate Mass at 9:00am on Memorial Day at the Cathedral. 7:00am Mass will be celebrated as usual, but there will be no 5:15pm Mass or confessions on Monday, May 31st in observance of Memorial Day. The Parish Office will also be closed.

### 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!

### Inquiry & RCIA

Do you have family, friends or coworkers who might be interested in learning more about Christianity or the Catholic faith? If yes, then Inquiry is for them! Inquiry is a period in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults for individuals to become acquainted with the Catholic Church, to hear about the good news of salvation from Jesus Christ, and to look at their life story to see connections to or needs for the Gospel. Evangelization is the essential mission of the Church – invite someone to consider becoming Catholic today! Inquiry begins on June 22. For more information contact Vicki at 217-522-3342 or [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org)

### Ask Father! Weekly Column

Have questions about your faith? Want to know more about a particular Catholic teaching? This summer, our priests are answering your questions! Submit your questions to Haley at [hbentel@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:hbentel@cathedral.dio.org) or on our website at [www.spicathedral.org/contact-us/](http://www.spicathedral.org/contact-us/) if you wish to remain anonymous. A new question will be answered each week!

### 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](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org).

### RCIA Sponsors

We will soon be welcoming a new group of seekers who are exploring the Catholic faith. They will need faithful companions to journey with them. The demands on you would be a commitment of most Tuesday evenings (for as long as a year), as well as a willingness to share your time and your faith with the candidates and catechumen who are part of RCIA. This is a serious commitment for serious disciples, but the rewards for you are immeasurable! Training will be provided for all team members. If you want to know more, or wish to make this commitment, contact Vicki at 217-522-3342 or [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org)

### 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](mailto:jackandberni96@yahoo.com). To register call 217-522-3342 or email Vicki at [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### Biking for Babies

Cyclists from Biking for Babies will be at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Friday, July 16th. While cycling across America these pro-life enthusiasts spread awareness of and collect donations for pregnancy resource centers. All are invited to attend 5:15 pm Mass, enjoy dinner with the cyclists, and hear their testimonies. To RSVP contact Vicki Compton at: 217/522-3342 or email . Biking for Babies is partnering with three pregnancy help centers within our diocese: First Step Women's Center (Springfield), Choices Pregnancy & Health (Charleston), ThriVe Metro East (Godfrey). Donations can be made at: [www.bikingforbabies.com/give](http://www.bikingforbabies.com/give).

### 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](http://www.dio.org/vocations/cas). Any questions, please email [vocations@dio.org](mailto:vocations@dio.org).

### Got a Great Photo?

We want to share your great photos! Whether it's of school life, parish life, or home life, the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is wanting to promote Catholic life in action. Through Catholic Times, social media, videos, or marketing materials, the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois wants to share your great photo to spread the joy diocesan-wide. Submit your photo or photos by going to [www.dio.org/submitphoto](http://www.dio.org/submitphoto).

### 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](mailto: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](http://dio.org/give).