

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JUNE 6, 2021 | THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST



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 23

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THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
IN RESIDENCE

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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.



Month of the Sacred Heart

Last month, I offered a three-part Adult Faith Formation series on St. Joseph, a fitting topic given our Holy Father declaring this to be a Year of St. Joseph. In my third and final session, I addressed various devotions to St. Joseph. One of the general points that I made in that presentation was how the Church connects her devotional life to the rhythm of the days of the week and the months of the year. For example, Sunday is a day on which we as Catholics are called to have a greater devotion to the Resurrection, for it was on Sunday that Jesus rose from the dead. The month which we just concluded, May, was given as a time to give special devotion to our Blessed Mother.

As we begin this new month of June, the Church invites us to fix our attention on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart almost always falls during this month (June 11th, this Friday, this year), so it is a fitting time for us to focus on the Heart of Jesus, which burns with love for us. This devotion has been one that I have loved for many years, first having been introduced to it when the pastor of my home parish would have the congregation join in praying the Litany of the Sacred Heart on the First Friday of every month. Throughout this month, I will be reflecting on this beautiful devotion in my bulletin articles.

As the Church celebrates today the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus (also known for its Latin title of Corpus Christi), there is an important connection between the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Sacrament, for the Eucharist is the most profound expression of the love of the Sacred Heart. St. Julian Eymard makes this point in a succinct but profound way: "Let us learn to honor the Sacred Heart in the Eucharist. Let us never separate them."

One part of the devotion to the Sacred Heart is the notion of reparation for how often humanity has rejected the love of Christ, especially in the Most Holy Eucharist. In His revelations to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, the Apostle to the Sacred Heart, Jesus had these unsettling words to say:

Behold this Heart which has so loved men that It spared nothing, even going so far as to exhaust and consume Itself, to prove to them Its love. And in return I receive from the greater part of men nothing but ingratitude, by the contempt, irreverence, sacrileges and coldness with which they treat Me in this Sacrament of Love.

I have never forgotten these words, and it prompted me to confess any times that I had treated the Lord in this way, especially if I had received the Eucharist unworthily. On this Corpus Christi Sunday, I invite all of us to take these words to heart, and to ask the Lord to help us to be aware of the times when we have received Him with irreverence or coldness of heart. In particular, let us be aware of any times we may have received Him unworthily, meaning having committed a mortal sin, then going to Holy Communion without first going to confession. To do so is to commit the sin of sacrilege, and this is one of the greatest offenses to the love of the Heart of Jesus. If we are aware of this, then please go to Confession, and be sure to ask the Lord for forgiveness for receiving Him unworthily. Then, let us promise never to receive the Lord unworthily again, even if it means we refrain from receiving Holy Communion until we make it to confession again.

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, June 7

7am - NO MASS

5:15pm - NO MASS

Tuesday, June 8

7am - NO MASS

5:15pm - NO MASS

Wednesday, June 9

7am - NO MASS

5:15pm - NO MASS

Thursday, June 10

7am - NO MASS

5:15pm - NO MASS

Friday, June 11

7am - NO MASS

5:15pm - NO MASS

Saturday, June 12

8am - NO MASS

4pm - Herb & Helen Dulle's 50th Wedding Anniversary (Cathedral Priests)

Sunday, June 13

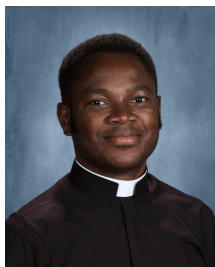
7am - For the People

10am - William Logan

(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

5pm - Tim Ryan

(Becky & Woody Woodhull)



Keeping Christ in Our Vacations

Summer vacation is usually a beautiful opportunity to step out of one's place or routine to see something new, visit a new place, or bond with friends or families. This is especially true in places like the United States, where the summer is a distinct climatic season with warm weather that allows for outdoor activities. Living in the United States for the past five years now, summer is gradually becoming for me what it is for Americans – a special time to do something fun. I have often given little or no attention to the question: what are your plans for the summer? But this time, I have been paying attention to it – more seriously than in previous years. And so, what are my plans for this summer? Am I keeping Christ in those plans?

When I started thinking about some possible things I can do this summer for fun, the first two that came to my mind were to take a week off for hiking somewhere in one of the states I have not been to. The second was to take a week off to visit my aunt and her family in Florida. Whichever one will be the option, the next thing I had to deal with was during that one week off, where will I be attending or celebrating daily Masses? When this question came to my mind, I wondered if I started thinking this way just because I am now a priest, or have I always thought that way? Then I recalled a few incidents in the past where I canceled or rescheduled trips because of the improbability of daily Masses. At that point, I reminded myself that this has nothing to do with my being a priest now. Instead, it is a question about personal priorities – trying to keep Christ in all I do, including my vacations.

So, I began to wonder whether daily and/or weekly Masses' possibilities are among the priorities for people when they make plans for their summer trips and vacations? Thinking about this, I remember one of the gentlemen in my Cursillo group who usually travels to Hawaii for holidays. In one of our meetings recently, something came up. He narrated how having a Catholic Church within walking distance to wherever he was going to stay during his vacations in Hawaii is a critical part of his planning. How awesome! How beautiful it is for us to keep Christ in our vacations?

While vacations are beautiful opportunities to take some time away from work, school, or normal life routines to do something fun, it is not a time to separate ourselves from Christ. We are Christ's. We belong to Him in very inseparable ways. Any attempt to force that separation always, directly or indirectly, results in spiritual dryness, emotional discontentment, sadness, loneliness, misery, and fear even amid families, friends, and fortunes. This summer, as we plan our vacations and trips, let us keep Christ in them all. We can do this by making sure we attend daily Masses where and when possible and weekend Masses unfailingly during our vacations and trips. Let us keep our spiritual/prayer lives even stronger. Happy Summer!

Father Peter Chineke 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 29th & 30th

Envelopes:	\$9,146.00
Loose:	\$2,528.00
Maintenance:	\$460.00
Total:	\$12,134.00

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!



St. Boniface: Treasuring Scripture

Feast Day: June 5th

I know this article will appear in your hands a day after we celebrate St. Boniface's feast day, but his words on scripture this week were too good to pass up!

We start our tale in 720AD, with Boniface up by the North Sea (between Norway and Germany these days), where he receives a letter from a good friend, the Abbess of Minster on the Isle of Thanet, back in England near Canterbury. (Funnily enough, the "Isle" of Thanet is no longer an island these days, but it was when St. Eadburga sent her note.)

Be it known to you, my gracious father, that I give thanks without ceasing to Almighty God because, as I learned from your letter, He has shown His mercy to you in many ways and jealously guarded you on your way through strange and distant lands. First, He inspired the Pontiff who sits in the chair of Peter to grant the desire of your heart. Afterwards He humbled at your feet King Radbod, the enemy of the Catholic Church; finally He revealed to you in a dream that you would reap God's harvest and gather many souls into the barn of the heavenly kingdom. – Abbess Eadburga to Boniface (720AD)

Of course, we no longer have all of their correspondence, but we hear again from Eadburga in 732, asking Boniface to pray for her parents, and then in 735, we finally hear his side of the story:

To the most reverend and beloved sister, Abbess Eadburga, Boniface, least of the servants of God, loving greetings. I pray Almighty God, the Rewarder of all good works, that when you reach the heavenly mansions and the everlasting tents He will repay you for all the generosity you have shown to me. For, many times, by your useful gifts of books and vestments, you have consoled and relieved me in my distress. And so I beg you to continue the good work you have begun by copying out for me in letters of gold the epistles of my lord, St. Peter, that a reverence and love of the Holy Scriptures may be impressed on the minds of the heathens to whom I preach, and that I may ever have before my gaze the words of him who guided me along this path. The materials [gold] needed for the copy I am sending by the priest Eoban. Deal, then, my dear sister, with this my request as you have so generously dealt with them in the past, so that here on earth your deeds may shine in letters of gold to the glory of our Father who is in heaven. For your well-being in Christ and for your continual progress in virtue I offer my prayers. – Boniface to Abbess Eadburga (735AD)

I take note not only of their friendship via that slow, but sublime, means of hand-written notes, but also just how much Boniface cherishes the words of Scripture. Not only is he anguishing over just getting a copy of the Epistle of Peter, he sends gold so that it could be written with gold ink. Do his words strike us as strange? Does his commitment to the Word of God seem over the top? I ask his intercession today that I might be inspired by His love! "...that a reverence and love of the Holy Scriptures may be impressed on the minds of the heathens to whom I preach, and that I may ever have before my gaze the words of him who guided me along this path." What a saint!

Fr. Dominic Rankin writes to his own sister, a Dominican Nun, to keep her apprised of his ministerial work and to ask her prayers as well. He currently considers it unlikely that a reigning monarch will reach out to him having gotten to know Sr. Mary Thomas, but that seems to be what happened to Boniface through Aedburga...

Having thus briefly mentioned these matters, there is one other favour I have to ask, which, from what I hear [from Eadburga], will not be difficult for you to grant, namely, to send me a pair of falcons, quick and spirited enough to attack crows without hesitation and bring them back to earth after catching them. We ask you to procure these birds and send them to us, since there are few hawks of this kind over here in Kent, which produce good offspring, quick-witted, mettlesome and capable of being tamed, trained and taught for the purpose I have mentioned. - King Ethelbert, Requesting Falcons from Boniface (748AD).



Grief Share at the Cathedral

I did many things during Pastoral Year, and if “every one of them were written down, even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.” But one experience from this year at Cathedral that stands out was a conversation that I had with someone who participated in our bereavement ministry, called Grief Share. I will, for privacy, call this person “Jane.”

We had our first Grief Share meeting in July of 2020. About twenty people came, and every single one of them had a story about losing a child, spouse, or friend to illness, cancer, or suicide. Some losses were as recent as May, while others dated back several years but were still affecting their lives.

“Jane” came because she had lost a daughter to a longtime illness. Jane said that although her daughter had died over a year ago, she still mourned and felt a lot of anger, because certain relatives had not reached out to her after the death of her daughter.

One evening, Jane was telling the small group that I was helping to facilitate that she had been struggling especially hard with this anger, because it was near the anniversary of her daughter’s death. I listened with the others while she talked, then asked if I could recommend a Bible verse for her to pray with. She said yes, and I said that I had been looking at John 20:23, where Jesus gives the apostles the authority to forgive sins.

In this verse, Jesus tells the apostles that the sins they forgive are forgiven and the sins they retain are retained. I believed that Christ wanted her to hear this verse because she was “retaining” the sins of those people who had not communicated with her after her daughter’s death. By doing this, she was allowing resentment to be retained in her life, and this resentment was preventing her from being as close as she could be to Christ and to others.

I do not know if she prayed with that verse after we talked, but she was grateful for those in our small group who were willing to walk with her as she faced this struggle. I was grateful, not only for her willingness to share, but also for two lessons that I learned:

First, our conversation reinforced the importance of listening. Jane mentioned that even family members and close friends sometimes had difficulty just listening. Instead, they often wanted to offer easy solutions, pious sayings, or simplistic advice.

Second, I re-learned the fact that God speaks to us in a very personal way through the Bible. Sometimes, I forget that Scripture is more than an ancient tome that we hear at Mass or a book of sayings that we put on bumper stickers and fridge magnets. Scripture is “God’s love letter to us.” It is him speaking to us in every circumstance, good and bad, of our lives, just as a friend would.

Although I am no longer an official part of the Cathedral’s staff, Grief Share is still going! Grief Share is 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, you are encouraged to join us beginning on Monday, June 7, from 6:00pm-8:00pm in the Cathedral School Library. Contact Vicki Compton at vcompton@cathedral.dio.org for more information. If you are struggling with the loss of a loved one, I could not recommend it more.

Grant Wilson was assigned to the Cathedral for his Pastoral Year last year. He is currently working with individuals with disabilities at Pathway Services in Jacksonville, IL, and is actively involved with his home parish of Our Saviour's.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral & the Diocese

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.

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

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.

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 or on our website at 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.

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.

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

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