

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**JULY 4, 2021 | 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



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 27

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

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

THE REVEREND PETER CHINEKE  
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN  
IN RESIDENCE

THE REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING  
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## **Sunday Masses**

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 7:00am, 10:00am, & 5:00pm

## **Weekday Masses**

Monday through Friday - 7:00am & 5:15pm

Saturday - 8:00am

## **Reconciliation**

Monday through Friday - 4:15pm-5:00pm

Saturday - 9:00am-10:00am & 2:30pm-3:30pm

Sunday - 4:00pm-4:45pm

## **Adoration**

Tuesday & Thursday - 4:00pm to 5:00pm

## **Welcome to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception!**

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

The seat of the diocese was moved to Springfield from Alton in 1923. In the same year, "Old St. Mary's" church of Immaculate Conception Parish was named as the pro-cathedral of the new diocese until this cathedral church was built and dedicated in 1928. Currently, our diocese comprises twenty-eight counties in central Illinois, serving over 140,000 members of the Catholic faithful.

We hope that your visit to our Cathedral is one of grace and beauty and that you feel at home in the mother church. We also hope that you will find this edition of the Cathedral Weekly to be both informative and spiritually enriching. May God bless you and yours!



## Freedom

This past January, while the priests of the house were in quarantine, one of the activities that we did to pass the time was to take a break from our work for some entertainment. One of those forms of entertainment was watching the popular Broadway musical Hamilton. As we watched the plot unfold, we were reintroduced in an entertaining way to some of the figures and key events that led to our nation's independence. Two of the more humorous scenes from the show depict King George as he sings about his relationship with the colonies, ridiculing them for wanting to be free, then after declaring independence, trying to discourage them with warnings about how hard it will be for them to be on their own.

It was the desire for freedom from the oppressive rule of the King that our founding fathers sought. And this freedom led to a freedom for pursuing the good of our new nation. It is important to notice these two types of freedom – freedom from, and freedom for. The fullest understanding of freedom is found when the two of these work together. As human beings, we often seek freedom from restrictions and limitations, so that we can have freedom for the things that we want to make us happy. For example, we want to be free from sickness, so that we can be free for an enjoyable life. On the surface, this seems to be a sound formula, but there are great dangers to be found in seeking this type of freedom in an unrestricted way. We might perceive freedom from restraints and limitations as a good thing, but if it opens us to doing something that is not good, then we have abused our freedom and we actually fall into a form of slavery. The Catechism of the Catholic Church makes this point well:

*The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just. The choice to disobey and do evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to "the slavery of sin." (CCC 1733)*

In our lives as Catholics, we strive for freedom from sin, so that we can have freedom for doing good. This is a key concept to grasp, and one that I fear we have often missed. Sadly, we regularly see our Catholic faith as a set of rules to follow, which we do not necessarily like, especially when they seem to prevent us from having the freedom to do what we want. We sort of look at the Church like our founding fathers did toward King George, and we may even readily list all of the "rules" we disagree with and want to be freed from so that we can be free for what we deem to be better.

But may we never forget that God is a loving Father, one who knows His children, what will harm them, and what will help them. His teachings given through the Scriptures are aimed toward our true freedom. And the Church is not some oppressive organization that we something think exists to keep us subdued. No, we speak of the Church as a Mother, the best of mothers in fact! She is always working to keep us free from sin, which enables us to be free for the fullest experience of life in abundance in this life, and eternal life in the next. And so as we celebrate the freedoms we have in our country, let us be especially grateful for the freedom made available to us through the Gospel and the teachings of the Church, and recommit ourselves to choosing this freedom each and every day.

*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, July 5

7am - Vernon & Agnes Reichle  
(Carl & LouAnn Corrigan)  
5:15pm - Edith June  
Hackenmueller (Harry  
Hackenmueller)

#### Tuesday, July 6

7am - Jean Anne Staab  
(St. Joseph the Worker Rosary  
Group)  
5:15pm - Ben & Monique Gaston  
(Marie Fleck)

#### Wednesday, July 7

7am - Gerald M. Jordan, Sr.  
(Jeannette Giannone)  
5:15pm - Mary Flatt  
(Phil Flatt)

#### Thursday, July 8

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
5:15pm - Thomas & Bettie Rapps  
(Family)

#### Friday, July 9

7am - Special Intention for  
Vincent Darrigo (Jeannette  
Giannone)  
5:15pm - Special Intention for  
Bianca (D. A. Drago)

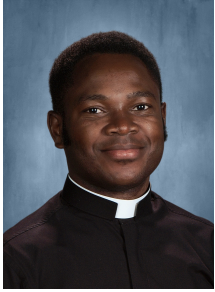
#### Saturday, July 10

8am - Special Intention for Alan  
Sherman (Keller Family)  
4pm - Patria & Rufino Gotanco  
(Joe & Hati Uy)

#### Sunday, July 11

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(William Midden)  
10am - Catholic War Veterans  
(Members)  
5pm - Dan Roe  
(Becky & Woody Woodhull)





## Keeping The Sabbath Holy

In my bulletin article for the weekend of June 12th & 13th, I discussed the topic of Christians celebrating the Sabbath on Sundays instead of Saturdays. That article was prompted by a recent encounter I had with a college student. After seeing the Bible verse where the Sabbath is celebrated on Saturdays, the student stopped being active in her Catholic faith. Christians celebrate the Sabbath on Sundays. She disagreed with this as she perceived it to be inconsistent with the scriptures. But after our interaction and in-depth discussion on the topic, she seemed to understand the reason for our Catholic Christian practice of celebrating the Sabbath on Sundays instead of on Saturdays.

It was the first apostles of Jesus Christ, who started celebrating the holy day of the Sabbath on Sundays. This practice came to be after Jesus Christ rose from the dead on a Sunday morning. The resurrection of Christ characterizes the very reason of our Christian faith. It is central to our Christian teachings and worship. So, it became critical for the apostles to celebrate the sacred day of the Sabbath on Sundays – the day on which Christ signed our salvation by conquering death and overcoming the power of evil.

Since the Sabbath day (Sunday) is so important in our Christian faith, the Church teaches that it is a moral obligation for every Christian to keep this day holy. To keep the sabbath day holy is the third of the ten commandments that God gave us through Moses in Exodus 20:1-17; 31:15. There are two reasons in the Old Testament for keeping the Sabbath day holy. First, this commandment commemorates the last day of creation on which God rested (Exodus 20:11). Second, it is a memorial of the liberation of the Jewish people from bondage in Egypt (Deuteronomy 5:15). The New Testament basis for keeping the sabbath day holy is primarily the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Sunday morning (Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8).

The holiness of the Sabbath day (Sunday for Christians) is, to a large extent, a biblical fact for many Christians. However, what should be done and what should be avoided to keep this day holy is still unclear to many of us. But the bible is clear on this. In Exodus 20:10, God declares that we should not do any work on a sabbath day; neither shall we make the people under us or the people who work for us do any work. What still seems unclear here is what qualifies as work and what does not.

What qualifies as work and what does not is more difficult to answer because we live in a capitalist society where the worship of money has become the order of the day. However, as Christians, we should always do well to stay away, on Sundays, from some of those activities that characterize our everyday lives for the rest of the week. Ideally, these include going to work and engaging in any other activities that do not involve physical and mental rest and spiritual refreshment.

*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 June 26th & 27th

Envelopes:	\$4,654.20
Loose:	\$4966.96
Maintenance:	\$173.00
Total:	\$9,794.16

May EFT: \$22,060.40

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!

*Holy men and women throughout the ages have suffered and died for the faith. They believed, inspired by the Holy Spirit, that redemption and heaven were gained by faith in Christ and baptism. Today, the church and Catholic leaders say that anyone who is upright and good, regardless of their belief, can be saved and enter heaven. Why has the church and Catholic leaders changed their view of what is required to be saved? Why would men and women of old lay down their lives for Jesus Christ if there were another way to heaven? - John Brodt, Parishioner of the Cathedral*

It is true that in recent years, especially since Vatican II, the Church has taken a broader view of hope for the salvation of people who die without baptism or knowledge of God. This does not come from a change in belief about baptism or the necessity of Jesus for salvation. As St. Peter said, "There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved" (Acts 4:12). Rather, this broader view has come from a better understanding of God's grace working with free will, along with a more realistic understanding of the Church's proclamation of the Gospel.

The only ordinary means for someone to go to heaven is to believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and receive the sacrament of Baptism. However, even from the earliest days of the Church, theologians began to talk about other types of baptism, such as baptism by blood and baptism by desire. As you mentioned, many men and women of old have lain down their lives for Christ. Some of these died as catechumens, or people who were preparing for baptism. Baptism by blood is not the same as actually being baptized. However, the Church never doubted that these people had gone to heaven as martyrs. The same is true of those who die from sickness or an accident while they are catechumens, in which case we hope they had experienced the baptism of desire. It is important to remember that these other two types of "baptism" are not actually the sacrament of baptism. Their souls never received the "character" or mark of baptism which we received at our baptism. What these examples prove is that from the earliest days of the Church, Christians have known God to give the grace of salvation even without being baptized. Technically, what is needed for salvation is not baptism in itself, but rather the effect of baptism, i.e. the forgiveness of sin and infusion of grace into the soul.

The examples I just gave are pretty easy to understand. If a person is honestly seeking the sacrament of baptism, it would not be reasonable for God to deny that grace. However, what about a person who has never heard of Christ, or is not actively seeking baptism when he dies? The Church's view of the possibility of salvation of these people has become more positive over time. A key text from the Second Vatican Council says, "Those also can attain to salvation who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or His Church, yet sincerely seek God and, moved by grace, strive by their deeds to do His will as it is known to them through the dictates of conscience" (#16). Note that the Council does not say, "As long as you are a good person, you will definitely go to heaven." The requirements that the Council lays out are fairly specific and could be considered an implicit faith in Christ, and it would be assumed that if the Gospel were proclaimed to them, these people would seek baptism.

Any grace that comes to people, either with or without the seven sacraments, comes through Christ and his Church. There are no exceptions to this. Nobody is saved without Christ and at least an implicit faith in him. God's grace works mysteriously even in the hearts of unbelievers. Sadly, the Church's ability to be a witness to the Gospel has been tarnished by her many sins throughout history. In the Middle Ages, some theologians thought that Christ's mandate to proclaim the Gospel to all nations had been completed. The discovery of the New World made the Church rethink this claim. How could God send entire continents of people to hell for thousands of years if, through no fault of their own, they never even had the chance to hear the name of Jesus? Or what about babies who die before birth? The Church fervently hopes for their salvation, and especially in the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we pray for those who die without sacramental baptism.

The Church still affirms the saying, "Outside the Church there is no salvation" (CCC 846). This statement needs to be understood correctly, in the context of what I have previously explained. There was a Jesuit priest in the 1940's named Fr. Leonard Feeney who began to interpret this statement to mean that only baptized Catholics could go to heaven, with no exceptions even for baptism by blood. He was excommunicated for several reasons, but the main reason was that he became a heretic by taking it upon himself to interpret both Scripture and the teachings of the Church privately.

Today, many people still suffer and die for the faith. I once heard that there were more Christian martyrs in the 20th century than in any other century since Christ. Our trust in God's mercy even for the unbaptized cannot discourage us from the great need to evangelize and perform sacramental baptisms for those who accept faith in Christ. If a priest or a bishop ever says that being baptized has no advantage or does not matter for salvation, he is wrong.

This past week, we celebrated the Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul. Jesus entrusted St. Peter and the first Apostles with being the authentic interpreters and teachers of both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. Our bishops in union with the Pope carry this same authority today. If a teaching of the Church seems to contradict the scriptures or previous Church teaching, it is always good to do research and ask questions, as you have done! Thank you very much for sending us your question, and I hope my response was helpful.

*Father Dominic Vahling serves as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and as co-chaplain of Sacred Heart-Griffin High School.*

Have a question about your faith? Want to know more about a particular Catholic teaching? Submit your questions to Haley at [hbentel@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:hbentel@cathedral.dio.org) or on our website at [www.spicathedral.org/ask-father](http://www.spicathedral.org/ask-father) if you wish to remain anonymous.

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### Parish Office Closed - July 5

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day. Mass and Confession will be held at our regular times over the holiday weekend and on Monday, July 5.

The Parish Office is also closed on Fridays throughout the summer. Please check our website for any additional office closures.

### Meals Needed

During the period of Inquiry of RCIA, we make our seekers feel especially welcome and comfortable by serving a simple meal to start each evening. Inquiry dates are July 6, July 20, Aug 3, Aug 17, Aug 31, and Sept. 7. If you are interested in providing a meal for 12-15 people on one of these dates, let us know. Meals have included soup and bread, pasta and salad, pizza delivery, sloppy joes and chips. Please contact Vicki at [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org) or 217-522-3342 for more information.

### 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)

### 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).

Additionally, we are looking for families to host cyclists the evening of Friday, July 16, 2021. They will arrive at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception about 2:00 pm, July 16th. Cyclists will go to their host family's home, wash up, then go back to the Cathedral for Mass at 5:15 pm. After Mass and dinner, cyclists will then go back to their host family's home to spend the night. Cyclists will need to be back at the Cathedral at 4:30 am for breakfast the next morning and continue with their cross-country ride to St. Louis. Families need only to provide a place for a cyclist(s) to sleep and shower, and their bikes will be stored at the Cathedral. Dinner and breakfast will also be served at the Cathedral. If you and your family are interested in hosting one or more cyclists please contact Donna Moore at 217-321-1161, or [dmoore@dio.org](mailto:dmoore@dio.org). Thank you for supporting Biking for Babies!

### CCCW Christ Child Shower

Please join the CCCW for the Christ Child Shower in July! We will be collecting items for the Mini-O'Beirne Crisis Nursery and the Pregnancy Care Center during the month of July. Items can be placed in the crib located in the Atrium.

We will distribute items to the two organizations in early August.

Items requested are:

Snacks for Kids  
Enfamil Infant formula  
Baby wipes  
Pull Ups  
Lysol Disinfecting Spray  
Lysol Disinfecting Concentrate  
All Types of Premie Clothing  
Maternity Clothing  
Pacifiers  
Baby Spoons  
Baby Wash  
Baby Shampoo

Enfamil Gentlease Formula  
Walmart Gift Cards  
Diapers (sizes 4,5,& 6)  
Kitchen-size Trash Bags  
Lysol Disinfecting Wipes  
Toilet Paper  
Diapers (Premie and Newborn)  
"Take Me Home" Outfits (newborn to 3 months)  
Gently-Used Clothing (newborn to 18 months)  
Sippy Cups  
Baby Lotion

Personal Care Items for Moms (Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Paper Towels, Kleenex)

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Diocese

### Fall 2021 Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Course

Faith Community Health is excited to announce the dates for the Fall 2021 Foundations of Faith Community Nursing program. The registration is currently open for Nurses that are interested in attending this program. Faith Community Nurses draw a closer link between communities of faith and the health system by acting as health educators and health counselors to fellow members of their faith community, as well as assisting with homebound, nursing home and/or hospitalized congregation members. For more information, or to register, please visit <https://carle.org/for-providers/Continuing-Education>

### Job Posting: Parish Finance Administrator

The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is seeking a highly qualified and enthusiastic individual to take on the role of Parish Finance Administrator. This role assists the Finance Officer in organizational management by interpreting and utilizing parish managerial accounting and financial information. This position oversees support of parishes through supervising parish audits, developing finance policies, establishing internal controls for parishes, and executing an accounting review program. For more information, please visit <https://www.dio.org/jobs/parish-finance-administrator-cpc-springfield.html> or email [hr@dio.org](mailto:hr@dio.org).

### Springfield Right to Life - Pro-Life Bridges Event

Springfield Right To Life will be hosting a Pro-Life Bridges event at the West Lakeshore Drive overpass in Springfield on Friday, July 16th, 2021 from 3 to 6 pm. Please join us as we share the Pro-Life message with hundreds of motorists. Call 217-523-2700 or 217-602-9177 for additional information.

### 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).

### Peace of Mind Seminar - Butler Funeral Homes

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, July 15th from 11:30 am-1:30 pm at the Prairie View Reception Center, located at 8865 State Rt. 4 in Chatham.

### St. Cabrini Altar & Rosary Society Garage Sale

St. Cabrini's Altar & Rosary Society will be holding their annual garage sale at the parish hall, 1020 N. Milton, Springfield on Thursday & Friday, July 8 & 9, from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Saturday, July 10, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.