

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JULY 25, 2021 | 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 30

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
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RECTOR

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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!



Eucharist as Medicine for the Sick

As I mentioned in my bulletin article for last week, it is my plan to dedicate the next several articles to the Eucharist, given our Sunday Gospel readings from the Bread of Life Discourse in John 6. In particular, we will look to some of the Eucharistic reflections of our recent popes as they offer us some helpful insights into this great gift that Christ has left His Church.

It seems fitting to begin our series with our current Holy Father, Pope Francis. As you likely know, an important theme for his pontificate has been mercy. In one of his early statements about the Church, he spoke of the Church as a field hospital where those who are sick can come to encounter the healing offered through Jesus Christ. An important medicine that the Church administers to aid in that healing is the Eucharist. In his document *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), he wrote the following: "The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak." (EG, 47)

Every one of us is weak in some way, thus we are all in need of the healing medicine that comes to us in the Eucharist. This is an important reality to keep in mind when we come to Mass. The Lord invites us to acknowledge our woundedness, where we are in need of healing, and invite His grace into those wounds to restore us by His strength. Unfortunately, many have taken the words of Pope Francis to conclude that there is no reason that a person should not be able to receive the Eucharist. For example, if somebody has committed a mortal sin, there is no reason they should not be able to receive the Eucharist, for they are in need of God's healing grace more than anybody, right? But is that really what the Holy Father is saying?

Jesus says the following in the Gospel on this point: "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Lk 5:32). Jesus is constantly preaching the importance of repentance, which is turning away from sin and toward the life of grace. If there is no willingness to change one's ways, will this medicine truly be of benefit? Mark Brumley, the CEO of Ignatius Press, in a column he wrote offers the following helpful clarification:

When Catholic Tradition understands the Eucharist as medicine for the soul, it does not mean the Eucharist heals even when the sinner clings to his sin. The Eucharist isn't magic. It heals repentant sinners — people who have been raised to life in Christ through grace, even while they still struggle to grow in that life. We may fall into serious sin and cut ourselves off from spiritual life for a time, but through the gift of repentance — especially through the gift of the sacrament of reconciliation — the Spirit restores us to life in Christ.

There is nothing to suggest that Pope Francis is proposing anything contrary to this above point, but we all know how sound bites can take on a life of their own. When we look at his words through the eyes of the tradition of the Church, we can appreciate how his words are not at odds at all with the need to be in a state of grace to receive the Eucharist, which is to have repented of any serious sin through sacramental confession and to desire to remain in relationship with Jesus. Being in the state of grace is far from being perfect, for none of us will ever be able to achieve that status in this life, thus our need for His grace that comes to us in this powerful medicine that nourishes us in our weakness.

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 26

7am - Anna Geraldine Gasaway
(Rob Gasaway)
5:15pm - William F. & Shirley
Logan (Lisa Logan & Lori Logan
Motyka)

Tuesday, July 27

7am - John Vogt, Sr.
(Bill Vogt)
5:15pm - Emil Neubauer
(Pat & Mary Davis)

Wednesday, July 28

7am - Jean Anne Staab
(St. Joseph the Worker Rosary
Group)
5:15pm - Douglas Winfield
(Mike & Jo Gibbs)

Thursday, July 29

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - Joyce Jenness
(Claude & Carol Kessler)

Friday, July 30

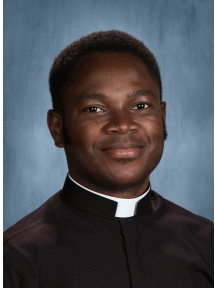
7am - Eugene Heid
(Tom Steil & Sharon Oldfield)
5:15pm - Special Intention for
Douglas Crocker (Chris Somme)

Saturday, July 31

8am - Special Intention for Laura
Weakley (Chris Sommer)
4pm - Robert & Alice Lucasey
(Family)

Sunday, August 1

7am - Jean Anne Staab
(Rose & Joann Lenn)
10am - Charles & Mercedes
Nesbitt (Kathy Frank)
5pm - For the People



I Am A Cafeteria Catholic

For the last couple of weeks, I worked at the St. John's Hospital here in Springfield as a full-time chaplain. My time at St. John's Hospital was an excellent opportunity for me to experience pastoral hospital ministry in a more intense way than usual. I had encounters that both challenged and strengthened my faith and relationship with God in a different way. I also had encounters that left me reflecting on the condition of our Catholic faith in the present times. One of such encounters was my visit to a mid-aged lady in her hospital room one afternoon, who described herself as a *cafeteria Catholic*.

When I visit patients, they usually understand that I am a Catholic priest because I dress like one and introduce myself as one. Because of this, they usually expect that I jump into giving them the Holy Communion or the other sacraments. But very often, I do not talk about the sacraments until after getting to know the patient and his or her treatment and health condition. And when I talk about the sacraments, I normally start by inquiring about the patient's faith condition.

As a Catholic priest-chaplain, I visit mostly Catholic patients. But I understand that there are too many kinds of Catholics in our times. While some Catholics are practicing and are sacramentally disposed to receive the sacraments, others may be practicing but not sacramentally prepared to receive the sacraments. However, there are others who are non-practicing but asks for the sacraments. For these reasons, asking about a patient's faith condition is, for me, a necessary step before administering the sacraments to them.

So, on that beautiful afternoon, I walked into this patient's room. When I inquired about her faith, she told me she is a *cafeteria Catholic*. I never had of "*cafeteria Catholicism*" before that afternoon. So, I asked her what she meant. She graciously explained that the way I pick my foods at a cafeteria is the same way she (as a *cafeteria Catholic*) does with Catholic teachings. I smiled and asked about her relationship with the sacraments. I know that one ought to be in good condition with the Church (believing and practicing all that the Church teaches about our Lord Jesus Christ) to be disposed to receive the sacraments.

My encounter with this patient at the hospital left me reflecting on our faith as Catholics. Somehow, many of us have become *cafeteria Catholics*. Sometimes, intentionally and other times, unintentionally. We all know what the Church should and should not teach, believe, and practice. Our subjective interpretations of the catechetical and biblical teachings of the Church have become more important than the objective interpretations of these divine truths and moral teachings. Unfortunately, the rejection or abandonment of any of the teachings of the Church, catechetical or scriptural, indicates membership in the *cafeteria Catholicism*. This *cafeteria Catholicism* is different from the **Roman Catholicism** into which we are baptized.

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 July 17th & 18th

Envelopes:	\$8,086.00
Loose:	\$2,582.21
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$360.00</u>
Total:	\$11,028.21

June EFT: \$23,486.25

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!

In a reading about Saint Faustina, it says she had the ability to read souls. What does this mean?
- A Parishioner of the Cathedral

The ability to “read souls” is an ability God has given to various saints throughout history. Essentially, when a saint “reads” someone’s soul, they are given a supernatural knowledge about another person’s soul, usually for the good of the person whose soul is being “read.” I put the word “read” in quotation marks because it is not an exact term, and we do not really have an exact term for this spiritual reality. This is not a New Age spiritual practice but is something that I would describe as a charism of the Holy Spirit. Charisms are gifts from God which are for the building up of the Church.

On one occasion, St. Faustina was given a special insight into the soul of her spiritual director, Fr. Michael Sopocko. In her journal, she wrote, “I came to know his anguished soul. This crucified soul resembles the Savior. Where he expects, with good reason, to find consolation, he finds the cross. He lives among many friends, but has no one but Jesus. This is how God strips the soul He especially loves.” (1) In this case, God saw some good which would come from St. Faustina seeing into the soul of Fr. Michael. Fr. Michael was experiencing a closeness with Jesus by a trial of loneliness which united him with the cross. I’m sure St. Faustina was inspired to pray for her spiritual director to be strengthened. Since this line was included in her published diary, it also may have inspired other Christians to seek closeness with Jesus through the cross.

Some saintly priests have been known to read the souls of penitents in the Confessional. Sometimes dishonest people would come to St. Padre Pio for confession just because he was famous, and they wanted to see what the hype was about. In these cases, Padre Pio would deny absolution and tell people to leave. He once said, “Through Jesus, I see and hear all – I see your soul just as you see yourself in a mirror.” (2)

It should be noted that the devil can sometimes perform an imitation of reading souls. One sign of a demonic presence is that a person has supernatural knowledge which they have no other way of knowing about. Sometimes during an exorcism, a possessed person will try to scare a priest by listing sins that the priest has committed. Because of this, priests and other laity who are involved in deliverance ministry receive frequent Confession and Communion. To be clear, demonic possession is rare and I only use this example because it is interesting. We can use some simple discernment to discover if the reading of someone’s soul is from God or the devil. Does this person pray, attend Mass, receive Reconciliation and the other sacraments? Or is this person involved with an occultic group which seeks contact with evil spirits?

Sometimes a priest may ask just the right question in Confession, and I have heard people say before that they felt like the priest was reading their soul in that moment. (To be clear, I was not this priest!) This may or may not be a charismatic gift of the Holy Spirit. It is possible that the priest had a good spiritual sense and his experience guided him in asking a question or making a comment. However, I never want to limit the power of the Holy Spirit, and it is definitely possible that the priest had an insight into their soul at that moment.

A gift like reading souls is somewhat rare in the life of the Church. God gives it to a saint occasionally to call Christians to holiness. The next time you go to Confession, imagine that the priest is going to read your soul. Would this change the way you go to Confession? In reality, it is God himself who forgives our sins in Confession, and he always sees the state of our soul. The more honest we are in Confession and the spiritual life, the more quickly we will grow in holiness.

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

(1) thedivinemercy.org | (2) padrepiodapietrelcina.com

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 or on our website at www.spicathedral.org/ask-father if you wish to remain anonymous.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

First Friday Concerts at the Cathedral

First Friday Concerts are back! Join us on Friday, August 6 beginning at 7pm for a concert featuring Brass at the Cathedral; Brass Quintet, Timpani, and Organ! First Friday Concerts are free and are sponsored by Staab Funeral Homes. All are welcome!

Safe Families for Children

Safe Families for Children is a movement fueled by compassion to keep children safe and families intact. We rely upon host families, and a network of support, to open their arms, their hearts, and their homes. A representative from Safe Families will be in the Atrium following all the Masses during the weekend of July 31st and August 1st. Please stop by their table, or visit www.Safe-Families.org for more information.

CCCW Meeting - July 27

Join the women of the CCCW at their next meeting on Tuesday, July 27, beginning at 6pm. All women of the parish are welcome! CCCW Meetings are usually held on the fourth Tuesday of the month following the 5:15 Mass.

Illinois Chamber Orchestra Concert

Please join us on Saturday, August 7th at 7pm for the Dvorak Serenade for Wind Instruments, presented by the Illinois Chamber Orchestra! This concert is free and all are welcome to attend.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame Night

Cathedral parishioners are invited to hang out together at the Springfield Slider's baseball game on Friday, July 30th beginning at 6:35pm. Knights Action Park passes will be given away to the first 100 kids, age 17 and under. See you there!

Cookbook To Benefit Catholic War Veterans

If you didn't have a chance to purchase a cookbook when the Catholic War Veterans were here, it's not too late. Copies are available in the parish office. Stop by to pick up a copy. Only \$14.50 each.

CCCW Cathedral Clothing and Accessory Sale

The women of the CCCW are holding a clothing and accessory sale on Friday, August 6th and Saturday, August 7th from 8am-12pm at the Cathedral School!

There will be clothing for everyone (men's, women's, youth, and children), shoes, purses, scarves, coats and more! Shoppers can fill a brown paper bag for \$5.00 with as many items that will fit. No credit cards will be accepted. Hope to see you there!

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

Deliver a Difference

Volunteers are urgently needed to help with the delivery of hot, nutritious meals to our seniors of Central Illinois, Monday through Thursday, 10:00 – noon. Volunteers are provided with lunch and mileage reimbursement. If you can help the seniors in our community, please contact Autumn Osborne at Senior Services of Central Illinois 217/528-4035, ext. 123. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve God by serving His people!

Springfield Deanery Diocesan Counsel of Catholic Women Brunch

Women living in the Springfield Deanery, which now consists of Macon, Sangamon, Cass, Morgan, Menard, and Christian Counties, are invited to a brunch on Aug. 4. from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield to learn about the mission of the Springfield Diocesan Counsel of Catholic Women, how to get involved, and the group's participation in the Water for Life Catholic Relief Services project. Father Peter Chineke, parochial vicar at the Cathedral and the Spiritual Advisor of the Springfield Deanery, will share his vocation story. Please RSVP to Janet Zimmerman, Springfield Deanery President, by July 27: or 217-494-4743.

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.

Simply Give Campaign

Springfield Catholic Charities Holy Family Food Pantry is proud to be partnering with Meijer Foods during the Simply Give campaign, which runs from July 4th through October 2nd, to help feed those in need in our community. During the Simply Give campaign, customers are encouraged to purchase a \$10 Simply Give donation card upon checkout at the store or purchased as an add-on to orders when shopping online. Once purchased, the Simply Give cards are donated directly to the Holy Family Food Pantry in Springfield, and 100% of the donation will go towards grocery items, baby food, formula, diapers, and wipes. Take a card from the Simply Give board in the Cathedral Atrium to support this campaign.

Dive Deep: 12 Fun Things You Didn't Know About Catholicism

Groundhogs Day. Cappuccino. Lay Cardinals. The Easter Bunny. Dive Deep explores those things and more in this episode that will make you say, "I didn't know that about Catholicism!" Go to www.dio.org/podcast to listen and subscribe.

University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

The University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) offers a variety of online formation courses to help with catechist formation and general ongoing adult formation and enrichment. Registration for the next cycle of courses is open. This cycle runs from August 22– September 25, 2021. Deadline to register is August 18. Visit <https://www.dio.org/catechesis/approved-formation-programs.htm> for more information about VLCFF and how courses align with the Diocesan Catechist Formation Process. As a member diocese of the VLCFF program, session fees are reduced to \$50 per course or \$40 per seminar. Spanish language courses are available. And VLCFF has several certificate programs, too. The Certificate in Catechesis qualifies for the advanced level of catechist formation for the diocesan Catechist Formation Process. Questions? Contact Kyle Holtgrave, Director for Catechesis in the Office for Catholic Education, at (217) 698-8500, ext. 154.