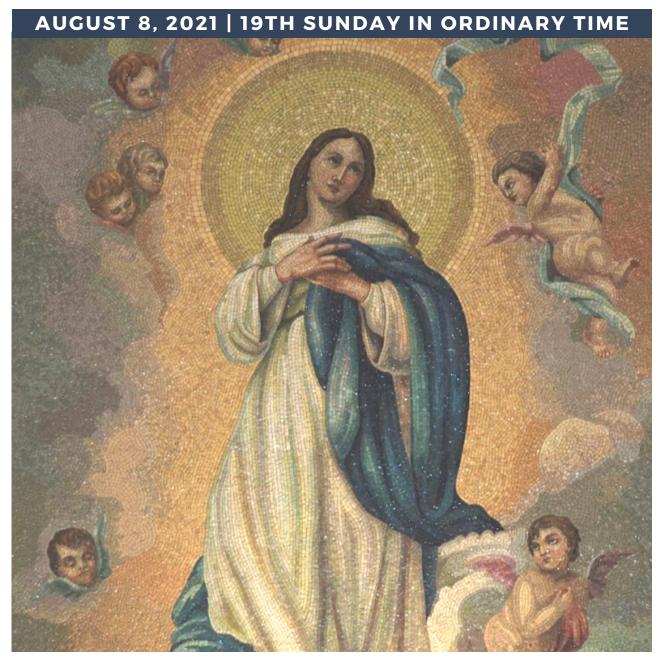
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception



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VOLUME 3 ISSUE 32

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

RECTOR'S COLUMN





Agape Love

Paul II. For people my age, he was the only pope we had ever known and I remember feeling a bit of anxiety about who would replace him. When his successor was named, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI), many (including myself) were overjoyed, for his impact on the Church as a theologian was well known. Others were not so excited, for he was seen by some as being very rigid and too academic, and they wondered how he could possibly fill the shoes of the great pope he was to replace.

In 2005, the Church experienced the sad loss of one of the great saints in our modern day, Pope St. John

One of the early moves of his early pontificate that would calm the fears of many of those who questioned his ability to lead the Universal Church was the publication of his first encyclical, Deus Caritas Est (God is Love). In that document, he wrote beautifully, blending his intellectual prowess with his pastoral heart and spiritual insights. If you have never read this document, it is well worth your time.

In this document, he distinguishes among three Greek words that are translated in English simply as "love", all of which carry a different connotation. Those three words are eros, philia, and agape. Much of the document is focused on agape love, as it is the highest form of love and the one demonstrated by Jesus in the offering of Himself to us. It would thus become the model of the Christian love that is at the heart of the Great Commandment of love of God and love of neighbor.

The Holy Father writes about the importance of the Eucharist as it applies to this agape love. It is in the Eucharist that we are drawn into the love the God has for us. Our sharing in His life through this gift unites us to Him in a special way. It is then from that union with His love that we are capable of loving our neighbor in the way that He commands us. In fact, our reception of this gift demands that we love our neighbor. He writes the following to make this point:

A Eucharist which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically fragmented. Conversely, as we shall have to consider in greater detail below, the "commandment" of love is only possible because it is more than a requirement. Love can be "commanded" because it has first been given. (DCE, 14)

This is a helpful point on which we should all reflect. Does our reception of the Eucharist lead us to live this command to love our neighbor with greater intensity? It can be a helpful practice when we come to Mass to call to mind those whom we find most difficult to love and to ask for the grace that comes from the Eucharist to love them with greater generosity. We cannot be content to walk away from receiving the Eucharist without making a resolution to do our best to love those most difficult to love. Think back to what Father Peter wrote so powerfully on last week about our carrying grudges. If we walk away from Mass without a real desire to let go of those grudges, no matter how difficult it may be, our reception of the Eucharist is intrinsically fragmented, according to the pope. The Lord's command to love that person is possible not because of any ability that we have, but because of the love that He pours into our hearts in the Eucharist.

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, August 9

7am - Jean Anne Staab (St. Joseph the Worker Rosary 5:15pm - Thomas Rapps (Family)

Tuesday, August 10

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath (Augustine Elevidath) 5:15pm - Louis Nicoud (Tim Nicoud)

Wednesday, August 11

7am - Edith June Hackenmueller (Harry Hackenmueller) 5:15pm - Mathias Bates (Bates Family)

Thursday, August 12

7am - Blake Anderson (Tom Steil & Sharon Oldfield) 5:15pm - William F. & Shirley Logan (Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

Friday, August 13

7am - Joe Lauduskie (Jim & Sandy Bloom) 5:15pm - Special Intention for Bianca (D. A. Drago)

Saturday, August 14

8am - John Montgomery (John Busciacco) 4pm - Tommy Regan (Vick & Janet Burghart)

Sunday, August 15

7am - Jim Steil (Steil Family) 10am - Pete & Mary Urbanckas (Troy Mathews) 5pm - For the People

CONTEMPLATION CORNER





A Parish Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse. Wisconsin

Dear Parishioners and Friends, with the permission of our Parish Rector, Fr. Brian Alford, I am inviting you to an overnight Pilgrimage/bus trip to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, on Friday and Saturday, October 15-16, 2021.

Founded about two decades ago by his Eminence, Raymond Cardinal Burke - the then Bishop of

the Diocese of LaCrosse, the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse attracts thousands of pilgrims from around the world every year. While seeking a deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ through devotions to our Blessed Mother, Catholics from around the world make this pilgrimage. Achieving this spiritual goal, many of these pilgrims end up attracting countless miracles and blessings for themselves and their loved ones.

As a privileged son of our Blessed Mother, when a group of parishioners asked me to help organize and lead this pilgrimage, I quickly agreed to it for three reasons. First, our Blessed Mother has been so kind to me and blessed me with many unmerited gifts, including my call to the priesthood and a promise to protect it until the end. Second, I have heard many people recount how blessed they feel after such spiritual pilgrimages to such powerful Shrines of our Blessed Mother. Lastly, as one of your priests, I pray every day and seek ways of helping you grow in your relationship with Christ through devotion and friendship with our Blessed Mother. For these reasons, I am inviting you all to join me on this pilgrimage. The first 50 people that register and pay will be accommodated for this pilgrimage.

To register, call the Parish Office (217-522-3342) and make your registration. The payment will be \$270.00 for a private room with a standard king-size bed and \$230.00 to share a room with someone else. The payment will cover the transportation, hotel, bus tip, and shrine donation expenses. Payments will be accepted by checks, cash, or EFT and must be addressed to the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, Springfield, IL.

The last day for registration with a full or half payment (\$150.00) will be Monday, August 30, 2021. For half-payments, complete payment will be due on Monday, September 27, 2021.

Whether you plan to join us for this pilgrimage or not, everyone is welcome to join us on a Novena Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe. This Novena will start on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary Thursday, October 7, 2021. It will take place daily right after the 7:00am Mass (8:00am on Saturday) and will be streamed online via the Cathedral Facebook page. Please, bring your intentions and those of your loved ones to this Novena Prayer. We will conclude the Novena upon arrival at the Shrine on Friday, October 15, 2021 - the Feast of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus.

For any questions, clarifications, or inquiries about the pilgrimage, contact me (Fr. Peter Chineke) at 217-522-3342 ext. 134 or send me an email at pchineke@dio.org

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 24th & 25th

Envelopes: \$5,470.00 Loose: \$2,430.00 <u>Maintenance: \$35.00</u> Total: \$7,935.00

June EFT: \$23,486.25

Stewardship of Treasure July 31st & August 1st

Envelopes: \$6,963.65 Loose: \$3,548.05 <u>Maintenance: \$1,020.00</u> Total: \$11,531.70

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!

ASK FATHER



What is the oldest parish in Springfield?

Rev. John Mary Irenaeus St Cyr, a native of Lyons, France, came to America in 1831 following his seminary studies and was ordained by Bishop Joseph Rosati in St Louis, MO. In 1833, Bishop Rosati sent Rev St Cyr to attend to the needs of Catholics in Chicago. He wrote a letter to Bishop Rosati after a return journey to Chicago from St Louis, dated June 11, 1834. In his letter he mentions that he attended to the Catholics of Sugar Creek, South Fork and Springfield for their Easter duties. He was transferred to Quincy in 1837, where he continued to administer to the Catholics of Springfield. He humbly encouraged that the new Episcopal See be in Springfield due to its central location to minister to all the Catholics of Illinois. He retired in 1839 and died a few short years later.

In the fall of 1838, Rev George A Hamilton took over the ministry of the Catholics in the Sangamon Valley, including Springfield.He struggled to raise funds and manage the money appropriately, but eventually the first church in Springfield was built, St John the Baptist. Along with the assistance of Rev. Phillip Conlon, St John Church was built in 1848, on Adams Street between 8th and 9th Streets. According to the sacramental records the first baptism at St John the Baptist was August 6, 1842, with Rev. Joseph B. Raho, C.M. officiating.

This evidences that St John the Baptist was the first Catholic church built in 1848, but sacraments were performed and recorded as early as 1842. At this time, the new Episcopal See was erected in Chicago. This church remained until 1857, when the disputes between the German and Irish Catholics of the parish could no longer be resolved. The parish split with the Irish Catholics establishing the Church of the Immaculate Conception and the German Catholics erecting the parish of Ss. Peter & Paul. St John the Baptist was abandoned completely in favor of these two new parishes.

What is the oldest parish in the Diocese?

The history of St. Aloysius, North Arm, began in 1817. At the time, pioneers ventured from Bardstown, K.Y., and ended their journey at the north arm of Coal Creek in what is now eastern Edgar County. The group, led by Aloysius Brown, settled in 1817. Services were held in the Brown home until a log structure was built for the purpose of gathering to worship and celebrate Mass. A cemetery was also established behind the Church. As the Church community continued to grow, they built a second church in 1837. The area thrived until the late 1840's when it was decided to place intersecting railroad tracks in Paris. The resulting demographic shift led the Bishop of the Springfield Diocese to create a parish in Paris. Father Thomas Ryan moved from St. Aloysius to St. Mary's Church in Paris in 1858. This suggests that the faith community began gathering as early as 1817, but a church was not built until 1837. A resident priest was not assigned until 1844.

Alongside this story, is that of St. Boniface, Quincy. The first Catholics arrived and settled Quincy in 1821. Mass was celebrated in the home of Adam Schmitt and in 1834, the Catholics of Quincy petitioned for a resident priest. Rev. St Cyr was ordered to take up residence in Quincy by Bishop Rosati of St Louis in 1837. Rev. St Cyr moved to Fulton County while Rev. August Brickwedde became the first resident priest in Quincy. The first church of St. Boniface was completed in 1840, but a new church would be built ten years later as the community continued to thrive and grow. This suggests that the faith community began to gather as early as 1821, but a church was not built until 1838. The first resident priest was assigned in 1837.

Also, in the extreme eastern section of Illinois was the town of Teutopolis and the parish of St Francis of Assisi. A group of German Catholic prospectors from Cincinnati, OH moved west and established the settlement in 1833. The first resident priest was Rev. Joseph Masquelet, who had a log cabin built to serve the community and the first Mass was celebrated in 1839 with the first Baptism performed on November 26, 1839. This church was dedicated to and called St. Peter, which would change to St. Francis of Assisi in 1860 with the influence of the Franciscans arrival in 1858. Rev. Joseph Kuenster arrived in 1845 from Belleville and records that he was the first pastor of the Teutopolis church (primus pastor Ecclesiae Teutopoliensis) in the marriage register of the church. He oversaw the construction of the church and seminary of the Franciscans. This suggests that the faith community began to gather as early as 1833, but a church was not built until 1839. The first resident priest was assigned in 1845.

Fr. Alford started to answer these questions, but realized he needed to phone a friend. Thank you to P. J. Oubre at the Office for Archives and Records Management at the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois for finding the answers to these questions!

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

Called & Gifted

You have been empowered with the gifts of the Holy Spirit! You are called to a special work of love that only you can do!

Cathedral parish is forming cohorts of parishioners to explore their charisms through participation in Called & Gifted. Cathedral is piloting a parish membership so participation is only \$35 per person. During a Called & Gifted course you will learn about the role of the laity in the Church's mission to the world. You will also learn about the 23 most common charisms and take an inventory to help you discern what your charisms might be. It will be exciting for you to discover the unique ways God has equipped you and your fellow parishioners for apostleship.

Charisms are real clues to who God created you to be, and what God has created you to do!

The Called & Gifted course will guide you through a process of discernment in which you may recognize your charisms, gifts given by the Holy Spirit through Baptism and Confirmation. Charisms enable Christians to accomplish things for God above and beyond their natural abilities.

During the Called & Gifted course, you will learn:

- How discerning your gifts and your call can change your own life
- How discerning your call can change the world and help spread the Gospel
- · How discerning and using our gifts together can help transform our work for the Church
- The signs and characteristics of the most common spiritual gifts
- The steps of discerning the gifts God has given you for your work in the world

If you are interested in discovering your supernatural gifts so that you can be a more effective channel of God's redeeming love, contact Vicki at 217/522-3342 or vcompton@cathedral.dio.org. Daytime and evening cohorts are forming this fall.

If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world on fire.

St. Catherine of Siena

Fishing With Father Alford

Grab your fishing pole and join expert angler, Fr. Brian Alford for some fishing fun! There is plenty of lawn at the Villa to spread a blanket and enjoy a picnic supper if you'd like to pack one. Cathedral will provide the bait and ice cream treats. See you there! Wednesday, August 11, 2021 @ 6:00PM, Villa Maria Retreat Center, 1903 E Lake Shore Dr, Springfield.

Beyond Canned Goods

The Holy Family Food Pantry is in need of common household items, other than food, such as paper products, cleaning supplies, toiletries, etc. Donations are accepted on weekends at the Holy Family Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity!

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.

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!

Butler Funeral Homes Peace of Mind Seminar

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, August 19th from 11:30 am-1:30 pm at the Bella Milano, located at 4525 Wabash Ave. in Springfield. Complimentary lunch will be provided. This event is free: no cost or obligation. Please call 217-544-4646 to reserve your space no later than Monday, August 16th .

Part-time Cook/Server:

The Villa Maria Catholic Life Center is looking for a few new people to join their staff! The Cook/Server assists with the preparation, cooking and serving of meals for small and large groups at the center. The cook/server is responsible for cleaning kitchen equipment and utensils, the dining room, and the buffet equipment after a service. The position also assists in keeping the kitchen clean, organized and prepped for the next service. Morning and evening shifts available. More about the position can be found at www.dio.org/jobs. To Apply: Please email resume and/or completed application to hr@dio.org or send to: Diocese of Springfield in Illinois Office for Human Resources, Attn: Erin Danaher, 1615 West Washington, Springfield, IL 62702

Coordinator of Restored Order Catechesis and Diocesan Liturgies

The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is seeking a mission-driven, enthusiastic individual for the role of Coordinator of Restored Order Catechesis and Diocesan Liturgies.. This position is responsible for organizing, directing, and fostering excitement and participation for the Diocesan-sponsored Masses at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, IL. This position not only coordinates the liturgies and accompanying events, but also assists parishes and schools in catechizing students, parents, volunteers, and staff. The full job description can be found at www.dio.org/jobs. To Apply: Please email resume and/or completed application to hr@dio.org or send to: Diocese of Springfield in Illinois Office for Human Resources, Attn: Erin Danaher, 1615 West Washington, Springfield, IL 62702

Check out F.L.O.W.cast

The Dominican Sisters of Springfield cordially invite you to listen to a new podcast dedicated to telling stories of people changing lives in hopeful ways For the Life of the World—thus F.L.O.W.cast. Visit flowcastlisten.org to learn more and sign up to receive new episodes in your inbox. This exciting new ministry launches on Thursday August 19—the 148 anniversary of the founding of the Dominican Sisters. New episodes drop every Thursday.

A Scout's Duty to God

Duty to God is an important part of Scouting and all Scouts in 7th grade and up are invited to earn the Ad Altare Dei religious emblem from the Catholic Committee on Scouting. There will be an orientation session on Sunday, August 29 at 6:30 PM at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Springfield with group meetings following every 4th Sunday through May 2022. Scouts in a Scouts BSA or Venturing Crew who are in 7th grade and older are eligible. For more information, go to https://scouts.dio.org or contact the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting at (217) 698-8500, ext. 154 or email scouting@dio.org.