

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 | 24TH 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 37

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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!



## Giving Thanks for our Parish Family

Last week, as I introduced our new topic for this coming year of catechesis for our Family of Faith program, I re-emphasized a point that I made last year that our entire parish community is a family, so we are all invited into this process of ongoing formation in our faith. This week, I would like to focus a little more on this concept of being a parish family, with a special focus on one particular member of our parish family.

In St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, he uses the image of the body to speak about the Church, how the body has many members, all having a specific role to play in that body. Although some members of the body are more visible, all of the members are nevertheless important. We are therefore called to rejoice in how God brings together all of the members of the body for the good of the entire body. This image translates well into seeing the Church as a family as the same dynamic exists where various members of the family make up our parish, and each member of this family has great value to the entire family. Much more can be said on the importance of each of us adopting this attitude and being proactive in sharing our gifts for the good of this family, but as I wrote above, I want to focus on the good that has been offered by one of the members of this family and to give thanks to God for those gifts.

For more than twenty years Lisa Duffey has been a part of this parish family, first as a cook in the school, and now as our Parish Secretary for close to 17 years. She has also been active with the Cathedral Council of Catholic Women. Lisa has been a very visible and active member of this parish family, and for that, we praise the Lord. At the end of this month, Lisa will be retiring. This is certainly good news for her, as she and her husband will have more time for travel and family. As happy as we are for her, there is some sadness as we will miss her very much. At the same time, we are confident that God, the Father of this parish family, will provide for us, just as He has done in so many ways in the past. I invite all of us to keep this intention in our prayers, that the Lord will choose for us a committed intentional disciple to fill the huge void that is being left with Lisa's departure. The Lord is always working for our good, so we can trust that our prayers to Him will be heard and that He will provide the person who will serve this family faithfully as a Parish Secretary.

Lisa has asked that we not make a big deal of her retiring, but I would like us to have the opportunity to express our gratitude and well-wishes to her in some way. We have decided that we will have baskets at the entrances to the church in which you can leave a card or a note of some sort. You can also drop in your contribution for a spiritual bouquet that we would like to offer her. By contribution I mean a spiritual offering of some sort, such as promising to pray a decade of the Rosary for her, or perhaps the entire Rosary. Perhaps you could offer to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. You could pray a novena for her intentions. You could offer your communion at a certain Mass for her. So please join me in thanking God for the gift that Lisa has been to this parish family and pray for her as she moves on to the next stage of her life. And let us already thank God for the person He is preparing to send to continue this important service for our parish family.

*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, September 13

7am - Diana Runge  
(Jim & Sandy Bloom)  
5:15pm - Kathy Jarvis  
(Barbara Shures)

#### Tuesday, September 14

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
5:15pm - Jean Anne Staab  
(Larry Spinner)

#### Wednesday, September 15

7am - Michael Alcorn  
(Rose Amon)  
5:15pm - Josephine Beagles  
(Kids)

#### Thursday, September 16

7am - Ginger Hermon  
(Jeannette Giannone)  
5:15pm - J. R. Weakley  
(D. A. Drago)

#### Friday, September 17

7am - Richard Willaredt  
(Margaret Barth)  
5:15pm - Alice Bates  
(Bates Family)

#### Saturday, September 18

8am - Warren Bequette  
(Ed Szczepanik)  
4pm - Tommy Regan  
(Vick & Janet Burghart)

#### Sunday, September 19

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(William Midden)  
10am - John & Edith Bakalar  
(John Busciacco)  
5pm - For the People





## The Dignity of Human Beings

When the Church talks about human dignity today, the conversation often centers around the beginning and end of human life. These two timeframes of life are when each of us are most vulnerable, unable to defend ourselves physically, intellectually, or politically in the public square. Because of this, we as Christians spend our time and resources caring for those who are vulnerable through ministries of healthcare and other life-affirming efforts.

But, what is the source of this human dignity? The idea of human dignity has certainly not been a universal concept throughout human history. Our human minds can see the goodness of humanity to a certain extent, but it is only through God's revelation that we can understand our dignity to the fullest extent.

Understanding our own dignity and goodness is essential to living a moral life. Part Three of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is entitled "Life in Christ." This section contains a summary of the moral teaching of the Church, and without an understanding of our dignity, it may seem like an arbitrary set of rules. This section of the Catechism begins with laying out how good God has made us to be. The opening paragraph of this section is a quote from St. Leo the Great: "Christian, recognize your dignity and, now that you share in God's own nature, do not return to your former base condition by sinning. Remember who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Never forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of the Kingdom of God" (CCC 1691). Our reason for seeking virtue and avoiding sin should be out of love for the God who made us, and out of a healthy love for ourselves, because we are made in the image of God.

Human beings are created in the image and likeness of God. Even more than this, we have been purchased at the price of the blood of Jesus Christ. God calls us to a lofty, eternal vocation of living with him forever in heaven. Sin distracts us and leads us away from our eternal vocation, while acts of love and virtue lead us closer to heaven.

In the lives of the saints, it is easy to see the goodness of God at work. I love reading Fr. Rankin's saint articles in our Weekly, because the saints are like a walking catechesis. It can be a challenge to apply the teachings of Jesus to our own lives, but seeing the example of the saints makes it easier for us all to imagine becoming saints ourselves. Conversely, we all probably know people whose lives have been seriously damaged by sin. Thanks be to God, Jesus offers us forgiveness through the sacraments. Like the prodigal son, our loving Father wants to restore the dignity of those who have sold it through sin.

In the next year, we will be writing about some ways in which we can grow closer to God through following his laws. Let us keep in mind the reason for doing what is right – because God made us in his image, and by saying yes to God's law, we say yes to love.

*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 September 4th & 5th

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Envelopes:   | \$5,322.00 |
| Loose:       | \$2,227.31 |
| Maintenance: | \$942.00   |
| Total:       | \$8,491.31 |

July EFT: \$20,888.40

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. John Chrysostom: Miniature-Church Architecture 101

**Feast Day: September 14th**

Today we have grown accustomed to “going to Mass”, that is, driving over to the church we have chosen as our parish and attending the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist there. I think for all of us it was a wake-up call last year when, for a time, this typical American practice was taken from us. Pastors looked out upon empty pews, and parishioners were stranded at home, with limited access to the Eucharist, and only a small part of the experience of the Holy Sacrifice available through livestreams. It was a trying time, and one that I hope has prodded all of us to dig deeper into how we can both love our Church more, and practice our faith at home in a fuller way.

In both of those areas, we can learn much from the early church. In the first few centuries of the Church the Eucharist was almost entirely celebrated in Christian homes. Those Christians who owned a space large enough to host the small community of disciples would make space in their homes for the Mass to be celebrated and would prepare their homes not only to host their fellow Christians, but also to host the coming of the Lord, making the necessary preparations for the Mass to be celebrated under their roof. St. Paul references this multiple times in his letters: “Aquila and Prisca send their best wishes in the Lord, together with the church that meets in their house” [1Cor 16:19] and “Please give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea and to Nympha and the church which meets in her house.” [Colossians 4:15].

This necessary practice, of course, was no longer needed once the persecutions ceased and the Church began to build church-buildings, constructing a sacred space for the growing community to join together in worship. But, one of the saints we celebrate this week, St. John Chrysostom, a young man in the 300s who would become a firebrand of a bishop in the 400s in Constantinople (in what is now Turkey), knew that the underlying supernatural reality visible in those church-homes had not gone anywhere, even as the congregations had migrated into basilicas. St. Augustine, a bishop during the same age in Hippo (in what is now Algeria), coined the celebrated phrase “domestic Church” that would be taken up by Vatican II (especially in *Lumen Gentium*) and Pope St. John Paul II (especially in *Familiaris Consortio*), but Chrysostom was preaching the same message in the East.

In his homilies on the Christian call outlined in Ephesians 5, with wives submitting to their husbands, as the Church does to Christ, and husbands loving their wives, as Christ does the Church, Chrysostom pulls no punches when he zooms out to the reality of the family and home in its entirety. Calling the home a “miniature church” [*micra-ecclessia*], he proclaims it the duty and glory of fathers and mothers to establish in their homes the reign and grace of Christ. This is a reality he finds from the beginning to the end of the bible. Preaching on Genesis as well, this Doctor of the Church imagines for his congregation what the Christian home should look like as a family returns from Holy Communion:

*Returning to your homes, we prepare two tables, one for the food of the body and the other for the food of Sacred Scripture. Indeed, the husband should repeat the readings which were given in the holy assembly; the wife instructing them; the children listening. Each of us must make a church of his house! Are you not responsible for the salvation of your children? Won't you one day have to account for it? Just as we, the pastors, must give an account of your souls, so the fathers of families will have to answer before God for all the people of their house.*

*St. John Chrysostom, Homily on Genesis, 6.2, (translation my own because I could not find this in its entirety in English...)*

Are our homes prepared for Christ's coming? Do we leave space and time open for Him? Have we set up an altar, with sacred images and sacred scripture, to remain in Christ's presence throughout our day? Do we meditate on His Word together as a family?

*Fr. Dominic Rankin treasures as one of his earliest memories reading with his mom (well, she was doing the reading, he was doing the listening. This is me at like 4 years old) a little blue booklet of Bible History stories. I can almost remember the black and white scenes of Adam and Eve, and Noah, and Samson.*

*Little doses of God's Word, still with me 25 years later!*

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### Knights of Columbus Scholarship Dinner

Fr. Tolton Council #16126 will once again be hosting the Father Tolton Scholarship Dinner this year. It will be held Saturday, October 16 in the Atrium at the Cathedral. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and dinner will be at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 per person. Dinner includes steak, baked potato, vegetable, salad, four bourbon tastings, and dessert. Craft beer, wine (and bourbon after the tastings) will be available for purchase. Tea and water is free.

This event is by reservation only. Reservations are due by Wednesday, October 13, and can be made online at [www.kofc16126.bpt.me](http://www.kofc16126.bpt.me)

There will also be a raffle for a whiskey themed basket valued over \$500. Raffle tickets will be \$10 each and will be sold up until the evening of the dinner or until all 500 are sold. Participants in this event must be 21 or older.

### SDCCW 92nd Convention

The 92nd Convention of the Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (SDCCW) will be held on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 in Jacksonville, IL at Hamilton's South Ballroom, 110 North East Street from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Program begins at 9 a.m. Registration forms, Pot-of-Gold (50/50) and Quilt Raffle Tickets, (\$1, 6/\$5) will be available in the Atrium after Saturday, 4 pm and Sunday Masses. Please stop by and support this worthy cause which gives scholarships to Diocesan young women, contributes to the Seminary Fund and supports Right to Life, Catholic Relief Services Projects in addition to other charitable works.

### Parish Party

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 25 for a Parish Party!! Watch the Weekly, website, and eWeeklys for more information to come!

### Parish Secretary - Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

As Fr. Alford mentioned in his bulletin article, the Cathedral is looking for a Parish Secretary. For any questions or inquiries, please call the Parish Office at 217-522-3342.

### Cathedral Women's Bible Study

The Cathedral Women's Bible Study took a day trip to Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis last week. A new course on Women in the Bible is beginning in October. Thursdays at 10:00am. Call 217-522-3342 to reserve your spot and order a book.

### Family of Faith

All families with children at home (preK-high school) are invited to participate in our whole family catechetical program. Twice monthly our families come together for age-appropriate formation and fun activities. Pick up a registration packet in the atrium or call the office to request one 217/522-3342. Contact Vicki Compton with any questions [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org) The program begins on September 19 with an opening Mass and picnic. We hope you will join us!

### Discovering Our Dignity - Study of Women of the Bible

Through their stories recorded in Scripture, women of the Bible reach out to touch our "present" in a tender, honest and loving way—woman to woman—with ancient wisdom, sage advice, and insights from sorrowful failures and emotional wounds.

Learn how God worked in the lives of Biblical women:

- Sisters Leah and Rachel overcame jealousy when they learned that God offered all that they really needed
- Abigail's faith was so strong she didn't despair, no matter how unpleasant life was with her husband
- Deborah had been given grace by God to act as His prophet, for the good of her people
- Mary the Blessed Mother's "yes" to God—her fiat—changed everything. How else did her words and deeds influence Jesus, and vice versa?

Thursdays at 10:00am beginning October 7. Workbook is \$40.

Register by contacting Vicki at [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org) or 217-522-3342.

*It was so fulfilling spending a few hours a week with spiritual, fun, sincere, giving women! I will most definitely continue with another Bible Study with this amazing group.*

*- Pamela Hargan, Parishioner of the Cathedral*

### Surviving the Holidays

Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas? Are you dreading these holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated? Our Surviving the Holidays seminar is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death. Join us on Wednesday October 6, 1:00-3:00pm in the Cathedral School Library. (Enter through the atrium doors off 5th street parking lot).



# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Diocese

### Blood Drive at St. Frances Cabrini Parish

The Impact Life Blood Center (formerly the Central Illinois Community Blood Center) is in need of blood donations for patients across its region. One whole blood donation can help up to 4 patients. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact Anne Powers by email ([imacbs@hotmail.com](mailto:imacbs@hotmail.com)) or call or text 217-381-3847. Or, visit [bloodcenter.org](http://bloodcenter.org) using group sponsor code 61274 to locate the drive. Please consider making an appointment for this blood drive. Saturday, September 18, 2021 in the St. Frances Cabrini Parish Center.

### Sacred Heart Church, Virden Annual Fried Chicken Dinner

Sacred Heart Church in Virden will be holding a "Drive-thru only" Annual Fried Chicken Dinner on Sunday, September 12, 2021 beginning at 11am and serving while supplies last at the K of C Hall. The packaged meal includes our signature fried chicken (1/2 chicken pieces), mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, and a cookie, all for \$10. 50/50 raffle tickets will be sold - \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Entrance into the parking lot secures your dinner order! Thank you for your support!

### National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

Join Springfield Right to Life on Saturday, September 18, 2021 at 11am for this important inter-faith memorial honoring the precious children whose lives have been taken by abortion. Monsignor David Hoeffler and other Clergy will lead prayers in front of the Springfield Right to Life office located at 519 North Bruns Lane in Springfield. We will then proceed to the Planned Parenthood abortion facility next door to Springfield Right to Life. You will be able to place red roses, next to white crosses, in the memory of aborted children. After the service, we hope you will join us at the SRTL office for refreshments. For more information, or if you would like to help set up crosses before the event, please call the Springfield Right to Life at 217-523-2700.

### Youth Coordinator at St. Joseph the Worker

Is God calling you to serve? Please consider being a full-time/part-time Youth Coordinator here at St. Joseph the Worker. Responsibilities would include developing and executing regular formation, service and social opportunities for junior and senior high youth, as well as helping coordinate the annual youth mission trip. A candidate must be Catholic with high energy, strong organizational skills, and a passion for Christ. Salary negotiable. If interested please contact Fr. Joe at [stjos@comcast.net](mailto:stjos@comcast.net) or 217-483-3772.

### Sacred Heart-Griffin Mega Raffle Drawing

Tickets are on sale now for SHG's 27th annual Mega Raffle Drawing! Tickets are \$100 each and only 4200 tickets are sold. There are 70 cash prizes available including the GRAND PRIZE of \$100,000! An Early Bird drawing will be held on October 15th with (20) \$500 cash prizes given away. The raffle concludes on October 30th with a LIVE drawing at the KC Hall on Meadowbrook. Purchase your tickets by calling 217-787-9732 or online at [shg.org](http://shg.org). Each Springfield Catholic grade school will receive \$1000 from the raffle proceeds. Thank you in advance for supporting SHG!

### Resurrection Parish, Illiopolis Fried Chicken Dinner

Resurrection Parish of Illiopolis will be hosting a CARRY OUT ONLY fried chicken dinner and raffle Sunday, September 12, 2021, on the parish grounds at 5th & Anne Streets, Illiopolis. Outdoor seating will be available. Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, iced tea, coffee, and choice of homemade pie or cake will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The price of the meal is \$10.00 for children 10 years of age and under, and \$13 for adult dinners. A 50/50 raffle drawing will take place at 2:00 p.m. Church will keep 50% and 3 winners will split the remaining 50%. (winners need not be present). The event will also include a Country Store inside stocked with baked goods for your shopping pleasure while waiting for your dinner. Please also join us for Mass in our newly renovated, air-conditioned church. If you need further information, please call our office at 217-486-3851.

### Butler Funeral Homes Open Door Session

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 an Open Door Session on Wednesday, September 22nd from 11:30 am-1:30 pm at the Top Cat's Chill & Grill, 3211 E. Sangamon Ave. located in Springfield. Complimentary lunch will be provided. This event is complimentary - no cost or obligation. Please call 217-544-4646 to reserve your space no later than Monday, September 22nd.

### Blessed Sacrament School in Springfield Immediate Teacher Opening

B.S.S. has an immediate opening for a full-time first grade teacher. Applicants should hold a current Illinois Professional Educator License. Ideal candidates will be practicing Catholics committed to academic excellence and the mission of Catholic schools. Send resume and completed certified school staff application (available at [www.bssbruins.org](http://www.bssbruins.org)) to: Nicole Kuhlman, Blessed Sacrament School, 748 W. Laurel, Springfield, IL 62704 or via email to [kuhlman@bssbruins.org](mailto:kuhlman@bssbruins.org).

### Christ the King Bible Study

Join us on Tuesday mornings for a study of the Mass from Ascension Press. "A Biblical Walk Through the Mass" is a 5-part series by Dr. Edward Sri. In the Mass, we encounter God in the most intimate way possible as we hear him speak to us in the Liturgy of the Word and as we receive him Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. The series explores the Biblical roots of the words and gestures we experience at Mass. The group will meet in the Christ the King Parish Hall starting September 21 from 9:30-11:00. For information call Mary Kay Hinkle at 217-899-2599 or email to: [mbhinkle75@comcast.net](mailto:mbhinkle75@comcast.net).