

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 | 25TH 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 38

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!



The Two Ways

Two weeks ago, I introduced our topic for this upcoming year of catechesis for our Family of Faith program (and by extension our entire parish). That theme is the third section of the Catechism titled "Life in Christ." This section provides a thorough catechesis on how we live as Christians in every aspect of our daily lives – thoughts, words, and actions.

Something that I think needs to be set before us at the beginning of this catechesis is the importance of this teaching for our salvation. In the introductory paragraphs of this section, we read the following:

The way of Christ "leads to life"; a contrary way "leads to destruction." The Gospel parable of the two ways remains ever present in the catechesis of the Church; it shows the importance of moral decisions for our salvation: "There are two ways, the one of life, the other of death; but between the two, there is a great difference. (CCC 1696)

Maybe you have heard the saying about the Commandments that there is significance to use of the word "commandment." The Lord provided us the Ten Commandments, not the Ten Suggestions. In other words, what the Lord (and by extension, the Church) teaches us on how to live are not just recommendations for us, as though we can pick and choose what we like. No, the Lord commands these so that by following them, we can have eternal life. By rejecting them, we risk eternal separation from Him.

In our modern day, people tend to bristle at the suggestion of Hell, that by our actions, we can lose going to Heaven. Some claim that holding out the threat of eternal punishment was just a tactic for scaring people and keeping them in line so as to control them. And while I agree that we should not try to beat people into submission to obedience through fear, we would be doing the people of God a grave disservice if we were not faithful to teaching the entirety of the Gospel, which clearly warns that there are consequences for not following the commandments of the Lord, consequences in this life, and in the life to come.

While the fear of negative consequences must always be before us, it is better for us to focus on the positive consequences of our choosing to live this life of Christ, the greatest of which is eternal life. Our topic for next month will be our call to beatitude, which is the beginning of happiness with God in this life, and eternal happiness with Him forever in the fullness of Heaven. It is our desire for Heaven which should be our primary motivation for how we choose to live, not our fear of Hell, though that should always be present to our minds as well.

We have the opportunity each and every day to choose how to live. Living the life of Christ is not about a "no" to a laundry list of prohibitions, it is an overwhelming "yes" to Christ, who loves us and has given us the path to follow that will lead us to freedom and joy already in this life and ultimately to eternal life with Him in Heaven.

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 20

7am - Pati Sgro
(Brenda Capranica)
5:15pm - Jean Anne Staab
(Lisa Duffey)

Tuesday, September 21

7am - NO MASS
5:15pm - NO MASS

Wednesday, September 22

7am - NO MASS
5:15pm - NO MASS

Thursday, September 23

7am - NO MASS
5:15pm - Special Intention for
Kathleen M. Price (Chris Sommer)

Friday, September 24

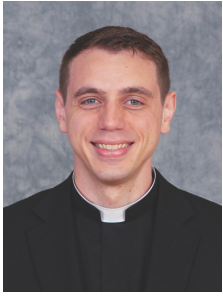
7am - Special Intention for Ruth
Staab (Chris Sommer)
5:15pm - William F. Logan
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

Saturday, September 25

8am - Angeline Sherman
(Bob & Diane Buretta)
4pm - Thomas Rapps
(Family)

Sunday, September 26

7am - For the People
10am - Jean Reno Greenwald
(Jan Paulus & Marjorie Paulus)
5pm - Special Intention for Richard
& Kay King (Richard & Kay King)



Concupiscence

Following God's law is hard. Even for Christians who were baptized in infancy, and have lived holy, prayerful lives for many years, following God's law never becomes automatic. It certainly does become more natural over many years, especially through the development of good habits called virtues. On the contrary, fostering bad habits develops vices. The reason following God's law is difficult is because we all suffer from concupiscence.

Concupiscence is an inclination to sin that we have all inherited from our first parents, Adam and Eve. We as human are complicated creatures because we exist as a composite of body and soul. Angels are pure spirits, so they are not subject to physical desires or weakness of mind like we do because of our bodies. (This is also the reason angels no longer fall to become devils and vice versa; they made their decision once and for all). Animals are purely bodies, and although they do have an animal soul, they are never conflicted about how to live their life. They have no spiritual life, so their only goal in life is to fulfill their nature by reproducing and surviving as long as possible.

I describe angels and animals in this way to show that we are stuck somewhere in the middle. We have souls which are destined to live for eternity, but our physical bodies are destined to corruption. God intentionally made us this way, but when he originally created our first parents, he gave them an additional spiritual gift called "original justice." Original justice was a gift that would have allowed Adam and Eve to live forever, with true harmony between their bodies and souls. Our first parents experienced no disordered desires at this time, such as the desire to eat more than was good for them. However, when Adam and Eve committed the Original Sin, original justice and friendship with God were lost. Through baptism, God restores us to friendship with him, but we still deal with the effects of Original Sin, one of which is concupiscence.

If that explanation is confusing, just think of this example. After a delicious and hearty meal, your body is sufficiently nourished and satisfied. However, you still have a strong desire to eat more – just one more bite of dessert, or one last drink. I'm sure we have all experienced this desire to eat more than is good for us, and this is an example of concupiscence. We tend toward things that harm us both physically and spiritually, unless God's grace stops us from doing so. St. Paul summed this human experience up well when he wrote, "What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate" (Romans 7:15).

God restores us to friendship with him through the sacraments, but he does not take away concupiscence. Why would God allow us to experience the pain and conflict of concupiscence? This can only be understood through the Cross of Jesus. In God's Providence, it is better for us that we suffer in this way. By fighting against concupiscence through prayer or penitential practices such as fasting during Lent, we can become holier and even share in the suffering of Jesus on the Cross. St. Paul compared Christians with athletes who run to win. Runners deny themselves all sorts of things for the sake of their goal, which is winning the race. The same principle applies to Christians who are fighting against sin for the salvation of the world.

Concupiscence is not fun, but it is a part of our lives, and there is only one way to deal with it: through God's grace. Our Weekly articles will be focusing, in large part, on following God's law for the next several months. This is never meant to be overwhelming or discouraging, but rather to encourage us to rely more fully on God's grace so that we can all share in the Resurrection of Jesus.

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 11th & 12th

Envelopes:	\$5,514.00
Loose:	\$3,588.00
Maintenance:	\$191.00
Total:	\$9,293.00

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. Paul Chong Hasan: How to be Faithful Families

Feast Day: September 22nd

Before we get to the 1780s, let us first turn back to the 1980s. Pope St. John Paul II, two weeks after Easter in 1989, touched down in Fairbanks, Alaska to refuel before continuing his red-eye flight to Seoul, South Korea (believe it or not, he had already visited Alaska in 1981!) He would celebrate the first canonization Mass outside of Rome there in Seoul a few days later, to proclaim as saints 103 of the Christians martyred there in the 18th and 19th centuries. Of the group, the namesake and leader was Fr. Andrew Kim Taegŏn,

but the second person always mentioned is that of Paul Chŏng Hasang, a layman, like most of the rest of those martyred. The Great Pope would stop a few more times before returning to Rome (a 23,000-mile journey, the third-longest of his entire pontificate), but let us remain there in Seoul for a moment.

200 years before John Paul's Alitalia jet touched down on the Korean peninsula, Christianity first arrived there in far less grandiose style. A few intrepid lay men and women smuggled books and crucifixes back to Korea from China, where they had first met Jesus through the priests working there. The scholars and sophisticated of Korea immediately rejected this new faith – down through history Christianity has always been a scandal and laughingstock to the affluent and self-sufficient – but it slowly took hold in simpler, humbler, hearts.

Jeong Yak-jong, newly baptized as Augustine Chong, was one of those bold souls carrying Christ across the Han river. For seven years, Augustine would pass on the faith to his family and friends, eventually writing the first catechism in the Korean language, all of this before the first priest arrived. There would be four thousand Christians, by then enduring persecution, in Korea when the first Chinese priest managed to arrive there. In return for his efforts, this father and missionary received the gift of martyrdom from His heavenly Lord, staying faithful when many of his fellow Christians repudiated their faith in the face of those tortures. His last words, and a fitting last message to his 7 year old son was “I would never regret [having become a Christian] even if I had to die a thousand times.” Paul would learn that lesson well, risking his own life to guide priests across the Han river, until at the age of 45 he was captured, and enduring in his faith through tortures, was faithful until death.

During the same persecution in 1839, another Christian by the name of Ignatius Kim was also killed. His son Andrew, the generation after Paul, and two generations after Christianity had first arrived in Korea through Augustine and his compatriots, would become the first native-born priest from Korea. At the age of 15, this young man traveled 1300 miles to go to seminary in Macao, China (making his father's trek of 750 miles to Beijing look easy!), before making the arduous journey back to his homeland to bring them the sacraments of the Church. At this time, still, only a few foreign priests and one bishop (from France) had managed to make their way into the country, so the graces Andrew Kim could carry back were incalculable. He was captured after 13 months of priestly ministry, and murdered with 20 others in 1846. In his final letter, he said this:

We are twenty here, and thanks be to God all are still well. If anyone is killed, I beg you not to forget his family. I have many more things to say, but how can I express them with pen and paper? I make an end to this letter. Since we are now close to the struggle, I pray you to walk in faith, so that when you have finally entered into Heaven, we may greet one another. I leave you my kiss of love.

We would be well to never forget our families either! From the 72 disciples of Jesus, to the 103 we celebrate this week, to our own day, Christianity has always been passed on more by lay people, and families, than by priests and religious. How can we cherish, carry, and communicate our own relationship with Christ this week?

Fr. Dominic was not born in 1789, nor 1989, so he has no memories from either era. But, isn't it interesting to realize that as Augustine made his first midnight mission carrying Christ back to Korea from China, the U.S. Constitution had just gone into effect in our country, and George Washington had been unanimously (I believe the only time that happened) elected our first president? And, as Pope John Paul landed in Korea in April of 1989, it was only a few weeks before the Tiananmen Square demonstrations would happen in China, and a few months before the fall of Berlin Wall in the USSR?

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Parish Party - September 25

It's been too long – let's celebrate being the Cathedral parish! Join us on September 25th for a full day of community!

12:00pm-3:00pm – Fun For All Ages

All are welcome to join us for an ice cream social, cake walk, kids games, bags and jam, and more! Hotdogs and chips will be available.

5:00pm-10:00pm – Adult's Party

Got mad bag skills? Sign up to play in the Men in Black Bags Tournament. Burgers, brats, beer, and wine will also be available. Come enjoy an evening of fun!

Let's enjoy the last of the good weather by celebrating being the Cathedral!

This event would not be possible without the support of our sponsors: Cathedral Council of Catholic Women, Knights of Columbus Fr. Tolton Council #16126, and Agility Communications and Technology Services Company.

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 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

Encountering Christ in the Word

You are invited to deepen your love of Sacred Scripture and enhance your encounter with our Lord by gathering twice monthly to break open the Scriptures for the upcoming Sunday liturgy. We will be reading and praying together as a parish community to see what insights God is revealing to us and to prepare well to hear the proclamation of the Word on Sunday. We will meet in the atrium on October 5 and 19 from 7:00-8:00pm and hope you will join us.

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

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.

Covenant Network Fall Radiothon

Fr. Brian Alford and Sister M. Karolyn will be at the mic for the Covenant Network Fall Radiothon on Friday, October 1st from 2pm until 3pm! Call in while they are LIVE at 314-752-7000 to support Catholic Radio. Listen on OurCatholicRadio.org or FM 88.9 WTTT!

Fr. Tolton Council 16126 Tootsie Roll Drive

Fr. Tolton Council 16126 is collecting donations to help organizations that work with people who have intellectual disabilities. We will be at Hy Vee all weekend, September 18 and 19, handing out Tootsie Rolls. Join Fr. Peter and the Council and help a good cause! To volunteer, contact Kyle Holtgrave at (217) 622-4994 or email kyle.holtgrave@gmail.com. Interested in becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus? Go to kofc.org/join and sign up for council 16126.

Parish Secretary - Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

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

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).

First Friday Concert – October 1, 2021

Sacred Sounds, Sacred Spaces at the Cathedral will host a First Friday Concert on October 1st, 2021 at 7PM featuring Christine Brewer! This concert is free and open to the public.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Blue Mass - September 28

Praying for their safety and continued diligence in their work and to thank them for their selfless commitment to taking care of people in our communities, Bishop Thomas John Paprocki will celebrate a Blue Mass for emergency responders Sept. 28 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield. All emergency responders, their families, and the public are invited to come. The day begins at 9 a.m. as emergency responders will assemble in the Cathedral. At 9:15 a.m., there will be the posting of the colors, with Mass beginning at 9:30 a.m. Emergency responders are invited to attend as is the lay faithful to show their support and pray for our brothers and sisters on the front lines.

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.

Diocesan Respect Life Mass and Rosary Walk

This year's annual Diocesan Respect Life Mass and Rosary Walk is scheduled for Saturday, October 9, 2021, Holy Family Parish, Granite City. Bishop Paprocki will celebrate Mass at 9:00 am, then lead a rosary walk around the abortion facility in Granite City. Lunch and speaker will follow the rosary walk. To register send an email to: plasm@dio.org.

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.

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) to: Nicole Kuhlman, Blessed Sacrament School, 748 W. Laurel, Springfield, IL 62704 or via email to kuhlman@bssbruins.org.

Second Collection - Emergency Disaster Fund

Next weekend, September 25th and 26th, we will be taking up a second collection for the USCCB Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund. Our partners at Catholic Charities USA, along with their local agencies, are hard at work providing humanitarian relief and will be with communities over their extended recovery. The funds collected in this special appeal will be used to support the USCCB for pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church as well as the efforts of Catholic Charities USA and/or Catholic Relief Services as they and their local agencies respond to immediate emergency needs and aid in long-term rebuilding and recovery efforts. Funds will be used in response to Hurricane Ida and the impact of subsequent flooding and tornados and any other disasters that occur, and will be distributed where they are most needed. As always, we thank you for your generosity.

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.

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. Each Springfield Catholic grade school will receive \$1000 from the raffle proceeds. Thank you in advance for supporting SHG!

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 or 217-483-3772.