

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 | 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

# *Cathedral Weekly*

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 39

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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  
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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!



## On Being a Disciple, Not Just a Member

Vicki Compton recently sent the priests of the house an article by a pastor who offered some reflections on the struggles that every church faces when it comes to those who make up their congregation. He makes the following interesting observation:

*Like the American economy, local churches have plenty of jobs, but we don't have the people who are willing and trained to do those jobs.*

The pastor points to the often-misdirected efforts to focus primarily on driving up attendance, but that in itself is not sufficient. He writes: "We got really good at driving attendance, but we were lousy at making disciples." He then proceeds to provide a sketch of what it looks like to be an active disciple, as opposed to being just a passive observer:

*A disciple is very different from a church member. A disciple may be a church member but a church member doesn't have to be a disciple. What's the difference? A disciple understands the Grand Arc of Salvation History and the ultimate purpose of God's heart that drives our evangelistic mission...Second, a disciple understands their role in the mission. All of us have gifts. No one has all of the gifts. Each of us is created to play a significant, yet particular, role in that mission. Each disciple understands their giftedness...Lastly, each disciple is constantly being refreshed, retrained, and refocused as their mission evolves. Every disciple knows they need a regular routine of worship, deep study, and prayer to refresh their soul and inner life. Without this routine of soul care, the disciple will either burn out or flame out. Neither is a desirable outcome.*

These words really convicted me and reiterated the direction we have been trying to take here at our Cathedral Parish. Our efforts to offer various types of formation for our entire parish family (not just our students) are aimed toward building a culture of discipleship, so that our pews are not filled just with church members, but with disciples who realize their importance to this community and who willingly and generously offer their gifts for the good of the community.

The author's final point about the importance of having "a regular routine of worship, deep study, and prayer to refresh their soul and inner life" is so key, because these are the activities of a disciple that help us to keep our eyes constantly fixed on Christ, who must always remain at the heart of discipleship. The moment it ceases to be about Him and our relationship with Him, it is already on the path toward failure. This is the point made in the Catechism at the end of the introductory paragraphs of Section Three on Life in Christ which will be our focus for this year:

*The first and last point of reference of this catechesis will always be Jesus Christ Himself, who is "the way, and the truth, and the life." It is by looking to Him in faith that Christ's faithful can hope that He Himself fulfills His promises in them, and that, by loving Him with the same love with which He has loved them, they may perform works in keeping with their dignity.*  
(CCC 1698)

May we all renew (or proclaim for the first time) our desire to not be content with just being a member of the Cathedral Parish, but to commit to being "disciples of the Risen Lord and steadfast stewards of God's creation who seek to become saints" by making "a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ no matter the cost to themselves" for the good of the Church. (quotes from Declarations 1 and 4 of the Fourth Diocesan Synod).

*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 27

7am - Kathy Jarvis  
(Raymond & Janet Langley)  
5:15pm - Jean Anne Staab  
(Larry Spinner)

#### Tuesday, September 28

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
5:15pm - Shirley Logan  
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motkya)

#### Wednesday, September 29

7am - Eric Nelson  
(Family)  
5:15pm - Karen Bucari  
(Alan Bucari)

#### Thursday, September 30

7am - Repose of the Soul of Joseph Kohlrus, Sr. (Kathleen Porter & Family)  
5:15pm - Kathy Jarvis  
(Barbara Shures)

#### Friday, October 1

7am - Special Intention for John Doedtman (Chris Sommer)  
5:15pm - Repose of the Soul of Joseph Kohlrus, Sr. (Kathleen Porter & Family)

#### Saturday, October 2

8am - Richard Willaredt  
(Pat & Harold Sly)  
4pm - For the People

#### Sunday, October 3

7am - John Montgomery  
(John Busciacco)  
10am - Charles & Mercedes Nesbitt  
(Kathy Frank)  
5pm - Rita DesMarteau  
(Family)



## The Natural Law

There are many different types of laws that help to guide and inform the decisions we make. The Church recognizes many levels of law, including the eternal law, divine law, the natural law, and human law. Eternal law is found only in God himself, who is the source of all order and being. Divine Law is what God has revealed to us through Scripture and Tradition, such as the Ten Commandments. Human law consists of laws in our society, like speed limits, and ecclesiastical laws, such as abstaining from meat on Fridays. The natural law is one that is not spoken of as much in our civil discourse today.

Natural law is written into the very fabric of living things, and it is our ability to instinctively know right from wrong and to seek good instead of evil.

The natural law is not an invention of the Catholic Church or of any religion in history. In fact, the Catechism quotes Cicero in describing the natural law. He once wrote, "For there is a true law: right reason. It is in conformity with nature, is diffused among all men, and is immutable and eternal; its orders summon to duty; its prohibitions turn away from offense . . . To replace it with a contrary law is a sacrilege; failure to apply even one of its provisions is forbidden; no one can abrogate it entirely" (CCC 1956). Cicero certainly was not a Christian, yet he spoke about eternal truth and the duty we have as human beings to obey this law.

The natural law is written on our hearts, and we can follow it by using right reason. However, it is possible to ignore the natural law and act contrary to it. Some of the most basic moral laws that all societies enforce are known even to the smallest of children: stealing and murder are evil actions. These principles were not invented out of someone's imagination and imposed on the rest of society. Rather, we all know within ourselves that these actions are evil, and we also know that legitimate authority should punish people who go against the natural law and disrupt the order of society through murder or theft.

It is hard to have a conversation about what is right and wrong without a sense of natural law. The Catholic Church has long been the most outspoken institution against the legal protection of abortion. Some of her critics say that the Church should not impose her religious beliefs on others. But the problem with this criticism is that our belief that abortion is wrong is not, at its core, a religious belief. Any person with a clear-thinking mind can know that abortion is an evil action and should not be allowed (or promoted) in human society. It goes against the common good of society by devaluing human life and disrespecting the order of human nature, which has the impulse to grow, thrive, and pass life on to the next generation. Natural Law should be the basis for the civil laws which govern human society. Otherwise, what would laws be based on? Without an understanding of the natural law, people who happen to be in power can impose their arbitrary will with no reference to anything higher than themselves. The Catechism again says, "The natural law, the Creator's very good work, provides the solid foundation on which man can build the structure of moral rules to guide his choices. It also provides the indispensable moral foundation for building the human community. Finally, it provides the necessary basis for the civil law with which it is connected, whether by a reflection that draws conclusions from its principles, or by additions of a positive and juridical nature" (CCC 1959).

The natural law is written on our hearts and guides the human race to goodness and happiness. This is not a specifically Christian teaching, but one that even pagans such as Cicero have recognized as a sure moral guide and pathway to flourishing in society.

*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 18th & 19th

Envelopes:	\$5,749.76
Loose:	\$2,851.57
Maintenance:	\$161.00
Total:	\$8,762.33

August EFT: \$22,202.25

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!



## St. Lorenzo Ruiz, and Companions

**Feast Day: September 28th**

Last week we went with Pope St. John Paul II to Seoul, South Korea for the first canonization outside of Rome of St. Andrew Kim Taegŏn, Paul Chŏng Hasang, and their companions. This week, we have the happy occasion to tag along with him on a different trip, this time the year is 1981, and the great Pope is heading to Manila, Philippines, for the first beatification outside of Rome.

Despite the attempts of the royal family of the Philippines, who had only recently stepped back from the martial law they had been holding over the country (and continued human rights violations that the Pope forthrightly confronted), JP II was there primarily to renew the Church on that archipelago.

He placed before each and every Christian there the story of Lorenzo Ruiz. To the largest gathering of Catholics in Asian history – 1 million men, women, and children (it would be surpassed in 1995 when he returned to Manila for World Youth Day, with 5 million in attendance!) – John Paul spoke to the fathers and mothers and sons and daughters attending that Mass and called them to give their life entirely to Christ. Lorenzo did this as he grew up with a Chinese father and Tagala mother, who taught him his Catholic faith. He did it as a server and secretary at his parish, and as he learned from and assisted the Dominican friars there. He did it in marrying Rosario and together raising their three children.

And Lorenzo did it when in 1636 he was falsely charged with murder and had to flee his family and country. We have few details of that hurried, and certainly horrible, departure – he left no recorded words to his friends or loved-ones – but Lorenzo chose Christ in the midst of it. He made his way onto a ship and immediately sought out the solace of his faith, joining a group of Dominican Friars who were on their way to Japan. Japan at the time was engulfed in places in persecution of the faith, but this group was set to land in the territory of a peaceful shogun.

This would not be the future offered to Lorenzo. The ship inadvertently docked at Okinawa in the middle of a hellish anticatholic persecution. The poor, exiled, now imprisoned father endured a year of torture without renouncing his faith, and ended up dying an excruciating death near Nagasaki, preceded by, and flanked by ordained, consecrated, and lay Catholics, but he – a layman and father – would head the list of their names because of his courageous fidelity. “Had I many thousands of lives I would offer them all for him. Never shall I apostatize. You may kill me if that is what you want. To die for God—such is my will.”

Jesus’ words as He approached His own passion are clear: “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.” (Mark 8:34-35) The fact is that most of us will not be given the grace of martyrdom. Most of us will not be falsely accused of murder or inadvertently dropped into a horrific persecution. But Lorenzo never thought he would see those trials either! We, like him, must choose that no matter the future – and the death – that awaits us, we will lose our life for the sake of the Gospel. There is no way to heaven except the way of Christ: union with His death, and resurrection. Will we be known as those who died for Him?

*Fr. Rankin has not yet had the occasion to write about one of his favorite saints, St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Polish Franciscan friar who gave his life in the place of the layman and father, Franciszek Gajowniczek, in the death block at Auschwitz. Fr. Kolbe, a decade before the concentration camp, but exactly 300 years after Lorenzo was martyred, was not in Poland, but Japan. Standing on a hillside outside of Nagasaki, where Lorenzo’s blood had watered the first seeds of the faith, and where Kolbe would build a monastery and printing-press to bring the Gospel back to Japan. That monastery still stands as a testament to both saints, astonishingly surviving the atomic blast that struck the Catholic city.*

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### It's SOCTOBER!

The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women is collecting new (or gently used) socks, hats and gloves for men, women & children in area shelters for distribution throughout the winter months. Area social service agencies and nursing homes have been very appreciative of the generosity of Cathedral parishioners in the last three years as our donations have benefitted many people of all ages. Please place donated items in the White baskets placed in the Atrium. Thanks so much for your generosity to the most vulnerable in our community!

### Parish Secretary - Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is looking for a Parish Secretary. The Parish Secretary serves as the face, voice, and presence of the parish to the parishioners, the public, new parishioners and any other person with whom they come in contact. Their main responsibility is to promote the mission of the parish and foster a welcoming atmosphere through all methods of communication and media. This position also supports the Rector, members of the parish staff, as well as various committees and boards. Please send resume and any other supplemental information to [bvogt@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:bvogt@cathedral.dio.org). For more information, please visit [www.dio.org/humanresources/employment.html#parishes](http://www.dio.org/humanresources/employment.html#parishes), or call the Parish Office at 217-522-3342.

### 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.

### 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).

### 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](http://OurCatholicRadio.org) or FM 88.9 WTTT!

### Thank You From the SDCCW

Thank you to all who bought raffle and 50/50 tickets to support the 2021 SDCCW Convention to be held in Jacksonville on Wednesday, September 29. You have helped to make this Convention a big success. If you're a winner, you will receive a phone call! Wishing good luck and blessings to each of you

### 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.

### 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.

# 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.

### National Life Chain Prayer Witness

Please join us on October 3, 2021 for the National Life Chain Prayer Witness from 2:00pm to 3:30pm on Sangamon Avenue from 19th Street to Dirksen Parkway. You may pray for the entire 1 ½ hours or an hour within the time frame. Life Chain is a call to the Churches of all denominations to come out and pray to end abortion, praying silently, while holding signs. Signs will be available for you.

### EPIC Host Homes

EPIC's Host Homes Program assists people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in finding a home designed to encourage independence in the least restrictive environment. We match adults of all ages to host families in the communities of their choice. Participants are supported in a home setting allowing them to become immersed in both community and home life. Community members will have the opportunity to make a difference from within their home as a Host Homes Provider, earning career or supplemental income ranging from \$25,000-\$65,000 per year, and as a result, individuals needing support can explore this option of more independent living and personalized support. EPIC would love to connect with community members at their upcoming Provider HUDDLE (Helping Us Develop Dedicated Leaders That Empower) on September 28 @ 4:30PM at White Oaks Mall Food Court. At the HUDDLE, attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about EPIC Host Homes and hear from current Host Homes Providers who live out the role every day. It's a place where people can ask questions, network with others going through the process, and even plan future outings together. EPIC's current providers are great resources for those interested in opening their home. The Host Homes team wants to provide you with resources that will help you become the best provider you can be, so you can help empower the people you will support to live their best lives! If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [hfrank@epicci.org](mailto:hfrank@epicci.org) - a free taco + drink will be provided to all that attend courtesy of Jerk Shop Go.

### 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](mailto:plasm@dio.org).

### Little Flower Young at Heart Bus trip

Join the Church of the Little Flower's "Over 55 Group" on a trip to the National Shrine of St. Therese in Darien, IL on Thursday, October 7. The group is departing from Little Flower at 7:45 AM and will return to Little Flower at approximately 6:30 PM. The cost is \$88.00, which includes "Bates Unlimited" bus ride/driver's tip, doughnuts, water and snacks on the bus, lunch at the Shrine, a guided tour of the National Shrine of St. Therese, Mass in the Chapel, and a Talk and Film of St. Therese. All must be fully vaccinated and wear a mask. Thus, all efforts are being taken to promote the health and safety of everyone while on the bus and at the shrine. The deadline to register is Monday, Sept. 27. If interested, please call Dee Stern (217-494-4747), Parish Minister at the Church of the Little Flower.

### Trunk or Treat!

St. Joseph's KC Council 17229 invites everyone to join us for Truck or Trunk, Saturday, October 23, right after 4:30 Mass until 7:30 pm in the Parish parking lot. Anyone is welcome to come trick or treat. We also encourage everyone to come and decorate the trunk of your vehicle and pass out candy to the kids. Adults please feel free to dress up. There will be judging for top three decorated vehicles with prizes. Come celebrate Halloween with us! Questions please contact Grand Knight Mike Geist. 217-741-8370.

### 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!