

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

OCTOBER 3, 2021 | 27TH 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 40

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
NINTH BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

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PAROCHIAL VICAR

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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!



Accepting the Kingdom Like a Child

In our Gospel for this Sunday, we hear Jesus saying the following about entering the Kingdom of Heaven: "Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." (Mk 10:15) What does the Lord mean by accepting the Kingdom like a child? I recently read a commentary on this verse which I find very helpful in understanding this important statement from our Lord:

All are called to be "children" in relation to the kingdom. What is it about children that makes them such apt recipients of the kingdom? Children have no accomplishments with which to earn God's

favor, no status that makes them worthy. In their dependency they exemplify the only disposition that makes entrance into the kingdom possible: simply to receive it as a pure, unmerited gift.

*Mary Healy, The Gospel of Mark, Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture
(Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2008), 199.*

As we begin this month of October, our theme for the month is our Vocation to Beatitude. Put another way, we are called (vocation) to be with God forever in the Kingdom of Heaven (Beatitude). As we progress through this year of catechesis, we will be hearing how we prepare for this gift by the way we live our lives, conforming them to the Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the teachings of Christ and His Church. But we must avoid falling into the trap of thinking that Heaven is something that we earn as a result of our good behavior. As the commentary above mentions, the Kingdom is a gift that is granted to God's beloved children, and one that we should simply receive with humility and gratitude.

The question may be raised, then: Why do we put so much value on our actions? After all, if I cannot earn Heaven, why should I care about acting a certain way? The gift of the Kingdom is given to us already in this life on the day we were baptized, and this gift is meant to be protected so that we do not lose it. The teachings that our Lord and the Church give to us are directed toward that end, keeping safe the gift that we have, one that we did not earn, that of sharing in the life of Christ through the gift of grace (a word which means gift). Therefore our actions do matter, for by them, we freely choose to keep safe or reject this gift that the Lord has so generously blessed us with. Seen this way, our life in Christ is not so much about earning something as it is preserving and protecting something that has been given to us by no merit of our own.

Another aspect of being a child is the unconditional trust that children have in the love of their parents and their greatest fear is losing that love. Whatever the parents ask, the children heed because they do not doubt that the parents have their best interest at heart. So too for us with regard to our relationship to God our loving Father, and our holy Mother, the Church. As children, we are called to assent to their teachings, trusting that doing so is in our best interest, and that following those teachings we will experience true happiness and freedom as we remain in the love of God in this life and forever in the next. This is how we are called to be childlike in our obedience to the Lord. But we must always fight the temptation of falling into being childish, being rebellious and demanding our own way. With the graces the Lord offers to us freely in the sacraments, we can indeed live as the children He has called us to be, and so accept the Kingdom of God that He freely offers to us.

*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, October 4

7am - Jean Reno Greenwald
(Robert & Shirley Dunham)
5:15pm - Kathy Jarvis
(Carol Bellm)

Tuesday, October 5

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - Jean Anne Staab
(Vincent & Anna Fanale)

Wednesday, October 6

7am - Kathy Jarvis
(Ken & Michelle Campbell)
5:15pm - Vincent Darrigo
(Jeannette Giannone)

Thursday, October 7

7am - Patria & Rufino Gotanco
(Hati Uy)
5:15pm - Special Intention for Ellen
Mattox (Shana Gray)

Friday, October 8

7am - Richard Willaredt
(Donna Favier)
5:15pm - Special Intention for
Bianca (D. A. Drago)

Saturday, October 9

8am - Warren Bequette
(Sotiroff Family)
4pm - Barbara McGee
(Tom McGee)

Sunday, October 10

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)
10am - For the People
5pm - Jean Anne Staab
(James & Rita Keys)



St. Bruno, from Cologne, to Clairvaux, through Crazyness

Feast Day: October 6th

In 1984, a German Filmmaker wrote to the original Carthusian monastery, located in a valley of the French alps, miles from the nearest vehicular roads, the Grande Chartreuse – famed for its rigorous prayer and silence, and 500-year-old 130-flavor liquor recipe of the same name – and asked if he could stay at the monastery and unobtrusively film the daily life of the monks. They wrote back to him 16 years later and gave him permission to come. The final film is almost three hours long, and is almost entirely silent ... because the life of the monks is almost entirely silent. Their silence had begun almost 1000 years before.

We begin not in Chartreuse, but in Cologne. Our story begins with a young priest of that diocese, ordained around the year 1055, now tasked with overseeing the schools of the diocese. Fr. Bruno had been giving a good education and comfortable upbringing, so perhaps he was the right man for the job, in any case he stayed in that position for almost two decades, gradually acquiring a reputation as a philosopher, theologian, and adviser for his pupils and diocese. 20 years into his priesthood, he moved up to being Chancellor for the Archdiocese of Reims. So far, so ordinary.

But then a violent, power-hungry, man was named the new bishop of Reims. The clergy of the diocese pushed back against the vicious bishop, who responded by having his mobs tear down their homes and sell their possessions. Meanwhile, Henry IV, the Holy Roman Emperor had just declared the election of the Pope Gregory VII invalid and demanded he abdicate.

Gregory excommunicated Henry, who pressured the bishop of Utrecht into excommunicating the pope. Lightning destroyed the cathedral of Utrecht and the bishop died a month after. Let's just say it wasn't a great time to be the chancellor there in Reims...

Still, God was at work in the lousy situation, not only in the eventual removal of the bad bishop, but in the movement that he was beginning in Bruno's heart. 25 years a priest, he had become a canon during the preceding years – living in community with the other priests of the cathedral – and now found himself drawn to deepen that life of focus on the Lord and his brother priests. Three priests and two laymen, in the middle of their stable and ordinary lives were catapulted into religious life in the midst of the machinations of the distracted and disordered hierarchy of the Church of their day. They had providentially crossed the path of St. Hugh, the holy bishop of Grenoble, who gave them an isolated piece of property up in the rocky alps in the northern reaches of his diocese.

500 years later, there would be built the spectacular, silent, Monastery of the Grande Chartreuse, built upon the alpine rocks from which it received its name, and the harried, hardworking, humbled chancellor-now-hermit from Cologne who had sought God there. 500 years later, now surviving for almost a millennia, the order remains an inspiration to every Christian of the priority of prayer, and openness to the graces given in crazy times.

"How lovely is your dwelling place" [Psalm 84] is taken to refer not so much to the Jerusalem temple as the heavenly dwelling of God in heaven according to the spiritual sense or meaning of Scripture. To reach the courts of the house of the Lord, we must climb the steps of virtue and good works.

– St. Bruno, Commentary on Psalms [Ps. 83: Edit. Cartusiae de Pratis, 1891, 376-377]

Fr. Rankin first saw "Into Great Silence" as a teenager. Of course, 3 hours of silently watching monks walk and work and worship was not, at first, an exciting prospect. Yet it was captivating. There was a profundity and contentment revealed in their simple lives that no amount of activity has ever given me. One scene sticks in my mind: the weekly spatium when the monks all hike together up in the hills and are allowed to chat with each other. Beautifully, the silence they cherished was the foundation for the joy they found sledding and joking and being brothers to each other.

*What are some ways or methods we can discern God's will for us?
– John Sivak, Cathedral Parishioner*

St. Augustine famously said once (or wrote), “Love God, then do what you will.” We make countless choices every day of our lives, some big and some small. Big decisions might have to do with working on a relationship or looking for a new job. Smaller decisions, like what to have for breakfast, seem unimportant in the big scheme of things. Peter Kreeft is a prolific Catholic author who has taught at Boston College for many years. In an article on discerning God's will, he gives seven guideposts. I find his clarity very helpful. Here are seven ways that God reveals his will to us:

1. Scripture – The Word of God is living and effective and has a way of speaking directly to our hearts. The words of Jesus in the New Testament can help guide our daily lives.
2. Church teaching – God continues to speak through the Church's teaching office. Some issues didn't exist in the time of Jesus, but thankfully Jesus gave the Apostles and their successors authority to teach on faith and morals in his name.
3. Human reason – All truth comes from God, and our minds were made to seek truth, goodness, and beauty.
4. The providential situation – Sometimes God's providence is only clear in hindsight. He places us where he needs us to be at a particular time.
5. Conscience – We all have an interior voice, nudging us to do the right thing. It can be formed well by the teachings of Christ and the Church.
6. Our individual instincts or personalities – God gave us a unique personality, and we don't need to change who we are to do his will (although we may need to correct some imbalances).
7. Prayer – Prayer is a conversation with God, and prayer can inspire us or change us in surprising ways. We can ask God to show us his will for our lives.

We shouldn't obsess about trying to discover what God's will is for a particular decision in our lives. God made us to live lives of joy, peace, and love. This doesn't mean that we run from challenges, but that we face them head-on, empowered by his grace. When I was in the seminary, we all had to learn at some point that seminary is not always easy, and challenges don't mean that God is calling us out of the seminary. It can be exhausting for a seminarian to think he is called to the priesthood one day, then the next day he feels called to leave, then the next day he feels called to stay. Oftentimes, we are the fickle ones, not God. Our priestly formators invited us to simply embrace the experience of formation while God had placed us there. Eventually, many of my classmates did leave the seminary, and this was usually a joyful decision which was the result of prayer, conversations with friends, priests, and teachers.

The same advice of embracing our current situation can apply to all of us. God has placed us at a certain moment in history, with particular family members, at a certain stage of life. We know that we should avoid sinful situations as much as we can. We should actively seek out ways to serve our parish and our community. Most of all, we should love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. If we do these things, God's will is being accomplished.

Sometimes, God places a desire on our heart to do something new to follow his will, such as beginning a new form of fasting, reaching out to a friend, or beginning a new ministry. If you think that God is calling you to do something, go for it! We can't always get clarity in discernment by simply thinking about something; we have to try it and see what happens. Most of all, trust in God, who made us to know, love, and serve him.

Dr. Kreeft's article *Discernment: How can I learn God's will for me?* can be found at catholicculture.org.

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 25th & 26th

Envelopes:	\$5,085.00
Loose:	\$2,645.30
Maintenance:	\$125.00
Total:	\$7,855.30

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!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around 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).

Cathedral Merchandise Sale

Cathedral has partnered with Primo Designs to help you show off your Cathedral pride! Merchandise offered is long and short sleeve T-shirts, polos, sweatshirts and quarter zips. Order and pay online at https://shop.primodesigns.net/Cathedral_of_immaculate/shop/home Merchandise can be picked up at Primo or the Cathedral or shipped to your home. The online store closes on October 18 at midnight so don't delay!

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.

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!

Cookbooks For Sale

Get part of your Christmas shopping done early for the cook who has everything! The Catholic War Veterans are still selling cookbooks with proceeds going toward the support of Catholic veterans. Cookbooks are available for purchase in the Parish Office. Call 217-522-3342 or stop by to purchase one.

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. For more information, please visit www.dio.org/humanresources/employment.html#parish es, 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

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.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Trunk or Treat!

St. Joseph's KC Council 17229 invites everyone to join us for Trunk 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.

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.

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!

Butler Funeral Home 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, October 14th from 11:30 am-1:30 pm at Finley's Tap House, located at 3236 Ginger Creek 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, October 11th.

Holy Family Food Pantry

Holy Family food pantry is especially in need of pancake mix, syrup, jelly and toothbrushes. Thank you for your generosity!

National Life Chain Prayer Witness

This Sunday, October 3, 2021, is the day! Join us in the most important aspect to defend Life by praying on Sangamon Avenue from 19th Street to Dirksen Parkway from 2:00pm to 3:30pm for Springfield's Life Chain Prayer Witness. Life Chain signs may be picked up in the parking lot behind the St. Aloysius Church starting at 2:00pm. Drive or walk to your preferred place to stand on either side of Sangamon Avenue. Stand approximately 15 feet apart (about 3-4 sections of sidewalk). You may also stand on the grassy area between the sidewalk and the street. Please do not block any driveways. For over 30 years, the Life Chain Prayer Witness has been lining streets in cities throughout America, praying to end abortion. Please join us.

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.