

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**NOVEMBER 14, 2021 | 33RD 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 46

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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  
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!



## Intercession of St. Padre Pio

As you may be aware, the Cathedral hosted some of the relics of St. Padre Pio this past weekend. It was a blessing to see so many people come from near and far to venerate the relics of this relatively new saint in the life of the Church (less than 20 years canonized is pretty recent for the Church!). I spoke with one man this past weekend who was excited that we were hosting the relics, as he told me that he had the opportunity to attend a Mass celebrated by the saint in 1965. What an amazing experience that must have been!

Whenever the relics of a saint are made available for veneration, people come with various prayer requests for themselves and for others. One often wonders if any miracles came from such times of veneration. As of this writing, I have not been made aware of any miracles that took place this weekend, though there was something pretty remarkable that I myself recognized. We seemed to have a larger than normal number of people coming to confession, something I believe was aided by the intercession of our guest for the weekend, St. Padre Pio. It makes good sense to draw this conclusion as this was very dedicated to this great sacrament of mercy. He would often spend long hours in the confessional with penitents coming to him from all parts of the world. One estimate that I read suggested that he may have heard as many as five million confessions in his many years as a priest! That is simply amazing! As I head from the sacristy to the confessional, I often invoke his intercession to assist me in being a faithful instrument of God's mercy.

What strikes me over and over again as I hear confessions is the freedom that this sacrament brings to penitents. People sometimes see going to confession as a place of admitting defeat, which is true to some extent, but even more, it is a place where Christ claims His victory in our souls again by granting us that gift of freedom from sin so that we can truly be who He desires us to be. Sin makes us become less than we are created to be, and being freed from those sins restores us to the place of our baptism when we were made His adopted sons and daughters.

During this month of November, let us also be reminded of the role that we play in helping others to attain complete freedom from the effects of sin through our prayers for the dead. Those who die in friendship with God, but who still carry the effects of sin on their souls go to Purgatory to have those effects purified before being admitted to Heaven. They are in need of our prayers to assist them in receiving this gift of ultimate freedom, so let us be generous in our prayers for the dead, especially by making visits to cemeteries and praying for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed. Doing so is a good investment for our future, for the aid which we offer to these souls now will not be forgotten when they arrive in Heaven. They will most gladly pray on our behalf to help us in our struggle to claim the reward of the freedom of the children of God that awaits us 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, November 15

7am - Cynthia Crisp  
(John Busciacco)  
5:15pm - John M. & Maria Beltramea  
Family ( E. John & Debra Beltramea)

#### Tuesday, November 16

7am - Anna E. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
5:15pm - Barb Copeland  
(Becky & Woody Woodhull)

#### Wednesday, November 17

7am - Deceased Members of  
Vincent Darrigo Family (Jeanette  
Giannone)  
5:15pm - Rita DesMarteau  
(Family)

#### Thursday, November 18

7am - Barb Copeland  
(Bev & Larry Smith)  
5:15pm - Peggy Ryder  
(LouAnn Mack Corrigan)

#### Friday, November 19

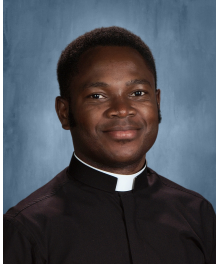
7am - Angeline Sherman  
(Joe Pinski & Family)  
5:15pm - J. R. Weakley  
(D. A. Drago)

#### Saturday, November 20

8am - Special Intention for Joseph  
Szerletich (Chris Sommers)  
4pm - Tommy Regan  
(Vick & Janet Burghart)

#### Sunday, November 21

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(William Midden)  
10am - Mary Posnack  
(Becky & Woody Woodhull)  
5pm - For the People



## But Of That Day or Hour, No One Knows!

One of the most beautiful and, at the same time, frustrating things about our lives here on earth is that no one knows when it will end. This is true except for those who decide to take it by themselves for themselves or others. It is beautiful because then one does not have to spend it worrying about it or attempting to run away from it or postpone it. It can also be frustrating for some people who wish to have all the world's sinful pleasures and repent at the last minute.

The natural end of our lives here on earth is beyond our human knowledge. Jesus Christ makes this fact clearer in today's Gospel. At the end of the passage, He says: *"but of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."* This is a biblical truth and an indisputable part of our human experience. So the question, probably, should not be about when or how our lives will end but what shall we leave behind? What memories shall be our legacies for our family and loved ones?

Usually, the most pleasant and unforgettable memories we leave behind are with the people we spend the most time with. Mostly our family and loved ones. The memories we leave are our legacies. Sometimes, they are tangible, material things. Other times, they are actions, words, expressions, and smiles that impact others positively. These memories keep us fresh and green in the lives and minds of our loved ones after we LEAVE.

In one of his greatest hits, "I dreamed about mama last night," the legendary country musician, Hank Williams, narrated some of his finest memories of his late mother. This song may not be one of those making country music the best music genre of all time. But it is one of my best for Hank William's records. In this song, Hank captured his mother's impenetrable love for her children and the memories that kept her present in their lives even long after she LEFT.

Hank narrated how his mother never went to bed at night until her children were back home safe, clean, and fed. It is clear from the song that his mother was intentionally present in her children's lives. She loved and embraced her motherhood vocation – a vocation that our Blessed Mother Mary embraced and lived to the fullest, thereby leaving every mother an example to follow.

Hank William's dreams of his mother were memories that challenged and encouraged him to live a life of purpose. In the same way, we all should strive to live a life of purpose. Living a life that touches, inspires, uplifts, and encourages others even in the tiniest ways is a life of purpose. Such a life keeps one from concerns about the day or the hour.

*Father Peter Chineke serves as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and as co-chaplain of Sacred Heart-Griffin High School.*

### Stewardship of Treasure November 6th & 7th

Envelopes:	\$7,452.00
Loose:	\$4,238.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$972.00</u>
Total:	\$12,662.00

October EFT: \$20,913.40

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. Albert the Great

**Feast Day: November 15th**

The venerable philosopher was perplexed. As a certain fall afternoon in the late 1240s slipped by, the desk room littered with scrolls of all kinds was a good image of his cluttered mind. The great mind had tackled scientific inquiries into genetics and astronomy and chemistry ... last month his project was calculating the size and speed of the heavenly spheres, though today his astrolabe was gathering dust rather than measuring the angles of rays of light.

More recently, he had been captivated by the question of whether Plato or Aristotle had come up with a better concept of universals. He had grinned as that philosophical jargon had spiraled around in his head: it was actually a mongrel dog running along the streets of Paris that got him thinking on it. Every child in the city could tell you what a dog was: four legs, one tail, plenty of teeth, and usually a bark worse than their bite. But no such generic dog actually existed: different colors, coats, faces, temperaments, and yes, this one only had 3 legs it turned out, but was undoubtedly a dog... we can conceptualize a "universal" dog, the generic form of a canine but did that form exist above and beyond this world, as Plato thought? Or, was it a concept in his own mind, marvelously instantiated in every one of the critters that trotted past his window?

But today he wasn't thinking about stars, or spaniels, he was considering the students who had sat before him in class earlier that day. Now a young man, Thomas of Aquino, continued to shine amongst his classmates. The ox whose voice would shake the world, as Albert had wryly nicknamed the husky youngster a few years prior, would soon travel with him to Cologne Germany where they would study and teach there together. But his thoughts weren't on the students individually, but universally: how, and what, is a human being?

Platvoice was at first the loudest: *"The soul is most like that which is divine, immortal, intelligible, uniform, indissoluble, and ever self-consistent and invariable, whereas body is most like that which is human, mortal, multiform, unintelligible, dissoluble, and never self-consistent."* (1) Ok, so the eternal 'side' of ourselves, the perfect, permanent, most-real, depths of who we are – is the soul – destined to be released from the mortal shell that is our body.

Plato was onto something here, and yet, the greatest philosopher who ever lived, who had also given his life as had Plato's Socrates, had once said "in the beginning it was not so", pointing us eternally back to the moment when God had chosen to create man, and smiled as He "saw that it was very good". Man, soul and body, Jesus had reminded us, was very good. What would Plato make of that? That God, perfect, invariable, divine, would choose to create man, not a soul imprisoned in flesh, but a soul incarnate in flesh, and then, when the time had come, to become man Himself, and show man the fullness of his spiritual freedom and dignity?! What a God we have?! What a dignity we have?!

Augustine's poetry next enkindled Albert's pondering heart: *"You called and shouted: and broke through my deafness. You flamed and shone: and banished my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me: and I drew in my breath and I pant for you. I have tasted you: and now I hunger and thirst for more. You have touched me: and I have burned for your peace."* (2) If we all yearn for God, thirsting for His fire and peace, doesn't that mean that our souls, just like our bodies, are incomplete here below? This jived with a new philosopher he and Thomas were just now investigating: an ancient Greek thinker named Aristotle. His works had been lost in Europe for centuries, but now, by God's mysterious providence, had made their way onto his desk – before most anybody else on the continent – through copies received from the Islamic scholar, Avicenna, far east of the Holy Land. Weren't all these musings a bit like the Aristotelian idea of the soul functioning as the form, the ordering-principle, of the body: body and soul both destined for ever-greater perfection and freedom and integrity as both were perfected together?

He glanced out the window, and then it struck him. Well, both the slanting rays of the setting sun and a glimpse of the answer he sought: light strikes our eyes – from a planet, or a puppy, or a person – and imparts to us data about various objects. That data our mind, it is true, abstracts in order to articulate the general form of whatever it is we are looking at. But, there is a form beyond that thing, not quite like Plato thought: more accurately, there is a mind beyond our mind, that has illuminated us. A Word that has been spoken, a Truth that has been given. We only come to the higher, beyond-this-world, knowledge because we have been given a participation in the Mind beyond-this-world, Who designed all the intelligible things we see and study ... and that Intelligence also dwells within us! Plato was right: at our heart we are beyond this world, but Aristotle also had something correct: our body and soul together image the God Who has delighted to make us intelligent like He is.

*Fr. Rankin loves Autumn. The trees turn gold, speeding his gratitude. The weather turns cold, speeding his runs. The year turns old, speeding us towards Christmas.*

(1) Plato, Phaedo, Translation by Benjamin Jowett.

(2) St. Augustine, Confessions X.27.38, Translation by Carolyn Hammond, 2016.

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### Mass Intention Request Form

If you wish to have a Mass celebrated for a loved one, you may request Mass Intentions through our website by filling out an online form at [www.spicathedral.org/mass-intention-submission](http://www.spicathedral.org/mass-intention-submission) or by navigating to the "Sunday News" tab, then "Submit a Mass Intention Request". Please call the Parish Office at 217-522-3342 with any questions.

### 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 again in the Atrium on November 16 from 7:00-8:00pm and hope you will join us.

### 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.

### Sacraments

Please keep Russ Banina and Maggie Speaks in your prayers, as they joined together in the sacrament of matrimony this past weekend, on November 5, 2021. Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Jane Sordyl, as she was called to eternal rest on September 22, 2021.

### 2021 Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Dear Friends, please help a struggling family this Thanksgiving season by donating any of the following items. Any and all donations of food are very much appreciated.

In a laundry basket or Rubbermaid type bin or a cardboard box, please place the following:

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 box of cereal                          | 1 box breakfast bars              |
| 1 pancake mix & syrup                    | 2 cans vegetables                 |
| 1 drink mix (coffee, tea, Kool Aid, etc) | 1 can yams                        |
| 2 boxes macaroni & cheese                | 1 bag or box of snacks            |
| 2 cans baked beans                       | 1 bag or box of potatoes          |
| 1 pkg muffin mix                         | 1 pkg cake mix                    |
| 1 box of stuffing                        | 2 cans of fruit                   |
| 1 pkg of cookies                         | 1 box of hot cocoa mix            |
| 2 cans of pasta                          | 1 pkg of sugar (brown or regular) |
| 1 jar of peanut butter                   | 1 box of crackers                 |
| 1 jar of jelly                           | 2 cans of soup                    |
| 2 Jell-O or pudding mixes                |                                   |

In an aluminum pan, please add frozen turkey, margarine, sliced cheese, cake or pie.

In a bag add: Toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels, bath soap, dish and/or laundry soap. Feel free to add extra holiday treats, napkins & decorations to make this a special Thanksgiving!

Completed baskets can be dropped off at Holy Family Food Pantry, 120 S. 11th St., Nov 1st thru Nov 19th between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm. If you need to make other arrangements for drop off, please call Jerry at 523-2450 or the Crisis Office at 523-4551.

Please note: We are on the SE corner of 11th & Washington Streets. Please bring your donations to the Northwest door.

May God bless all your efforts to help those less fortunate!

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Diocese

### 40th Annual Little Flower Holiday Craft Bazaar

The Little Flower Parent Teacher Club is hosting the 40th Annual Holiday Craft Bazaar on November 13th and 14th of this year. This event is a great opportunity to purchase hand-crafted items for yourself or others from over 45 vendors. A concession stand will be available. Join us on November 13 from 9a-4p, or on November 14 from 10a-2p.

### Open Door Session - Butler Funeral Homes

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, November 17th from 11:30 am-1:30 pm at the Prairie View Reception Center, located at 8865 State Rt. 4 in Chatham. Complimentary lunches from Café Moxo will be provided. This event is free: no cost or obligation. Please call 217-544-4646 to reserve your space no later than Monday, November 15th.

### Springfield Choral Society Presents "Messiah"

The Cathedral is thrilled to once again host the Springfield Choral Society's presentation of Handel's "Messiah." This is a ticketed event. Tickets are available through the Springfield Choral Society or at the door the evening of the performance. Saturday, November 27th - 7:30PM @ Cathedral

### Help the Homeless/Needy Winter Clothing Drive - Now Til 11/24

Jacob Mizera, Eagle Scout Candidate for Troop 77, is hosting a winter clothing drive for the homeless/needy in his community. Items needed include men's gloves, hats, coats, thermal underwear, sweatpants, and jeans (size 30" length needed most, but all sizes are appreciated). Drop off bins are located at SHG and the Cathedral. Donations will be delivered to Helping Hands the last week in November. The goal is to collect 200 of each item. Thank you for your donations!

### DCJH Collection

November 20-21, 2021 is the annual collection for the Diocesan Campaign for Justice and Hope (DCJH). Donations make it possible to provide hope and assistance of food, clothing, housing, education and medication to local people living in poverty. 100% of the contributions goes to fund organizations within our Diocese. If you miss the opportunity to help through your parish collection, you can still contribute by mail or by going to: [www.dio.org/dcjh](http://www.dio.org/dcjh). The mailing address is: Catholic Pastoral Center, DCJH, Pro-Life Activities and Special Ministries, 1615 West Washington St., Springfield, IL 62702.

### Scholarships Available at Quincy University

Quincy University recently celebrated 160 years of providing an exceptional educational experience that prepares students for lives of purpose and service to others, guided and shaped by Franciscans encouraging Catholic students to consider QU among their college options and ultimately enroll. The Bishop's Scholarship is a \$10,000 scholarship awarded to one student on the recommendation of the Bishop of Springfield. To be eligible for consideration, a candidate must belong to a parish in the Diocese of Springfield, apply to Quincy University and receive admission by December 15, 2021, and choose to enroll and submit a statement describing their involvement in their local parish, the Diocese, or the Catholic Church by January 15, 2022. The Diocesan Scholarship is a \$500 scholarship awarded to any student who is a member of a parish in the Diocese of Springfield. To receive this scholarship, candidates must belong to a parish in the Diocese of Springfield, apply to Quincy University and receive admission by March 15, 2022, and choose to enroll and submit a letter from a parish official confirming membership by April 15, 2022. For more information on these scholarships and other financial aid information at Quincy University, please visit [www.quincy.edu/apply](http://www.quincy.edu/apply)

### Candlelight Vigil at Springfield Right to Life

Please join the Springfield Right to Life at 519 N. Bruns Lane Sidewalk from 4:30p-6p for the Candlelight Vigil on November 30, the night before the US Supreme Court hears arguments in the Dobbs vs Jackson Women's Health case on 12/1.

### Men Interested in the Diaconate?

There are three informational meetings in different parts of our diocese for men interested in becoming a deacon. The first takes place in Jacksonville at the Knights of Columbus Hall (320 East State) on Saturday, November 13 from 9-10:30 a.m. The second takes place in Mattoon at Immaculate Conception Church Parish Center (320 N 20th Street) on Tuesday, November 16 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. The third takes place in Quincy at the St. Francis Parish Center (1721 College) on Sunday, November 28 from 1-2:30 p.m. The meetings will present information for those interested in the Permanent Diaconate Formation which begins in the fall of 2022. Applications are being accepted at this time. The Permanent Diaconate is open to men between the ages of 32 and 57, who are active in the practice of our faith, and who desire to grow in their relationship with God and in their service to the Church. If interested, and if married, wives are welcome and encouraged to attend. For questions, email Deacon Sorrell: [dsorrell@dio.org](mailto:dsorrell@dio.org). You can also visit [dio.org/diaconate](http://dio.org/diaconate).

### Sunday Flea Markets - Riverton, IL

Join the Riverton Knights of Columbus, Marian Council 3914 at their upcoming Sunday Flea Markets! Clothes, tools, collectibles, memorabilia and much more will be available; tables are \$15 each, with free admission, and doors open at 6am to vendors. The Flea Markets will be open on November 14, December 19, January 30, February 27, March 27, and April 24, from 8a-4:30pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Riverton, IL. Come shop til you drop!