

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 21, 2021 | SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



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 47

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

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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!



Faithful Servants of the King

When he was installed as our bishop in 2010, Bishop Thomas John Paprocki chose the date of his installation for June 22, the liturgical feast of Ss. John Fisher and Thomas More. These two saints serve as special patrons for our bishop who is both a bishop (like St. John Fisher) and a lawyer (like St. Thomas More, patron saint of lawyers). Bishop Paprocki has shared on several occasions that his favorite movie is *A Man for All Seasons*, a story about the life of St. Thomas More who suffered martyrdom for his obedience to Christ and His Church in the face of pressure from the King. There is a line from the movie that always strikes me where St.

Thomas More says the following before his execution: "I die his Majesty's good servant, but God's first."

These words serve as a great motto for us to live by in our lives as Catholics. We should strive to be good citizens of the country in which we live, not intentionally trying to rebel against our leaders. At the same time, we have an even greater obligation to be faithful servants to the one who exercises the greatest authority over us, Christ our King. Ideally, the laws of our nation and world should be in accord with God's divine law, but we know that this is often not the case, thus our need to advocate for changing laws and practices that lead society away from God's law so that our world can experience the truth and freedom that His law brings.

As the Church celebrates this last Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Solemnity of Christ the King, it is fitting that our Family of Faith topic for this month is freedom. As mentioned above, when we submit ourselves to God's will and His law, we are set on a path to true freedom. In a culture that often confuses freedom with doing what one wants, the Church proposes to us a definition of freedom as doing what one ought. Staying obedient to the laws of Christ and His Church guarantees protection from the enemies that try to assail us in various ways. Christ our King reigns victorious and He desires for us to share in that victory. In a world that questions and doubts those in authority, we should have no fear in trusting in the authority and rule of Christ our King, for His is a kingship of service and love toward His beloved children. By following His will for us, we become more fully who He intends us to be and will experience a peace and joy that this world cannot give, perhaps not in this life, but certainly in the life to come.

During this week, as we look to Christ our King and consider His rule over us, it might be good for us to spend some time praying with Psalm 119. Every verse in this long psalm refers to the law in some fashion. The psalmist extols the goodness of the commandments of God, rejoicing as he strives to obey His word. May our hearts have a similar longing to follow the path of the Lord, that we might be able to say at the end of our lives like St. Thomas More: "I die my country's faithful citizen, but God's first!"

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 22

7am - Special Intention for Christina Maher (Chris Sommer)
5:15pm - Robert & Dorothy Steinberg Family (E. John & Debra Beltramea)

Tuesday, November 23

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

Wednesday, November 24

7am - Emelia Rogers (Bev & Larry Hoffman)
5:15pm - Jean Anne Staab (Diane Murphy)

Thursday, November 25

7am - NO MASS
9am - Bernice Lauduskie (Jim & Sandy Bloom)
5:15pm - NO MASS

Friday, November 26

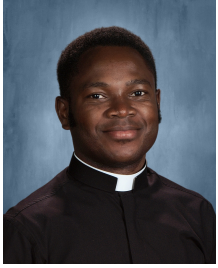
7am - Norman & Eileen Rovey (Family)
5:15pm - NO MASS

Saturday, November 27

8am - Special Intention for Michael Christie (Chris Sommers)
4pm - Patria & Rufino Gotance (Family)

Sunday, November 28

7am - For the People
10am - Barb Copeland (John Busciacco)
5pm - Matthew Young (LouAnn Mack Corrigan)



Do You Celebrate Thanksgiving in Nigeria?

As Thanksgiving draws near, many people ask me if we celebrate Thanksgiving in Nigeria and how? It is a natural curiosity for people to ask questions like this to those they know come from cultures and places other than the United States. Sometimes, I am inclined to say no, we do not celebrate Thanksgiving in Nigeria. But that answer will either be incomplete or wrong. While Thanksgiving is an American thing, for the most part, many other cultures and nations have celebrations at various times of the year that are very similar to the American fiesta of

Thanksgiving.

In the Igbo nation of Nigeria, the former Republic of Biafra, the "New Yam Festival" known as the "*Iri Ji* or *Iwa Ji*" in the Igbo language is very similar to the American Thanksgiving. The *Iri Ji* is a thanksgiving festival to God for a good harvest at the beginning of the harvesting period. It takes place for about three days in different towns and kingdoms across the Igbo nation anytime between July and September. Since July through September is a long vacation (summer vacation) in Nigeria, schools are not in session. But because the *Iri Ji* is a town and kingdom-based celebration, it is not a work-free day for workers except, in some cases, for farmers.

The American Thanksgiving and the Igbo *Iri Ji* are very similar both in cultural origins and essence. American Thanksgiving is farmers-based in origin. It lasted for three days in the early stages of the holiday. In the same way, the Igbo *Iri Ji* was farmers-based and somehow still is. And it typically lasts for three days. Both fiestas focused primarily on thanking God for his blessings upon humanity. In his words, President Abraham Lincoln explained in the document that made the American Thanksgiving a national holiday that Thanksgiving is a time to render "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

So, yes. We celebrate thanksgiving in Nigeria – in the Igbo nation of Nigeria where I grew up. It is not as popular as American thanksgiving because it is not a national holiday like American Thanksgiving. Also, the *Iri Ji* is not celebrated at the same time across Igboland as the American Thanksgiving, which is celebrated on the same day across the United States. Therefore, various cultures and nations around the world may have other names for their thanksgiving. But they indeed have celebrations like the American thanksgiving where the people give thanks to God for all the blessings of life.

It will be good to remind ourselves that this thanksgiving, we should be giving thanks to God for the many blessings he has given us in this life. The life we live, the friends and family we have, our Catholic faith, education, jobs, and businesses, and the many things we have and enjoy in our world today. All these are reasons to be grateful to our family and friends and especially to God. To express our gratitude, let us choose to stay away from our sinful and bad habits, forgive people who have wronged us, ask for forgiveness from people we wronged. Let us pursue peace and justice in our thoughts and actions. And finally, let us reach out to people and extend some goodwill, kindness, love, and compassion. May you and yours have a memorable thanksgiving this week. Amen.

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 13th & 14th

Envelopes:	\$3,830.00
Loose:	\$1,959.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$1,146.00</u>
Total:	\$6,935.00

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!



Pope St. Clement I

Feast Day: November 23rd

"Linus, Cletus, Clement, Sixtus, Cornelius, Cyprian, Lawrence, Chrysogonus, John and Paul, Cosmas and Damien..."

This week, on the 23rd we celebrate the Clement of this list, and the following day, on November 24th, we get to honor Chrysogonus. These early saints have been listed in our Roman Canon (Eucharist Prayer I) for most of the Church's history, probably some 1500 or 1600 years! Not to leave Chrysogonus, the 4th century Roman martyr out – perhaps we'll come back to his story another time – but this week we turn the clock even further back to make the

friendship of Clement. He is the earliest of the Apostolic Fathers – the bishop-teachers who were the first after the apostles to annunciate and explain the faith. He, the Bishop of Rome, from 88 to 99 AD, knew St. Peter personally and was the fourth bishop of the eternal city (after the aforementioned Linus and Cletus), (according to another Apostolic Father, St. Irenaeus, who we met already back in June, and who several decades after Clement, emphasized the importance of those earliest, and preeminent bishops and martyrs.)

As with so many early saints, we don't have much more than an outline of his personal story, yet we have the entirety of a letter that Clement wrote to the church at Corinth, correcting and teaching and encouraging, as does our Holy Father down to our own day in what we now call encyclicals. So, we have here a beautiful example of the Pope's munera (purpose/office/charism) already cherished in the first days of the Church! Throughout this long letter we have references to Paul's letters to the Corinthians, as well as Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Titus, 1 Timothy, and Hebrews and Acts, besides references to Christ known in the Gospels. We have most of the New Testament here referenced before the turn of the first Christian century!

But I turn to Clement today not so much for his theology, or ecclesiology, or where he fits into Christian history, but to continue our discussion of anthropology. What has the vocation sought, and found, by St. Frances Xavier Cabrini have to do with the musings of St. Albert the Great on our soul and body, and what do either of them have to do with this 4th pope and his words to the Church of Corinth? All of them fit together around this great question: "what is man that You [God] are mindful of him, or the son of man that You care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; You crowned him with glory and honor..." [Psalm 8:4-5] God calls us, God cares for us, God created us ... with glory, and beauty, and intelligence, and creativity, and freedom. This is the mystery we discover in ourselves. It is this reality that we see as we walk through the twists and turns of life as God's turns us into saints. And it is this glorious creation and care that is visible in nature, and imprinted upon our nature.

And, this month as we wrestle with these questions of freedom and dignity and conscience and call, that whole question is already summed up two-thirds of the way through Clement's words to the Corinthians: "Let every one of you, brethren, give thanks to God in his own order, living in all good conscience, with becoming gravity, and not going beyond the rule of the ministry prescribed to him." [Pope Clement I, Letter to Corinthians, #41] He gives the example of the Jewish sacrifices, how they are offered only in Jerusalem, and the different sacrifices are offered by the various ranks of priests. Of course, this fits well with the rest of the letter where, amongst other things, he speaks at length on the structure of the Church, and who has the authority/responsibility at each level to pass on the Gospel (including his own authority, over the entire Church, including Corinth), but he also speaks specifically to each of us as well. If you were puzzled by the meanderings of Frances' discernment or the cerebral musings of Albert, let this line from Clement clarify things:

1. God created us with **freedom** – the ability to choose (a gift that we should use to choose what is truly good). When you feel the weight of that gift, consider how happy God is when you use it well!
2. Each of us, the Lord entrusts, with a realm of **responsibility** – above all else, this is the souls we are meant to direct towards heaven (our own firstly, then those within our vocation, then our friends and coworkers). Don't be overly concerned with all the problems out there; stick with those God has given you!
3. And, He has placed within our heart a **conscience** – formed by the Revelation found in Scripture and proclaimed by the Church (which should direct our actions). Focus on forming it properly, and following it faithfully, and God will lead you on the path He desires!

Fr. Rankin would struggle to name his favorite Church in Rome, or the most beautiful, or the most important ... but the Church of San Clemente (where this venerable Pope is now buried, and which bears his name) does fit one superlative: most psychotic. The "modern" basilica, built in the 1100s, sits on top of a 4th century basilica, which sits on top of a temple to Mithra, which sits on top of a prior Christian house-church, which was built over the top of a Roman mint, which was itself built on top of some other building which burned down in the fire of 60 AD... If you visit it, you can see all those different personalities for yourself, just go down the stairs.

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 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.

Novena in Honor of the Immaculate Conception

Beginning November 30 thru December 8th, the Cathedral will host the annual diocesan novena in honor of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States, our diocese, and the Cathedral Parish. The first day of the Novena (Nov. 30), the novena prayer will be prayed at the conclusion of the 5:15 Mass. On December 1st through December 7th, a different preacher will offer a homily on a different aspect of Marian theology and devotion. These nights will include Eucharistic Adoration and other prayers. The novena will conclude at the 5:15 Mass on December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, with the novena prayer offered at the conclusion of the Mass. First Night and Opening Mass, November 30 – 5:15 pm Mass; December 1st thru 7th - 7:00PM Last Night and Closing Mass, December 8th – 5:15PM @ Cathedral

Advent Lessons and Carols

On the evening of Gaudete Sunday, in the holy season of Advent, join Mark Gifford and a select ensemble, including Julia Kay Jamieson on harp, for an evening of Scripture, music, and prayer as we reflect on the two promised comings of Christ. Sunday, December 12th - 7:00PM @ Cathedral

Deaths

Please pray for the repose of the soul of parishioner Joseph Forestier, as he was called to eternal rest on November 9, 2021.

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 23 from 7:00-8:00pm and hope you will join us.

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

Breadline Sunday

The annual collection to support St. John's Breadline will be the weekend of November 27-28. This collection will replace the distribution of bread that has been customary. The Breadline feeds many hungry people in our community and is a beautiful way for us to witness our faith to the world. May God bless you for your generosity!

Catholic Charities Christmas Toy Drive

Catholic Charities will once again be helping local parents provide Christmas gifts for their children. Please place NEW, unwrapped items in the collection bin in the atrium between now and December 6. Gifts for toddlers to teens include: Sports equipment and outdoor games; Baby dolls and Barbies of all races; Trucks, cars, Legos and action figures; Arts and crafts supplies, books, puzzles and educational toys; Gifts for teens and pre-teens. THANK YOU!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield Chicken Dinner

Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield, Inc. is hosting a Drive Thru Chicken Dinner Fundraiser with Nelson's Catering at Christ the King Parish Center on Wednesday, December 1st from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The meal includes a ½ grilled chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes and dinner roll with butter. Tickets are \$10 and orders must be placed by Wednesday, November 24th at 12:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased online at <https://nelsonscatering.com/pregnancy-care-center-2021>. Meals may also be ordered and donated to the Salvation Army. Thank you for helping to support the services at the Pregnancy Care Center as they celebrate 42 years of service!

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. You can also visit dio.org/diaconate.

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!

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

St. John Vianney Women's Society's Cookie Walk and Raffle

Join the St. John Vianney Women's Society for their 21st Annual Cookie Walk and Raffle on Saturday, December 11, 2021, beginning at 8:30am! You will find an array of Christmas delicacies second to none at the SJV Women's Society Annual Christmas Cookie Walk. These are not just "plain jane" ordinary cookies. They're all homemade, delicious and beautiful to look at too! Come and select your favorite cookies. With the safety of our patrons a top priority, masks and social distancing will be required. Gloves and cookie boxes will be provided at the door. Raffle tickets will also be available for purchase from SJV parishioners or at the door. For more information, contact: Cindy Trainor at 217-414-4279 or Michelle Campbell at 217-523-1486.

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. The mailing address is: Catholic Pastoral Center, DCJH, Pro-Life Activities and Special Ministries, 1615 West Washington St., Springfield, IL 62702.