

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 28, 2021 | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG

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

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 48

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

DEACON ROBERT SGAMBELLURI

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

VICKI DHABALT COMPTON
COORDINATOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND MISSION
VCOMPTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

HALEY DUTTON
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
HDUTTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

MARK GIFFORD
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MGIFFORD@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

KIM GUNTER
PARISH SECRETARY
KGUNTER@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

JAN SGAMBELLURI
BOOKKEEPER
JSGAMBELLURI@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

BILL VOGT
OFFICE AND PLANT MANAGER
BVOGT@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

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!

Diocesan Victim Assistance is available. For the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, please call 217-321-1155.
Please remember that if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a nursing home or homebound, to contact the Parish Office at 217-522-3342.



Look to the Past with Gratitude

In 2014, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter to All Consecrated People on the Occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life. In that letter, he invited them to do three things during that year:

1. Look to the past with gratitude
2. Live the present with passion
3. Embrace the future with hope

The Holy Father seems to have been inspired by something one of his predecessors, Pope St. John Paul II, had said during his Pontificate at the conclusion of the Great Jubilee Year of 2000, when he wrote:

Duc in altum! These words ring out for us today, and they invite us to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm and to look forward to the future with confidence: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever" (Heb 13:8). (Novo millennio ineunte, 1)

I find that threefold approach to the Christian life a beautiful and simple summary of how each of us should live each day. As we begin a new liturgical year together, I would like to look at these three points over the next three bulletin articles. Not only do they apply well to our lives in general as Christians, but I think they also help us to live this season of Advent in a more fruitful way.

We therefore begin by looking to the past with gratitude. In particular, we look at this past year in our lives and in our parish. Our human tendency is to think first of the negative things that have happened. Some of us has lost loved ones. Some of us have experienced suffering in some fashion. Perhaps some of us have lost our jobs, or maybe a relationship with somebody close to us has been damaged. Ok, that may be the case, but let us start with gratitude. Where has the Lord blessed you this past year? Some of you may have welcomed new members to your family with the birth of a child or a grandchild. Perhaps you have welcomed a new member to your family through marriage. Some of you may have started new jobs. Perhaps you accomplished something of which you are very proud. With regards to our faith, consider how many times you have been fed with the Bread of Life in the Eucharist, or how you experienced the freedom that comes from receiving Christ's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If we take the time to intentionally look back over the last year, I am certain each of us can find something for which to be grateful. Even if you struggle to identify your blessings, our faith reminds us of something beautiful: "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Rom 8:28) We can therefore thank God for everything He has allowed to happen to us, even those hard things, for God can and does use all of them for our good, despite our understanding how He is doing so.

As we have just celebrated Thanksgiving this past Thursday, may that spirit of gratitude carry us into this new year of grace, trusting that the Lord who has been so good and generous to us over the past year will continue to bless us in the year ahead.

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 29

7am - Special Intention for James Bock Jr. (Chris Sommer)
5:15pm - Robert & Alice Steinberg Family (E. John & Debra Beltramea)

Tuesday, November 30

7am - Special Intention (Jeannette Giannone)
5:15pm - Valeria Shaughnessy (M/M Michael Shaughnessy & Family)

Wednesday, December 1

7am - Drew Dhabalt (Women's Bible Study)
5:15pm - Jean Anne Staab (Diane Murphy)

Thursday, December 2

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath (Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - Barb Hansen (Brenda Capranica)

Friday, December 3

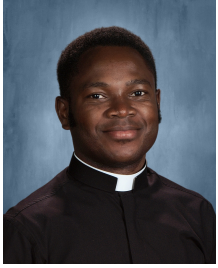
7am - Special Intention for Ryan McCarty (Chris Sommer)
5:15pm - Roger Douglass (Rebecca & Woody Woodhull)

Saturday, December 4

8am - Puring Garde (Family)
4pm - Andrew McGee (Tom McGee)

Sunday, December 5

7am - Mary Ann Midden (William Midden)
10am - Charles & Mercedes Nesbitt (Kathy Frank)
5pm - George Kelly (Becky & Woody Woodhull)



Here I Am, Send Me

This Sunday is the first Sunday of advent. Advent is the first of the five liturgical seasons in the Church's calendar. The four others are Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. These five liturgical seasons have various unique elements that make each of them especially important in the spiritual life and growth of individual members of the Church. One of the distinctive elements of the season of advent is the first readings that come from the book of Isaiah. Isaiah is the prophet who, despite his unworthiness for the call of God, answered,

"Here I am, send me" when God was looking for someone to send to minister to his people. (Is 6:8).

Isaiah, one of the most prominent prophets in the Old Testament bible, was called by God to minister to the people at a critical time in the history of Israel. It was a time of confusion, faithlessness, and sociopolitical unrest. There were many misunderstandings, wars, and desecration of holy places across the northern kingdoms and beyond.

In the midst of all that, God needed to send a loyal and courageous prophet for a unique prophetic ministry among his people. This ministry would involve declaring the impending doom that awaits sinners who persist in their sinfulness and the proclamation of the sovereignty of God among the people. In proclaiming God's power, the chosen prophet shall also announce the coming of the Son of God – the Emmanuel. This Son of God shall save sinners if they repent from their sinfulness and accept God as their Lord and Savior. The task was enormous and would require someone of high intelligence, holiness, and integrity. Although highly unqualified in every way, God chose and sent Isaiah for this prophetic ministry.

Isaiah was the least qualified. In Isaiah 6:5, he cried out: "Woe is me. I am doomed. For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips...." Isaiah was humble enough to acknowledge his absolute unworthiness for the ministry that God called him. But as God wills, "He calls the unqualified and qualifies them. He chooses the weak to strengthen them." (Is 40:29; 1Cor 1:27).

Almost every day from this weekend until Christmas, our first readings shall come from the book of Isaiah. The Church intentionally arranged these liturgical readings this way to help us prepare in humility and joyful anticipation, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. While this humility defines the circumstances surrounding the birth of our Savior, we also see it in the Prophet Isaiah. He humbly acknowledged his unworthiness for the call of God. After this act of humility, the Prophet also had the courage to say, "Here I am, send me," when God was searching for whom to send.

As we begin this season of hope, let us ask God to grant us the grace of the virtues of humility and courage. HUMILITY to acknowledge God's blessings, love, and mercy in our lives. And COURAGE to accept and welcome God's will and plan for our lives.

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 21st & 22nd

The collection numbers for the weekend of November 21st and 22nd was not available at the time of publication. Please check next weekend's bulletin for the collection numbers from last weekend.

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. Andrew

Feast Day: November 30th

Besides knowing that was chosen by Jesus to be an apostle, and the traditions that the Church has passed down carefully every since his martyrdom on an X-shaped cross (a “crux decussata” as the Romans would have known it) in Patras (within the area thought to have been evangelized by Andrew around what is now Turkey and Greece), we have three scenes given us in the Gospels to get to know this older brother of Simon Peter. In the first, we find that Andrew is a fisherman (he is now the patron saint of all who have followed him

in that occupation), and one of the disciples of John the Baptist.

One of the two who heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him, and said, "So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter). [John 1:40-42]

The focus quickly shifts to Peter, and yet we find here that Andrew was actually one of Jesus' first disciples, and had the courage and clarity to see right away that Jesus, yes, of Nazareth, was the Messiah. I love how he describes this encounter and realization as “finding” the Messiah. It is true for us as well that we must seek Christ in order to find Him. He does not hide from us! But, the happenings of our lives can overshadow His presence to us, and we must continuously strive to find Him anew, to discover Him more fully, to know Him more fully, to love Him more completely. Yes, we much find Jesus every day! Fast forward a few chapters, and we find ourselves with Andrew at one of Jesus' most famous miracles:

Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a multitude was coming to him, Jesus said to Philip, "How are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" This he said to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are they among so many?" [John 6:5-9]

Still overshadowed by his brother, Andrew's words flesh out the boldness that we already saw in Capernaum: he has the gumption to bring a laughable solution to an immense problem, but to leave the situation in Jesus' hands all the same. Now Andrew goes beyond following and finding, he must bring also his futility to the Lord. Can we follow Andrew this far, or do we hesitate to be inadequate before Jesus? Christ does not just want our fidelity; He also wants our frailty! Do I tell Him about my inadequacy? Do I trust Him enough to open to Him my own lack of trust? And lastly:

Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Beth-saida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew went with Philip and they told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If any one serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if any one serves me, the Father will honor him. [John 12:20-26]

To struggle to find Jesus is one thing. To risk our frailty before the Lord is another. But now Andrew goes further and allows Jesus to work through his friendships. Philip, it seems, wasn't willing on his own to bring the Greek group to Jesus, but Andrew, as always, had the nerve to risk it. He had done this first with Peter, then with the little boy and his fish, and now these foreigners. Each would never have met Jesus if Andrew hadn't intervened. Do you and I have that courage? Do we act on it? Do we invite our own friends into friendship with Jesus? We will never be “ready” to do so, knowing everything about the Lord! Andrew sure didn't, but he still was man-enough to just bring people to Jesus.

Fr. Rankin seriously wondered how this fourth saint would successfully tie together an unpredictable month trying to understand human conscience and freedom through the lives of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, St. Albert the Great, and St. Clement I. And here he does! Do we consider the Gospel an imposition that we can't propose anew to a relative, friend, or acquaintance? Do we think it a burden that limits our freedom? We must not! Our freedom is fulfilled in Jesus! We are never more free than when we are His disciples, and abide in obedience to, and like, Him. That is our Christian belief, let us live in that faith every day!

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

Sacraments

Please keep Jesse Dutton and Haley Bentel in your prayers, as they joined together and received the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony here at the Cathedral last month on October 23, 2021.

K of C Christmas Car Magnets Available

Fr. Augustine Tolton Council #16126 is selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnets for \$5 each. They will be available for purchase after all weekend masses December 4th and 5th. You can also contact info.kofc16126@gmail.com to purchase them. Thank you for your support of our parish Knights of Columbus Council!

Calling All Young Artists

Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) has an annual Christmas Art Contest competition for students from K-8th grade. Artwork for national winners will be on display in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Throughout Advent and Christmas. General information and entry form can be found in the atrium.

Breadline Sunday

The annual collection to support St. John's Breadline will be this weekend, 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

St. Joseph's Advent in the Village: A Gathering in the Spirit of the Season

Join the parishioners of St. Joseph the Worker's Parish in Chatham at St. Joseph's Advent in the Village on Friday, December 10 from 5p-8p, and Saturday, December 11 and Sunday, December 12 from 9a-8p! There will be a Christmas Snow Village display, wreath and centerpiece contests and silent auctions, nativity display, and more! Call the St. Joseph's Office during working hours to reserve a place for your wreath, centerpiece, and/or nativity, at 217-483-3772. All are welcome!

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.

Switchback at St. Joseph the Worker

St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Chatham is hosting Switchback, an American roots and Celtic soul band on Saturday, December 4th beginning at 7pm! Tickets are \$20 for 2 or \$35 when purchased in advance. For more information, please call the St. Joseph the Worker's Parish Office.

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

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.

Go On An ADVENTure

This Advent, join us as we go on an ADVENTure! Where are we going? Get on board to find out. Head to dio.org/adventure to sign up and secure your ticket. Reflections, articles, stories, and activities to prepare you for Christ. Are you ready?