

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 7, 2021 | 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 45

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!



The Freedom of the Children of God

For the past few weeks, during our weekday masses, we have been hearing from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans. This might be one of my favorite letters composed by St. Paul as it offers so many wonderful points that are central to our faith as Christians. One passage in particular is often in my mind as I reflect on the life to which we are called as we follow the path of the Gospel:

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God;

for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. (Rom 8:18-21)

St. Paul speaks about the "glorious freedom of the children of God" that awaits us in Heaven, for there, we shall be freed from the slavery of sin which always threatens us in this life as a result of the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve. But thanks to Jesus Christ, this freedom is not an altogether future experience for which we hope. It is something that has become possible already here in this life. As St Paul writes in his letter to the Galatians: "For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery." (Gal 5:1) Here he is speaking of a current reality available to us, one that is possible by our own choosing as we reject sin and choose to follow the path of truth and life made available to us through the Gospel way of life.

As we continue our Family of Faith formation with Section Three of the Catechism – Life in Christ, our focus this month is the freedom that comes from following this way of life proposed by Christ and His Church. Part of living this freedom is knowing the choices that will lead us to freedom and avoiding those things which deprive us of it. We will therefore consider the formation of our conscience as a part of this month, an indispensable part of our training to live this gift of the freedom. As I mentioned a couple of months ago, the moral life in Christ is made possible for us through the graces of the sacraments, especially Penance and the Eucharist. To the extent that we make these two sacraments a regular part of our lives, we will experience greater freedom in this life, not because of any ability of our own, but because of God's strength which lives in us through the sacraments. If we think that we can survive the challenges of this life without these sacraments, we are in for a bumpy road, and the Lord has some stern words we would do well to heed: "Without me, you can do nothing." (John 15:5) But if we stay close to Christ in the sacraments and follow His teachings, we will realize what St. Paul himself came to believe by following this path: "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

Let us therefore be convinced that submitting ourselves to the yoke of Christ through the sacraments, and obeying His teachings and those of the Church, we lose nothing at all. Instead, we gain the great gift of the freedom of the children of God, already available to us in this life, and fully in the life of 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 8

7am - Mary E. Steil
(Steil Family)
5:15pm - Jean Anne Staab
(Fred & Rita Greenwald)

Tuesday, November 9

7am - John S. & Mary Capponi
Beltramea Family (E. John & Debra Beltramea)
5:15pm - Joseph & Mary Schweska
(Tom McGee)

Wednesday, November 10

7am - E. John & Debra Beltramea
(E. John & Debra Beltramea)
5:15pm - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)

Thursday, November 11

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - William F. Logan
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

Friday, November 12

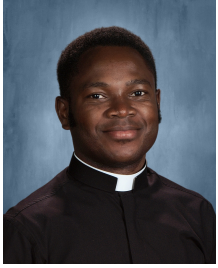
7am - Shirley Logan
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)
5:15pm - Special Intention for
Bianca (D.A. Drago)

Saturday, November 13

8am - Barb Copeland
(LouAnn Mack Corrigan)
4pm - David Paul Lucchesi
(Family)

Sunday, November 14

7am - Jean Anne Staab
(James & Rita Keys)
10am - Dave Loebach
(Becky & Woody Woodhull)
5pm - For the People



National Vocations Awareness Week

This week, November 7 – 13, 2021, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates National Vocations Awareness Week (NVAW), otherwise known as vocations week. This celebration started in the 1970s but has been observed at various times of the year since its inception. However, in 2014, it was moved “permanently” to the first full week of November every year.

During the vocations week, Catholics are encouraged to appreciate and promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life in some special ways. We can do this by talking to family and friends about these vocations and encouraging them to discern them. One can also celebrate this vocations week by praying for and or requesting Masses to increase these vocations. Sending financial supports to the office of vocations is another excellent way to celebrate the vocations awareness week.

We can also celebrate this vocations week by supporting men and women in these vocations individually in whatever means available to us. This is mainly those who are still undergoing formations in religious houses and seminaries. In a particular way, encouraging young men and women to discern these vocations and supporting them in the process is a work of LOVE and of CHARITY.

In our diocese, we are fairly doing well with some of these vocations. The ordination of nine priests, two transitional deacons, and six permanent deacons, all for our diocese since last year, is one evidence of this. However, there is no doubt that there has been a continuous decline in these vocations in most parts of the world over many decades. There are so many factors responsible for this decline. They are so many to mention and should not distract us from increasing efforts to appreciate, encourage, and support these vocations more intentionally.

Our failure to appreciate, encourage, and support these vocations is a work of the devil. Men and women in these vocations dedicate their lives to the service of the Church. And Satan does not like the Church. He uses every opportunity available to him to fight the Church. When we hear about all kinds of scandals involving priests and bishops, it is the devil fighting the Church. When pro-abortionists receive the Eucharist, it is the devil fighting the Church. When we ignore the evils that others suffer and keep quiet over all kinds of injustices around us simply because we are not directly affected, it is the devil fighting the Church. When people in lifestyles that contradict the message of the Gospel argue that they are staunch and holy Catholics, it is the devil fighting the Church.

These fights against the Church usually result in the decline of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. How? Because the greatest beauty of these vocations is the holiness they radiate, the love they permeate, and the faith they preach by their very existence and presence. When these satanic attacks of the Church are going on, the beauty of the vocations becomes both invisible and less attractive.

As we celebrate this Vocations Awareness Week 2021, let us pray for and support our brothers and sisters in the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life. Let us also find ways to encourage and support our young men and women to discern these vocations.

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 October 23rd & 24th

Envelopes:	\$4,983.00
Loose:	\$3,761.00
Maintenance:	\$178.00
Total:	\$8,922.00

September EFT: \$23,178.40

October 30th & 31st

Envelopes:	\$7,808.00
Loose:	\$2,796.00
Maintenance:	\$333.00
Total:	\$10,937.00

September EFT: \$23,178.40

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. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Feast Day: November 13th

This month our parish will continue to engage the third part of the catechism, on our moral life following Christ, but specifically wrestling with the overlapping topics of our freedom, discernment, conscience, and choice – to get to the heart of the matter: we’re delving into our ability to do what is good, but propensity to do what is not good. As Bishop Paprocki said when he first came to our diocese, the only thing standing between us and a fervent, fruitful, faithful practice of our faith is sin and the great task of living a moral life is rooting out sin and living according to God and relying upon His grace.

I think we’ve all heard that sort of thing before though! How do we take the next step? Well, this week we are given two specific aids in that journey: firstly, this first week of November, the Church every year celebrates “Vocation Awareness Week” inviting all of us to approach anew the specific call God has offered to each of us. Plus, this year these days include the feast we celebrate on November 13th of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. Famously the first American citizen to be canonized, her story offers a tremendous example to all of us, someone seeking to follow God’s call, that is, to place our freedom in the Lord’s hands and discover that we are more free, and more good, and more happy, in doing so.

For Frances, born in Italy in 1850, the first seeds of her vocation were planted at home after Agustino, her father, had finished planting seeds on their family farm. He would tell the stories of the Church’s missionaries to his children, firing their imagination with the tales of St. Paul and St. Boniface and St. Francis Xavier. Little Frances would make paper boats as she played behind her home, sending them down the nearby canal hoping they would make their way to India or China as “missionaries”, carrying – in lieu of the Gospel – violet petals she had collected from the nearby flowers. Jesus continued to mold her heart for the work He had in mind for her during her years studying at a school ran by the Daughters of the Sacred Heart. Earning good grades all the way through, when she was old enough it was to this order that she applied, desiring to spread the faith as one of their sisters. She was rejected.

How easy it would have been for the young woman to give up on God’s plan at that point, or to think He had something else in mind?! Always, there will be uncertainty and setbacks on the road of following Jesus, and always our temptation will be to choose the easier route, the less painful one, the one that doesn’t require failure and risk and trial and trust, but Frances knew she was called and created to be a missionary: her heart was set alight by the idea, and God doesn’t plant dreams in us to watch them wither. Still, it would be a path of pain that Frances walked in the years that followed. She lost both her parents at the age of 20, worked as a substitute teacher for a time, applied again to the sisters (and was again turned down), and then found herself heading up an orphanage at the recommendation of a local priest only to have it abruptly closed several years later.

Dead end for God’s designs? Never! It was at that orphanage, far from home, having lost her parents, and rejected as a religious sister, that Frances was inspired to begin a religious order of her own. They started there in Cadogno, Italy, with several young women joining the fledgling institute, and – now “Mother” – Cabrini showing her still-strong desire to head East by taking as patrons St. Francis de Sales and St. Francis Xavier (Cabrini took his name into her own for her religious name).

But God had different plans. Meeting with Pope Leo XIII, he was supportive of her order, and desire to teach, but redirected her zeal “not to the East, but to the West.” Italians by the millions were settling in New York, Chicago, and elsewhere around the USA and South America. They needed to be sustained in their faith (and in the practical hardships they would meet here!), and that task was the one entrusted to the small group of sisters who had stumbled into teaching behind Mother Cabrini.

I am out of space already before relating the dozens of schools, hospitals, and other institutions this indefatigable sister would found across our country, or the hardships and rejections and setbacks she would find here too, but we have already learned a great lesson from her. The Lord’s call is not evident based on the comfort we find in our lives – often times we are quite uncomfortable in doing His will. Rather, His will is found in constant turning again and again to Him: begging that He would show the way through; asking Him to reveal why He has placed this or that on our heart; discovering the responsibilities, and abilities, that He has already entrusted to us, and learning to live in the freedom of knowing that He has our back, but has also entrusted us with a “talent” of our own which He delights in us learning to carry with Him watching on.

Fr. Rankin rides his bike over to the diocesan offices regularly to get a bit of exercise and avoid paying for gas when he doesn’t have to. The reason he does not have training wheels to this day is because his dad taught him long ago that sometimes you have to wobble along for a bit to figure out how to balance, and our Heavenly Father often loves us in a similar way. Thanks Dad!

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.

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 pray for the repose of the soul of Rev. Charles T Nelson, as he was called to eternal rest on October 27, 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:

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| 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.

Now is the Time to be Inspired!

National Vocation Awareness Week Starts today. Register soon to join the Meet Our Sisters Tour (MOST) and take advantage of the many special events planned to delight, inspire, and inform you about the ministry of Catholic Sisters serving in Illinois this week, Nov. 7-14. The best part? You can choose from a host of virtual and in-person activities, including two events hosted by the Dominican Sisters of Springfield. Monday, November 8, is Two Cultures, One Call, a video premiere about the lives and ministries of Sister Doris Terrel Jimenez in Jarpa, Peru and Sister Kelly Moline in Jackson, Mississippi. After the video, chat live with the sisters. Friday, November 12, join us on Facebook Live for Preaching on the Prairie: Gospel Living at Jubilee Farm. Wander the land virtually through our premier video then chat with the four Springfield Dominican Sisters who live at Jubilee Farm with alpacas, chickens, deer, coyotes, and an assortment of other creatures. Register in advance for both events at springfieldop.org/NVAW/. There you will find your passport to other fascinating Meet Our Sisters Tour events sponsored lots more Catholic Sisters in Illinois. You can also Visit <https://c4wr.org/MOST/> for a schedule of events and registration details or email MeetOurSistersTour@gmail.com for more information.

SIUE Cougar Catholic Alumni Gathering

Calling all SIUE Newman Catholic Community Alumni! Join us in celebrating 50 years of Newman on SIUE's campus! Enjoy catching up, conversation, drinks, hors d'oeuvres and dessert at Old Bakery Beer in Alton on Friday, November 5 at 6:00 p.m. We hope you can join us - we wouldn't be here without YOU! Please RSVP to Robin Black Rubenstein roblack@siue.edu or 618-406-5562.

Taize Prayer at St. Cabrini

St. Cabrini is celebrating our 75th Anniversary! Come and pray our meditative common (ecumenical) prayer of healing and reconciliation for our world. Join us on Sunday, November 7 at 5:00pm in the St. Cabrini Parish Courtyard for Scripture, choir and instruments, and sacred silence prayed in candlelight. The service will be moved into the church if there is inclement weather.

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

Holiday Help Program by Butler Funeral Homes

The Butler Family of Organizations extends an invitation to all who will face the Holiday Season following the loss of a loved one this year. We will host our annual Holiday Help program on Sunday, November 14th from 2:00 - 3:00 pm at the Prairie View Reception Center, located at 8865 State Rt. 4 in Chatham. Grief and bereavement expert, Bill McKenzie, MA, LCPC, will present practical ways to help you cope during the holidays and other significant days. A candle-lighting ceremony will also be held. Open to the public; no cost/obligation. Reservations are required due to seating limitation guidelines. Please call 217-544-4646 to reserve your space no later than November 12th.

Pregnancy Care Center Event

The Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield, Inc. is celebrating 42 Years of serving our community! Don't miss out on the celebration at the 17th Annual Comedy in the City Event Sponsored by Hospital Sisters Health Systems on Friday, November 12th, 2021 at the Northfield Center. This year's entertainment will be provided by Ashton Wolf Dueling Pianos. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for the cash bar and silent auction. A formal dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. followed by a live auction before the entertainment. There is also a raffle for \$500 in restaurant gift cards. Tickets to the event are \$50 per person or \$400 for a table of 8. Reservations can be made by calling (217) 525-5630.