

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JANUARY 2, 2022 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

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

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THE REVEREND PETER CHINEKE
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
IN RESIDENCE

THE REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING
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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!

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.



Taking a Journey

In the account from Matthew's Gospel that we hear today for the Epiphany, we hear the following: "behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem." (Mt 2:1) Although there has been speculation about where these magi are from, the Scriptures really do not say more than this. Regardless, we know that their coming to Jerusalem and then Bethlehem involved a journey of some sort. That journey, as we hear in the passage, was guided by a star which eventually led them to their destination, seeing the "newborn King of the Jews." Without that star to guide them, the magi would likely have been lost and would never have had this life-changing

encounter with Jesus.

In the example of the magi, we are invited to see an analogy of our lives as Christians. On the day of our Baptism, the light of Christ is placed into our hearts and we are called to follow that light throughout the journey of our lives, for that light will lead us to where Jesus dwells most completely, in His home in Heaven. Without the light of Christ to guide us, we can get lost and we risk never having the opportunity to encounter Jesus in His Kingdom.

Knowing the difficulty that we would face on our journey, the Lord provides us, though the Scriptures and through His Church, a map and a vehicle to guide us toward our final home. One of the images for the Church is that of a ship, sailing across the choppy waters of this world. As long as we stay on the ship, we can be assured of our reaching our destination in safety. The Lord will always provide us the sufficient grace that we need to stay on the ship, but the Lord will never take away our freedom. This means that if we choose to, we can jump ship and try to go it alone without the protection of the Church, but to do so will have tragic consequences for us.

As we make this journey toward Heaven, the Lord has also provided a map for us to keep us on the right path, to keep us safely on the ship of the Church leading us to our home. That map is marked out by the Ten Commandments. By following these directions, we can have great confidence in knowing that we will not get lost on our journey. Over the next two months, our Family of Faith formation focus will be the Ten Commandments. Sadly, when many hear about the Ten Commandments, they only hear a set of rules that restrict freedom. In truth, these commandments are the path to freedom, the freedom of living fully as the children of God.

As we begin this new calendar year, we continue the journey that we began on the day of our Baptism. Perhaps there have been times when we have chosen to follow a different map than the one provided by the Ten Commandments. Maybe we have tried another vehicle for our journey other than the Church. I invite you to set out on the next leg of your journey with trust in the Lord – His teachings and His Church. He has given both to us as a sign of His love for us and out of His desire for us to not get lost on our way to Heaven. Will you trust Him more fully this year?

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, January 3

7am - Sophia Bartoletti Family
(Estate of Sophia Bartoletti)
5:15pm - William F. & Shirley Logan
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

Tuesday, January 4

7am - Drew Dhabalt
(Pamela Hargan)
5:15pm - Special Intention for the
Franciscan Family (E. John & Debra
Beltramea)

Wednesday, January 5

7am - Norma J. Bartoletti
(Estate of Norma Bartoletti)
5:15pm - Sophia Bartoletti
(Estate of Sophia Bartoletti)

Thursday, January 6

7am - Edward Dombrowski
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Maggie Mercier
(The Mulford Family)

Friday, January 7

7am - Anna Geraldine Gasaway
(Rob Gasaway)
5:15pm - Joseph Klein
(Andy & Cheryl Klein)

Saturday, January 8

8am - Jean Anne Staab
(Kathy Howard)
4pm - Barb Copeland
(Ladies Auxiliary)

Sunday, January 9

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)
10am - Michael Hammitt
(Rose Hammitt)
5pm - For the People



Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

Feast Day: January 2nd

We celebrate this week two of the greatest theologians of the Early Church. These two close friends, along with Basil's brother, Gregory of Nyssa, form the three "Cappadocian Fathers" (nicknamed that because of their birthplace in Eastern Turkey, the ancient region of Cappadocia) who almost single-handedly (triple-handedly?) managed to convert the Eastern Empire to orthodox Christianity. Just as we saw St. Ambrose working so feverishly in the West at the same time (with St. Augustine), so these men preached and taught and argued for the full divinity of Christ, and, as we shall see, the Holy Spirit. I should mention that the older sister of Gregory of Nyssa, an early nun by the name

of Macrina, is a tremendous theologian of her own right, so some have placed her with these three bishops as a 4th Cappadocian (a Cappadocian Mother, I suppose). That said, of the five siblings from this family – Basil, Macrina, Naucrati, Peter, and Gregory – all five are canonized saints! That, I suppose, is what happens when your grandmother is a martyr, your parents are known for their piety, and your children, after plenty of soul-searching, devote their lives to Christ. That, by the way, is the goal for all parents and grandparents reading this!

But what about Gregory Nazianzen? Why do we celebrate him along with St. Basil the Great? Shouldn't Basil be linked with his brother, or sister, or grandmother in the panoply of the saints? Why share a feast day with his boyhood friend Gregory? Gregory, many years later, was preaching at the funeral of Basil, after a lifelong friendship, and lifelong work defending the faith, and explained it thus:

Basil and I were both in Athens. We had come, like streams of a river, from the same source in our native land, had separated from each other in pursuit of learning, and were now united again as if by plan, for God so arranged it. ... I was not alone at that time in my regard for my friend, the great Basil. I knew his irreproachable conduct, and the maturity and wisdom of his conversation. ... Such was the prelude to our friendship, the kindling of that flame that was to bind us together. In this way we began to feel affection for each other. When, in the course of time, we acknowledged our friendship and recognized that our ambition was a life of true wisdom, we became everything to each other: we shared the same lodging, the same table, the same desires, the same goal. Our love for each other grew daily warmer and deeper. The same hope inspired us: the pursuit of learning.

This is an ambition especially subject to envy. Yet between us there was no envy. On the contrary, we made capital out of our rivalry. Our rivalry consisted, not in seeking the first place for oneself but in yielding it to the other, for we each looked on the other's success as his own. We seemed to be two bodies with a single spirit. ... Our single object and ambition was virtue, and a life of hope in the blessings that are to come; we wanted to withdraw from this world before we departed from it. With this end in view we ordered our lives and all our actions. We followed the guidance of God's law and spurred each other on to virtue. ... our great pursuit, the great name we wanted, was to be Christians, to be called Christians.

[Gregory Nazianzen, Oratio 43, Funeral Oration for Basil the Great, PG 36, 514-423]



I quote him at this length (and encourage you to read the entire homily linked above) because we live in a world of superficial friendships! I don't say that lightly! But, of your friends, which ones would you say you "love" with a fiery, deep, tenacious love? We hesitate to do so because our world tells us that love is something romantic or sexual ... and that's a lie. Yes, love can be expressed by romantic or sexual actions, but love, at its core – by definition – is to will the good of another person, and the greater the good we sacrifice ourselves in order to establish in their lives, the greater the love and the deeper the friendship. How did these two men love each other? By studying about God together. By seeking His face side by side. By preaching and teaching Who He is, together, no matter the consequences. By encouraging each other in the search for virtue, for valor, for veracity. This is the basis for true friendship, desiring eternal goods for the other person: faith, hope, love.

If we're in a friendship to get something less than these, or to give to the other person something less than these, we should not expect that friendship to carry us to heaven. Of course, every one of our friendships do not need to be of this sort, but some do. The voyage to God is not a single-player game.

Fr. Dominic Rankin wanted to write about the corporal and spiritual works of mercy this week. As he began to tell Basil and Gregory's story, he realized that his own notion of the corporal and spiritual works as done for somebody, way over there, was off the mark. These actions – (to super-summarize) of admonishing, instructing, forgiving, comforting, praying, feeding, sheltering, visiting, and burying – are ones we must do for our family and friends, for only then can we extend our love to the stranger afar.

I have always been taught that if a person dies with mortal sin on their soul they go to hell. I suspect that the vast majority of people will commit at least one, if not many, mortal sins during a lifetime. The Catholic Church is the only religion that has the sacrament of penance. Since people of other faiths or those who follow no other religion do not have access to absolution, through the sacrament of penance, are they going to hell?

Ellen Mattox, A Parishioner of the Cathedral

This is an excellent question and one that the Church has dealt with in different ways over her history. Let's start with a few key principles that we know to be true, and go from there. You are correct that if a person dies with the guilt of mortal sin on their soul, their eternal destination will be hell. This is not God being unfair, but simply the result of a person's free choice to no longer serve God and neighbor in his or her actions. The Catechism says, "Mortal sin, by attacking the vital principle within us – that is, charity – necessitates a new initiative of God's mercy and a conversion of heart which is normally accomplished within the setting of the sacrament of reconciliation" (CCC 1856). Notice that forgiveness of mortal sins is "normally" accomplished by the sacrament of reconciliation.

It is also true that most people do commit mortal sins in their lifetime. When St. Therese of Lisieux was a sister in the Carmelite order, she and her spiritual director discerned that she had never committed a mortal sin in her lifetime. This is quite remarkable and shows that God had given her many special graces to remain very close to him even in adolescence, when many young people make poor and sinful decisions. Even good Christians who are raised in good homes tend to make poor decisions at some point in their youth. Before mortal sin, the human race is also separated from God by original sin, which is typically forgiven through baptism.

It is good to call to mind a key sentence from the Catechism regarding the reception of forgiveness and grace from God. "God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments" (CCC 1257). This statement also applies to the sacrament of Penance. God has bound himself by the Covenant of Christ's body and blood to always give the graces of the sacraments when they are celebrated and received with a good disposition. *However, God is also free to give graces outside of the seven sacraments, as he sees fit.* This is good news for Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

Ideally, a Catholic should live in accord with God's teaching, pray every day, receive frequent Confession, and attend Mass every Sunday. Before death, one should receive the Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum. However, the "ideal" is not always what happens in reality, and sometimes Catholics die without the benefit of receiving Confession and Anointing. This is very sad, and every effort should be made to receive the sacraments before death. However, God in his mercy can give graces of salvation that others are unaware of.

While never discounting the seriousness of sin, we should not assume that a person has gone to hell, even if they lived or died in a way not in accord with God's will. One common example is suicide. Suicide is one of the most tragic events that can affect a family or community, and for various reasons, many people have the impression that if someone dies by suicide, they automatically go to hell. This is not true, and the Church does not teach this. It is true that suicide is gravely contrary to God's law and to our natural inclination to live in solidarity with our family, nation, and other societies. However, we do not despair of the salvation of those who die by suicide. "Grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of hardship, suffering, or torture can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide. We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives" (CCC 2282-83).

We can pray that many people who have never been baptized or who have committed mortal sins may repent and be forgiven of this sin before their death. It is a work of mercy to pray for the living and the dead, and we should do so every day. Especially at Mass, the Church prays for the salvation of the whole world.

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

Stewardship of Treasure December 18th & 19th

Envelopes:	\$6,326.00
Loose:	\$3,473.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>
Total:	\$9,849.00

November EFT: \$21,066.25

Stewardship of Treasure December 25th & 26th

Collection numbers for the weekend of December 25th and 26th were unavailable at the time of publication. Please check back next weekend for these collection numbers.

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!

Sacraments Baptisms

Braelyn Renee Kettelkamp
Baptized on 12/18/2021
Child of Zachary & DeAnna Kettelkamp

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Helping Hands Volunteer Meeting

Volunteer to be part of a team that provides a meal on the 4th & 5th Saturdays of each month to men at the Helping Hands Homeless Shelter. Those who do not cook can help in other ways. If you are interested in participating in this ministry to "feed the hungry", please join us for a 9:00 am breakfast meeting on Saturday, January 8, 2022 in the Cathedral School Hall. Teams are formed and menus are developed for the entire year at this planning breakfast. RSVP required by January 4th by calling or texting 217-494-4241.

Rorate Caeli Mass

At 6:30am on Saturday, December 18th, our priests and parishioners joined together for a candlelit Mass in honor of Our Lady during Advent. The Rorate Mass is lit only by candlelight. In the dimly lit setting, priests and faithful prepare to honor the light of the world who is soon to be born and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illuminated by the sun as our Faith is illuminated by Christ.

Blood Pressure Clinic

Our parish nurses will be in the atrium following the 4pm Mass, 7am Mass, and 10am Mass the weekend of January 8th and 9th for blood pressure screenings. Stay tuned to our future bulletins as we will introduce our parish nurses!

Seminarian Tree

You've heard of an Angel Tree, but we would like to introduce you to a Seminarian Tree. In the Atrium you will find a tree with seminarian cards on it. We invite you take a card and commit to praying for that seminarian all year. If you have the time, you can mail him a birthday card or Christmas card letting the seminarian know he is in your prayers. You may even be lucky enough to meet your seminarian at the Cathedral and can tell him in person. Thank you for your prayerful support of our future priests!



SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

March for Life in Springfield

The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois invites you to join us for a diocesan-wide pro-life Mass and march event on Friday, January 21, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Springfield. We will begin with Mass at 10 a.m. followed by an 11 a.m. march to the Illinois State Capital. The Mass and march are intended for 7th-12th graders, college students, and adults. RSVP at: www.dio.org/youthministry/mfl

Dominican Family Teach-In

On Saturday, January 29, 2022, from 9 to 2, Sacred Heart-Griffin High School is hosting "Dominican Family Teach-In", a day of spiritual reflection for future and current Sacred Heart-Griffin Parents to learn how to live the Four Pillars of the Dominican Order charism. Learn how to pray, study, live, and serve like a Dominican! Led by Springfield Dominican Sisters and Dominican Associates, \$20 registration donation includes lunch. Email carlson@shg.org to register today!

Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life - Bible Study at Christ the King Parish

Jesus is our Savior, our Redeemer, our Lord, and our God. While many of us already know a lot about him, how well can we say we really know him? Filmed on location in the Holy Land, this study is a new and fresh look at Jesus—who he is, what he is really like, what he taught, what he did for our salvation, and what all of this means for us as Catholics today. 10 Sessions, 30-Minute Videos from ascensionpress.com \$31.00--This Study Set includes: The Full-Color Jesus student workbook, the Jesus Timeline Chart, the Jesus Book and online access for one year. Begins January 18, 2022 in the Parish Hall, from 9:30-11. Please contact Mary Kay Hinkle at 217-899-2599 or mbhinkle75@comcast.net. Due to shipping concerns, deadline to join the study is December 31, 2021.

Help Tornado Victims in Kentucky

Bishop Paprocki is asking the people of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois to consider the plight of our neighbors to the south who are suffering after a tornado ripped through their state taking many lives and destroying towns. The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois has been in contact with the Diocese of Owensboro in Kentucky. The best way we help them is to provide financial assistance. Donations can be made by going to cc.dio.org. All proceeds from this appeal will be sent to Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Owensboro. Bishop Paprocki also asks for continued prayers for all those impacted.

Join the Gospel Choir

The Diocesan Black Catholic Commission is planning to have a Gospel Mass February 27, 2022, St. Aloysius Church, Springfield. Those interested in singing in the Gospel Choir for this Mass should contact Donna Moore at dmoore@dio.org, or 217-321-1161.

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