

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

DECEMBER 26, 2021 | FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



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

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

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.
RECTOR

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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!



Families as a 'Little Trinity'

As the Church continues her celebration of the Christmas Octave, she observes this Sunday as the Feast of the Holy Family. This feast day highlights the fact that the Savior of the world chose to enter into our existence within the context of a family. The example of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph invites us to see the ideal when it comes to family life, offering all families a model to imitate.

In his beautiful document on Christian Families, *Familiaris Consortio*, Pope St. John Paul II offers the following charge: "family, become what you are." He goes on to explain that "the family has the mission to become more and more what it is, that is to say, a community of life and love." (17) The Holy Family lived this community of life and love in the most perfect way, and so offers us the closest glimpse of how the family is called to be an icon of the Trinity, the communion of persons in perfection.

No family will ever match the level of love that existed in the Holy Family, much less the love that exists in the Trinity. Nevertheless, each family should have it as their goal to become a more vivid image of the Trinity in the witness of their family lives. One of the ways of moving in that direction is to take time to reflect on the example of the Holy Family, noticing the love, respect, humility, and joy they lived.

Another means of growing in love in the family is through prayer. When a family prays together, they are inviting the Lord, who is a communion of persons, into the community of persons that exists in each family. One prayer I find particularly helpful for families to pray together is the Glory Be.

When we pray this prayer, we invoke the three persons of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We give them glory for the perfect union of love that exists among them. But we can also pray this prayer as a petition, asking that the love in our families will more perfectly imitate the love in the Trinity, so that our families become a "little Trinity."

Perhaps this prayer can be our go-to prayer especially when we have struggles in our families. Our first thought might not be to give glory to God when we encounter trials, but it is very appropriate to do so. The Trinity desires to enter into our lives, no matter how messy they are. All three persons want to redeem whatever is broken in our families, and so giving glory to God in anticipation of that gift is pleasing to God and it renews our sense of hope that we do not have to remain in the mess, but that God offers us a way out.

On this Holy Family Sunday, I want to express my gratitude to all of you who are a part of this parish family. Just as a regular family has the mission of being a community of life and love, so too does our parish family have that same mission. It is my prayer that in the year ahead, our family will become more who we are as an icon of the Trinity through our deepened commitment to our love of God and one another. Merry Christmas!

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, December 27

7am - Family
(Kevin & Earlene Keen)
5:15pm - Phyllis White Houston
Family (E. John & Debra Beltramea)

Tuesday, December 28

7am - Sophia Bartoletti & Family
(Estate of Sophia Bartoletti)
5:15pm - Family
(Cathy Caughlin)

Wednesday, December 29

7am - Staab & Siddens Family
(Mark & Brenda Staab)
5:15pm - Repose of Soul for Joseph
Kohlrus Sr. (Family)

Thursday, December 30

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - John & Rita DesMarteau
(Family)

Friday, December 31

7am - Sophia Bartoletti
(Estate of Sophia Bartoletti)
5:15pm - Mary Lynch Nicoud
(Tim Nicoud)

Saturday, January 1

8am - Emilia Rogers
(Dennis Rogers)
4pm - For the People

Saturday, January 2

7am - Jean Anne Staab
(Kathy Howard)
10am - Torquato "Tony" Bartoletti
(Estate of Norma Bartoletti)
5pm - Barb Copeland
(John Busciacco)



St. Thomas Becket: Stalwart Shepherd

Feast Day: December 29th

When Thomas Becket was martyred by the knights of Henry II, a young monk, Thomas Grim, was at his side. Surviving being struck by the same sword-blow that first felled the holy Archbishop, he wrote this firsthand account of the bloody evening, and gives us an intimate glimpse of his virtue and courage:

80. After the monks took [Thomas] through the doors of the church, the four aforementioned knights followed behind with a rapid pace. A certain subdeacon, Hugh the Evil-clerk, named for his wicked offense and armed with their malice, went with them showing no reverence for either God or the saints because by following them he condoned their deed. When the

holy archbishop entered the cathedral the monks who were glorifying God abandoned vespers - which they had begun to celebrate for God - and ran to their father whom they had heard was dead but they saw alive and unharmed. They hastened to close the doors of the church in order to bar the enemies from slaughtering the bishop, but the wondrous athlete turned toward them and ordered that the doors be opened. *"It is not proper," he said, "that a house of prayer, a church of Christ, be made a fortress since although it is not shut up, it serves as a fortification for his people; we will triumph over the enemy through suffering rather than by fighting - and we come to suffer, not to resist."*

Without delay the sacrilegious men entered the house of peace and reconciliation with swords drawn; indeed the sight alone as well as the rattle of arms inflicted not a small amount of horror on those who watched. And those knights who approached the confused and disordered people who had been observing vespers but, by now, had run toward the lethal spectacle exclaimed in a rage: "Where is Thomas Becket, traitor of the king and kingdom?" No one responded and instantly they cried out more loudly, "Where is the archbishop?" Unshaken he replied to this voice as it is written, *"The righteous will be like a bold lion and free from fear,"* he descended from the steps to which he had been taken by the monks who were fearful of the knights and said in an adequately audible voice, *"Here I am, not a traitor of the king but a priest; why do you seek me?"* And [Thomas], who had previously told them that he had no fear of them added, *"Here I am ready to suffer in the name of He who redeemed me with His blood; God forbid that I should flee on account of your swords or that I should depart from righteousness."*

With these words - at the foot of a pillar - he turned to the right. On one side was the altar of the blessed mother of God, on the other the altar of the holy confessor Benedict - through whose example and prayers he had been crucified to the world and his lusts; he endured whatever the murderers did to him with such constancy of the soul that he seemed as if he were not of flesh. The murderers pursued him and asked, "Absolve and restore to communion those you have excommunicated and return to office those who have been suspended." To these words [Thomas] replied, *"No penance has been made, so I will not absolve them."* "Then you," they said, "will now die and will suffer what you have earned." *"And I," he said, "am prepared to die for my Lord, so that in my blood the church will attain liberty and peace; but in the name of Almighty God I forbid that you hurt my men, either cleric or layman, in any way."* The glorious martyr acted conscientiously with foresight for his men and prudently on his own behalf, so that no one near him would be hurt as he hastened toward Christ. It was fitting that the soldier of the Lord and the martyr of the Savior adhered to His words when he was sought by the impious, *"If it is me you seek, let them leave."*

In this article, I don't have enough room to include Grim's entire account, but he records the Archbishop's final words in paragraph 82. *"...with another blow received on the head, he remained firm. But with the third the stricken martyr bent his knees and elbows, offering himself as a living sacrifice, saying in a low voice, "For the name of Jesus and the protection of the church I am ready to embrace death."*

Thomas Grim, *Vita S. Thomae, Cantuariensis Archiepiscopi et Martyris* (from James Robertson, *Materials for the Life of Thomas Becket*, London, Rolls Series, 1875-1885. Vol. 2 of 7. Translated by Dawn Marie Hayes and found on the Internet Medieval Source Book. Want more? Scan the QR code for the rest of the account (be warned, his death is brutally recounted):

Fr. Dominic Rankin recently got together with the five other priests who make up his fraternal support group. Along with praying, eating, enjoying each other's company, and hearing about the ups and downs while following the Lord, we also had an Advent gift-exchange. Unwrapping one of the gifts I was given, one of the other guys exclaimed "is that a sword?!" No, I am not the happy owner of a sword, but I do now have a fine kitchen knife that will help tremendously in meal-prep in the rectory!



*Since we make the sign of the cross while reciting the "In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit", should we do it also when praying the Glory Be?
Similarly, is it necessary to make the sign of the cross after receiving Holy Communion?
- A Mother at the Cathedral*

Part II

Last week, we covered a lot of ground, but had not yet answered the above questions: what about during the Glory Be, and after receiving Holy Communion? Perhaps surprisingly, the laity are only asked to make the sign of the cross on two occasions during the Mass: at the opening doxology (*In the Name of the Father...*) and at the closing blessing (*May Almighty God bless you, the Father...*) The priest does so a handful of additional times: if blessing a deacon before he proclaims the Gospel, the signing of his own forehead, lips, and heart before the Gospel, and over the bread and wine during the Eucharistic Prayer at the epiclesis. However, before Vatican II the priest made many more signs of the cross over the offerings, upon himself, as well as with the Blessed Sacrament while distributing Communion, something that seems to hearken back to practices we see in our Eastern brethren and the earlier Church. There, in the Eastern "lung" of the Church, the sign of the cross is made dozens of times during the Divine Liturgy, by priest and people: before and after various prayers, whenever one references the Trinity, when entering or leaving the Church, or when passing the altar or venerating an icon.

For these reasons, I am inclined to conclude that the practice of making the sign of the cross during the Glory Be and after receiving Communion are both ones that have ancient, and venerable, heritage in the Church. The first seems to derive from when the sign of the cross was stretched across the whole body as a defense of the truth of the Trinity and the Hypostatic Union, and so this action came to be connected to any reference to the Trinity. The second seems to follow from the cruciform gesture that the priest would make when distributing Holy Communion in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, with the person making the sign to reflect that of the priest.

Now, does that mean these gestures are "old" and to be discontinued or avoided? I don't think so. In certain things, the Church desires a unity in the gestures of the congregation: we all stand for the Gospel, we all kneel for the Consecration, we all bow when professing our belief in the Incarnation at the creed, and we all offer a sign of peace after the Our Father. These, and all gestures, are meant to incarnate our interior dispositions, and so the Church asks everyone to do them together at certain moments of the Mass. But private gestures can also deepen and focus our personal devotion and prayer, and so, as long as they do not distract from the communal prayer of the congregation, seem to be putting into effect precisely what Vatican II called for when it desired people to "actively participate" in the Mass. The sign of the cross, especially, is a powerful defense against the Evil One and a profession of our faith, so to make it when reciting the Glory Be or after receiving Communion, since it does not distract from anyone else's prayer, seems to me to be an eminently fitting and beautiful way to focus on what is truly happening in those moments of the Mass.

Father Dominic Rankin took on this week's "Ask Father" column. Thank you, Fr. Rankin, for sharing your knowledge with all of us!

Stewardship of Treasure December 18th & 19th

Collection numbers for the weekend of December 18th and 19th 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

Marriages

Mark Maton & Megan Parks
Married on 12/11/2021

Visal Arachchilage & Brianne Ed
Married on 12/15/2021

Deaths

Anne Pacatte - 12/09/2021
Mary Sestak - 12/09/2021

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Carols at Noon

Join us at the Cathedral as Mark Gifford plays an hour of Christmas Carols on the Cathedral Pipe Organ!
Monday, December 27th - 12:00PM @ Cathedral

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!

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.

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!

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.

**THE CATHEDRAL CLERGY AND STAFF WISH YOU AND YOURS
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR!**



SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

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

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.

Dive Deep Podcast - Supreme Court's 2022 Term: Will Roe v Wade End?

In 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court will rule on a state of Mississippi law that bans abortions after 15 weeks. This past summer, lawyers for Mississippi asked the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade. What will happen? Dive Deep interviews Peter Breen with the Thomas More Society to discuss that. Go to dio.org/podcast to listen and subscribe or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms.

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.

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!

Humanitarian Crisis in Afghanistan

As we celebrate the Christmas season let us continue to pray for those in need around the world that continue to suffer due to natural and man-made disasters. Sean Callahan, president and CEO of CRS, recently returned from Afghanistan and saw first-hand what people are facing. CRS' commitment to serving Afghan families in need started 20 years ago which puts CRS in a unique position to continue to support those in need. We ask for your support of their efforts through prayer, fasting, and financial donation to the following website: <https://support.crs.org/donate/support-afghanistan>