

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

DECEMBER 5, 2021 | SECOND 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 49

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

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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!

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.



Live the Present with Passion

In last week's bulletin article, I introduced a threefold theme proposed by both Pope Francis and Pope St. John Paul II, that we as Christians are encouraged to: 1) Look to the past with gratitude; 2) Live the present with passion; and 3) Embrace the future with hope. In this second reflection in the series, we will reflect on how to **live the present with passion**.

As I mentioned last week, it can be easy for us to get stuck in the past, remembering our faults and failures, those missed opportunities for doing good. Our focusing on the past is not always remembering our failures, though. Sometimes we focus on the good memories of the past, what we were once able to do, the opportunities we had, and we can get struck wishing those days were back. The same can apply to the future. We can become paralyzed thinking about what might or might not happen in the days, months, and years ahead. The uncertainty of the future might frighten us, causing us to tune in on ourselves and so do nothing. Or, the future might excite us, causing us to want to get to what lies ahead as soon as possible, ignoring our present obligations and needs. By focusing too much on the past or the future, we have little energy to dedicate to the present, and it is only in the present that we are able to actually do anything. When considering this tension, I am often reminded of the following anecdote: "Why worry about the past which you cannot change, and the future which may never come. Live in the present!" This is very good advice, and very much rooted in our Christian outlook.

The overarching theme for the end of Ordinary Time and the beginning of Advent is the necessity of being prepared, not so much for the celebration of Christmas, but for the Second Coming of Christ which will come at an unknown day and unknown hour. With that in mind, the best thing to do to be prepared is to be attentive to how we are living our lives in the here and now. Tomorrow, next week, next month, or next year should never be something we say when it comes to living our Catholic faith. None of us is guaranteed tomorrow, so now is the time to live as disciples of Jesus. And not just live as His followers in name only, but to live our lives intentionally and passionately.

There is a line from the Prophet Isaiah that is used on the First Sunday of Advent in the Year B Cycle of Readings which applies to this very well: "Would that you might meet us doing right, that we might be mindful of you in our ways" (Is 64:4). To adapt this line to match our theme, we can say something similar to the Lord: "Would that you might find us living our faith passionately when you come to us, whenever and however that might be"

During this Advent season, this can be a good topic on which to reflect. Are we too focused on the past or the future, such that we are not living the present well? It does not have to be this way. We can make the conscious decision now to live in the present by making our faith the foundation for all of our thoughts, words, and actions, letting the love of Christ enflame our hearts so that we will in turn love Him and our neighbor with charity and mercy, and so to be truly prepared to meet Him when He comes.

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 6

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

Tuesday, December 7

7am - Mary Kay Butler
(Bev & Larry Hoffman)
5:15pm - Barb Copeland
(John Busciacco)

Wednesday, December 8

7am - Patria & Rufino Gotanco
(Joe & Hati Uy)
12:05pm: For the People
5:15pm - William F. Logan
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

Thursday, December 9

7am - Betty & Gene Barish
(Family)
5:15pm - Mathias Bates
(Bates Family)

Friday, December 10

7am - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Special Intention for
Bianca (Doris Drago)

Saturday, December 11

8am - Sophia Bartoletti & Family
(Estate of Sophia Bartoletti)
4pm - Tommy Regan
(Vick & Janet Burghart)

Sunday, December 12

7am - Angeline Sherman
(Bob & Diane Buretta)
10am - For the People
5pm - Jean Anne Staab
(Chris Wiseman)



St. Ambrose

Feast Day: December 7th

The year was 374 AD, and our story begins with two eminent men who have recently received minor positions of authority in the Roman Empire. Flavius Theodosius, just now turning 37 years old, recently received his own independent command in the Roman army, stepping out from under the shadow of his father, Theodosius the Elder, a high-ranking general in the western Roman Empire. He quickly wins victories over the Sarmatians (East of Rome, in modern day Serbia; not to be confused with the Samaritans, the remnant of Jews left behind after the Exile who did not worship in Jerusalem and instead settled 25 miles north of Jerusalem on Mt. Gerizim). Higher up in the

empire chaos reigns as various men grapple for command, clearing out opponents (including the Elder Theodosius by 375), though shortly thereafter Gratian comes out on top and becomes Emperor of the Western Empire and the Theodosian family again falls under imperial favor. It is at this same junction that, north of Rome, the 35 year old Aurelius Ambrosius, also a popular, well-educated young man, is entering into his second year as governor of the province of Aemilia-Liguria. His headquarters is the city of Milan, just 9 decades prior chosen as the capital of the Western Roman Empire by Diocletian.

But God had different plans for these two up and coming Roman civil servants.

Let's stay with Ambrose for the next stage in our story. Later in 374, the bishop of Milan (an Arian, he preached that Jesus was not Divine!) died, holding onto his See until the bitter end, and throwing the city into tumult as the Christian factions fought over who would become their shepherd. Governor Ambrose steps into the fray to calm the crowds and somewhere above the din two words were heard: "Ambrose, bishop!" The upright civil servant blanched at the thought – his family was Christian, but he had not even been baptized – and yet, despite his attempt to avoid the crowd's acclaim, all were convinced he would make a good successor to the apostles and within a week he was baptized, ordained, and consecrated the next bishop of Milan. We can presume that the holy water and oils upon the new Bishop Ambrose had dried somewhat by the time 379 came around, for that was the year that another death sent ripples through history. This time it was Valens, the emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire, and uncle of Gratian, who was still emperor in the West. Valens, even more than the heretical Archbishop Auxentius, died surrounded by enemies. His army was overwhelmed in battle with the Goths and his body was lost amidst the carnage. Theodosius, a popular and proven general, was named joint-emperor with Gratian, and sent to the Eastern Empire to hold back the Visigoth hordes. One twist to his story, which is now eerily similar to Ambrose: Theodosius falls deathly ill shortly thereafter and chooses to be baptized a Christian.

And so we come to the 380s. Theodosius is slowly brokering peace with the Goths, winning them over by his justice and generosity and incorporating many of their tribes within the empire rather than decimating the roman legions to try and defeat them. He, along with Gratian (and Gratian's second-in-command, Valentinian II) issue in 380 the Edict of Thessalonica professing and protecting Nicene Catholic Christianity, against the various heresies which were bubbling up around the Empire alongside of Arianism, and so the Roman empire receives this text from their emperor(s), who many still consider as part of the pagan pantheon:

It is our desire that all the various nations which are subject to our Clemency and Moderation, should continue to profess that religion which was delivered to the Romans by the divine Apostle Peter, as it has been preserved by faithful tradition, and which is now professed by the Pontiff Damasus and by Peter, Bishop of Alexandria, a man of apostolic holiness. According to the apostolic teaching and the doctrine of the Gospel, let us believe in the one deity of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, in equal majesty and in a holy Trinity. [Gratian, Valentinian, and Theodosius, Codex Theodosianus, XVI.1.2, 380AD]

If the emperors could be faulted for heavy-handedly enforcing Christian doctrine by imperial decree over the coming years, perhaps our parallel character this week, Ambrose, offers us the Church's reaction to this changing scene. There, in Milan, the good bishop is patiently preaching the Arians back into the fullness of the Christian faith, convicting them by his humility, charity, and piety (and, sidenote: he also introduces popular musical :

Let us likewise deal kindly, let us persuade our adversaries of that which is to their profit, "let us worship and lament before the Lord our Maker." For we would not overthrow, but rather heal; we lay no ambush for them, but warn them as in duty bound. Kindliness often bends those whom neither force nor argument will avail to overcome. [Ambrose, De Fide, II.XI.89, 380AD]

Notice that both men, after following a secular career for years, chose baptism and to offer for God's purposes their energy and skill. Notice too that the gift they received of faith, hope, and love, does not automatically transform them into saints. The years to come will give them chance to follow the path of Christ, or not. We will return to their story next week!

Fr. Dominic Rankin bit off more than he could chew this week. Even just sticking with history and the theological virtues, we ran out of space. Still, Ambrose remains our saint and friend, and won't mind if more of his story waits until the next time!

How can the pope condone the inoculations produced from aborted fetal cell lines? It is a violation of bioethics and the tradition of the Catholic Church.

Every news cycle for the past eighteen months has contained information about the coronavirus, and more recently, the Covid vaccines and their varied effectiveness. Some Catholic media outlets have rightly done some investigations into the moral liceity of receiving these vaccines. We need to be careful about the sources we read, because not all are equally informed. Pope Francis and the proper departments at the Vatican have offered the Church guidance on receiving the vaccines, and with the common good in mind, Pope Francis has encouraged Catholics to get vaccinated if they have a serious reason to do so. Jesus Christ gave authority to the Church to teach on matters of faith and morals, and as Catholics we are bound by faith to give assent to the teachings of the Church. This does not mean that we cannot ask questions, not does it mean that everything a pope says is official Church teaching. Pope Francis has not violated our Catholic tradition by recommending that Catholics receive a Covid vaccine.

The science of bioethics is complicated, so it is helpful to look to the experts for our information. Fr. Tad Pacholczyk is the most credible voice in our country when it comes to Catholic bioethics, because he received his doctorate in neuroscience before becoming a priest, so he is truly an expert in both science and the Church's moral teaching. He has the best articles available on the Church's teaching about vaccines and other bioethical resources. Fr. Tad has explained that our participation in the evil of abortion by receiving a vaccine is extremely remote. In response to this, some people say, "I don't want to do anything that has any participation in abortion." This is a noble sentiment but is simply not realistic or even possible in our day. One example of this is that the State of Illinois uses taxes from her citizens to directly fund abortion procedures in our state. One fourth of Planned Parenthood's \$1.3 billion annual income is received from private donations, including corporate gifts. Companies that give substantial gifts to Planned Parenthood include Microsoft, Nike, Pepsi, Verizon, and Facebook, among many other well-known corporations. My point in saying this is that there are currently thousands of babies being aborted in our country every single day, largely funded by organizations that all of us support. The Church does not teach us that we have to boycott every single one of these organizations, which would make it impossible to live our daily lives. It is certainly possible that some Catholics have received a special call from God to live a prophetic witness to the world by boycotting all of these companies, but most people are not called to do this.

The Covid vaccines were not produced in perfectly ethical ways. However, abortions were not performed in order to make these vaccines. Some labs in which vaccines are tested still use a cell line which was started in 1972 from an abortion at that time. This was certainly a grave sin, but our reception of the Covid vaccine was not the cause of the abortion, not does it imply that we approve of the abortion which happened 49 years ago. Some Catholic media outlets have given the impression that doctors are performing abortions in labs in order to make these vaccines. This is simply not true. I do not know the specifics of how cell lines or vaccine testing work, and nobody on the street does either, so we need to trust our Catholic teachers who have spent decades of their lives studying both the teachings of the Church and various scientific fields.

It is always a good thing to stand up for the dignity of life, which is the first gift that God gives us. However, boycotting the Covid vaccines is not a good way to do this. There are much more concrete ways that we can do this, such as peacefully praying outside Planned Parenthood on Bruns Lane, donating time or money to First Step Women's Center, or volunteering with Springfield Right to Life. It can also be helpful to contact pharmaceutical corporations and encourage them to discontinue the use of cell lines derives from aborted fetal cells in the 1970's.

For those who feel passionate about this issue or want to learn more, I recommend reading several of Fr. Tad's articles which can be found at www.frtad.com.

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 November 21st & 22nd

Envelopes:	\$6,398.00
Loose:	\$1,980.00
Maintenance:	\$170.00
Total:	\$8,548.00

November 27th & 28th

Envelopes:	\$4,526.00
Loose:	\$2,125.00
Maintenance:	\$572.00
Total:	\$7,223.00

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!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

CCCW Cookie Walk and Raffle

Calling all bakers... CCCW will have a Cookie/Candy Walk on Saturday, December 18th and we need cookies!!! Donations of homemade cookies and candy will be accepted Friday, Dec 17th from noon to 6pm. You can bring them to the school hall or atrium and one of our members will be there, happy to help. Then make sure you come Saturday from 9am to 1pm to fill cartons full of a wide assortment of cookies and candy. Masks and gloves will be provided. We will also have a Resale Table of new and gentle used gifts.

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.

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!

The Women of The Genealogy of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel

The Gospel according to St. Matthew begins with a rather confusing list of names that lays out the genealogy of Jesus beginning with Abraham. While most of the names are those of men, there are five women mentioned. During this series, we will look at the story of these women and learn some important lessons about how to prepare to welcome Christ into our lives more fully in preparation for the celebration of His Nativity at Christmas. Thursdays December 9th and 16th at 7:00pm @ Cathedral 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!

Extended Confessions and Advent Adoration

The Cathedral will be hosting extended adoration hours on Friday, December 17 and Saturday, December 18. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Adoration for the faithful to spend time before our Eucharistic Lord. Confessions will also be heard during those hours. Please consider signing up for an hour during that time to pray so as to prepare well for the celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas. The signup form can be found here: <https://spicathedral.flocknote.com/signup/71586>

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

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!

Deaths

Please pray for the repose of the soul of parishioner Joseph John Fortune, III, as he was called to eternal rest on November 25, 2021.

The Word Among Us

Over the past four months copies of The Word Among Us have been available to assist you in develop or nurture the practice of reading and reflecting on the day's Mass readings. We were able to receive these at a special discounted rate. The Advent book marks the last month that these books will be available. If you enjoyed them, please consider subscribing - it's a perfect Christmas gift from you to you or for someone you love. Don't forget we have more upcoming sessions of Encountering Christ in the Word where we read and contemplate and discuss what God might be saying to us in Scripture. You are welcome to join us on December 14 & 21 at 7:00 in the Cathedral atrium.

CCCW Gift Card Raffle Tickets

Gift Card Raffle Tickets will be sold at all Masses now through December 12! The winner will be announced at 1pm Saturday, December 18th at the CCCW Cookie Walk. Good luck, and thank you for supporting the CCCW!

Family of Faith Game Night Winners!

Congratulations to the Tejeda family, first place trivia winners at our Family of Faith Game Night!



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.

Butler Funeral Home - Peace of Mind Seminar

The Butler Family of Organizations extends an invitation to all who are interested in learning more about planning for their final wishes to help their families celebrate their lives to join us for a lunch and learn program. We will host a Peace of Mind Seminar on Thursday, December 9th from 11:30 am-1:30 pm at the Bella Milano, located at 4525 Wabash Ave. in Springfield. Complimentary lunch will be provided. This event is free: no cost or obligation. Please call 217-544-4646 to reserve your space no later than Monday, December 6th.

Chatham K of C Chili Cook-Off

Come out and see what your local Knights of Columbus is all about. Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council 4179 is hosting a Chili Cook-Off at the KC Lake Club, 141 North Lakewood, Chatham IL 62629 on December 10, 2021 @ 6PM. We hope to see you there!

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.

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.

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

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?

St. Cabrini Church Altar & Rosary Society Christmas Bake Sal

Please join us on December 11 and 12 in the St. Cabrini Parish Hall for the Altar & Rosary Society Christmas Bake Sale! We will be selling baked goods on December 11 from 1pm-5pm, and immediately following the 5:30pm Mass, and on December 12 after the 9:30am Mass.

Second Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious

Pope Francis often highlights the role older adults play in conveying faith from one generation to the next. Recently, he noted that "there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel." As we approach the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection—an appeal that benefits some 26,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests— I am reminded that senior religious never retire from their vows. Instead, the prayer and ministry of older religious are an ongoing witness to the Gospel. In their younger years, they laid the foundation for Catholic schools, hospitals, and works of mercy. Today, many serve in volunteer ministry. Others are frail and need assistance. Yet all remain wholly committed to their vocations, accepting the limitations of aging and embracing the opportunity to spend more time praying for our Church and world. Most senior religious worked for little pay, and now their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious offers support that helps religious communities provide loving care for older members while ensuring younger ones can continue the good works of their elders. I recognize you may be experiencing your own financial difficulties. I ask only that you give what you can. Most importantly, please join me in praying for God's continued blessing on our nation's elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.