

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JANUARY 9, 2022 | THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



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 4 ISSUE 2

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.



The Holy Name of Jesus

This past Monday, the Church celebrated the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus, a feast that was restored to the universal Roman liturgical calendar in 2002. In previous times, the feast was celebrated on January 1 under the title of the Circumcision of the Lord, in accordance with the Scripture passage: "When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given Him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb." (Lk 2:21) Traditionally, the month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus, so it is well worth our attention. On this feast day, and throughout this month, Catholics are invited to consider the power of this

name and the great reverence we should have every time we use it. In his Letter to the Philippians, St. Paul writes:

Because of this, God greatly exalted Him
and bestowed on Him the name
that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. (Phil 2:9-11)

I find it fitting that this devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus falls during this month when our Family of Faith formation topic is the first four Commandments, with the Second Commandment stating: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." (Ex. 20:7) Because of this Commandment, there can be a tendency to avoid using the name of Jesus at all out of fear of using it irreverently, but the Lord desires for us to have confidence in calling out to Him by name and always keeping His Holy Name in our hearts. St. Bernard of Clairvaux wrote the following beautiful words about the Holy Name:

This name is the cure for all diseases of the soul. Are you troubled? Think but of Jesus, speak but the Name of Jesus, the clouds disperse, and peace descends anew from heaven. Have you fallen into sin, so that you fear death? Invoke the Name of Jesus, and you will soon feel life returning. No obduracy of the soul, no weakness, no coldness of heart can resist this holy Name; there is no heart which will not soften and open in tears at this holy name. Are you surrounded by sorrow and danger? Invoke the Name of Jesus, and your fears will vanish.

During this month of the Holy Name of Jesus, may I invite you to pay particular attention to how you use the name of Jesus? Of course, avoid ever using it in a disrespectful way, but do not let that prevent you from using it regularly in prayer with great devotion, knowing how powerful of a prayer that one single name is for us. Perhaps you can call this to mind when you say the name of Jesus in the three Hail Mary's we as a parish have resolved to say each day (one for the clergy of the Cathedral, one for yourself, and one for all members of the parish). Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary, have mercy on us!

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 10

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - Special Intention for a
Personal Supporter (E. John &
Debra Beltramea)

Tuesday, January 11

7am - Tony Forlano, Sr.
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Debra Michelle Beltramea
(E. John & Debra Beltramea)

Wednesday, January 12

7am - Celine Sestak
(Darlene Sestak Smith)
5:15pm - Sophia Bartoletti & Family
(Estate of Sophia Bartoletti)

Thursday, January 13

7am - Amabile Bartoletti
(Estate of Norma Bartoletti)
5:15pm - Joseph Forestier
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

Friday, January 14

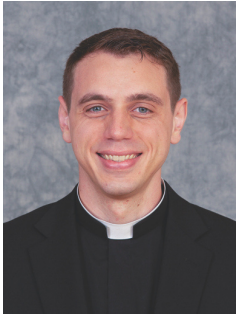
7am - Teresa Gray
(Chris Sommer)
5:15pm - Special Intention for Bianca
(Doris A. Drago)

Saturday, January 15

8am - The Cadigan Family
(Susan Cadigan)
4pm - Jean Anne Staab
(Franciscan Brothers of CTK)

Sunday, January 16

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
10am - For the People
5pm - Maggie Mercier
(Mulford Family)



New Year, New Habits

People sometimes scorn the idea of new-year's resolutions, thinking that they are often unrealistic and only lead to more failed goals and frustration. However, making resolutions (goals of improving some aspect of our life in the future) is a traditional Catholic practice after a period of prayer or a retreat. One key to keeping a resolution is that it is realistic. Making the goal of coming to daily Mass, after never going to daily Mass in the past, may not be realistic. A better start would be coming to Mass one extra time per week in the new year. It can be satisfying to accomplish simple goals which are helpful to your spiritual life.

A big part of our spiritual life as human beings is developing concrete habits of prayer and encounter with God. Our lives are made up of many cycles and rhythms – weeks and years, hours and minutes. We all have a routine every day, even if it is not always exactly the same. To have solid lives of prayer, we need it to be part of our routine. Just praying “when we feel like it” guarantees that we will never pray when we need to the most – when things in life are not going our way.

At all four parish Masses last weekend, we proposed a new-year's resolution for all of our parishioners – praying three Hail Mary's every day in 2022. One of these is offered for the three intentions of our clergy, our parishioners, and yourself. This is very realistic and measurable. To remember doing this, it would be helpful to attach it to something that is already part of your routine, like getting out of bed, brushing your teeth, or eating breakfast. For those who are looking for another spiritual resolution for the new year, I would propose that you add twenty minutes of prayer time to your daily schedule. A concrete way to begin this prayer time is by reading a passage from the Bible. The Gospels are the best place to start, and after reading a passage, take a few minutes to examine whether some part of the passage drew your interest or stirred something in your heart.

Another resolution that could enrich your life in the new year is transferring some daily media time into reading time. There are so many good books out there, many of which are spiritual, but some of which are just good stories. We spend a lot of time on our phones and watching television. You may be surprised (even embarrassed) at how much time, on average, you spend on your phone per day. I know I sometimes am, even with a pretty full schedule as a parish priest and high school co-chaplain. One of my goals for this year is to spend more time reading books instead of consuming media. Even ten minutes per day spent reading a book will result in several books read this year.

There is a quote attributed to St. Francis of Assisi which I really like. I am not sure if he said it or not, as many quotes attributed to him are not historically accurate. Nevertheless, this quote is good: “Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” This is a good way of looking at habits and goals that you have for your life. As a Catholic, the bare minimum that you should be doing is attending Mass on Sundays and going to Confession periodically. If this is you, then start by doing what is possible, like praying for 20 minutes every day with scripture or reading a spiritual book. Before long, you will attain what was previously impossible for you, and your life will be richer for it!

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 25th & 26th

Envelopes:	\$4,283.00
Loose:	\$6,852.36
Maintenance:	\$376.00
Total:	\$11,511.36

November EFT: \$21,066.25

Stewardship of Treasure January 1st & 2nd

Envelopes:	\$5,088.00
Loose:	\$1,868.00
Maintenance:	\$945.00
Total:	\$7,901.00

November EFT: \$21,066.25

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

David Farmer & Alison Coffey
Married on 12/31/2021

Deaths

Fr. David Zimmerman
Date of Death: 12/21/2021



St. Hilary of Poitiers

Feast Day: January 13th

January 13th, 367 AD was the day that bishop Hilary of Poitiers, France died peacefully. He had been born about 57 years prior to well-off pagan parents and had grown from a good classical upbringing to a dramatic early encounter with the Christian Scriptures where he found something he didn't know he was looking for. It seems he started towards the beginning because it was when he got to Exodus and God's words to Moses in the burning bush that finally the sparks caught hold of his heart: "I was frankly amazed at such a clear definition of God, which expressed the incomprehensible knowledge of the divine nature in words most suited to human intelligence." [Hilary of Poitiers, De Trinitate, I.5.] He was

baptized at the age of 35, along with his wife and young daughter, but only 5 years later the laity and priests of the small Christian community at Poitiers (I saw it estimated around 350) clamored for him to become their bishop.

He didn't wait long to get to work. Within two years we have his first large writing: a Commentary on St. Matthew's Gospel, the earliest complete commentary on that Gospel in Latin. Like so many of the bishops of this same time – recall Ambrose in Milan, and Gregory and Basil in Cappadocia – these words were not merely pious reflections of a saintly man, nor just the writings of a scholarly theologian, nor even the authoritative teachings of a successor of an apostle – they were a courageous confrontation against the untruths rampant in his day (and perhaps ours too).

Apostles must therefore take death into their new life and nail their sins to the Lord's cross. They must confront their persecutors with contempt for things present, holding fast to their freedom by a glorious confession of faith, and shunning any gain that would harm their souls. They should know that no power over their souls has been given to anyone, and that by suffering loss of this short life they achieve immortality. [St. Hilary of Poitiers, Commentarius in Evangelium Matthaei, 1]

Arianism was not just in Italy or Turkey, it was also here in France, in fact, spewing from the pen of Saturninus, the bishop just a bit further south in France. Rallying what orthodox bishops that he could find, Hilary managed to excommunicate Saturninus and his minions, and had the guts to also write a letter to Constantius II (the Arian son of the Emperor Constantine). His missive does not survive, but evidently it was rather scathing because Hilary was promptly exiled to Turkey, and when he returned a decade later, he would describe Constantius II as "a tyrant whose sole object had been to make a gift to the devil of that world for which Christ had suffered." [Hilary of Poitiers, Contra Constantium Augustum]

There, far from home, Hilary dove deep into what first brought him to love the Lord, the Bible. He wrote his most famous work during, De Trinitate, during these years, but within its pages we find a man expounding doctrine on the bedrock of Scripture:

Since their [the heretics] malice, inspired by the devil's cunning, empties the doctrine of its meaning while it retains the Names which convey the truth, we must emphasise the truth which those Names convey. We must proclaim, exactly as we shall find them in the words of Scripture, the majesty and functions of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and so debar the heretics from robbing these Names of their connotation of Divine character, and compel them by means of these very Names to confine their use of terms to their proper meaning. ... For one to attempt to speak of God in terms more precise than he himself has used ... to undertake such a thing is to embark upon the boundless, to dare the incomprehensible. He [God] fixed the names of His nature: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Whatever is sought over and above this is beyond the meaning of words, beyond the limits of perception, beyond the embrace of understanding. [St. Hilary of Poitiers, De Trinitate, II.5., multiple translations]

This is a man who could not be dislodged from the truth of Scripture, no matter the consequences, even if it meant exile from his beleaguered flock, and family! This little boy, Hilarius (his name deriving from the Greek word hilaros, which in fact means cheerful, merry, or happy) was joyous only in remaining faithful to the revelation of God. Writing a letter back to his people, similar to St. Paul and sounding much like that imprisoned apostle, he says "Although in exile we shall speak through these books, and the word of God, which cannot be bound, shall move about in freedom."

His preaching in the Arian East remained so strident in the full truth of the Gospel, that he was exiled from exile. Sulpicius Severus, a renowned Christian historian of this age of the Church so filled with heresy, and heroes, wrote that the Emperor eventually sent Hilary back to Poitiers frustrated by the "sower of discord and a disturber of the Orient." He returned to much acclaim, and a faithful flock, and resumed his episcopal duties for the final few years of his life, leaving the Church his final commentary on the Psalms, teaching the ignorant to the very end.

There is no doubt that all the things that are said in the Psalms should be understood in accordance with Gospel proclamation, so that, whatever the voice with which the prophetic spirit has spoken, all may be referred nevertheless to the knowledge of the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Incarnation, Passion and Kingdom, and to the power and glory of our resurrection. [Hilary of Poitiers, Instructio Psalmorum, 5]

Fr. Dominic Rankin has tried his best to bring Hilary's voice into this quick glance at his life. For a better, and beautiful, further glimpse, may I recommend Pope Benedict XVI's words on this great early bishop:



SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

A Resolution to Serve Our Parish

How are you serving your parish? Are you involved in liturgical ministry as a lector? Extraordinary Minister of Communion? Usher or Greeter? If not, please prayerfully consider how you can serve your faith community in this new year. We need all our parishioners to help with these vital ministries. Contact Vicki for a brief training session when you have decided how you'd like to contribute to your parish community.
vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or 217-522-3342 Thank you!

Come Watch The Chosen on Cathedral's Big Screen

The Chosen is an 8-part drama depicting the life of Jesus Christ as seen through the eyes of those who knew him. Join us in the atrium each Sunday afternoon, Feb 20-Apr 10, from 2:00-3:15 to watch and discuss and reflect. The Chosen is suitable for all ages and everyone is welcome.

Blood Pressure Clinic

Our parish nurses will be in the atrium following the 4pm Mass, 7am Mass, and 10am Mass this weekend, January 8th and 9th for blood pressure screenings. Please stop by!

New Adult Faith Formation Series

Are you new to the Church? Have you been away from the practice of the faith? Do you have gaps in your knowledge of Catholic teaching? Or do you just want to know more about what the Church teaches? Join us for a new adult faith formation series on Tuesdays, 6:00p-7:00pm in the Cathedral School Library.

- Jan 11 – Sacrament of Marriage
- Jan 18 – Sacred Scripture
- Jan 25 – Our Prophetic Voice in Christ
- Feb 1 – Tradition
- Feb 8 – Our Vocation to Beatitude
- Feb 15 – Loving Your Enemies
- Feb 22 – Formation of Conscience

Everyone is welcome!

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.

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

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!

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.