

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JANUARY 16, 2022 | 2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG

FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3

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

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

THE REVEREND PETER CHINEKE
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
IN RESIDENCE

THE REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING
PAROCHIAL VICAR

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!

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 Fourth Commandment

As we continue to consider the Ten Commandments, the road map given to us by God to help us to get to Heaven, Jesus teaches that these commandments can be understood as two expressions of love – for God and our neighbor. In Matthew's Gospel, He teaches the following:

You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.
(Mt 22:37-40)

The first three commandments are directed toward the love of God and the following seven commandments are directed toward the love of neighbor. I would like to focus on the Fourth Commandment in particular this week. In beginning to address this commandment, the Catechism says the following:

The fourth commandment opens the second table of the Decalogue. It shows us the order of charity. God has willed that, after him, we should honor our parents to whom we owe life and who have handed on to us the knowledge of God. We are obliged to honor and respect all those whom God, for our good, has vested with his authority. (CCC 2197)

The Catechism explains how observance of this commandment extends beyond honoring and respecting our physical parents, but touches on the many and various types of relationships that exist in society and how they should be lived out according to our faith. One such relationship is that of "citizens to their country, and to those who administer or govern it." (CCC 2199) In that regard, the Church reminds us of the obligation that exists on both sides. On the part of the government, care must always be taken so that no laws are established which are "contrary to the dignity of persons and the natural law." (CCC 2235) Assuming that is the case, then citizens have the obligation to obey and collaborate with the government in securing the common good. However, the Catechism also makes it clear that as citizens, our "loyal collaboration includes the right, and at times the duty, to voice [our] just criticisms of that which seems harmful to the dignity of persons and to the good of the community." (CCC 2238) Furthermore, the Catechism teaches us that "the citizen is obliged in conscience not to follow the directives of civil authorities when they are contrary to the demands of the moral order, to the fundamental rights of persons or the teachings of the Gospels." (CCC 2242)

There is a lot to ponder here, and it is well worth our prayerful consideration of this important teaching. On the one hand, our general posture should be one of submission to authority, not always assuming that it is contrary to the common good. But we must not be naïve either, for there are indeed many laws which do threaten the fundamental rights of the human person, which then require our response, not simply to oppose those in authority as an end in itself, but to work for securing the common good and the respect of humanity.

This coming Saturday marks the 49th anniversary of Roe v. Wade which cleared the way to easier access to abortion in our country. The Catholic Church continues to remind us of our right and duty to decry this violation against human dignity of our most vulnerable, the children in the womb. Our efforts to address this sad situation is more than just changing laws, which is necessary. More fundamentally, it is about changing hearts so that our love of neighbor is shown in concrete ways to those who struggle with a pregnancy for which they do not feel prepared. When these women can experience a society that shows genuine love for them, they will have the courage to choose the great gift of life that has been given to them by God. In comparison, changing laws is much easier than changing the hearts in a society that has, in many ways, grown cold toward one another. Either way, much is asked of us as Catholics to ensure that our love of neighbor is something we actually live, not just simply profess.

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 17

7am - Jean Anne Staab
(Chris Wiseman)
5:15pm - NO MASS

Tuesday, January 18

7am - Barb Copeland
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Thomas Colby
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

Wednesday, January 19

7am - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Sophia Bartoletti & Family
(Estate of Sophia Bartoletti)

Thursday, January 20

7am - Michael Poggi
(Judith Standerfer)
5:15pm - Debra Michelle Beltramea
(E. John & Debra Beltramea)

Friday, January 21

7am - Gerald Reichert
(The Riordans)
5:15pm - Erma Bartoletti
(Estate of Norma Bartoletti)

Saturday, January 22

8am - Emilia Rogers
(Dennis Rogers)
4pm - Drew Dhabalt
(Pamela Hargan)

Sunday, January 23

7am - For the People
10am - Bernard Goulet, Sr.
(Angelic Thompson)
5pm - The Dunn Family
(Mr. & Mrs. Jack Dunn)



What Did You Say?!

Parents are often shocked to hear their kids say their first “cuss word.” While it may be funny to hear a child give voice to a word that they do not know the meaning of, it is also a cause of embarrassment and shame for their parents at the same time. This is because the parents know exactly who taught them how and when to say this word! It is an important lesson in using our words only for building others up and praising God.

The Second Commandment reads, “You shall not use the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.” By extension, this commandment means that we should also not use vulgar or suggestive speech. At certain points in our lives, I am sure we have all struggled to keep purity of speech. Young people often tend toward making lewd or suggestive jokes with their friends, and it can be hard to not fall into peer pressure to join in on what is thought to be fun. Some workplaces, especially with workers who do manual labor, are so full of foul language that it just becomes a regular part of one’s vocabulary. And many people have the habit of saying, “O my God” for no good reason.

As Christians, our speech is very important. Even if we do not say bad words in front of our kids or friends, God still hears our speech and our own ears hear our speech. It can be easy to write off using cuss words as not being a big deal, and in some cases, this may be true. However, we should not underestimate the power of the words we say. Imagine if “O my God” were replaced with a racial slur. The people around you would be shocked and ask you why you said that. If you said you didn’t really mean it, so it is no big deal, the people around you would say that it is still a big deal. Jesus talked about how our speech expresses the depths of our hearts when he said, “Do you not realize that everything that enters the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled into the latrine? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile” (Matthew 15:17-18). What comes out of our mouth first comes from our heart (and our brain).

One of my favorite scripture passages on this topic is found in the letter of St. James. James is one of the most practical books in the bible, and if you think your faith needs to be more practical, turn to this book. He writes at length about the power of speech in chapter 3: “If anyone does not fall short in speech, he is a perfect man, able to bridle his whole body also. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we also guide their whole bodies. It is the same with ships: even though they are so large and driven by fierce winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot’s inclination wishes. In the same way the tongue is a small member and yet has great pretensions. Consider how small a fire can set a huge forest ablaze. The tongue is also a fire. It exists among our members as a world of malice, defiling the whole body and setting the entire course of our lives on fire, itself set on fire by Gehenna” (James 3:2-6).

Our tongue is like a bridle in a horse’s mouth or a rudder on a ship. We can usually tell by someone’s speech if they are happy or sad, angry or content, Christian or not. May we all use our speech to build others up and give honor to our God. If we struggle with profanity or saying God’s name in vain, the Hail Mary can be a good remedy. The best way to overcome a struggle is with a counterattack. The Hail Mary is centered on the name of Jesus. When you find yourself struggling with speech, say a few Hail Mary’s and focus on giving honor to the name of Jesus.

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 January 8th & 9th

Envelopes:	\$4,404.00
Loose:	\$3,183.00
Maintenance:	\$157.00
Total:	\$7,744.00

December EFT: \$23,867.40

Online Giving: If you would like to extend a special gift to the Cathedral, please visit our website. Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



St. Sebastian

Feast Day: January 20th

Last week we saw St. Hilary exemplify for us the work of mercy to instruct the ignorant. This week, we turn our attention to a much more popular saint, St. Sebastian. Famously a member of the praetorian guard, he continued in that office even under the Emperor Diocletian, caring for and encouraging imprisoned Christians during that tyrant's persecution, as well as working physical (restoring speech) and spiritual miracles (converting many to the faith) along the way. He was eventually discovered as a Christian and ordered to be killed by being shot full of arrows. Of course, dramatically, he didn't quite die, and was nursed back to health by the saintly Irene, before returning to Diocletian remonstrating him for his cruelty and

preaching to him the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Diocletian was not moved by his words and had him martyred fully this time, ordering him to be beaten to death.

As a youthful martyr, an "athlete for Christ", Sebastian is the patron saint of athletes, runners, archers, and sports – a distinction that has made him a popular patron, and friend, for countless young people in the centuries since – but he is also a patron for plague victims. Originally, this came from the likeness between the welts which were the primary symptom of the black plague and Sebastian's pierced and bruised body, but then, a thousand years after St. Ambrose's sermons on this saint first got his story out, Guillaume Dugay, a composer in Milan, Sebastian's hometown, composed a beautiful hymn begging the saint's intercession as the black death raged through the city. Take a moment to pray the words that follow, and please make the time to listen to this piece sung:

O Saint Sebastian,
always, evening and morning,
at all hours and minutes,
while I am of sound mind
protect and preserve me,
and, O martyr, untie me from the cords
of harmful weakness
called the epidemic.

From this kind of plague
defend and guard me,
along with all my friends.
We confess ourselves sinners
to God and to Holy Mary
and to you, O faithful martyr.

You, citizen of Milan,
you can make cease
this pestilence, if you so wish,
and from God accomplish this,
for among many it is known
that you have from Him this benefit.

Zoe the mute you healed
and restored healthful
to Nicostratus her husband,
and you did this miraculously.
In their suffering you consoled
the martyrs and promised
to them eternal life
and all that's owed to martyrs.



O martyr Sebastian,
you with us always, remain with us!
And through your merits
we, who are in this life —

Guard, heal, and rule us,
and from the plague protect us,
presenting us to the Trinity
and the holy virgin mother.

And may we so finish life,
that we have mercy
and the company of martyrs
and the vision of holy God.

O how he shined with wondrous grace,
Sebastian, famous martyr,
who bearing a soldier's insignia,
but caring for his brothers' victory,
comforted their weakening hearts
with words brought from heaven.

Fr. Dominic once MC'd for a confirmation at which six of the young men chose Sebastian for their confirmation patron. They thought it was funny. I thought it was awesome! What better patron than a man bold enough to be martyred twice for his faith in Jesus Christ? Who is your confirmation saint? Have you asked them recently how they could help you to grow in your faith?

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral



Join Us in the Three Hail Mary Pledge!

As Fr. Alford mentioned in his bulletin article last weekend, we, as a Cathedral parish, invite you to say three Hail Mary's each day (one for the clergy of the Cathedral, one for yourself, and one for all members of the parish). You can clip this image and put it somewhere as a reminder to say your Hail Mary's each day. Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary, have mercy on us!

Meals Needed

During the period of Inquiry of RCIA, we make our seekers feel especially welcome and comfortable by serving a simple meal to start each evening. If you are interested in providing a meal for 8 people on any Tuesday between now until the end of February, please contact Vicki at vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or 217-522-3342. Meals have included soup and bread, pasta and salad, pizza delivery, sloppy joes and chips.

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!

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 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!

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.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

March for Life in Springfield

Come join Springfield Right to Life, the Diocese of Springfield and the Ministerial Alliance of Springfield in a powerful three-day pro-life weekend! It all begins on January 21st at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, where a diocesan Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Following the Mass we will March for Life to the Capitol building. The events will continue on Saturday from 11:00 to 1:00 where multiple churches across Springfield will be "Hemming the City in with Prayer." The weekend will conclude on Sunday with Springfield Right to Life's annual March from Central Baptist Church to the Lincoln statue where we will rally outside the Capitol. The priests and staff at Cathedral are issuing a special invitation to everyone to join us here at the Cathedral on Saturday, January 22nd from 11:00 to 1:00. We will be raising our voices to Hem the City, specifically through Exposition of the Eucharist, Liturgy of the Word, meditation on the Rosary, quiet prayer and Benediction. We encourage you to attend one or all events to "Stand up, Show up and Give a Voice to the Voiceless!!" If you have questions please contact Springfield Right to Life at 217-523-2700 or Daphne Southern at 217-638-2805 or visit SRL at SPRINGFIELDRTL.ORG.

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 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/appl

Night of Healing

On Saturday, January 29th at 6:30pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Decatur is hosting a healing service. Such an important part of Jesus' ministry was healing the sick. We often pray for healing privately or at a distance for someone, but there is a power when we gather together and pray for healing. The Night of Healing is a healing service that provides a much more powerful and intentional way to pray for healing. Prayer for healing will be prayed for in a large group, and there will also be an opportunity for prayer teams to pray over anyone wanting prayer for healing. If you or anyone needs prayers for healing, please feel free to come. There is no official end time, as prayer teams will stay as long as needed for individuals to receive prayer. Our prayer team members will be masked. Any questions can be emailed to Fr. Michael Trummer: mtrummer@dio.org

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.

Collection for the Church in Latin America

Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.

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!