

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JANUARY 30, 2022 | 4TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



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

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 5

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

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.
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THE REVEREND PETER CHINEKE
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
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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.



Revisiting the 4th Commandment

Two weeks ago, we looked at the 4th Commandment, “honor your father and your mother,” and how it invites us to consider our roles and responsibilities as citizens, obeying just laws which promote the common good, and speaking and acting against laws “contrary to the dignity of persons and the natural law.” (CCC 2235) Another important point to consider in our observance of this commandment is the obedience we owe to our mother, the Church, and the role that she plays in our being good citizens of society.

The final three paragraphs of the Catechism (CCC 2244-2246) on this commandment address this relationship. I draw out attention in particular to the following words:

It is a part of the Church's mission “to pass moral judgments even in matters related to politics, whenever the fundamental rights of man or the salvation of souls requires it.”
(CCC 2246)

This was on my mind as I read a story about something that happened recently in Washington, D.C. On the night before the March for Life, it has become customary to have a large Mass celebrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. That evening, a group called Catholics for Choice projected various messages on the façade of the basilica advancing their position that one can in good conscience be Catholic and Pro Choice. That evening, the group tweeted the following message:

FACT: 68% of Catholics want #RoeVWade to remain the law of the land. The #MarchForLife & @uscbb want folks to think they speak for Catholics, but nothing could be further from the truth.

This statement highlights a common error with regards to the Church. There is the conclusion that the majority opinion has to rule the day and that the Church has no grounding to oppose what “most people want.” As the Catechism states, it is part of the Church’s mission to proclaim and safeguard the truth, regardless of its popularity or level of acceptance. For it is by knowing the truth and following it that we have the greatest assurance of salvation. And this is the primary concern of the Church – the eternal salvation of her people.

In this regard, I am reminded of a powerful scene in the movie *Paul VI: The Pope in the Tempest*. A fair amount of attention in the movie is given to debate that was going on during Pope St. Paul VI’s pontificate on the topic of artificial contraception. As with the argument for keeping Roe vs. Wade legal, the pressure was being put on the Holy Father to change the Church’s teaching on the immorality of artificial contraception because the majority of Catholics supported its use. Having heard the arguments and having thought and prayed about it, the Holy Father says the following succinct but powerful words: “The Pope cannot say something is right if it is not.” This summarizes, I believe, the role of the Church in proclaiming the truth “in season and out of season.” (2 Tim 4:2) As members of society, but first members of the Church, our obedience must always belong to the truth, of which the Church is “the pillar and bulwark” (1 Tim 3:15), regardless of whether it is the majority opinion or not. May we also never forget the promise that Jesus Himself gives to us about the truth: “the truth will make you free.” (John 8:32)

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 31

7am - Sophia Bartoletti & Family (Estate)
5:15pm - Janet Cobb-Myers (Family)

Tuesday, February 1

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

Wednesday, February 2

7am - Norma J. Bartoletti (Estate)
5:15pm - Jose & Thanka Vadukumcherry (Ann Vadukumcherry)

Thursday, February 3

7am - Heather McMillen (Chris Sommer)
5:15pm - Delbert Fairweather (Andy & Cheryl Klein)

Friday, February 4

7am - John Piccinio (John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Kathy Crowley (Women's Bible Study)

Saturday, February 5

8am - Jeff, Rayma, & Stella Vaduk (Ann Vadukumcherry)
4pm - Kara Leigh Smith (Beverly & Larry Smith)

Sunday, February 6

7am - Gerald Reichert (The Riordan's)
10am - Toraquato "Tony" Bartoletti (Estate of Norma Bartoletti)
5pm - For the People



"Because I Said So"

Every child's least favorite response from their mom or dad is "because I said so." Parents tell their kids what to do (or not do) all the time – get out of bed, stop hitting your sister, clean up the dishes. And parents have every right to tell their kids what to do. Unless a parent's commandment contradicts the law of God, children are bound to obey their parents. Sometimes a parent's motive for a commandment cannot be understood by a child, so "because I said so" is actually the easiest way to get a point across!

All human beings should have a natural love and respect for their parents. A parent's love and devotion is repaid over the years by the affection of their children, and eventually by being cared for by their children. St. Thomas Aquinas points out that there are three people that we owe an eternal debt to: God, our mother, and our father. This is because no matter what we do, we can never "pay back" the love that they have shown us, like we could with a friend or even a spouse. God and our parents chose to give us the gift of life itself, and we owe our very existence to them. In the Ten Commandments, the fourth commandment of honoring father and mother serves as a sort of bridge between respect for God and respect for others, because the honor we show our parents is similar to the love we show God, although in a lesser degree.

As St. Paul points out in his letter to the Ephesians, the fourth commandment is the first one to contain a promise: "Honor your father and mother, that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth" (Deuteronomy 5:16). I don't take this to literally mean that every person who honors their parents will leave to be old. Rather, I see it as a spiritual reality, that those who honor their parents truly have the gift of wisdom and charity, which is a great sign of spiritual maturity. In heaven, our love and devotion for our parents will "live long" as we worship God alongside our parents.

Honoring our parents is a constant theme throughout the scriptures and seems to be a sign of the true faith. The book of Sirach commands us, "with all your heart honor your father, and do not forget the birth pangs of your mother. Remember that through your parents you were born; what can you give back to them that equals their gift to you?" (Sirach 7:27-28). At a certain point, the parent-child relationship changes, and adults no longer owe their parents strict obedience as they did when they were children. In fact, as some children mature, they see their own parents' flaws more clearly, and do not desire to imitate those flaws in their own life. In some tragic cases of abusive parents, it may even be healthy to set firm boundaries in the relationship for a period of time or for life. However, even when we see that our parents aren't perfect, we still must honor them and not disrespect them through gossip, slander, or harboring ill will. A child's love for his or her parents can shine forth most clearly towards the end of the parent's life. Many people struggle mightily at the end of their lives with physical or mental deficiencies, and it is always inspiring to me to see them being cared for by their children in their hardest times. There isn't a perfect blueprint for caring for aging parents. Some families function fine by caring for elderly parents at their home, while others have no other option than to utilize a nursing facility. Whatever path is chosen, we should always make it a priority to make sure our parents' needs are taken care of.

Honor for our parents does not even end in death. After the death of a parent, we should do our best to honor their final wishes in terms of their estate and property. Even more important is caring for our parents spiritually in death. We should pray for the repose of the soul of our parents when they have passed on, and we could ask a priest to offer a Mass for them every once in a while. The Mass is a powerful form of prayer, and if you haven't had a Mass offered for your deceased parents, I encourage you to do so. You can call the parish office and ask to have their names added to the Mass intention calendar. A ten-dollar donation is typical but not required if you are not able to afford it. In any case, let us always remember to pray for our parents and ancestors in our daily prayers. By doing so, we will truly be honoring our mother and our father.

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 22nd & 23rd

Envelopes:	\$4,769.00
Loose:	\$1,978.00
Maintenance:	\$215.00
Total:	\$6,962.00

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. Agatha

Feast Day: February 5th

Why do pizza's come in boxes?

I ask not only because I am looking forward to some leftover deep-dish that is currently ensconced in its cardboard container in our fridge, but to open the wider question of why we place anything in a container? No trick question here: we do so to protect the object held within. We put pizzas in boxes to keep them hot, and intact. We put artwork in frames, and behind glass or lasers, to safeguard it and to appreciate its value and beauty. We put our heads in helmets while riding a bike so that our brains will not be damaged, and cycling can be both enjoyable and safe.

That is also why we have the commandments. These ten, fundamental, divine commands are not arbitrary rules, rather they are the boundaries that protect our dignity and our relationships, with God, and with each other. Few things are as important as the bonds we have to other people, and the union we have to God, but if we throw out this divine rulebook as too limiting, too confining, we will lose the greatest treasures of our humanity along the way. (Just as surely as if I drove home with the pizza sitting unprotected on my car seat: both the pizza and the car would be damaged.)

What has this to do with Agatha? We know so little about her life: fragments of tradition passed down in the Martyrology of St. Jerome (an early list of the martyrs) and the Calendar of Carthage (an early liturgical calendar), that mention her nobility, beauty, consecrated virginity and martyrdom at the hands of Decius (the Roman prefect in Sicily in the 250s) who brutalized the young Agatha when she steadfastly scorned his advances, and maintained her Christian faith. We do not know much more than this, certainly few of Agatha's words to the lustful, vicious, godless persecutor as he degraded, tortured, and abused her, and yet, we know one word that she did speak to him: "no."

We, like Agatha, live in a world where the commandments are often ignored. Go down the list: worshipping the one, true, God; holding His name in veneration; keeping sacred His day; true love for parents and family; respect of human life; of spousal love; of another's possessions; upholding truthful language; and never coveting... I think we can look in our own hearts, and in our current culture, and find more idolatry, more violence, and more contempt, than even was brutally in evidence in Decius. What must be our response? Of course, we turn in contrition to God for the times we ourselves have fallen short of the life that He calls us to live – we say "no" to ourselves, to our own idolatry, vice, and using one another – but what about when we are confronted by the brutality of our society or those in authority over us? Here too, we must stand alongside of Agatha, and say "no" to our world's idolatry, cruelty, and contempt for human dignity.

This "no" will not win us any brownie points! Certainly, it did not save Agatha from the ravages of Decius. Once God's commands are disregarded, we should not expect to stem the tide of evil easily and without cost. However, no matter the pain and degradation and hatred Decius inflicted on Agatha, he could not take away her relationship with God, her freedom, or her virtue, and no one can take those things from any of us either. Let us learn, with her, to say "no" to ourselves now, so that if ever we have to say a more difficult "no", we will be willing to do so: for our own integrity, and for love of others, and God.

Fr. Dominic Rankin is currently on the hunt for a new bicycle helmet. His previous one did exactly what it needed to when it took a beating, and not his scalp, but before things warm up and he gets back on the bike, it seems that an outing to Scheels is in order.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

February is Heart Month!

Throughout the month of February, the Faith Community Nurses will have heart smart informational poster displays each weekend. There will also be a heart smart poster and activities just for the kids too! Please stop by! If you have any questions regarding heart health, please don't hesitate to contact Adrienne or Angela (your Faith Community Nurses).

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!

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.

First Friday Concert at the Cathedral

Join us on Friday, February 4, 2022 at 7pm in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! February's concert will feature Leon Lewis-Nocol, Jazz Piano. The First Friday Concert Series is sponsored by the Staab Family, and is free and open to the public. All are welcome!

Lenten Scripture Reflection Series

You may recall that our Advent 2020 daily prayer resource was written by Cathedral parishioners and emailed to you daily. We received so many positive comments about the reflections and would like to repeat this process for Lent 2022. We need your help. Please prayerfully consider writing a short reflection based on the day's Mass readings, for one day during Lent. If you think you could help your fellow parishioners on their Lenten journey in this way, contact Vicki.

Here is a guide to help you write a reflection: Four steps to meditation (mental prayer) (4 Rs)

Read: Read a book written for spiritual meditation. (For our Lenten series, this would be the Mass readings for a day in Lent). Spiritual meditation material is any book written for the purpose of bringing the soul into communion with God. Obvious examples are the Bible Especially Gospels and the Psalms. Other Examples: In Conversation with God by Fr. Francis Fernandez; Story of a Soul by St. Thérèse of Lisieux; Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul by Maria Faustina.

Reflect: Read until something strikes you. Then, stop, and put the book down and reflect on what you just read. Why did this passage or word strike you? What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? Don't be in a hurry. Let yourself be still and peaceful, soaking in this point for as long as possible.

Relate: Relate this passage or point to Jesus. Allow any interior and spontaneous conversation from the depths of your soul to bubble up.

Resolution: Resolve to apply the grace from this meditation to inspire and transform you. This means to put into practice something concrete revealed to you by the Holy Spirit. Another method is to take something from your prayer—i.e. a phrase or word that struck you—and repeat it throughout the day. This will focus your mind on the prayer, which will focus your thoughts and heart on God-like actions.

Examples of a Resolution:

- Today, I will listen more than I speak.
- I will not gossip today, but, instead, use my tongue for praise of God and others.
- I will not complain today, but will thank God for my many blessings each time that I am tempted to complain.
- When I feel anxious today about something, I will replace that feeling with the thought that God will take care of me.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Collection for the Church in Latin America

Thank You for Your Support for last week's Collection for the Church in Latin America. These funds will be used to share the faith with our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean, so they in turn can share the Good News in their communities. If you missed the collection it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/latin-america and click "How to Give". Your gift makes a difference!

Opportunities for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception has Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4pm - 5pm. If these days and times do not work for you, consider the Blessed Sacrament Parish Adoration Chapel. Please call to find a day and time that works for you. Donna Berte 217-622-8576.

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

Springfield Deanery Meeting and Soup Lunch

Please join the women of the Springfield Diocesan and National Council of Catholic Women on Mon., Feb. 21, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Church of the Little Flower Parish Center, 900 Stevenson Dr., Sprfld. Have fun getting to know ladies from other parishes, enjoy praying together, hearing about other parishes and learning more about the Springfield Diocesan and National Council of Catholic Women. Per current guidelines, face masks are required. Please R.S.V.P. to Janet Zimmerman, Springfield Deanery President: janetzim14@yahoo.com or 217-494-4743.

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.

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. The details are as follows:

Peace of Mind Seminar

Thursday, February 17th

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Prairie View Reception Center (PVRC)

8865 State Route 4, Chatham, IL 62629

Complimentary lunch from Café Moxo will be provided. This event is free: no cost or obligation. Please call 217-544-4646 to reserve your space no later than Monday, February 13th.