

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**FEBRUARY 6, 2022 | 5TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**



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CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342  
[WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG](http://WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG)

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

# *Cathedral Weekly*

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 6

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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  
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!



## Poison of Gossip

My first assignment as a priest involved being a part of a pastoral team of four priests serving three parishes in Effingham and Shumway. As a brand new priest, I was always impressed with how well the people remembered the priests who had served their parishes over the years. I found that most of the memories were from things that the priests had done in the parishes, and much less about what they said. So if the people remembered something a priest said many years later, it must have been very impactful. One parishioner shared a story about a homily given by one of their former priests that they remembered very clearly, and it is something I too have remembered all these years later.

The priest began his homily by talking about various types of snakes that exist in the world. In particular, he spoke about poisonous snakes. After listing off some of the more deadly species of snakes, the priest made the following point: "But of all of the poisonous snakes in the world, there is one snake that is more deadly than all – the gossip snake!" Wow! What a creative way of delivering an important message, namely, the deadly nature of gossip.

I bring this story up as we begin this month to look at the second set of the Ten Commandments. The Fifth Commandment states very succinctly: "You shall not kill." As we know from our consideration of a few of the first four commandments, there is much more to these commandments than meets the eye. Jesus Himself addresses this commandment specifically when He says:

*You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, 'Raqa,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna. (Matthew 5:21-22)*

In his catechesis on this Commandment, Pope Francis explains how the sin of gossip can fall under the Fifth Commandment:

*Therefore, not only must one not make an attempt on the life of others, but one must not even pour on him the poison of anger and hit him with slander, nor speak ill of him. And here we arrive at gossip. Gossip can also kill, because it kills the reputation of the person.*

Since hearing about the idea of the "deadly gossip snake" so many years ago, I have come to see how very true this is. Gossip can be deadly and as Christians, we should be very careful about how we speak about other people, regardless of whether what we have to say is true or not. What you say about somebody in resentment, pain, or frustration may feel good in the moment, but it invites the person to whom you are speaking to take on the same attitude, thus spreading the poison. In those moments when we are tempted to gossip, we would do well to remember the advice of St. Paul: "Never let evil talk pass your lips. Say only the good things men need to hear, things that will really help them." (Eph. 4:29) I can almost guarantee that gossip is not something others need to hear or will ever help them, so when tempted to gossip, just keep quiet and speak to the Lord about it. You may just help to save the other person's reputation... and your soul.

*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, February 7

7am - Russell Steil, Sr.

(The Steil Family)

5:15pm - Sophia Bartoletti & Family  
(Estate of Sophia Bartoletti)

#### Tuesday, February 8

7am - Drew Dhabalt

(LouAnn Mack & Carl Corrigan)

5:15pm - John A. Sestak  
(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)

#### Wednesday, February 9

7am - Elizabeth Ann Harman  
(Berni Ely)

5:15pm - Justin Vaduk  
(Ann Vadukumcherry)

#### Thursday, February 10

7am - Anna Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)

5:15pm - Special Intention for  
Wallace (Ann Vadukumcherry)

#### Friday, February 11

7am - John Montgomery  
(John Busciacco)

5:15pm - Special Intention for  
Bianca (D. A. Drago)

#### Saturday, February 12

8am - Reshema K.  
(Ann Vadukumcherry)

4pm - The Staab Family  
(Friends)

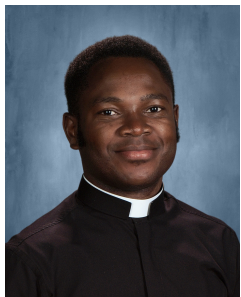
#### Sunday, February 13

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(William Midden)

10am - For the People

5pm - Eulalia & Ray Ohl & Deceased  
Family (Angela Ohl-Marsters)





## Lucy, Only Love Can Do That!

Recently, I had a meeting with a mid-aged lady – a mother and a wife. For privacy reasons, I will call her Lucy here. Lucy is a practicing Catholic. She is a convert to the Catholic faith and a woman of high moral values. But Lucy has lived for more than half a century in this world deeply embittered by a painful experience of what transpired between her and her dad when she was about nine years old. I am sure you can imagine what this could be! Lucy said she was sexually abused.

While this abuse happened, Lucy's dad was a loving, caring, and generous man who provided lavishly for his family. So, she grew up having all she wanted in life – not just what she needed. But amid this affluence, Lucy grew up with a deep emotional wound that affected her tremendously. Her marriage and family life, including her social life and work experiences, have suffered unprecedented damage. She attributes all these to the sad experience she had with the man that God entrusted her life unto.

Lucy's dad is advanced in years and currently lives in a nursing home with multiple health problems. Lucy abandoned him there for several years now and has refused to forgive her father for the abuse. It is not clear if her dad knows why her daughter has abandoned him for such a long time.

As I talked to Lucy, I realized that she lives in heavy grudges against her dad. She believes that that ugly experience with her dad at the age of nine is responsible for all the problems she has suffered all these years. Truly, I could tell that Lucy has known no peace of mind for a long time. But then I asked if she prefers to live in these grudges for the rest of her life, knowing very well that unforgiveness cannot right the evil that took place. Lucy explained that she did not want to see her dad anymore. She felt so terrible and wondered what she could do to be made whole again. I looked at her intently as the words of Martin Luther King Jr. flashed through my mind – Lucy, ONLY LOVE CAN DO THAT! You must forgive your dad and learn to love him again.

Many of us live in similar situations today. Some of the peoples and institutions we loved and trusted have caused us many of the brokenness we face. These people and institutions cause us this brokenness by emotional, physical, or sexual abuses, betrayals, calumnies, gossips, bullies, chastisements, denials, rejections, and refusals.

Unfortunately, darkness cannot drive out darkness. We cannot repay evil with evil. Only light can drive out darkness. Only goodness can destroy evil. Lucy cannot continue to live in grudges. For the sake of Jesus who is LOVE, Lucy must forgive her father, visit him, and try to build a good relationship with him as much as possible before his father lives this world. That is the surest and most effective means of healing for Lucy.

*Father Peter Chineke 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 29th & 30th

Envelopes:	\$6,100.00
Loose:	\$3,204.00
Maintenance:	\$2,248.00
Total:	\$11,552.00

January EFT: \$20,696.25

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

#### Baptisms

Amelia Fay Palazzolo  
Child of Giuseppe "Joe" & Nicole  
Palazzolo  
Baptized on /30/2022



# 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).

### 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](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org) or 217-522-3342 Thank you!

### Collecting Old Palms

The Cathedral will be collecting old palms to be used for Ash Wednesday. There is a collection basket in the atrium for you to drop off any old palms.

### 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](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org) or 217-522-3342. Meals have included soup and bread, pasta and salad, pizza delivery, sloppy joes and chips.

### 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

### Springfield Right to Life "Sweethearts Dinner"

Two Hearts Springfield Pregnancy Resource Center is hosting a "Sweethearts" dinner and fundraiser on February 25th from 6:00 pm - 9:00 p.m. at Erin's Pavillion. Pastor Mary Jean Sheets, Executive Director of Springfield Right to Life, is the keynote speaker. Tickets are \$75. Sponsorships are available. Please call (217) 523-2700 or email [MJSheetsSRTL@gmail.com](mailto:MJSheetsSRTL@gmail.com).

### 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.