

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

FEBRUARY 20, 2022 | 7TH 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 8

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.



You Did it to Me

Many years ago, I heard somebody speaking in general about the Gospels and the impact they are meant to have on our lives and he said the following clever line: "The Gospels were given by Jesus to comfort the afflicted, while at the same time afflicting the comforted." In other words, the message of the Gospel is both a source of peace and an invitation to ongoing conversion. Most of us are all for being comforted by the Gospel, but we are not so excited about being challenged by the Gospel, preferring to skip over those words or somehow concluding that they apply to somebody else.

I find Matthew 25 to be one of those sections of the Gospels that proves this anecdote to be true, especially verses 31-46 titled "The Judgement of the Nations." Jesus begins by commending those who practice the works of mercy toward those in need, pointing to the following comforting conclusion: "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Mt 25:40) We can see Jesus in every person to whom we reach out in charity to serve, and the Lord makes it clear that this will be to our benefit, especially at the judgment we all must face at the end of our lives. Jesus then goes on to offer a very challenging teaching, as He concludes the following when we fail to serve those around us: "what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me." (Mt 25:45)

I cannot read these words without feeling extremely uncomfortable, for I know there have been times when I have been guilty of not serving Jesus by turning away from those in need. And there are so many needs in the world around us. Here at the Cathedral, we see people regularly who are at a difficult point in their lives. It can be easy to just keep our head down and pass by. At the end of our lives, we will have to account for those intentional acts of dismissal, as we see in the case of the rich man who ignored Lazarus at his doorstep each day. So how should we respond?

I do not have the time or space to really address the material needs of those we encounter. We have an obligation, to be sure, but that does not necessarily mean directly giving money to everybody who asks, especially since there are several organizations in Springfield that exist to assist with meeting their various needs. One of the things that we can keep in mind is a fundamental principle that underlies all of the commandments that have to do with loving our neighbor – every human being has worth and is to be treated with dignity. One of the simplest ways to respect a person's dignity is to acknowledge their existence. Looking somebody in the eye and smiling at them, perhaps even giving them a greeting, sends the simple but profound message: "I see you, and you are good." We should not underestimate how this seemingly minor gesture can make a difference in somebody's day, especially when their existence is virtually ignored by those who pass uncomfortably by. This is a practice that does not just have to be for those who are poor. We can do it with those we encounter at the grocery store, while going for a walk, or as we come in and out of church – anywhere! To be sure, the commandments invite us to many other forms of charity and service, but this simple practice can be a good way to cultivate an awareness of the goodness of those around us, seeing them through the eyes of Christ as a brother or sister in the Lord, and seeing the Lord Himself who is hiding, waiting to be served by 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, February 21

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - NO MASS

Tuesday, February 22

7am - John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Jean Anne Staab
(Berni Ely)

Wednesday, February 23

7am - Luella Vogt
(Bill Vogt)
5:15pm - Paul & Deepa Vaduk
(Ann Vadukumcherry)

Thursday, February 24

7am - Sophia Bartoletti & Family
(Estate of Sophia Bartoletti)
5:15pm - Mary Celine Sestak
(Angela & Robert Williams)

Friday, February 25

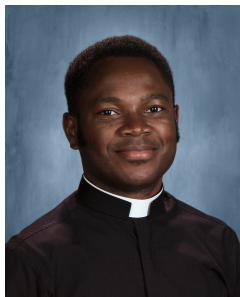
7am - Howard Barnett
(Lisa Barnett)
5:15pm - Sarah McGee
(Tom McGee)

Saturday, February 26

8am - Repose of the Souls of the
Vaduk Family (Ann
Vadukumcherry)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, February 27

7am - Deyona K & Family
(Ann Vadukumcherry)
10am - Sophia Bartoletti
(Estate of Norma Bartoletti)
5pm - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)



Father, What Else Can I Do?

Recently in one of my homilies, I explained the need to be present in one's parish church in some concrete ways and encouraged people to find more ways to be a strong presence in their Church. I found it necessary to deliver this sermon for a couple of reasons. First, I have had several encounters with people who explain that they do not feel any strong connection to their parish church. Many of these people attend Masses regularly and receive the sacraments. Some of them are even so generous to the Church with their resources.

Another reason to reflect on this topic is that many of us have forgotten how a parish church should be a community. As a community of Christ's faithful, members need to know each other and grow in friendship. This friendship with each other encourages and strengthens a relationship with Christ. A one-hour church service every week can hardly achieve this friendship goal with each other, a goal that is a critical element in our lives as members of the Body of Christ.

Making financial contributions to the parish, attending Masses, and receiving the other sacraments in the Church is very important in our membership in the Body of Christ. But these are not enough, except when they are the only things we can offer.

What else can WE DO?

A few days after that homily, a parishioner reached out to me and asked what he could do in addition to contributing financially to the Church, attending Masses, and receiving other sacraments as needed. I explained to him that there are too many ways to be a strong presence in one's Church. This visible presence creates opportunities for friendships with one's fellow brothers and sisters in the faith, thereby enabling a stronger relationship with Christ.

Altar Service – in our parish Church, every baptized Catholic is welcome to serve at the altar. In the last couple of months, we have trained more altar servers. Some of these people heard that sermon and indicated an interest in serving. We need more people in our altar service, especially middle school, and high school-aged children.

Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and especially USHERS! We also need people to manage our camera during 10:00 AM Mass on Sundays. These are opportunities to be a more visible presence in one's parish community.

Here in our Cathedral parish, we also have the bible study groups and the choir – although the choir has not resumed fully since COVID. Beyond these ministries, with the pastor's approval, individuals can also form new ministries and groups in their parish community. These are allowed so long as they help people understand their Catholic faith better and increase opportunities for a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions about how you can be a more visible presence in our parish Church, contact any of our priests or Vicki Compton at the parish office.

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 February 12th & 13th

Envelopes:	\$5,428.00
Loose:	\$3,893.00
Maintenance:	\$190.00
Total:	\$9,511.00

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!



St. Peter Damian Feast Day: February 21st

Alas, it is shameful to speak of it! It is shameful to relate such a disgusting scandal to sacred ears! But if the doctor fears the virus of the plague, who will apply the cauterization? If he is nauseated by those whom he is to cure, who will lead sick souls back to the state of health?

– St. Peter Damian, Liber Gomorrhianus, ~1051 AD, to Pope St. Leo IX

Sometimes it is helpful to look back and realize that a prior age was worse than our own. It pulls us out of the worries and concerns that grab at our own attention, and reminds us that “it’s been worse”, and we can probably make it through things this time around as well. Such was the case of the Church in the 11th century. One tale tells enough: in 1032, Theophylactus of Tusculum – the nephew of Pope Benedict VIII and Pope John XIX, and a grandnephew of Pope John XII – ascended to the throne of St. Peter after his dad gave a sufficient bribe to the Roman populace. He was 20 years old. Don’t get me wrong, I hold nothing against 20-somethings, I am currently one myself, but they’re usually not ready to govern the universal Church, and the newly minted, Pope Benedict IX would prove that point.

Later popes would decry his “unspeakable acts of violence and sodomy.” Historians from then till now would call his papacy a disgrace, and one vividly compares him to a demon sitting on St. Peter’s chair. He was driven out of Rome in 1036, but fought his way back into the city, only to be thrown out again in 1044, with Pope Sylvester III chosen to replace him. Benedict brings armies to bear against Sylvester, expelling him from the city, seizing the papal tiara again for himself. But the story just gets worse: he then chooses to marry his cousin – which apparently was more inimical to being pope than his many prior sins – so he sells the papacy to Fr. John Gratian (his poor godfather), who becomes Pope Gregory VI.

It is at this point in this whole sordid tale that our saint this week enters the scene. The Benedictine monk, Peter Damian, had grown up poor in Ravenna, through many twists and turns became a remarkable professor of theology only to give it up for the life of a hermit, at which point he began to take upon himself legendary penances and began to write the passionate letters calling for reform that he would be known for. The Lord was at work in this feisty monk’s heart, and he became widely known for his holiness, and was eventually pressed by his fellow monks to lead, and reform, their monastery. He writes to the new Pope Gregory VI, exhorting him to work on reforming the Church, in particular the rampant immorality within the priesthood, which had been so especially evident in his papal predecessor.

Gregory, as it would happen, did not have the chance. Benedict IX changed his mind, wanted the papacy back, and fights his way onto the throne again, leaving Gregory VI ousted along with Sylvester III. Notice we now have three men claiming to be pope. Archdeacon Peter calls for a council, and beseeches the Holy Roman Emperor, Henry III, to intervene. The German emperor crosses the alps, takes control of the city (which, to summarize, now had 3 men claiming to be pope, holding positions at St. Peter’s, St. John Lateran, and St. Mary Major, and sending whatever gang of nobles/armies had sided with them, to fight each other in the streets of Rome...), and convenes a council at Sutri. Gregory humbly admits he only got the papacy because he told Benedict that he would pay him (though he didn’t), and agrees to resign. Sylvester also came to the council, and is strong-armed into forgoing his claim to be pope. Benedict, as we might expect, didn’t come, and didn’t resign, but was dismissed from the papacy as well and Emperor Henry asked the Archbishop of Bamberg to become pope, taking the title Clement II.

Clement, though, died a few months later – poisoned, whether purposefully or unintentionally – and, don’t you know, Benedict IX shows up, and claims to be pope again. Henry decides a certain Bp. Poppo should become pope, forcibly places him on the papal throne as Pope Damasus II, but this latest Pope dies even more quickly, just 23 days later. Thankfully, nobody was about to back Benedict again, so Damasus was followed by a legitimate, capable, and holy man, Bruno of Egisheim-Dagsburg, the Pope Saint Leo IX who received Peter Damian’s letter where we began this article. Leo would agree with the fiery monk, and work to reinforce clerical celibacy, outlaw simony as means to Church offices, dispel heresies, and reform monastic life. Leo wasn’t perfect, but he was a saint in the middle of a sinful time.

St. Peter Damian was the same: a saint living in a world of sin. As much as we wish such sins would never happen, he wouldn’t have been the saint he was without fighting to stay true to the Lord through it all, and miraculously, Jesus could bring great saints out of such horrible times.

Fr. Dominic Rankin prays that he would have only a bit of the courage and fidelity of St. Peter Damian (though he also prays that he would never have to face such despicable days.)

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Holy Family Food Pantry

Our Catholic Charities food pantry is in need of the following items: Cereal, Spaghetti Sauce, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Shampoo/Conditioner, Body Wash, Razors, Toilet Tissue. Items can be placed in the collection basket in the atrium. They are grateful for your generosity.

Come Watch The Chosen on Cathedral's Big Screen

The Chosen – Episode One

Enter into the story of the ordinary people who surrounded Jesus. Sinners who spent time with the one Man who understood them and would eventually die for them. These are the stories of rebuke and hope, of sin and forgiveness. You'll meet the people who loved Him, served Him, and followed Him, seeing the Savior through their eyes as you consider who He is and why He came. And the questions meant to help you move forward in your faith are challenging enough to do just that. Sunday, February 20, 2:00-3:15, Cathedral Atrium

Cathedral Parishioner Catholic School Tuition Scholarship Form

The Cathedral Parish believes in the value of Catholic education and is committed to assisting parishioners who choose a Catholic education for their children by providing tuition assistance. Parishioners will receive a \$500 tuition scholarship for each child enrolled in a Springfield Catholic Grade School (Grades K-8), and a \$750 tuition scholarship for each child enrolled at Sacred Heart-Griffin High School. The Scholarship is eligible to any parishioner household who is registered and active in the Cathedral parish. For more information or to apply, please visit our website (<https://spicathedral.org/cathedral-parishioner-catholic-school-tuition-scholarship-form/>). Applications are DUE by March 15th, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact the Cathedral Parish Office at 217-522-3342.

Introducing Our Parish Nurses

Meet Adrienne Andrews

Adrienne Andrews RN has been our parish nurse since 2001. Adrienne and her husband of 30+ years, Terry, are long members of the Cathedral and all three of their children graduated from Cathedral School. She graduated from Lincoln Land Community College School of Nursing and has been employed in a variety of nursing settings. Adrienne received her parish nurse training from Carle Clinic. In addition to spending time with her beautiful granddaughter, Adrienne is very happy to continue serving parishioners at Cathedral as a Faith Community Nurse. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the rectory for her number.



Church in Crisis – Pathways Forward

The Church today faces significant challenges: an increasingly secularized society, disruptive culture, scandals, and a growing polarization caused by lack of clarity about what the Church teaches.

In this short online course, Dr. Ralph Martin, director of programs in the New Evangelization at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, offers a detailed look at the growing hostility to the Catholic Church and the dilution of its teaching. This course seeks to uncover the forces working to undermine the Body of Christ and offers hope to those looking for clarity and seeking truth in our modern world. The curriculum is based on Dr. Martin's book *A Church in Crisis: Pathways Forward*.

The class will be conducted online giving students the freedom to engage with the material and complete course tasks around their own schedule. The class will consist of six modules which can be completed according to the individual's own pace.

Each module will include:

- Lecture Video (~20 minutes)
- Lectio Divina Exercise (~10 minutes)
- Personal Assessment Quiz (~5 minutes)- Supplemental Reading Material

The goal of the course is not to deliver a high level of rigor or stress, but instead engage Catholics who want to learn more about their faith.

Consider this a Lenten study or retreat experience, done at your own pace. This is an opportunity to grow deeper in your relationship with the Lord and with others.

FREE, Sunday, February 27, 2022 - Friday April 8, 2022

Register at <https://explore.shms.edu/church-in-crisis>

Blood Pressure Clinic

Our parish nurses will be in the atrium after Mass next weekend, February 19th and 20th for blood pressure screenings. Please stop by!

Valentine's Kisses Guessing Game Winner

Amara K. is the winner of the Valentine kisses guessing game with a perfect guess of 75 kisses! Amara, please stop by the nurse's blood pressure table this weekend (2/19 & 2/20) to pick up your prize!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Retreat for Inner Healing

During this retreat, we will look at what in our souls and stories prevent us from experiencing the full peace, freedom, joy, and happiness that Jesus offers us. We may have been Catholic Christians our entire lives, but not experience the abundant life that Jesus promises us. We may regularly find ourselves filled with unwanted negative emotions. This retreat will facilitate an encounter with God's transformative and healing love. The retreat will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Decatur. It is not an overnight retreat, but it will span the weekend, specifically March 11th, 12th, 13th. Registration is free. To register or to ask questions email communications@ololchurch.com or call 217-877-4404

Springfield Right to Life "Sweethearts Dinner"

Two Hearts, Springfield's first annual fundraising event will be held on Friday, February 25, 2022, at Erin's Pavilion, 4965 S 2nd St, Springfield, IL 62703. The event will be a nice evening out, with a catered "surf and turf" dinner. The evening will feature speakers who will discuss Two Hearts' resources offered to pregnant women in the community and its education program. You can learn more about Two Hearts Springfield at: twoheartsspringfield.org. If you'd like to attend, please sign up at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/two-hearts-springfield-tickets-260401005417>

Women's Day of Recollection

The first Women's Day of Recollection of the year will be this coming Thursday, February 24 at Sacred Heart Church (730 S. 12th St., Springfield), from 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. There will be two meditations given by a priest and a 30-minute period for silent Adoration between the meditations. The ladies may take advantage of the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and spiritual direction during this time, as well as following the Recollection. All women throughout the diocese are invited to attend. The spiritual guidance at the Recollection is entrusted to a priest of the Prelature Opus Dei.

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.

Class Offered Through SIUE Cougar Catholic

SIUE Cougar Catholic's Robin Black-Rubenstein is teaching a class and all are welcome! In this Survey of Catholic Social Teaching course, you will cover the seven key themes of Catholic Social Teaching outlined by the bishops: the life and dignity of the human person; the call to family, community, and participation; rights and responsibilities; option for the poor and vulnerable; the dignity of work and the rights of workers; solidarity; and care for God's creation. This course begins the week of March 7th through April 9th and will meet at St. Mary's Church in Edwardsville from 5pm - 6pm on Thursdays. However, it is offered asynchronously as well. Those that complete the course will receive credit at the University of Dayton and through our diocesan certificate program. The cost is \$50, and no additional materials are needed. Email roblack@siue.edu for more info and to register! Registration ends February 25.

Catholic War Veterans

The Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary of the USA would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our organization and invite you to join us. We are a Veterans Service Organization whose primary mission is to advocate for, and provide support for, all veterans, their families, and the veterans' community through advocacy for veteran services, charitable activities and assistance, and socialization and fellowship. For more information or to apply to become a member, please visit www.cww.org.

SDDCW Lenten Retreat

All women of the Springfield diocese are invited to the SDDCW Lenten Retreat on Tuesday, March 29 and Wednesday, March 30 at the Villa Maria in Springfield. The Lenten Retreat is a tradition - Spiritual Presentations, Prayer, Holy Mass, Rosary, Confession, Fellowship and more! Retreat costs include meals, refreshments, retreat master, retreat materials & use of facility. Registration fee payable to S.D.C.C.W. are due by March 22, 2022.

Dynamic Catholic Speaker at St. Agnes

John Edwards, host of the popular Just a Guy in the Pew podcast, is coming to Springfield on February 25-26 to lead a parish mission at St. Agnes. For more information or questions, please contact cbecker@stagnescatholicparish.org or 217-792-1330.

You're Invited!

In preparation for the Year of the Eucharist, come experience the Vatican International Exhibit of The Eucharistic Miracles of the World. No cost- all are invited! Saturday, March 19, 4pm-7pm and Sunday, March 20, 8 am- 930 am, 11 am- 3 pm (Mass at 10 am) at Holy Family Parish in Athens. For more information, visit www.therealpresence.org