

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**FEBRUARY 27, 2022 | 8TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
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 9

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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  
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.



## Tenth Commandment

As we come to our conclusion of the month of February, we consider the last of the Ten Commandments: "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's." (Exodus 20:17) We do not often use the language of covetousness in our confessions, but we often use words like envy or jealousy. Even that can be a bit of a gray area, so what does this commandment really mean?

The Modern Catholic Dictionary by Father John Hardon, S.J. defines covetousness in this way: "A strong desire for possessions, especially material possessions. It implies that the desire is inordinate, with allusion to the prohibition in the Ten Commandments not to covet what belongs to someone else." I draw your attention to the word "inordinate" in this definition. It is not bad for us to desire things, such as money, reputation, health, etc. In fact, it can be very good to desire these things, but to always desire them in an ordered way. Ordered toward what? Since Jesus reminds us that all the commandments can be summed up as expressions of love of God and love of neighbor, this is where our desire for things must be ordered. For example, we can desire financial stability as long as those resources do not prevent us from being generous in our support for the Church and our love of others through charity. A disordered desire for money would be to accumulate more things and experiences just for ourselves, to the exclusion of helping others. We should desire health so that we can be of good service to our families and those around us. A disordered desire would be for people to be attracted to us so that we can get more attention or recognition.

This commandment calls us to be especially careful not to fall into envy. We often notice the things others have and something stirs in our hearts. On the one hand, we might rightly desire to also have what they have, which is not always bad. But when we feel sadness about what someone else has been blessed with, if we wish we could take what they have, or harbor a grudge against them for what they have, we are falling into envy, and envy is sinful because it lacks charity toward another. Here is what the Catechism has to say about envy:

2539 Envy is a capital sin. It refers to the sadness at the sight of another's goods and the immoderate desire to acquire them for oneself, even unjustly. When it wishes grave harm to a neighbor it is a mortal sin: (1866)

St. Augustine saw envy as "the diabolical sin." "From envy are born hatred, detraction, calumny, joy caused by the misfortune of a neighbor, and displeasure caused by his prosperity."

2540 Envy represents a form of sadness and therefore a refusal of charity; the baptized person should struggle against it by exercising good will. Envy often comes from pride; the baptized person should train himself to live in humility: (1829)

Would you like to see God glorified by you? Then rejoice in your brother's progress and you will immediately give glory to God. Because his servant could conquer envy by rejoicing in the merits of others, God will be praised. (St. John Chrysostom)

To proactively guard against falling into envy, the best thing is to foster an "attitude of gratitude", taking time each day to thank God for the blessings you have been given, those seen and unseen, always aware that they are signs of His unique and particular love for you. Then, having given thanks for your blessings, thank Him for the blessings He has given to somebody else. To do so is an expression of love of God and neighbor.

*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 28

7am - Anson Vaduk  
(Ann Vadukumcherry)  
5:15pm - Mollie Wood  
(Brenda Capranica)

### Tuesday, March 1

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath  
(Augustine Eleyidath)  
5:15pm - Jack Ely  
(Berni Ely)

### Wednesday, March 2

7am - Elizabeth Harman  
(LouAnn & Carl Corrigan)  
12:05pm - Drew Dhabalt  
(Sandy Hemminghouse)  
5:15pm - William F. & Shirley Logan  
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

### Thursday, March 3

7am - Jonah Garcia  
(Jonah Garcia)  
12:05pm - Drew Dhabalt  
(Women's Bible Study)  
5:15pm - The Alton Deanery  
(Chris Sommer)

### Friday, March 4

7am - Norma Bartoletti  
(Estate of Norma Bartoletti)  
12:05pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway  
(Rob Gasaway)  
5:15pm - Anjali Maliekkal  
(Ann Vadukumcherry)

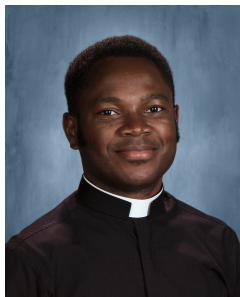
### Saturday, March 5

8am - Mary Celine Sestak  
(Julie Kruzick)  
4pm - Joe Forestier  
(Mark & Brenda Staab)

### Sunday, March 6

7am - Mary Celine Sestak  
(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)  
10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt  
(Kathy Frank)  
5pm - For the People





## Please Help Me!

It is no longer a surprise that we live in a time when asking for help is a sign of weakness. And nobody wants to be weak because we live in a world battered by pride and ego. We all want to be perfect in all ramifications, self-sufficient and need no one's help for any reason at any time. This is the mentality that many of us have today. It is a self-destructive mentality and one that has done more harm than good to our societies.

As a priest, I see this attitude of "I can do it all by myself" every day in my ministries and encounters with people. This mindset contradicts common-sense experience. Too often, we face the reality of not doing certain things for ourselves sometimes because we are emotionally, spiritually, or physically weak. Other times, we are sick or advanced in years or lack particular skills. The "I can do it all by myself" mentality contradicts everything we know about Jesus Christ and the teachings that we follow as Christians. At the heart of his ministry and teachings is "help one another" (Matthew 25:44-45; Mark 10:21; Luke 3:10-11; 6:28; 12:33-34).

Recently, one of our wonderful parishioners invited me to snow-sledding with her children after heavy snow. We went to the centennial park, where we met almost a hundred other people enjoying the snow. Anyone familiar with sledding may agree with me that the most challenging part of it is climbing up the hilltop after sledding down. It can be very slippery and exhausting.

Sometime during the sledding, I was walking up the slimy mound with a little boy of about eight years old a couple of meters ahead of me. At a point, he was falling and scrabbling for something to hold on to. As he was falling, he saw me and screamed, "please help me." Immediately I reached out and grabbed his hands and helped him up. We continued up the hill and went our separate ways.

Later that evening, as I was thinking about the day's sledding, I remembered the little boy and how he screamed, "please help me." Then I wondered to myself – as an adult, could I have quickly asked for help as the young man did? In other words, am I able to ask for help when I need it, or does pride overcome me so much that I would instead fall and maybe get injured than ask for help?

The "please help me" that the young man screamed is a sign that he is human. As human beings, we are social by nature. That means we are dependent on others at various times and in different situations every day of our lives. But unfortunately, very often, especially as adults, we think of it as a weakness to ask for help. In other words, we consider it a weakness to be human. When this happens, we become less humans. God bless that little boy for reminding me that it is okay to ask for help.

*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 19th & 20th

Envelopes:	\$6,626.00
Loose:	\$2,309.00
Maintenance:	\$130.00
Total:	\$9,065.00

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. Casimir

**Feast Day: March 4th**

Just about exactly 6 years ago, in March of 2016, I was on a short trip to Lithuania with some fellow seminarians and one beautiful day we met up with a seminarian I knew there from the diocese of Vilnius, who began to show us around the city. Linas, said young man who is still in seminary, showed us around to the various churches and shrines of the city – including the original painting of Divine Mercy! – and happily passed onto us an invitation from the bishop to join him for dinner.

Among many memories, one that comes back to me now is our visit to the Cathedral in the center of the main square of Vilnius. Inside the massive white church, off to the right-hand side of the nave is a large chapel where statues of kings from Lithuanian history surround an altar. Red and black marble hangs from the walls, glorious white arches hold the roof high above your head, and above the altar and tabernacle is a fascinating painting of St. Casimir, depicting the young prince with three arms. Above said depiction, a relief carving of Our Lady holding the infant Jesus, looks down upon the scene. St. Casimir is buried beneath the altar, having been reinterred there in 1634, 150 years after his death.

I certainly want to make mention that his three-handedness was not a physical attribute of the young, pious, prince of Lithuania, but a depiction of his generosity – “when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing” (Matthew 6:3) – and purity – for he holds a lily in both right hands. Certainly his life matches both virtues: he was generous with the poor, electing to wear simple and humble apparel against the wishes of his father, King (of Poland, Grand Duke of Lithuania) Casimir IV. Similarly, the younger Casimir also held off the designs that would have placed him in an arranged marriage with Kunigunde of Austria (daughter of Emperor Frederick III, the last Holy Roman Emperor to be crowned by the Pope in Rome). He was the grandson of Wladislaus II Jagiello, the King of Poland who introduced Christianity to Lithuania, and his uncle was Wladislaus III, the King of Poland and Hungary who died at the battle of Varna in 1444 defending Christendom against the Turks. Of course, these and other royal ancestors indicated that Casimir was destined for the throne, and glory. Yet he dodged the arranged marriage, evaded various military takeovers that would have expanded his kingdom, and seemed to have a general disposition against such political maneuvering.

Some say this was from a premonition of his approaching death at only 25, but many others propose another possibility. We see in him a final stand-out virtue: devotion to God, and it is from this, and all the above indicators, that some think Casimir was considering religious life. He never did join an order, and his being the heir apparent to the throne of both Poland and Lithuania certainly put pressure against such a vocation, yet his simplicity, humility, evident prayerfulness, and avoidance of marriage, all point to the stirrings or at least contemplation of a celibate life devoted to God. Years after his death, in his coffin was discovered a hymn to Our Lady, *Omni die dic Mariae*. Some say it was sung at his funeral; some say he was its author, though a more likely candidate was St. Bernard of Cluny a few hundred years before. In any case, it was a hymn that resounded, and I suppose still does, through the heart of the youthful leader.

*Fr. Dominic Rankin only got a few minutes to visit the tomb of this tremendous, saintly, young man, but has the happy occasion to re-encounter him this week, and to be reminded of the intensity with which the Lord asks us to follow Him. All our lives cover different ground, but the destination is the same: union with God. If I'm not taking that seriously in all my choices now, will I when eternity approaches?*

Omni die dic Mariae  
Mea laudes anima:  
Ejus festa, ejus gesta  
Cole devotissima.

Contemplare et mirare  
Ejus celsitudinem:  
Dic felicem genitricem,  
Dic beatam Virginem.

Ipsam cole, ut de mole  
Criminum te liberet,  
Hanc appella, ne procella  
Vitorum superet.

Haec persona nobis dona  
Contulit coelestia;  
Haec regina nos divina  
Illustravit gratia.

Daily, daily sing to Mary,  
Sing, my soul, her praises due:  
All her feasts, her actions honor  
With the heart's devotion true.

Lost in wond'ring contemplation,  
Be her majesty confessed:  
Call her Mother, call her Virgin,  
Happy Mother, Virgin blest.

She is mighty in her pleading,  
Tender in her loving care;  
Ever watchful, understanding,  
All our sorrows she will share.

Advocate and loving mother,  
Mediatix of all grace:  
Heaven's blessings she dispenses  
On our sinful human race.

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### Ash Wednesday at the Cathedral

Mass will be celebrated and Ashes will be distributed on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, at 7am, 12:05pm, and 5:15pm at the Cathedral. All are invited to attend.

### 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>

### Come Watch The Chosen on Cathedral's Big Screen

#### The Chosen – Episode Two

Jesus is looking for people who are willing to run to Him, to fall on their faces, to repent, surrender, and worship because of who He is, and to learn and grow in a faith that remains even when the miracles cease. Jesus knew what was in people's hearts—it's the reason He came. And so, true believers aren't just in it for the miracles; they have been fundamentally and irrevocably changed by Jesus Himself, making relationship with Him the ultimate prize.

Sunday, February 27, 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.

### 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.

### Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

On Ash Wednesday we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that still struggle to recover from former communist rule. Funds from this collection support pastoral care, catechesis, reconstruction, seminary formation, and poverty outreach. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection on Ash Wednesday. More information can be found at [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee)

### LENT IS COMING!

Join our faith community—and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a transformative Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the Church entrances this weekend or on Ash Wednesday. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on global hunger and take action to help our sisters and brothers impacted by this injustice. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more. Thank you for caring about our brothers and sisters around the world who struggle with famine, drought, social unrest and the lack of a stable society.

# 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](mailto:communications@ololchurch.com) or call 217-877-4404

### Dive Deep: The Priesthood as You Never Heard Before

How do they prepare a homily? Where do they get their vestments? Where do they go to confession? Dive Deep asks several fun questions about a priest's life you may have thought before but never knew the answer. You're also guaranteed to laugh in this episode! Go to [dio.org/podcast](http://dio.org/podcast) or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms.

### 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](http://www.therealpresence.org)

### Lent is Coming

Do you have a plan? We have you covered! Join Catholics across our diocese for a Lenten mission to restore our souls with grace in preparation for the resurrection. Sign up to receive weekly Lenten inspiration, tips, and resources from priests in our diocese in your inbox as we focus on REconciliation to the REsurrection. Go to [dio.org/lent](http://dio.org/lent) to sign up!

### 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.cwv.org](http://www.cwv.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.