

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MARCH 6, 2022 | 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



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 10

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

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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.



Issuing a Challenge

Many years ago, I heard some advice about Lent that has always stuck with me. The advice was that the best sacrifices to offer up are those we do not choose for ourselves. If we are honest with ourselves, don't we sometimes choose things to do or give up for Lent that we are pretty confident we can be successful at? I am not saying that is necessarily bad, but a true sign of our willingness to make sacrifices is to accept something we have not chosen.

With that thought in mind, I tried something with the parish where I served as Pastor before coming to the Cathedral. Each week during Lent, I would offer a challenge for the parish to consider undertaking. I was very encouraged with the response from the parish as they appreciated the challenge. I think there was something else that made the practice successful – we were all trying to undertake the challenge together. With that in mind, I would like to introduce these weekly Lenten challenges as a way for all of us to be in union with one another this Lent. This will also give us a chance to offer something up which we have not specifically chosen, providing variety to our spiritual lives as well as an opportunity to practice different virtues which will help us to grow in holiness. Each week, I'll provide the challenge, list one of the fruits of undertaking that challenge, and some commentary on the challenge. So, are you up for the challenge(s)? Here we go, then...

Challenge: Give up hitting the snooze button

Fruit: Conquering your will

For full transparency here - this is a repeat challenge that I offered to my previous parish. A lot of people spoke about how hard it was, so I thought it would be a good place to start! One of the great promoters of this practice is a fairly modern saint, Saint Josemaría Escrivá. He calls this practice "the Heroic Minute" and describes it with these words:

Conquer yourself each day from the very first moment, getting up on the dot, at a fixed time, without yielding a single minute to laziness. If, with God's help, you conquer yourself, you will be well ahead for the rest of the day. (The Way, 191) ... The heroic minute. It is the time fixed for getting up. Without hesitation: a supernatural reflection and... up! The heroic minute: here you have a mortification that strengthens your will and does no harm to your body. (The Way, 206)

Give it a shot, and feel free to share your experience with me next Sunday as you walk out of Mass. And don't worry, see these challenges as opportunities, not obligations. I'm not requiring anybody to do anything, just inviting. And if you stumble in the challenge, don't beat yourself up. Get back up, ask for God's help, and try again!

Also, this could be a good opportunity to recommit (or begin) the challenge we offered at the beginning of the year to pray Three Hail Mary's each day for our parish – one for the clergy of the parish, one for yourself, and one for the entire parish.

Finally, if you have an idea for a challenge that I can invite the parish to consider for a week, I am open to suggestions!

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, March 7

7am - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
12:05pm - Ann Pacatte
(Vicki Compton)
5:15pm - Debra Michelle Beltramea
(E. John & Debra Beltramea)

Tuesday, March 8

7am - Torquato "Tony" Bartoletti
(Estate of Norma Bartoletti)
12:05pm - Drew Dhabalt
(Sandy Hemminghouse)
5:15pm - Ruby Carlucci
(Barbara Bitschenauer)

Wednesday, March 9

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
12:05pm - Father Brian Alford
(Chris Sommer)
5:15pm - Father Dominic Vahling
(Chris Sommer)

Thursday, March 10

7am - Gorman & Bess Mulcahy
Family (Helen Guernsey)
12:05pm - Drew Dhabalt
(Women's Bible Study)
5:15pm - Sophia Bartoletti & Family
(Estate of Sophia Bartoletti)

Friday, March 11

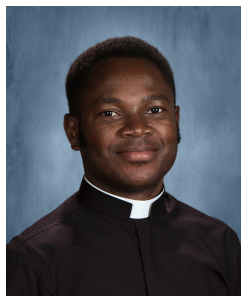
7am - The Mattoon Deanery
(Chris Sommer)
12:05pm - William J. Harte
(Lou Ann & Carl Corrigan)
5:15pm - Special Intention for
Bianca (D. A. Drago)

Saturday, March 12

8am - Special Intention for Kevin
(Ann Vadukumcherry)
4pm - Barbara Conkrite
(Litina Carnes)

Sunday, March 13

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)
10am - For the People
5pm - Amabile Bartoletti
(Estate of Norma Bartoletti)



“We Have Given Up Everything and Followed You.”

This year's Lenten season has just begun. A 40-days special period in the Church's calendar when Christians, who seek a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, choose to journey with him in the wilderness. Christ suffered hunger, thirstiness, loneliness, slander, and persecution in this wilderness. Above all, he reflected continuously on his upcoming passion and death on the cross during this time. He prayed relentlessly that God's will be done. In all these, Christ did not complain or curse. Instead, he gave up everything and embraced his sufferings for the greater glory of God and the redemption of sinful humanity.

By giving up everything, Jesus received everything from the Father. These include the salvation of the broken human race whom he condescended to their likeness, suffered for, and died to redeem.

During his ministry on earth with his disciples, Jesus constantly emphasized the need to live a detached life. He preached this in both words and actions. Attachment to the things of this world, he believes, is an obstacle to the salvation that he (Christ) suffered and died on the Cross to gain for humanity. There is no mention of Jesus owning houses, vehicles, electronics, gadgets, or similar things throughout the gospels. No one ever told of Jesus going on vacation with his parents or friends. And he commanded large followership, but Jesus never abused his power or used it for his selfish interests.

While he does not condemn material things, Jesus strongly urges us to live our lives detached from them. Because when we are detached from our earthly possessions, skills, and powers, we are better able to use them for the glory of God and the good of humanity. We read in the gospels about Jesus feeding groups of people on various occasions, hanging out with strangers, the poor, and sick people. Jesus preached love and repentance to his friends and enemies, the rich and the poor, the powerful and the commoners alike.

Jesus, on one occasion, while with his disciples, received a rich man who came to him and explained how he had lived an upright life since his youth. Jesus commended the rich man and asked him to do one more thing. The one more thing was to detach himself from his earthly possessions and ratify his relationship with God. Unfortunately, that was too much for the rich man.

Moved by the incident, Peter reminded Jesus of how they (the disciples) have given up everything to follow him (Jesus). Jesus assured Peter that they, who have left everything to follow him, will not regret it.

As Christians, this Lent is another privileged opportunity to enter the wilderness with Christ! Peter and his fellow disciples entered the wilderness by giving up family and material possessions to closely follow Christ. While we may not give up family and possessions the same way they did, there are too many ways to accomplish this goal. We can give up or take up things as sacrificial ways of following Christ more closely. When we give or take something up this Lent, let us remember to do those with sincere intentions to detach ourselves from our excessive attachments to the things of this world. May this Lenten season bring us closer to Jesus Christ in word and action. Amen.

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 26th & 27th

Envelopes:	\$3,905.00
Loose:	\$2,157.00
Maintenance:	\$147.00
Total:	\$6,209.00

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 Deaths

Pamela Harmon
Date of Death: 02/22/2022

Saints to Intercede for Ukraine

St. Olga of Kyiv (d. 969)

Olga was the queen whose conversion ultimately brought the people of Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine to Jesus. As a pagan, she raised her son to be cruel and cunning—a strategy that backfired when she converted and discovered him to be unconvertible. Though she tried to convert her country, Olga failed, but interceded for her people after her death. Her influence (in life and in death) on her grandson St. Vladimir of Kyiv led to the conversion of her whole country, and Olga's title of Equal to the Apostles.



St. Vladimir of Kyiv (958-1015)

Vladimir was the Grand Prince of Kiev who ruled for eight years as a pagan prince, complete with eight hundred concubines. But Vladimir was hungry for more and sent representatives to learn about the major world religions and report back to him.

Convinced by their account of Christianity, Vladimir was baptized and began to destroy pagan monuments, build Christian churches, and call all his people to receive baptism. With St.

Olga, he is credited with bringing the faith to the Ukrainian, Belarusian, and Russian peoples.



St. Zygmunt Szczesny Felinski (1822-1895)

Zygmunt was born in present-day Ukraine to a Polish family; his mother was later exiled to Siberia for her pro-Polish work. Zygmunt himself was involved in a failed revolution against Russia (after earning degrees in math and French literature). Felinski became a priest and then was made archbishop of Warsaw. He spoke out for independence and eventually wrote to the czar demanding Polish autonomy. In response he was sent into exile in Russia for 20 years before being allowed to live out his life in semi-exile in Ukraine.



St. Olga of Kyiv, Feast Day July 11th,
Patroness of Widows and Converts,

St. Vladimir of Kyiv, Feast Day July 15th,
Patron of Russian Catholics

St. Josaphat Kuntsevych, Feast Day
November 12th, Patron of Ukraine

St. Josaphat Kuntsevych (1580-1623)

Josaphat was a Polish-Lithuanian man born in modern-day Ukraine to an Orthodox family. After his Church (today the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church) was reunited to Rome, Josaphat entered a monastery and later became archeparch (archbishop) of Plotsk.

Josaphat worked to bring his people into communion with Rome (though many were suspicious that it would chip away at the Byzantine character of their faith). His work made him much hated in certain circles, who accused him having "gone Latin," and he was hacked to death by a mob.



Bl. Mykola Konrad (1876-1941)

Mykola was a husband, father of 6, priest, and professor. When Soviet troops arrived in Lviv, Fr. Konrad and his family were forced to leave the city.

While they were passing through a village with no priest, villagers asked why he was abandoning them. So the brilliant academic became pastor of a tiny village, where he met **Bl.**

Volodymyr Pryjma (1906-1941), a Ukrainian husband and father and a trained cantor and church choir

director. 4 days after the Nazi invasion, Fr. Konrad was called to hear the confession of a sick woman.

His parishioners feared for his safety but Fr. Konrad couldn't refuse her absolution even to save his own life. Rather than let him go alone, Pryjma joined him. But as the two were returning from their errand of mercy, they were captured, tortured, and martyred by Soviets.



St. Zygmunt Szczesny Feliński,
Feast Day September 17th

Bl. Mykola Konrad,
Feast Day June 26th



Fr. Dominic Rankin found the above photos and biographies in a post by Meg Hunter-Kilmer, a blogger and speaker whose podcast – Hobo for Christ – he had begun to listen to for its weekly saint stories. She actually came to Rome during his final year there and they were able to meet in person, which happily brings these saints to you this week! You can follow her on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mhunterkilmer> as well as on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mhunterkilmer/> to discover many more lesser-known saints.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Lent at the Cathedral

We want to walk with you during Lent. We are here to listen, to pray with you, to serve with you, and to grow into intentional disciples with you. We want to help provide answers to your questions and help connect you to a relationship with Jesus. In our effort to provide radical hospitality, we have created a variety of resources and programming both online and in person. From online to in-pew, we have an opportunity for you to grow in your Catholic faith at Cathedral this Lent! Visit www.spicathedral.org/lent today!

Come Watch The Chosen on Cathedral's Big Screen

The Chosen – Episode Three

Children are simple. They're appropriately awestruck by the world around them. They're wide-eyed and expectant and moldable and trusting. By nature they aren't jaded or judgmental—those qualities come with age, along with self-focus, self-reliance, self-protection, self-promotion and self-praise. On the contrary, children (most of them, anyway) are willing to defer and to receive, to climb into the Savior's lap and be cared for, to be led and loved on. The children approached Jesus in a way we're supposed to emulate.

Sunday, March 6, 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.

Extended Confessions and Adoration

The Cathedral will be hosting extended confession and Adoration hours on Friday, March 18 from 12:30pm-7:00pm, and Saturday March 19 from 9:00am-4:00pm. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Adoration for the faithful to spend time before our Eucharistic Lord. Confessions will also be heard during those hours. Please consider signing up (<https://spicathedral.flocknote.com/signup/82470>) for an hour during that time to pray so as to prepare well for the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

The Pillars of Lent

As we begin our Lenten journey, reflect on how your prayers, fasting and almsgiving can guide you. As Pope Francis explains, these are "elements which, when lived sincerely, can transform life and provide a sure foundation for dignity and fraternity." How can practicing the Lenten pillars transform your life and the lives of our sisters and brothers around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

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.

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 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.

Assistance for the People of Ukraine

"In tribulation is the test of the just." (Sir 27:4-7)

Catholic organizations are working to provide shelter, food, medical supplies, and other humanitarian needs, both directly in Ukraine and at refugee sites. Please support those in need with your prayer and fasting and with the sharing of your resources. Two of the Catholic organizations providing aid are Catholic Relief Services and the Knights of Columbus. Links to support these organizations appear below.



Knights of
Columbus®

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

Second Collection - Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities in our diocese has a rich history of providing vital services and hope to God's people in need. Throughout this long pandemic, Catholic Charities remained open as staff and volunteers served on the front lines to bring relief and advocate for the poor, sick, hungry, and weary every day. Because of your continued prayers and generosity, thousands of people received food, assistance with medicine, rent and utilities, counseling services, legal assistance, Thanksgiving and Christmas assistance, social work services, and basic needs assistance to adequately provide for their families. They felt relief as they were told Catholic Charities could help during one of the most difficult periods in recent history. Catholic Charities is able to continue these services through the ongoing generosity of people like you - donors, staff, volunteers, board members, and organizations coming together to fulfill the mission. Thank you for your continued support of Catholic Charities, especially throughout the pandemic, to ensure God's love and mercy is extended to all of his children. During the weekend of March 12/13, 2022, the annual collection for Catholic Charities will again be held in our deaneries. This year, I challenge you to continue to support Catholic Charities as they continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbors in need.

Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

Thank you for your generous contributions last week to our Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. The Church is an important stabilizer in a part of the world that is still recovering from communism and now dealing with war. If you missed the collection it's not too late to give. Visit www.usccb.org/cee

40 Days For Life

Prayer Partners are being invited to provide a daily prayerful presence in front of Planned Parenthood during the Lenten Season from Ash Wednesday March 2nd through Palm Sunday April 10th. Recommended shifts are 1 hour. Parking and Life Signs are available at Springfield Right To Life, 519 N. Bruns Lane, Springfield, IL - just south of Planned Parenthood. Sign-up cards are available in the church. Cards can be returned to the parish office or placed into the collection basket. If there are questions, please call Springfield Right to Life (217-523-2700) or Dave Klestinski (217-741-8230).

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 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

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.