

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MARCH 13, 2022 | 2ND 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 11

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!



Works of Mercy

I realize last week's challenge of not hitting your Snooze button on your alarm might have been a challenge, but I commend you if you were willing to accept the challenge. I often use the analogy of weight training when considering our growing in virtue. If you want to build muscle, you need to have resistance. So to with virtue – we need to encounter resistance in our lives which gives us the opportunity to practice virtue and so be strengthened.

For this week's challenge, I would like to turn to our March Family of Faith topic: The New Commandment, the Works of Mercy, and the First through Fourth Beatitudes. This is a broad topic, so let's just focus on

the Works of Mercy. The Church offers us two categories when it comes to the Works of Mercy – corporal and spiritual. I came across a quote the other day which sums up these works well: "Mercy is the form love takes when it encounters misery." Lent calls this reality to mind as we consider the mercy of God who sent His Son to die for our sins – the greatest act of mercy to alleviate the misery of our fallen condition due to sin. The challenge for this week is a combination of a couple of the spiritual works of mercy – bearing wrongs patiently and praying for the living and the dead:

Challenge: Pray for your enemies
Fruit: Growing more merciful

We heard in the Gospel a few Sundays ago where Jesus said: "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you." (Lk 6:27-28) I want you to think of a person that you really find it hard to love. That could be somebody close to you or just somebody you know about. Once you have thought of that person, instead of listing off all of the reasons why you do not like / love them, say a prayer for them. Say something like this: "Lord, you love this person. You want them to become a saint. I find it hard to see the good you see in them, but I want, more than anything, for your will to be done. So I pray for them, that you will bless them, and give them what they need in order to become a saint."

Say a prayer like that every day. I realize it might be hard, but it is not impossible, because Jesus does not command the impossible. There is a big difference between can't and won't. And if we are unwilling to do this, well, then we will have a very hard time trying to make the case that we are a true follower of Jesus Christ.

As an added challenge (I read this from a reflection from Bishop Barron), at the end of the week, list off all of the negative things you can think about that person, then go before the Lord and ask forgiveness for when you yourself have been guilty of those same things. That gives new weight to the words of Jesus from another recent Gospel: "Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye." (Lk 6:42)

Speaking of mercy, I would like to also take this opportunity to invite you to another very important spiritual practice that is key to growing in holiness – going to confession to encounter God's mercy toward us. If you have not been in a while, Lent is a great time to go. Nothing (apart from the Eucharist) is more conducive to our growing in holiness than having the misery of our sins lifted. Let me be so bold to say that if it has been more than a month since your last confession, it would be a good idea to go this Lent. Let me be even more bold in saying that if this is the only extra thing you do this Lent, it will have been a fruitful Lent. As a reminder, one of the priests of the Cathedral is waiting to welcome you to the sacrament of God's mercy every day (note our normal confession times in the bulletin) and we will have extended hours for confession this coming Friday and Saturday. Confessions on Friday are from 12:30 pm until 7:00 pm, then on Saturday from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. As an extra credit bonus challenge – invite a family member or friend to join you when you come to confession!

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 14

7am - Joel & Marylu Joseph
(Ann Vadukumcherry)
12:05pm - Drew Dhabalt
(Berni Ely)
5:15pm - The Jerseyville Deanery
(Chris Sommer)

Tuesday, March 15

7am - Barbara Litzelman
(Fran, Elaine, & Doug)
12:05pm - Drew Dhabalt
(Sandy Hemminghouse)
5:15pm - Irvin Larry Smith
(Beverly & Larry Smith)

Wednesday, March 16

7am - Deceased Rocco Piccinino
Family (John Busciacco)
12:05pm - Stephanie Sandidge
(Sue Sandidge)
5:15pm - Mary Celine Sestak
(Matt & Paula Morsch)

Thursday, March 17

7am - Sophia Bartoletti & Family
(Estate of Sophia Bartoletti)
12:05pm - Thomas McGee Family
(Tom McGee)
5:15pm - Mary Dwyer
(Barbara Bitschenauer)

Friday, March 18

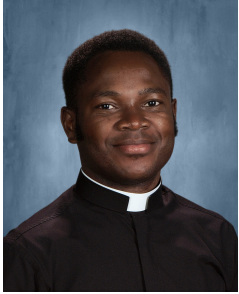
7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
12:05pm - Delia Sinn
(Pamela Hargan)
5:15pm - Mike Terril
(Brenda Capranica)

Saturday, March 19

8am - Doris Kennedy
(Rob & Jan Sgambelluri)
4pm - The Staab Family
(Friends)

Sunday, March 20

7am - For the People
10am - John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)
5pm - Doc Reid
(Vicki Compton)



My Glass of Whisky

Earlier this week, I was out of town giving a parish retreat somewhere in the eastern part of our diocese. During this time, I had the opportunity to visit several homebound parishioners during the day when I had some free time. These visits, like in Springfield, are among the most fulfilling parts of pastoral ministry for me. Because, beyond administering the sacraments to people who truly desire them, those visits are beautiful opportunities to listen to stories and histories that one may never hear elsewhere. Also, such visits provide amazing prospects for encounters with folks who have lived multiple decades of their lives growing with and in the Church they love and serve.

One of my visits was to a lady in her late nineties. For privacy reasons, I will call her Bema here. Bema was sharp and strong mentally and spiritually. Her physical strength is failing and limits her abilities to stand and walk. So she is homebound. But her limited mobility has not stopped Bema from keeping up with political and Church news, with her prayer life and daily Mass attendance online.

When I asked Bema what her secret was for being so sharp even with her vision and hearing, she laughed and said she loves her whiskey. She strongly believes that her glass of whisky every morning for way more than half a century is responsible for her good health. She went ahead to convince me that it works and that I should try it. We both laughed as I asked her what she was doing for Lent.

The question of what Bema is doing for Lent brought an answer that provoked a deeper understanding of the word "sacrifice" in me. First, she told me she gives up her daily glass of whisky every Lent. According to Bema, giving up her daily glass of whisky is the most significant sacrifice for her. That nothing else can cause her enough anguish than giving up something she treasures the most, which she can still do without.

Also, Bema said something else that I have been talking about in my homilies since the beginning of Lent. She explained that she donates the cost of a bottle of her choicest whisky to her favorite charity at the end of Lent every year. Again, I asked why she thinks it is important to do such. Bema told me that if she only gives up her daily glass of whiskey every Lent without making that donation, she would just be saving her whiskey. THAT IS TRUE!

Two lessons from my visit with Bema:

1. If we must journey with Christ in the wilderness this Lent by fasting from something, it must be something we truly cherish. We must fast from something that doing without it is capable of causing us some real distress.
2. We must allow our fasting to benefit someone else. For example, suppose I must fast from meat this lent. In that case, I have to check the average cost of my monthly meat consumption and donate it to a person or organization that needs it.

May our Lenten sacrifices bring us closer to Jesus Christ. 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 March 5th & 6th

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Envelopes: | \$9,976.00 |
| Loose: | \$3,797.00 |
| Maintenance: | \$1,463.00 |
| Total: | \$15,236.00 |

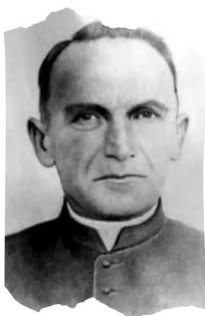
February EFT: \$20,179.85

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!

Saints to Intercede for Ukraine

Bl. Emilian Kovch (1884-1944)

Emilian was a Ukrainian priest, husband, and father of 6. He repeatedly risked his life to preach against prejudice and anti-Semitism. He and his 2 daughters were arrested by the Soviets but escaped. Fr. Kovch continued his work for justice under Nazi rule. On one occasion, Nazi troops had chased some Jews into a synagogue and were throwing firebombs inside. Fr. Kovch raced to the synagogue, blocked the doors, and angrily ordered the soldiers to leave.

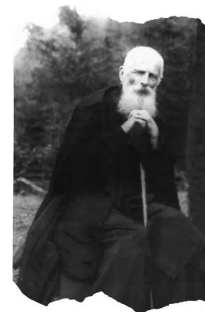


THEY DID and Fr. Kovch ran into the synagogue to save the people burning within. He was eventually sent to a concentration camp and wrote to his kids, "I understand that you are trying to get me released. But I beg you not to do this. Yesterday they killed 50 people. If I am not here, who will help them to get through these sufferings?" He died there.

Bl. Emilian Kovch,
Feast Day March 25th

Bl. Kliment Sheptytsky (1869-1951)

Kliment was a legal scholar who served in the Austrian parliament for 7 years before becoming a Ukrainian Catholic monk. He survived Soviet rule and spent Nazi occupation hiding Jewish people in monasteries and helping them escape to freedom.



For his work, he was declared Righteous Among the Nations by the nation of Israel. After the war, Sheptytsky was made archimandrite (abbot) and led the Church when most bishops were in prison. He was arrested by the Soviets for refusing to renounce Rome and died in prison.

Bl. Klymentiy Sheptytsky,
Feast Day May 1st

Bl. Laurentia Herasymiv (1911-1952)

Laurentia was a Ukrainian Catholic Sister who developed a chronic illness after spending a night hiding outside as Soviet soldiers searched her convent. She was arrested for refusing to abandon the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church for Orthodoxy. With **Bl. Olympia Bida** (1903-1952) she was sent to Siberia, where Sr. Laurentia's tuberculosis made it hard for them to find anyone to take them in. They found a home with a very ill (and loudly embittered man) and lived with his complaints for less than 2 years before both died.



Bl. Lavrentia Herasymiv,
Feast Day August 28th

Bl. Vasyl Velychkovsky (1903-1973)

Vasyl was a bishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. After fighting in the First World War he became a Redemptorist priest and offered retreats throughout the region, speaking to hundreds of thousands of people in his first 15 years as a priest.



After the Soviet invasion, Fr. Velychkovsky did 10 years of hard labor in the coal mines. When he returned to Ukraine, he led secret retreats and ran a secret seminary. He was selected bishop in 1959, but was unable to be consecrated since every bishop in Ukraine was in prison. After 4 years, Velychkovsky was consecrated in a secret hotel room ceremony in Moscow. He served for 6 years (consecrating several bishops so the Church would never again be without an active prelate) before being arrested and tortured for 3 years. He died in exile in Canada.

Bl. Vasyl Velychkovsky,
Feast Day June 27th



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

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.

Perseverance to Succeed

Raúl and Lilian have faced many challenges while trying to provide for their family and pursue their dreams in Guatemala. With support from Catholic Relief Services, they have been able to overcome these obstacles and grow their business while helping their community along the way. In what ways are you being challenged to serve others this Lent? Visit csrcebowl.org to learn more.

Prayer and Confession: Turning Sinners Into Winners

Join Fr. Alford as he talks about the power and beauty of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
Monday, March 14, 7:00-8:00pm Cathedral Atrium

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.



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!

Second Collection - Helping Hands

Next weekend's second collection will be for Helping Hands of Springfield. When you support Helping Hands of Springfield, you help people in our community, who are experiencing homelessness, regain their health and housing. You give a person a safe place to stay in Emergency Shelter while he looks for a job and an apartment, and gets the health care he needs to become independent again. You provide a Permanent Supported Housing apartment, and a case manager, for a person with disabilities so she stays safe and attends all her doctor's appointments. You protect an elderly person who can't manage her own money by providing her with a responsible Representative Payee who ensures her basic needs are always met. You cover the first month's rent for a person who lost his job and just needs a "hand up" to prevent him from becoming homeless. In short, you make a difference in the lives of our neighbors who are in need. All these amazing things – and more – are happening in our community every day because people like you generously provide resources for Helping Hands. For more information on Helping Hands of Springfield, please visit www.helpinghandsofspringfield.org.

Blood Pressure Clinic

The Cathedral Parish Nurses will be in the Atrium checking blood pressures after all Masses next weekend, March 19th and 20th. Please stop by!

Come Watch The Chosen on Cathedral's Big Screen

The Chosen – Episode Four

Jesus was calling for heart change. Radical inward transformation was the price of kingdom admission. Nothing more. Nothing less. And it just so happened that a disastrous night of fishing, followed by a boatload of revelation (pun intended) set the stage for Simon to experience just that.

Sunday, March 13, 2:00-3:15, Cathedral Atrium

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Travel to Poland with Bishop Paprocki

Journey through the life of Karol Wojtyla to St. John Paul the II with Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. From Warsaw to Kraków, from Częstochowa to the Tatra Mountains, from his hometown of Wadowice to the Divine Mercy Shrine, we invite you into a legacy of sanctity crucial for our Church today. All-Inclusive Pilgrimage for \$4,500 Includes non-stop roundtrip airfare from Chicago. Space is limited. Register by March 28 at jp2project.org/come-see-pilgrimage

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

Butler Funeral Home Open Door Session

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 on Wednesday, March 16 from 11:30am to 1:30pm at Bella Milano in Springfield. Complimentary lunch will be provided. This event is free: no cost or obligation. Please call 217-544-4646 to reserve your space no later than Monday, March 14th.

Dive Deep: What You Never Knew about the Gospel of Luke

Is one of your Lenten goals to read and learn more about the bible? Dive Deep has you covered as we explore the Gospel of Luke. Go to dio.org/podcast or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms.

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). you can also sign up online for vigil hours by visiting https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/vigil-hours-signup.aspx?l_id=101 or <https://40daysforlife.com/en/springfieldil>.

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.