

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MARCH 27, 2022 | 4TH 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 13

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.



Rejoice!

As we celebrate this Fourth Sunday of Lent, we are now closer to Easter than we are to Ash Wednesday. This is one of the reasons that the Church invites us to rejoice on this day. We call this Laetare Sunday, getting its name from the first word in Latin of the Entrance Antiphon for Mass: "Rejoice (Laetare), Jerusalem!" (Is 66:10) We visibly express this joy with the rose vestments that clergy have the option of wearing this Sunday.

The notion of rejoicing does not strike us as very Lenten. Lent feels more like a time to be subdued, to be more sober, to focus more on sacrifice than celebration. But let us recall the words from St. Paul: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!" (Phil 4:4) Yes, even in Lent! As Christians, we should always be joyful because of the victory that Christ has already won in His Resurrection, that victory which He shares with us through our Baptism. However, during this season of repentance, we spend time looking at our lives, noticing where we are in need of conversion. Seeing those weaknesses and faults, we can get pretty down on ourselves, and our first thought is not to rejoice, but rather to be discouraged about ourselves.

This leads me to the challenge I would like to offer for this week:

Challenge: Fast from negative self-talk

Fruit: Fostering a Christian spirit of joy

It strikes me how powerful negative self-talk can be in our lives. We begin to believe that we are defined by our sins and weaknesses. For example, if we struggle with procrastination, we will say: I am a procrastinator. If we struggle with patience, we will say: I am an impatient person. You know what those labels are in your life, and many of them are likely not something about which you rejoice. To be sure, it is good for us to know where we need to grow, but we do not want that to turn into a feeling of failure or defeat. As a Christian, we should look at those areas with a spirit of hope, seeing in them places where the Lord wants to win His next victory in our lives. As His beloved children, He never stops inviting us to welcome Him in to heal us and renew us. In that regard, I find the following words of Pope St. John Paul II very encouraging: "We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son."

So let's try our best this week to stop the negative self-talk. As an added challenge, if you notice that you are beginning to fall into that negativity spiral about yourself, break the cycle with an affirmation that is true: "I am a beloved son/daughter of the Father!" What a wonderful cause for rejoicing when we call that to mind. One of the beautiful "side effects" of stopping this negative self-talk is that we will likely begin to see others through the same lens with which we are learning to look at ourselves. We will less frequently fall into judgments and criticisms of others and begin to see them as brothers and sisters, rejoicing in the gift they too have been given as beloved sons and daughters.

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 28

7am - Andy & Marie O'Neill
(Family)

12:05pm - Mary & Alfonso Acuna
(Family)

5:15pm - Achettu Family
(Ann Vadukumcherry)

Tuesday, March 29

7am - Michael Poggi
(Family)

12:05pm - Drew Dhabalt
(Sandy H.)

5:15pm - Kyle Buckman
(Karen Marruffo)

Wednesday, March 30

7am - Springfield Deanery
(Chris Sommer)

12:05pm - Cathy Furkin
(Family)

5:15pm - Mary Celine Sestak
(Matt & Paula Morsch)

Thursday, March 31

7am - Theresa Young
(LouAnn & Carl Corrigan)

12:05pm - Drew Dhabalt
(Women's Bible Study)

5:15pm - Peter Dreis
(Rebecca Logerquist)

Friday, April 1

7am - Norma Bartoletti
(Estate of Norma Bartoletti)

12:05pm - Deceased Members of
the Vincent Darrigo Family
(Jeannette Giannone)

5:15pm - Ann Pacatte
(Anonymous)

Saturday, April 2

8am - Cynthia P. & Family
(Ann Vadukumcherry)

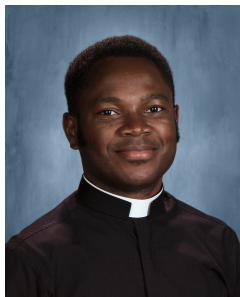
4pm - Sophia Bartoletti & Family
(Estate of Sophia Bartoletti)

Sunday, April 3

7am - Mary Jane Kerns
(Greg & Avis McKenney)

10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)

5pm - For the People



Halfway Through the Lent

We will be about halfway through this year's Lenten season this week. At the beginning of the lent, some of us decided to abstain from certain foods or activities. Others resolved to add some foods to their diets or activities to their daily routines. Still, many people choose to consolidate some additions or subtractions that they already have. Many of us simply have been doing something since the beginning of our Lenten journey.

Where are we now? Have we stopped with our Lenten observances? Have we forsaken Jesus in the wilderness? Have we forgotten that he is still in the desert preparing himself for the ultimate price of our salvation? A price that must involve severe tortures, persecution, beatings, whipping, spitting, and individual and public condemnations? Have we quickly forgotten that he is still in the wilderness, lonely, hungry, thirsty, weak, and isolated? Lent is just halfway. It is not over yet.

The whole idea of making Lenten observances is to deepen our relationship with Christ, to unite ourselves in fraternal solicitude to the suffering Christ. His sufferings and all the hardships he endured are to free us from our sins and show us how to embrace suffering for salvific reasons. The scripture puts it better when it says:

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

1 Peter 2:21-25

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us increase efforts to stay firm in our Lenten observances. Let us remember that those sacrifices and mortifications must be geared towards bringing us closer to Jesus Christ. Because of this noble reason, we must not entertain any distraction or discouragement in fulfilling our Lenten resolutions.

The Church encourages us to ensure that whatever we are doing to make a good Lent, we should pay special attention to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Some activities and lifestyles we have embarked upon during this Lent may express less direct connections to these Lenten virtues (prayer, fasting, and almsgiving). When this happens, one should not be discouraged. The important thing is that we must all be doing something to deepen our relationship with Christ this Lent. He continues to endure bodily and emotional torments in the wilderness of our sins. So, let us not back down from our Lenten observances now that we are only halfway through the Lenten season.

May God continue to bless our efforts with more courage and desire to persevere in our Lenten resolutions. 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 12th & 13th

Envelopes:	\$5,760.00
Loose:	\$2,682.00
Maintenance:	\$223.00
Total:	\$8,665.00

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!



St. Francis of Paula

Feast Day: April 2nd

My guess is that no one who reads this article is currently a consecrated hermit. (If someone is, my thanks for your self-gift to the Lord! And, please pray for us who carry more evidently the cross of living in the world but not of the world!) And yet, I think the saint we celebrate, and call upon, this week – St. Francis of Paula – a hermit, and founder of the Order of Minims, is still abundantly applicable to each in the 21st century. Born in 1416, in the region of Calabria in Italy (famous now for its lemons, olives, and spicy red peppercinos... as well as being the toe of the Italian boot), Francis' story begins before his conception.

His parents, themselves a devoted and prayerful couple, were unable to conceive, and like so many couples now who carry that troubling and lonely cross of infertility, could only go to God with their longing for children and put their hope in Him. Praying to St. Francis of Assisi, the Poverello from further north in Italy brought their prayers to the Lord, and they finally conceived. They were delighted to name their little son Francisco.

Any mother or father reading this, though, knows that conception is only the first of many chances to trust that a child brings to their parents. As a baby, Francis had an enigmatic swelling around one of his eyes. Uncertainty, doubt, fear, and worry crashed upon the young couple as their little boy's eyesight was threatened. They turned again, continuously, to God, beseeching again St. Francis' prayers, even promising that when he was older, if their little Francisco was cured, they would let him spend a year with the Franciscans. This was not a small promise for a poor family, especially before knowing that they would be blessed with two other children in the years to come. Yet their faithful prayers were rewarded: Francisco was immediately healed.

He would grow into taking for himself the devotion and prayerfulness of his parents, and, to no one's surprise, and his parents' pride and sanctification, would in fact spend that year in a Franciscan friary as a young man. Returning home, they went on a pilgrimage of thanksgiving to Assisi and Rome after his year of obedience, humility, chastity, and poverty under the rule of St. Francis. Treasuring that experience, but not feeling the Lord's directing him to continue with the Order of Friars Minor, the young man found a cave on his family farm and began to live a life of intense prayer and poverty to discern who the Lord was beckoning him to be. His parents and he both must have found their hearts stretched by the Lord's silent Love, simply asking all of them to put their trust in Him. The months, and then years, rolled past, and Francis found himself at peace in embracing the life of a hermit.

Two other men would join him, somehow coming to know of Francis' holiness and love for God and wanting it for themselves. More years past and our saint-in-the-making now found himself building a monastery and church in Cosenza (several miles east of Paula). Francis of Assisi so many years before had singlehandedly rebuilt the chapel of the portiuncula, enduring the insults and flung rocks from his previous compadres, but now a new Francis had the help and love of the noblemen, who themselves carried stones to build this Church growing up around the intense poverty of their beloved hermit. Francis and his followers would embrace a life of complete poverty, chastity, obedience, as well as abstinence from all animal products (meat, cheese, butter, eggs, etc.)

He was a vegan hermit! How many millennials (and others) have embraced a similar lifestyle in our own day?! Of course, we might fruitfully ask whether that dietary restriction was directed by the Lord ... and yet, as I smile at this line of thought, doesn't this mean that Francis of Paula once again connects to us today? Are you abstaining from meat for Lent? Are you unable to eat foods with lactose? Have you chosen (or been forced into) a vegan diet? Instead of just enduring it, do it for the sake of God, to be united with Jesus' simplicity of life. Instead of changing your diet for mere physical health, do so for your supernatural health!

Fr. Dominic Rankin will soon be preparing to MC for all the liturgies of Holy Week. It will be a hectic, but heavenly, commemoration of all that Jesus has won for us! If, like St. Francis of Paula, the Lord calls me home to Himself during the recitation of the Passion of St. John on Good Friday, I'd ask that one of the priests would give me Anointing and Communion, and perhaps Fr. Alford could step in as MC so that the liturgy could continue...

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Candle Donation Increase

Due to increase in oil prices, paraffin, a derivative of oil, has increased the cost of the candles in our shrines in the Cathedral. Votives will increase to 75 cents each, and large candles will increase to \$2.50 each. We appreciate your understanding and thank you for your donations.

Come Watch The Chosen on Cathedral's Big Screen

The Chosen – Episode Six

What must a person sound like to solicit awe? "He speaks with authority" is such a specific observation. The Jews tried to understand where the authority that oozed out of Jesus came from. Who granted it? Who taught you how to speak this way? What entitles you to come onto our turf and teach our people? His answer was simple, but would seal His fate: "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58).

Sunday, March 27, 2:00-3:15, Cathedral Atrium

Driven By A Dream

Malnutrition is widespread in Rwanda, but Gloriose and her husband are doing everything they can to keep their children healthy and set them up for success. From learning to grow a kitchen garden to participating in a micro-savings group, Gloriose and Karekezi know it takes many resources to help their children thrive. How have you helped others access what they need this Lent? Visit csrricebowl.org to learn more.

Almsgiving: Saints Aren't Stingy

Join Fr. Dominic Rankin to deepen your understanding of sacrificial giving and stewardship.

Monday, March 28, 7:00-8:00pm, Cathedral Atrium

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 - Cathedral Parish Student Assistance for Catholic Education

Next weekend's second collection will be for Cathedral Parish Student Assistance for Catholic Education. 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. This second collection will go towards funding those scholarships.

First Friday Concert - April 1

Join us on Friday, April 1, 2022 at 7pm in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! April's concert will feature Logan Campbell, Bass - Baritone. The First Friday Concert Series is sponsored by the Staab Family, and is free and open to the public. All are welcome!

CCCW Bumper Stickers

CCCW will be selling bumper stickers/window decals to show our support and prayers for the people of Ukraine after each Mass for the next 2 weeks. Your donation will be forwarded to a Catholic Charities fund specifically set up for Ukraine. We will be set up in the atrium and the front entrance. Thank you for your support!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

CRS Rice Bowl

This Lent, our community is once again participating in CRS (Catholic Relief Services) Rice Bowl, a program that invites us to reflect on the challenges of global hunger- and our Gospel call to care for our global human family.

CRS Rice Bowl provides many resources for daily reflection throughout the liturgical season. Consider these suggestions in your family's Lenten plan:

- Use your CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar each day to guide your prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- Read the Stories of Hope and daily reflections to inspire your Lenten journey.
- Use the CRS Rice Bowl recipes to prepare simple, meatless meals on the Fridays of Lent to eat in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world.
- Visit www.crsricebowl.org to watch videos of the people and communities you support through your Lenten gifts to CRS Rice Bowl.

Your sacrifices during this holy season have the power to change lives by providing enough nutritious food for families to thrive. Thank you for participating in CRS Rice Bowl with your family.

SAVE THE DATES

The Springfield Council of Catholic Women (SDCCW) is pleased to announce the dates of the Celebration of the 2022 Our Lady of Good Counsel Women of Distinction and the 2022 SDCCW Annual Convention. The Celebration of the Women of Distinction Award Celebration will be on Sat., July 23, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Springfield, followed by a luncheon at the Crowne Plaza. The 2022 SDCCW Convention will be held on Wed., Sept. 28, at Immaculate Conception Parish in Mattoon. Further information and registration for both events will be forth coming.

The Mission of the SCCW as an affiliate of the National Council of Catholic Women is to support, empower and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service.

Catholic Relief Services Collection

Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection and for revealing Christ's love to those who are poor and marginalized around the world. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Just visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections for more information on how to give.

Cougar Catholic Fundraiser

Cougar Catholic is partnering with CORDA Candles for a virtual fundraiser! CORDA's candles are inspired by the Saints and our faith. Grow closer in prayer with the Saints as the scents of the candles draw on the richness of our devotions, liturgy, and tradition. CORDA will donate 15% of each sale to our Newman Center at SIUE. The candles are great to have and great to gift! Visit <https://cordacandles.com/?ref=siue22> to shop now.

Illinois Right to Life Annual Leaders for Life Banquet

Illinois Right to Life cordially invites you to its 53rd Annual Leaders for Life Banquet which will be held on Friday, April 29th, 6:00 pm, at The Carlisle in Lombard. Dan Proft, radio talk show host for AM 560, will serve as master of ceremonies and Dennis Prager will be featured as keynote speaker. Dennis Prager is a best-selling author, nationally syndicated radio talk show host in the USA and co-founder of the Internet phenomenon, PragerU. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to <https://illinoisrighttolife.org/Banquet> or call (312)-422-9300.

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>.

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

HOW TO SUPPORT UKRAINE

Caritas Ukraine
www.caritas.org/ukraine

Catholic Near East Welfare Association
www.cnewa.org/campaigns/ukraine/

Catholic Relief Services
www.crs.org

Aid to the Church in Need
www.churchinneed.org

The Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy
of Philadelphia
<https://ukrarcheparchy.us/donate>

Knights of Columbus Ukraine
Solidarity Fund
<https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/charity/ukraine.html>

Mary, queen of peace, pray for all the victims of this tragic and unjust war.

