

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

APRIL 10, 2022 | PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION



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 15

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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  
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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.



## Praying with the Cross

*During my time in seminary formation, I would often go to a certain church in St. Louis for confession. The parish was served by two older Capuchin Franciscan priests and they heard confessions every day at 11:00 am. On one occasion, after making my confession, the priest invited me to reflect on the Cross in a way that I have never forgotten. He invited me to look at a crucifix (like the one on the end of a Rosary, or one hanging on a wall) and to ask three questions:*

1. Who is that?
2. Why is He there?
3. What does it mean to me?

The first two questions were easy to answer, especially for a seminarian who thought he knew pretty much everything about Jesus! But that third question was much more difficult. What does the Cross mean to me? It is a question that I still struggle to answer adequately. It is this question that the entire Church is being invited to consider each year when we celebrate Holy Week. We always begin on Palm Sunday by listening to the Passion narrative from one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, or Luke). We then return to the Passion narrative on Good Friday, this time from the Gospel of John. The Church offers these two narratives in order to keep the Cross before us. We look to the Cross, we hear the stories, and we each should ask: "What does this mean to me?"

For your prayer this week, I would like to invite you to pray with the crucifix and reflect on those three questions as a way of coming to better appreciate the love Christ showed for us in His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. But this is not my challenge for the week! Instead, I want to invite you to something a little more difficult, but much more fruitful, in fact, I think this will be the most fruitful of my Lenten challenges should you choose to accept it:

**Challenge: Attend all the Paschal Triduum Liturgies**

**Fruit: Deepened appreciation for Christ's love for us**

Because these liturgies are not "days of obligation", we do not always give them a lot of priority, opting to focus on Easter Sunday. But these liturgies are so extremely important to us as Catholics, because they place before us the culmination of God's saving work for His people. We are invited to celebrate these liturgies with a real awareness that all that Jesus did, especially in these sacred days, He did for you and for me. Our relationship with Him becomes much more personal to the extent that we enter into these mysteries with this awareness. And as we see these events unfolding for us once again, answering that third question – "What does it mean to me?" – will be much easier to answer and will enkindle within us a desire to live for fully for Him who has died for us.

*Father Alford is the Rector of the Cathedral and serves in the diocesan curia as the Vicar for Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations.*

### Mass Intentions

#### Monday, April 11

7am - Mary Celine Sestak  
(LouAnn & Carl Corrigan)  
12:05pm - Alfonso Acuna  
(Family)  
5:15pm - Sara Tucker Cox  
(Beverly & Larry Smith)

#### Tuesday, April 12

7am - Sophia Bartoletti & Family  
(Estate)  
12:05pm - Kappel Family  
(James Kappel)  
5:15pm - NO MASS

#### Wednesday, April 13

7am - Cathedral Parishioners  
(Carol West)  
12:05pm - Delia Sinn  
(Pamela Hargan)  
5:15pm - Grace Forlano  
(John Busciacco)

#### Thursday, April 14

6:30pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl  
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

#### Friday, April 15

3pm - NO INTENTIONS;  
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

#### Saturday, April 16

8pm - Woodhull Family  
(Woody & Becky Woodhull)

#### Sunday, April 17

7am - Betty & Gene Barish  
(Family)  
10am - For the People





## Movie Recommendation – The Prince of Egypt

This is the first time that I have recommended a specific movie in my Weekly article. I don't possess any special expertise or training in film criticism, so I am only speaking from my experience!

The 1998 film *The Prince of Egypt*, produced by Dreamworks at the same time they were producing *Shrek*, was only moderately successful in the box office. However, it brought to life the story of the Exodus for a new generation of believers and non-believers alike. The story follows the life of Moses, beginning the day his mother put him adrift in a basket, only to be adopted into Pharaoh's family.

As a young man, Moses fled Egypt in fear after killing an Egyptian. However, God's call to return to Egypt came through the burning bush in which God revealed his name as "I am who am," a profound revelation of God's identity as the one who is – the source of all existence.

Every year around Easter time, I try to at least listen to some of the music from this film as a way to enter into the spirit of the Triduum and Easter Sunday. Without being aware of the Jewish roots of our faith, we cannot fully understand the amazing things that God has done for us throughout history. The Passover was a foundational event in the history of the Hebrew people. God commanded his people to slaughter a lamb and put the blood on the doorpost to save their firstborn from the angel of death. The commemoration of the Passover was the very night in which Jesus gave us the greatest of all the sacraments – the Eucharist. We know that he is the new Passover Lamb, whose blood saves us from eternal death.

The Jewish people have had a long history of suffering. We often hear about this in the Old Testament. They were exiled from their land, and over the generations, their identity as a people was lost in many ways. In the year 70 AD, Israel as a nation was erased from the map, only to return after World War II and the Holocaust, in which 6 million Jews died. We should never forget that Jesus is a Jew, and even today, the Jewish people share a history and language with Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the Apostles, and countless other Christians throughout Church history. Sadly, Christians have not been exempt from the sin of anti-Semitism. Many people of Jewish descent today are atheists and do not believe in God. However, there are still many practicing Jews around the world who follow the Law and pray to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We hope and pray that the Jewish people will all recognize Jesus Christ as the Messiah and the fulfillment of the prophecies in the Old Testament.

I have heard before that the suffering of the Jewish People is, in a way, a fulfillment of the prophecy of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah. We believe that Jesus most perfectly fulfills this prophecy, but prophecies can be fulfilled in more than one way. Isaiah wrote in Chapters 52 and 53, "So marred was his look beyond that of man. There was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, one of those from whom men hide their faces." Has there been any nation that has suffered like the Israelites? In a way, they have shared the fate of our savior, Jesus; a fate of being rejected and persecuted. However, we know that God can use this in some way for the world's salvation, by sharing in the death and suffering of Jesus. While taking some artistic liberties, *The Prince of Egypt* is faithful to the story of the Exodus found in the Bible, even going so far as to directly incorporate some Hebrew words into the dialogue and lyrics. Maybe the reason I like this movie so much is that it presents faith as something to be celebrated and cherished, not made fun of, as so often happens in Hollywood. If you are looking for some family-friendly entertainment as we approach the Paschal celebrations, look up *The Prince of Egypt*, and you may gain some new insight into God's plan of salvation for all his people!

*Father Dominic Vahling serves as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and as co-chaplain of Sacred Heart-Griffin High School.*

### Stewardship of Treasure April 2nd & 3rd

Envelopes:	\$5,275.00
Loose:	\$3,697.00
Maintenance:	\$992.00
Total:	\$9,964.00

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. Stanislaus Kostka

Feast Day: April 11th

I always love a chance to let the saints tell the stories of the saints! I get to do that this week because St. Thérèse of Lisieux, while the Novice Master in the Carmel of Lisieux, wrote a play for the novices to perform on the Golden Jubilee of another Sister, Sr. Stanislaus, on February 8th, 1897. They were close friends because Sr. Thérèse had assisted Sr. Stanislaus in the sacristy for two years a few years prior. Now, as she reflected on the life of St. Stanislaus, the Little Flower felt in her soul a premonition like the young Polish Jesuit had felt prior to her: that she would die young but could give greater love to the world from above than while here:

J.M.J.T.

Saint Stanislaus Kostka

### CAST

The Blessed Virgin and the Child Jesus

Saint Stanislaus Kostka

Saint Francis Borgia

Brother Stephen Augusti, a young novice.

*Scene 4: The scene takes place at Rome, in the room of Saint Francis Borgia. Moments before, that Superior of the Jesuit order, upon returning to his quarters, was surprised to find there the haggard young man, Stanislaus, who had just finished his 450-mile trek to Rome from Poland and had been left there by Brother Augusti. Francis continues his questioning of the pious aspiring-Jesuit:*

FRANCIS: It's pointless to speak about your success. Tell me, rather, what your reason is for asking to join the Society of Jesus.

STANISLAUS: My Reverend Father, it is because I want to become a saint.

FRANCIS: Don't you know, my child, that one can become a saint anywhere; it's not the habit or the title of the Jesuits that works this marvel.

STANISLAUS: How then is it, my Father, that all Jesuits are saints?

FRANCIS: All are not saints, and the proof is that I, their General, am a mere sinner.

STANISLAUS: How can you say such a thing without lying, my Reverend Father? The whole world says you are a saint who performs miracles.

FRANCIS: The world is mistaken, my child, no need to make much of its judgment. If ever that liar comes murmuring such flatteries in your ears, humble yourself and consider what you are in God's eyes.

STANISLAUS: O my Father! even if I could work miracles, it doesn't seem to me that I'd be able to be proud; the memory of my earlier life would not be erased from my memory. Ah! I am a miserable person, unworthy of the graces of the Good God!... (He weeps.)

FRANCIS: The Lord pardons even the greatest faults, but I wouldn't believe you guilty of crimes. To unburden yourself of your sins, if you're willing to confess them to me, Brother Augusti will leave the room.

STANISLAUS (stopping Brother Augusti): No, my brother, stay; since I'm going to be living with you, I want you to know the reasons for my repentance, so you will treat me as I deserve. (He kneels before Saint Francis.) My Father, in His mercy, the Good God has deigned to call me to Him, from the dawn of my life; but, rather than telling my [spiritual] director of this calling, I resisted the grace that summoned me for eighteen months. (He lays his head on Saint Francis' knees and weeps bitterly.)

FRANCIS (very moved): My poor child, console yourself; your fault is atoned for by the sincere repentance you have shown. The memory of this failing in faith, far from nagging at your soul, will keep it humble, and you know it: there is

no sacrifice more pleasing to God than that of a contrite and humbled heart.

STANISLAUS: My Father, what unspeakable consolation you pour over my soul!... Oh! I beg that you'll now teach me how I may become a saint and make up for the time I've lost.

FRANCIS: I think the only way will be for you to despise yourself sincerely, to think the best of others, and to prove to them by every means possible the love that consumes your heart. If you make obedience the rule and the guardian of your charity, you'll be able to do much good in a short time.

*There's a knock at the door. Brother Augusti goes to answer and comes back earning a letter which he gives, on bended knee, to Saint Francis, whispering a few words to him.*

FRANCIS (opening the envelope): Brother Stanislaus, here's a letter from Poland; your father's writing you. (He hands him the letter.) Read it right now. (Saint Stanislaus reads the letter, and begins to cry again.) What's upsetting you, my child? Do you regret having joined the Society of Jesus?

STANISLAUS: Oh no, my Father! I weep at seeing that my parents do not understand the Gift of God. They say I am unworthy of my ancestors and that I have dishonored their family. There is more honor, however, more nobility and glory for our house from my being here as the least among the great servants of God than if I were to become, in the world, more famous than any of my ancestors.

FRANCIS: You're right, my son; I hope that one day your parents will approve of your vocation, but as to that, did not Our Lord Jesus say, "I did not come to bring peace, but the sword. Who loves his father and mother more than me is unworthy of me."

STANISLAUS, (raising his eye to Heaven): Now I can say, with the psalmist: "My father and my mother have abandoned me, but the Lord has cared for me. I have chosen to be among the least in the house of my God, rather than live in the tents of the worldly."

FRANCIS: My dear child, I can see that God Himself brought you here and wants you to stay here. In a few days, I shall give you the sacred habit; prepare yourself for this grace in silence and reflection. Thank the Lord who's granted you the great favor of living in His house. (He puts his hand on Brother Augusti's head.) I give you Brother Augusti as your angel; he'll instruct you in your external duties. I know your souls resemble each other; further, I grant you permission to share your thoughts and the graces the Lord has been pleased to heap upon His children. (He stands up.) I'll leave you; the duties of my post require that I be elsewhere.

BROTHER AUGUSTI, (kneeling down next to Saint Stanislaus): My Father, may Your Reverence deign to give us a blessing.

FRANCIS: Dear children, may the Most Holy Trinity bless you both, as I myself bless you with all my heart. (He exits.)



*Fr. Dominic Rankin's sister, Sr. Mary Thomas, has often spoken about the plays and skits they concoct in the monastery. At first it seems too playful for such a pious place, too carefree to be celestial. Yet, isn't it us who have flipped things upside down? Why do we take earth so seriously, and act as if heaven were abstract and far away! May the example of the saints flip our perspective back to God's way of seeing things! (Read the rest of St. Thérèse's play at the QR-code link:)*

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### EASTER TRIDUUM SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday Mass of the  
Lord's Supper: 6:30pm

The Liturgy of the Lord's  
Passion on Good Friday:  
3:00pm

Easter Vigil on  
Holy Saturday: 8:00pm

Easter Sunday Masses:  
7:00am & 10:00am



#### Sharing God's Love

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. –John 3:16 As we enter Holy Week, we remember how our Lord suffered and died so that each and every one of us might be saved from sin and have eternal life. Reflect on God's infinite love for you. How have you responded to that love this Lent, and how can you share it with others? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more.

#### April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

During the month of April, we recognize National Child Abuse Prevention Month (NCAPM) and the importance of communities working together to help families thrive and prevent child maltreatment. Through this collaboration, prevention services and supportive relationships help protect children and produce thriving families. Cathedral's partnership with Safe Families is one way we are helping to protect children and produce thriving families. Safe Families has provided us with blue pinwheels to serve as a visible sign that families are loved and supported in our congregation and community. The blue pinwheel is a nationally recognized symbol for prevention because it represents the great childhood all children deserve and the prevention efforts that help ensure that happens. Find out how you can support local families with Safe Families by going to [www.springfield.safe-families.org](http://www.springfield.safe-families.org) or by calling the parish office 217/522-3342.

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

##### The Chosen – Episode Eight

The adulterous woman...The bleeding woman...The Samaritan woman at the well. When the world chose to abuse, alienate or brutally judge these women, Jesus chose to rescue, restore and redeem them. To ascribe them value. Because Jesus makes us what we're not. Sunday, April 10, 2:00-3:15, Cathedral Atrium

#### Faith Community Nursing: Advanced Directives

It is one of those topics that is difficult to talk about, but we are here to help you. What happens in the hospital when a patient is too sick to share their preferences for medical care? Do you have a Living Will? Do you have a Power of Attorney? What's the difference? We can help answer your questions. If you are interested in learning about Advanced Directives for healthcare, please call Adrienne at (217) 638-7879 so that the Faith Community Nurses can plan a time to show you examples of Advanced Directives and answer all of your questions.

#### CCCW & Knight's of Columbus Council #16126 Scholarship

Applications for the CCCW & Knight's of Columbus Council #16126 scholarship are now available. Completed scholarship applications, essay, and teacher evaluations must be submitted and received by the Cathedral Rectory by noon on Wednesday, April 13, 2022. For more information or to apply, please visit <https://spicathedral.org/cccw-knights-of-columbus-council-16126-scholarship-application/>

#### 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.

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Diocese

### Newman Ministry

Some Newman info for our college bound students... You can sign up to be connected with Newman at <https://signupnc.newmanministry.com/>. For more information and connecting with friends, faith, and fellowship by downloading the Newman Connection app <https://www.newmanministry.com/app>

Parents: there is also a Newman Parent Guide coming soon!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Angela Bentley, Newman Ambassador at [jamsbentley@comcast.net](mailto:jamsbentley@comcast.net)

### Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday Second Collection - Seminarian Fund

At the Easter Vigil Liturgy and the Easter Sunday Masses, another special collection, the Seminarian Collection, will help our diocese to educate and form future priests. Our diocese has been blessed with an increasing number of young men who have generously said yes to God's call. We now have fourteen seminarians, two of whom at this time will be ordained priests for our diocese in June. You can take a personal role in their formation by a generous gift in this special Easter collection.

### Bishop Paprocki's Easter Egg Hunt at The Evermode Institute

All are welcome to attend an Easter Egg Hunt and activities at the new Evermode Institute (4875 Laverna Rd, Springfield, IL 62707) on Saturday, April 30 at 2 p.m.! Come enjoy family activities, free treats and beverage, and check out the grounds of the future home of The Evermode Institute. Children will enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt for ages 0-12 starting at 2PM (bags for the hunt are included). A special Easter blessing will take place at 3:30 PM with Bishop Paprocki in the main chapel. Please RSVP at [dio.org](http://dio.org).

### Collaborate, Connect & Celebrate: Family Caregiver Conference

Join Carle Health and the Alzheimer's Association for an educational event for families coping with memory loss, Alzheimer's disease and other dementia on May 19th from 5pm-9pm in Normal, IL. This educational event celebrates caregivers who give their time and energy caring for a loved one facing Alzheimer's or dementia. Attendees are invited to honor their loved ones, collaboratively learn new caregiving strategies and connect with others facing similar challenges. Complimentary dinner will be provided, but registration is required. For more information or to register, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/collaborate-connect-celebrate-family-caregiver-conference-tickets-278072982777>

### Second Collection - Pontifical Good Friday Collection

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines. The pandemic hit particularly hard the Christians in the Holy Land. Most of them depend on pilgrimages to work. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is also necessary to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land where the Church was born. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. Please be generous! For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit [www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday](http://www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday)

### CRS March Global Emergency Update—Ukraine

CRS is supporting Caritas in their relief efforts across Ukraine and in neighboring countries. The presence of Caritas diocesan social centers in urban and rural areas—with trained staff members and volunteers who are mobilized and prepared—allows us to play a vital role. With your ongoing support, we are working closely with Caritas Ukraine, Caritas Moldova, Caritas Poland and Caritas Romania to provide families food, clothing, transport to safe shelter, counseling and care for children. We are also providing cash assistance so people can buy critical supplies while on the move. And we are continuing to adapt, expand and adjust our programming to meet needs as they evolve in this challenging, fluid context. Please pray for the safety of women, children and men who are affected by this crisis, and for those who have lost their lives. Thank you for all that you do for people during their time of greatest need.

### The Liturgical Arts Festival of Springfield - May 6-15

The Liturgical Arts Festival of Springfield board cordially invites you to the LAFS 2022 May 6-15. LAFS 2022 theme "Holding fast to the Sacred; our journey through time," will explore how our diverse faiths guide us through life's milestones—from weddings, births, and death. The Liturgical Arts Festival of Springfield is an interfaith celebration of the arts. What are "liturgical arts"? Liturgical arts are cultural expressions of creativity, beauty, and community life: music, dance, drama, poetry, architecture, and visual art. The festival explores expressions of the soul and the spirit by showcasing excellence in a journey across the arts, inspired by the beautiful diversity of faith traditions within our own community. For more information and for a list of events, please visit <http://www.lafspringfield.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/LiturgicalArtsFestival/>