

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

APRIL 17, 2022 | EASTER SUNDAY



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 16

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!

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.



Living in the Light of the Resurrection

Alleluia! How good it is for us once again to sing this song of Easter victory. Having fasted from this word throughout Lent, resuming its usage should fill out hearts with joy as we recall the victory of light over darkness in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. During these next 50 days of the Easter Season, this light will shine brightly in the form of the Easter Candle, placed prominently in the sanctuary near the ambo where the Good News of Easter is proclaimed in the Scriptures.

For those who were at the Easter Vigil, this theme of light was present throughout the liturgy. I never cease to be moved by the scene of the newly-lit Easter Candle entering into the darkened Cathedral. When the deacon chanted for the first time: "The Light of Christ", we responded with a resounding "Thanks be to God!" We thank God because this light reminds us that in the midst of the darkness of the world in which we find ourselves, Christ's light of hope, Christ's light of victory burns undimmed, inviting us to follow that light as He continues to lead us. This is expressed in the words that the bishop said as he lit the candle from the blessed Easter fire: **"May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds."**

On this day, we are reminded that, as Christians, we should never succumb to despair in the face of evil, suffering, or sorrow, for Christ has transformed death into life and defeat into victory. Yet, we still find ourselves going through life as though we do not really believe this. There is still doubt in our hearts because we do not see the victory taking hold. We continue to see war and strife, oppression, persecution, hatred, pain, and darkness all around us. We look at the circumstances in our lives, in the world, and the Church, wondering what the outcome might be. Will good win out over evil or not?

As I said, as Christians there is no room for us to doubt what the outcome will be. The outcome has already been decided. This victory of the Resurrection was one that He won not just for Himself, but for us, to set us free from sin and death, and to give us the gift of eternal life. When we are confronted with darkness, as we are each day, the Lord invites us to turn to the light of Christ, burning from the Easter Candle, but more importantly, burning in our hearts by virtue of our Baptism, the gift which marked us as recipients of His victory. In that light we receive strength to press forward in hope, following His light. But this victory is not something the Lord will force upon us. He will only grant it to those who desire it. And if we desire it, we commit to following the only path that will guarantee it – fidelity to His teaching and His Church. If we think we can reach victory by another way, we have been deceived by one of the many false lights that promise hope, but in the end, only lead to defeat. May we not fall victim to these false, worldly lights, but keep our eyes fixed on the true light of Christ who will lead us on to victory!

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 18

7am - Jean Reno Greenwald
(Fred & Rita Greenwald)
5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway
(Rob Gasaway)

Tuesday, April 19

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)
5:15pm - Mary Celine Sestak
(George Kruzick Family)

Wednesday, April 20

7am - Frank Coffey
(Family)
5:15pm - Shirley Fox
(LouAnn & Carl Corrigan)

Thursday, April 21

7am - Erma Bartoletti
(Estate of Norma Bartoletti)
5:15pm - Ann Pacatte
(Victoria Button)

Friday, April 22

7am - Laura Fjelstul
(Chris Sommer)
5:15pm - Sophia Bartoletti & Family
(Estate of Sophia Bartoletti)

Saturday, April 23

8am - Diana J. Schumacher
(Daniel Schumacher)
4pm - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)

Sunday, April 24

7am - For the People
10am - Renee Burns
(Colleen Atwood)
5pm - Kate Gage
(Jessica Weirich)



The Resurrection of the Body

Without peeking at the answer below, try to guess what year this statement was made by a Catholic bishop: "On no point does the Christian faith encounter more opposition than on the resurrection of the body." Most people of every culture seem to accept that there is some sort of spiritual existence in the afterlife, and it is usually thought to be a good thing for everyone. We do have an instinct in our human nature that there must be something after this life, because our hearts desire eternal fulfillment, and we recoil at the thought and experience of death.

Recently in his Sunday homily, Bishop Paprocki gave a teaching on the resurrection of the body. He made the point that when we say every Sunday in the Creed, "I believe in the resurrection of the body," we are speaking about our bodies – not the body of Jesus. We profess belief in his resurrection earlier in the Creed. Contrary to some popular beliefs, we do not become angels after we die. Angels and human beings are very different types of creation, although we do share some similar qualities.

What happens after we die is in one way a very mysterious process, but also fairly straight-forward according to the teachings of Jesus. When we die, we will be judged in an individual judgment, face to face with God. After this moment, our soul will proceed immediately to the blessedness of heaven (maybe after a purification), or to everlasting damnation (CCC 1022). When the world ends and Jesus comes back a second time in glory, the bodies of all human beings will be reunited with their souls. Jesus said, "The hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation" (John 5:28-29). God forbid that any of us would miss out on the blessedness of heaven! However, Jesus made it sound like a very real possibility that even people who claim to follow him can be separated from him forever. In the bible, nobody talks about hell more than Jesus.

When we receive a challenging teaching from Jesus or the Church, it could be tempting to despair or feel totally inadequate to follow the teaching. But God instead invites us to a greater trust in him. He never asks us to do something that is impossible. If we make the conscious decision to follow God's laws in our lives to the best of our abilities, God will shower graces upon us and help us in many ways to become holier and more authentically human people.

I hope this is far enough down to not give the answer away from my initial guessing game – the bishop and doctor of the Church St. Augustine said this quote sometime during his ministry between 396 and 430. I thought it was interesting that the same quote could have been said by a bishop today, because some people scoff at the idea of our bodies coming back to life, in an even more "alive" way than before! It has always been the case that some people try to find every sort of pleasure and happiness in this life, which we all know will not last forever. There is always some new "fountain of youth" that is promising to make us look younger for longer. But behind this obsession with living forever is the knowledge that we were made for more than this life. God made our hearts in such a way that they will not be fulfilled until we have found him.

Easter Sunday is a taste of heaven on earth. Maybe today we are thinking about loved ones who have died and we hope to see again someday. Sometimes our personal lives and the liturgical calendar line up in interesting ways. Wherever we are in life – in the best year ever or the year that we can't wait to end – Jesus is risen! The problems that we have in life will not last forever, and Jesus wants to live through us on both the good days and the bad days. We at the Cathedral have the privilege of accompanying many people in their spiritual life, on both the best and worst days. Jesus has something to offer to everybody. If we live with Christ in this life, we will also live with him in the next!

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 9th & 10th

Envelopes:	\$5,948.00
Loose:	\$3,615.00
Maintenance:	\$328.00
Total:	\$9,891.00

March EFT: \$20,091.00

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!



Blessed Bees

For Christmas and Easter instead of picking a saint who's feast day falls on that week, I usually choose a saint associated with that feast-day of Our Lord. This year, I find myself meditating not on a member of the beatified, but on bees. During the most stupendous moment of the Easter Vigil, after the Paschal Candle has been solemnly consecrated, kindled, and carried into the darkened Cathedral ... as the priest, other ministers, and then entire congregation, light their candles from that pillar of fire shining with the light of the Risen Jesus ... as flames flicker throughout the nave, and every light is set to 100% ... the Deacon solemnly incenses the Paschal Candle, enthroned before us all, and begins to sing:

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven, ...

This is the night, when Christ broke the prison-bars of death and rose victorious from the underworld.

Our birth would have been no gain, had we not been redeemed.

O wonder of your humble care for us!

O love, O charity beyond all telling, to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!

O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!

O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

O truly blessed night, worthy alone to know the time and hour when Christ rose from the underworld!

This is the night of which it is written: The night shall be as bright as day, dazzling is the night for me, and full of gladness. The sanctifying power of this night dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty. On this, your night of grace, O holy Father, accept this candle, a solemn offering, the work of bees and of your servants' hands, an evening sacrifice of praise, this gift from your most holy Church.

This song praises God for all the tremendous moments of His mercy down through human history. It has been sung for at least a thousand years, with our current version recalling the work of bees twice, and earlier editions harping upon their labors with even greater emphasis. Why, amid creation and fall and exodus and resurrection, do we turn in praise to bees ... humble, buzzing, bees?

For the entire season of Easter, at every Mass, we will relight the Paschal Candle, drawing near again and again to the triumphant light and unending fire of love that is Our Risen Lord, yet that flame that shines His light, that white column decorated and distinguished in the center of our Church, surprisingly depends on the industry of a whole lot of honey-bees. The strength and success of Christ, is here symbolically reliant on a swarm of insects! The Church Fathers, and writers of Scripture, had a more sanctified imagination than we do these days, and it is they who remind us of this and other ways that bees remind us our own position in the Body of Christ.

Bees live in colonies with thousands of members, each one taking a specific, and essential, place – queen, drones, workers ... governing, gathering, directing, defending, reproducing, guarding, clearing, and laying down their lives – for the hive. We too must submit to, and be sustained within, our communion around Christ. Bees produce honey and wax, both marvelous substances – sweet, nutritious, and incorruptible; strong, malleable, and sterile – all for the sake of a project so much larger than each individual bee, and even the entire hive. In this way, they speak to us of our own call to the work to a charity like Christ, for the salvation of the Church and the world. Bees, lastly, Augustine, Isidore, and other saints point out, represent to us an example of the virtue of chastity. Of course, those saints did not understand exactly how bees reproduced, yet our modern science only strengthens their point. Male bees literally give up their lives in order to mate with a queen-bee and continue the life of the hive – talk about laying down one's life! Yet the queen, as happily noticed by Augustine, can also reproduce asexually (laying unfertilized eggs that do develop into bees) – one of those peculiar natural reminders of Jesus' own virginal conception as well as the supernatural fecundity and example that celibacy can have.

Community, charity, chastity ... all discovered in the buzzing of bees, in some ways dependent on them! Christ's victory depends on you too! Our world will not find the perfect Communion that Jesus has won for us if you and I don't live it out, submitting to His reign, surrendering to His will, and abiding in Him. Our world will not receive the persevering Charity that cascades from Our Lord's Heart if you and I don't receive it from the cross and chalice, bearing the Love He entrusts to us and defending that flickering flame through the storm. Our world will not know the victory and delight that is Chastity, if you and I do not take on the burden and freedom of authentic love, upholding ours and others' dignity, defending ours and others' bodies, consecrating our and others' hearts.

Fr. Dominic Rankin sometimes falls into thinking that carrying the Gospel these days is akin to a single-rep barbell squat: heaving upward hundreds of pounds against the pull of gravity. The truth is that Jesus has borne the bulk of the cross's weight! We need not lift the entire beam, rather, He asks us to simply approach the flowers of His grace and carry away a few grains of pollen for the nourishment and transformation of the world. I think even I can manage that!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

The Gift of Invitation for Women

You're invited to something wonderful -- a more abundant life and a closer relationship with God -- all you have to do is respond. In *The Gift of Invitation: 7 Ways Jesus Invites You to a Life of Grace*, you will:

- Discover the seven powerful invitations Jesus extends to you, including the invitation to follow him, forgive from your heart, and know his Father's many gifts
- Explore the Bible to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus
- See how each invitation plays out in your own life
- Reflect on how you can be better prepared to accept Jesus' invitations.

A journal/book includes reflections and scripture, with space for journaling. Please reserve your spot and order your book by contacting Vicki at 217/522-3342 or vcompton@cathedral.dio.org
Thursdays, May 5-Jun16, 9:00-10:00am

Catholicism from Bishop Barron

Cathedral's Women's Bible Study groups invite you to journey with Bishop Robert Barron to more than 50 locations throughout 16 countries. Be illuminated by the spiritual and artistic treasures of this global culture that claims more than one billion of the earth's people.

Bishop Robert Barron created this groundbreaking program as a thematic presentation of what Catholics believe and why, so all adults can come to a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith. Not a video lecture, Church history or Scripture study, this engaging and interesting formational program uses the art, architecture, literature, music and all the treasures of the Catholic tradition to illuminate the timeless teachings of the Church.

Thursdays at 10:00am or 1:00pm, beginning on May 5 in the School Library. This is a 10 week series. All women are welcome!

Faith Community Nursing: CPR

Save a LIFE! The Faith Community Nurses would like to offer a HeartSaver CPR course to the members of our parish. The HeartSaver CPR course is a basic beginner's CPR course that teaches the lifesaving skills of adult Hands-Only CPR, child and infant CPR, and the Heimlich maneuver for choking. The course is taught in a watch-practice format which allows hands-on practice. We want to be sure to have enough materials for plenty of practice, so if you are interested in learning basic CPR, please call Adrienne at (217) 638-7879.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to some of our own Family of Faith participants, as they received the Eucharist for the first time and the gift of the Holy Spirit last week, here at the Cathedral. God bless them!

Happy Easter!

Our CRS Rice Bowl journey has ended, but our prayers, fasting and almsgiving continue as we seek a closer relationship with God and our global family. Let us hold in our hearts our sisters and brothers in Guatemala, Bangladesh and Rwanda and commit to share our Easter joy with those in our local community and around the world. Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl or donate online at crsricebowl.org/give.

Divine Mercy Sunday Coffee and Donuts

Sunday hospitality and fellowship returns to the Cathedral next Sunday! Please join us for donuts and coffee after the 10:00am Mass.

Grief Share Bereavement Ministry

The Cathedral will be hosting Grief Share, a weekly, faith-based, grief support group. If you, or someone you know, would like help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend, please join us beginning Tuesday, May 31, 1:00-2:30pm in the Cathedral School Library. Grief Share runs for 13 weeks, but guests may join the series at any point and can pick up content they missed during the next cycle. For more information go to <https://www.griefshare.org/> or contact Berni Ely @ 899-6637 or jackandberni96@yahoo.com. To register call 217/522-3342 or email Vicki at vcompton@cathedral.dio.org. All adults, of any or no faith background, are welcome.

CCCW Garage Sale - Donations Needed

Spring cleaning? Donate your items to the CCCW Garage Sale! Items needed include: purses, shoes, jewelry, furniture, household items, all things kitchen, from dishes to small appliances, outdoor items, sports gear, linens from doilies and tablecloths to blankets and comforters, rugs, lamps, craft and sewing items, seasonal and holiday, toys, books, movies, etc. Donations can be dropped off in the Cathedral School Hall the week before the sale: Saturday, May 7 from 9am to 2pm and Monday, May 9 thru Wednesday, May 11 from 8am to 6pm.



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

CRS 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.

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.

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/>

Peace of Mind Seminar

Join Butler Funeral Homes for a Peace of Mind Seminar on Thursday, April 21st from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at the American Legion - Post 32, Mess Hall 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, April 18th.

Pregnancy Care Center Annual Spring Luncheon

The Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield, Inc. will hold its 38th Annual Spring Luncheon on Monday, May 2nd at the Northfield Inn and Suites. Entertainment will be provided by the Debbie Eddy Flute Choir. This year's raffle item is donated by The Springfield Muni and Lake Pointe Grill and includes two season tickets for this year's muni shows and a \$100 gift card to the Lake Pointe Grill. Raffle tickets are \$10 and will be sold at the event only. There will also be a bake sale and a silent auction. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon. Reservations are required by April 27th. Seats are \$30 each or \$240 for a table of eight. Reservations can be made through the event link on the Center's website at springfieldpregnancy.org or by calling the office at (217) 525-5630.

Save the Date! Hope Springs Eternal Fine Arts & Craft Show

Join us on Saturday, April 30th, from 10am to 3pm at Christ the King Parish Center where more than 21 local artists will display their art for purchase to raise funds for HOPE, helping other people excel. The show will feature more than 21 artists from Springfield and the surrounding areas. There will be a large variety of art and treasures available for purchase, and there will be delicious handmade treats for sale and a fabulous raffle. Mark your calendars, grab your best pals and come spend the day! There will be a \$5 admission fee for anyone 18 years and older. It's all for a wonderful cause.

Sacred Heart Church, Virden: "Drive-Thru Only" Fried Chicken Dinner

Sacred Heart Church in Virden will be holding a "Drive-Thru Only" Fried Chicken Dinner on Sunday, April 24, 2022 beginning at 11am at the K of C Hall in Virden. The packaged meal includes our signature fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, and a cookie, all for \$12. Thank you for your support!

Second Collection - Catholic Home Missions 2022

A trait of home mission dioceses is that many have a small Catholic population dispersed over a vast territory. The Melkite Eparchy of Newton, with about 35,000 members, covers the entire United States. When you contribute to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, you provide a lifeline that allows members of mission dioceses to remain in contact with each other, even if they live across the country. Your support of this appeal makes a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters right here in the United States. Please be generous to this appeal through the collection offertory envelope or your parish's e-offertory platform. #iGiveCatholicTogether (<https://usccb.igivecatholictogether.org/organizations/usccb-catholic-home-missions>) also accepts funds for the collection. To learn more about the appeal and those who benefit from it, visit www.usccb.org/home-missions. Thank you for strengthening the Church at home.

Celebrate and Share our JOY! 1923-2023 We are turning 100!

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George, from Alton, IL will be celebrating 100 years in the United States! Visit their donorbox page: <https://donorbox.org/share-our-joy-5> to support the Sisters and their mission of merciful love! The goal is 100K in 100 days in celebration of 100 years, beginning on March 17, 2022, and ending on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 24, 2022. If you have a story to share about encountering this merciful love through the witness of the Sisters, please email jubilee@altonfranciscans.org.

