

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

APRIL 24, 2022 | 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)



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 17

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.



The Feast of Mercy

On April 30, 2000, Pope St. John Paul II celebrated Mass on the Second Sunday of Easter at St. Peter's in Rome. That in itself was not something altogether significant, given that the Pope lives at St. Peter's and many papal liturgies are celebrated there. But this Mass was unique. Instead of celebrating Mass inside the basilica, he celebrated it outside, in the Plaza, something that is done only for extra special occasions so as to be able to accommodate large crowds. The special occasion for this Mass was to celebrate the first canonization the New Millennium. The saint canonized on that day was a fellow Pole, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, known as the

apostle of Divine Mercy. On that day, the Holy Father officially decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would be known throughout the Universal Church as Divine Mercy Sunday, per the request of Jesus Himself to St. Faustina as recorded in her Diary:

I desire that the first Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy (Diary, 299)...I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. (Diary, 699)

The message of Divine Mercy is extremely powerful as it reminds us of the depth of the Lord's love for us, His children, and how He desires to free us from the burdens of our sins. I recently heard a description of God's mercy that has really impacted me. The priest who shared it with me spoke about the experience of a child who has been injured, running to their mother or father in pain. Seeing their child suffering, the parent has only one thing in mind – attending to the wound. The parent is not trying to figure out what happened or why it happened, they just want to bring relief to their child. This is like what happens when we run to the Lord for His mercy. We run to Him in need, injured by our sins. Seeing us suffering, the Lord goes right to the pain to heal us. To strengthen this image, I recently came across these beautiful words of St. Faustina in her Diary:

When I see that the burden is beyond my strength, I do not consider or analyze it or probe into it, but I run like a child to the Heart of Jesus and say only one word to Him: "You can do all things." And then I keep silent, because I know that Jesus Himself will intervene in the matter, and as for me, instead of tormenting myself, I use that time to love Him. (Diary, 1033)

Think of this image the next time you go to confession, such as at our 2 PM Divine Mercy Service this Sunday. Bring your sins before the Lord as an injured child before their loving Father. Show Him your wounds by telling Him your sins and let Him do His work of healing. Explanations of why and how these sins came about are rarely necessary. The more we try to explain ourselves, the longer we delay His mercy from entering in to bring us His healing love!

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 25

7am -John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Michael Poggi
(Family)

Tuesday, April 26

7am - Mary Jane Kerns
(LouAnn & Carl Corrigan)
5:15pm - Sophia Bartoletti
(Estate)

Wednesday, April 27

7am - Betty Lou Rogers
(Loretta Midden)
5:15pm - Cathy Furkin
(Family)

Thursday, April 28

7am - Fr. David Zimmerman
(LouAnn & Carl Corrigan)
5:15pm - Will
(Family)

Friday, April 29

7am - Betty Lou Rogers
(Glen Rogers)
5:15pm - Joe Forestier
(Judith Mohler)

Saturday, April 30

8am - Deceased Members of CCCW
(CCCW)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, May 1

7am -Sophia Bartoletti & Family
(Estate)
10am - Drew Dhabalt
(Rob & Jan Sgambelluri)
5pm - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)



St. Mark

Feast Day: April 25th

I would like to introduce you to a lion this week. No, it is not a wild lion – be not afraid! – but it is certainly not a tame one either – petting and photographing will not be to your advantage! – in fact it is a far more formidable beast than even the most powerful of the kings of the savannah! I speak, of course, of St. Mark the Evangelist and his Gospel. Within a hundred years of Jesus' Resurrection, the Church had linked the Four Evangelists to the four creatures spoken of by the prophet Ezekiel.

which later reappear symbolically in the book of Revelation: the lion, the bull/ox, the man, and the eagle, all of them worshipping God. St. Irenaeus was the Church Father who linked these with the authors of the Gospels, seeing in the lion an image for Mark, whose Gospel begins in a desert with the roaring of John the Baptist: "prepare the way of the Lord."

How are we to approach a lion? How are we to approach the Gospel? How are we to approach Christ? On the one hand, if we come in fear and hesitation, we will never get close enough to truly understand what, and Who, is there before us. Consider the women at the end of Mark's Gospel, who find the tomb empty and run away in wonder and fear. Only Mary, who takes back her courage and goes back to the tomb, has an encounter with the Risen Lord. Do our fears or trepidations keep us from engaging the Gospel in its entirety? Do we allow ourselves to be challenged by it? Do we take back our own courage and come back, even if we don't feel up to grasping or grappling with God right now? Or, do we close God's book, or never open it, or more subtly, just close our hearts and never open them to these potent words of God? Will we let these pages capture us anew?

On the other hand, we can also approach these sacred words as we would a declawed tabby, to pet and prod and provoke into chasing a laser-pointer around the room. We want to be delighted and comforted and so we turn to the story of Jesus looking for warmth and encouragement. We pick out the bits that console us, and skim over the parts that ask us for something more. We like to hear John speak of baptism, not so much of his call to repent and turn from sin. We enjoy listening to Jesus' words of forgiveness and compassion and healing, not as much His prediction of rejection, persecution, and crucifixion.

The reality is that we are apt to be wildly disappointed whether we come to the Gospel of Mark hoping to avoid the ferocious lion, or to embrace only the kitten, for St. Mark's Gospel is meant to both chase us, and comfort us. In C.S. Lewis' book series, "The Chronicles of Narnia", Aslan, the Christ figure, is portrayed as a giant but gentle; strong but self-sacrificing, lion. We memorably meet Him with Lucy, Peter, Susan, and Edmund in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* but He also appears in a less-read book of that series, *The Horse and His Boy*. There a poor, abused, boy, and a royal, but lonely, girl, and two talking horses – all of them starting from the pagan faraway lands – find their paths come together as they begin an adventure that carries them through the desert back to Narnia. Only at the end of their journey do they finally meet Aslan, and discover that He had guided, and guarded, and chased them all the way to their true home.

"Who are you?" [Shasta, the boy] said, scarcely above a whisper. "One who has waited long for you to speak," said the Thing. Its voice was not loud, but

Stewardship of Treasure April 16th & 17th

Envelopes:	\$6,592.00
Loose:	\$7,020.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$136.00</u>
Total:	\$13,748.00

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!

very large and deep. "Are you—are you a giant?" asked Shasta. "You might call me a giant," said the Large Voice. "But I am not like the creatures you call giants." "I can't see you at all," said Shasta, after staring very hard. Then (for an even more terrible idea had come into his head) he said, almost in a scream, "You're not—not something dead, are you? Oh please—please do go away. What harm have I ever done you? Oh, I am the unluckiest person in the whole world!" Once more he felt the warm breath of the Thing on his hand and face. "There," it said, "that is not the breath of a ghost. Tell me your sorrows."

Shasta was a little reassured by the breath: so he told how he had never known his real father or mother and had been brought up sternly by the fisherman. And then he told the story of his escape and how they were chased by lions and forced to swim for their lives; and of all their dangers in Tashbaan and about his night among the tombs and how the beasts howled at him out of the desert. And he told about the heat and thirst of their desert journey and how they were almost at their goal when another lion chased them and wounded Aravis. And also, how very long it was since he had had anything to eat. "I do not call you unfortunate," said the Large Voice. "Don't you think it was bad luck to meet so many lions?" said Shasta.

"There was only one lion," said the Voice. "What on earth do you mean? I've just told you there were at least two the first night, and—" "There was only one: but he was swift of foot." "How do you know?" "I was the lion." And as Shasta gaped with open mouth and said nothing, the Voice continued. "I was the lion who forced you to join with Aravis. I was the cat who comforted you among the houses of the dead. I was the lion who drove the jackals from you while you slept. I was the lion who gave the Horses the new strength of fear for the last mile so that you should reach King Lune in time. And I was the lion you do not remember who pushed the boat in which you lay, a child near death, so that it came to shore where a man sat, wakeful at midnight, to receive you."

"Then it was you who wounded Aravis?" "It was I." "But what for?" "Child," said the Voice, "I am telling you your story, not hers. I tell no one any story but his own." "Who are you?" asked Shasta. "Myself," said the Voice, very deep and low so that the earth shook: and again "Myself," loud and clear and gay: and then the third time "Myself," whispered so softly you could hardly hear it, and yet it seemed to come from all round you as if the leaves rustled with it. Shasta was no longer afraid that the Voice belonged to something that would eat him, nor that it was the voice of a ghost. But a new and different sort of trembling came over him. Yet he felt glad too. The mist was turning from black to gray and from gray to white. This must have begun to happen some time ago, but while he had been talking to the Thing he had not been noticing anything else. Now, the whiteness around him became a shining whiteness; his eyes began to blink. Somewhere ahead he could hear birds singing. He knew the night was over at last. He could see the mane and ears and head of his horse quite easily now. A golden light fell on them from the left. He thought it was the sun. He turned and saw, pacing beside him, taller than the horse, a Lion. The horse did not seem to be afraid of it or else could not see it. It was from the Lion that the light came. No one ever saw anything more terrible or beautiful.

I think we discover a similar truth every time we truly encounter Our Lord, including when we find Him in the pages of Scripture. Yes, He sometimes challenges and sometimes comforts; He sometimes roars and sometimes reassures, but all those times, and all the in between times, He is there, close, helping, prodding, healing, forgiving, and loving us home.

Fr. Dominic Rankin has actually encountered more lions than deserts. He has only seen three deserts (the Chihuahuan and Great Basin in the USA, the Negev/Judean in Israel), but has seen multiple lions both in zoos and on the Serengeti. He has encountered St. Mark's Gospel many more times than that and plans to maintain this ratio of lion-engagement going forward.

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!

FORMED!

We are pleased to announce that our parish now has a subscription to FORMED, a premier online platform filled with over 4,000 Catholic studies, movies, audio dramas, talks, e-books, and even cartoons for our children. FORMED has content from over 60 apostolates, including Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, and the Knights of Columbus, with material that is professionally produced, engaging, and solid in its catechism. Best of all, this material is free to you. In this Easter season, recommit to learning more about your faith and growing closer to our Lord.

To gain access to all of FORMED's content, follow these simple steps:

- Go to <https://signup.formed.org/>
- Enter our parish's zip code
- Enter your name and your email address

That's it! You're in. Now you can get the free FORMED app for your phone by searching FORMED Catholic in your app store.

Pastoral Care for Cathedral's Sick & Elderly

If you, or someone you know from the Cathedral parish are homebound, hospitalized, or in a nursing care facility, please let the Cathedral Office know (217-522-3342). You may request to be put on the Cathedral Prayer Line or request a Pastoral Visit. Sr. Francella and her Cathedral volunteers.

Faith Community Nursing: Vial of Life

The Vial of LIFE (Lifesaving Information for Emergencies) is a simple way to have important medical information on hand in case of an emergency. Some suggestions for information you should include language spoken, a recent picture, medications, allergies and recent illnesses as well as your emergency contact person.

The FREE Vial of LIFE kit includes:

- A short medical information form, on which you fill out such information as medical conditions, current medications, emergency contacts, insurance, and hospital preference.
- A large plastic vial – to hold the completed medical form (copy of your durable power of attorney for health care and/or pre-hospital do-not-resuscitate form, etc.)
- A Vial of LIFE sticker, to be placed in an obvious, easy to see location.

The Faith Community Nurses are happy to help you fill out the short medical form and medication list. Please let Adrienne know if you are interested in a FREE Vial of LIFE so that we can order the correct amount. We don't want to leave anyone out!

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.

The sale itself will be held on Friday, May 13th from 7am to 7pm, and on Saturday, May 14th, from 8am to 12pm. We hope to see you there!

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.

First Friday Concert - May 6th

Join us on Friday, May 6, 2022 at 7pm in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! May's concert will feature our very own Cathedral clergy! The First Friday Concert Series is sponsored by the Staab Family, and is free and open to the public. All are welcome!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

Join the members of the Riverton Knights of Columbus Marian Council 3914 in Riverton, IL at their last fish fry of the season on Friday, April 29th from 4:30pm-6:30pm. Dinner includes walleye, tilapia, and shrimp for \$13.00, catfish for \$15.00, and corn dogs for \$2.00 each. Dinners come with a choice of fries or baked potato and slaw and bread. Cash/check only, no credit or debit cards. Thank you in advance for your support!

Mid-Life Singles

Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at King's House Retreat Center, Belleville, IL (20 min from downtown St. Louis), on June 3-5, 2022. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Cost is \$215 including meals and a single room. Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, e-mail reflect.stlouis@gmail.com, or call (314) 283-0044 for details.

Women's Day of Recollection

A Women's Day of Recollection will be held this coming Thursday, April 28, at Sacred Heart Church (730 S. 12th St., Springfield), from 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. There will be two meditations given by a priest and a 30-minute period for silent Adoration between the meditations. The ladies may take advantage of the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and spiritual direction during this time, as well as following the Recollection. All women throughout the diocese are invited to attend. The spiritual guidance at the Recollection is entrusted to a priest of the Prelature Opus Dei.

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/>

SIUE Cougar Catholic Field Day Fundraiser

Join us for a Field Day FUNdraiser! Saturday, May 14 from 11 AM to 3 PM at Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Maryville, IL. The MAIN EVENT: Wiffle Ball Home-Run Derby! Father Rob is pitching - how many home-runs will YOU hit? Each batter will be timed to hit as many home-runs as they can. Winners will earn PRIZES! \$5 donation for each at-bat. Pledge a monthly donation to extend your time at-bat. Sign-up for the derby ahead of time to secure your spot! Email Robin at roblack@siue.edu to get your name on the list! Sign-ups will be available at the event as well. Sponsorships are available. Sponsor our event or sponsor a batter! Email Robin, our director of campus ministry, for more information: roblack@siue.edu. Other yard games like cornhole, Spikeball, washers, and kickball will be available for your enjoyment. Pete's Pops popsicle cart will be joining us! Come mingle with our students and learn more about our campus ministry community! Our event is family friendly and we can't wait to have some fun with you!

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 springfieldpregnancycare.org or by calling the office at (217) 525-5630.

Career Opportunity in Financial Services for a Catholic Company

The Knights of Columbus is seeking Field Agent for a career opportunity representing their financial program in the local area. We offer a complete benefits package (health, dental, disability and life insurance, retirement pension program), expense allowance and professional training with this full-time position. In order to qualify, one must be eligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus. For more information, please contact, Jeff Niemeyer FICF, LUTCF, General Agent, at (618) 526-7991 ext. 301 or via email at Jeff.Niemeyer@kofc.org. Website: www.NiemeyerAgency.org

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.

THANK YOU

Our community changed lives this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl, and we want to say THANK YOU! Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl or donate online at crsricebowl.org/give.

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.

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.

