

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MAY 1, 2022 | 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER



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 18

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
NINTH BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.
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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.



Mary, Mother of Priests

One of my favorite months of the year is May. The grass is green, flowers are blooming, and the weather (generally) gets warmer, which, for me, means more opportunities for going fishing! When I have been in parish assignments with schools, May was always a time to celebrate another school year coming to a close, capped off with graduations and other festivities. May is a month when we also recognize our mothers on Mothers Day. That day provides me an opportunity to be grateful for the gift of my mother, my grandmothers, and so many who have been very motherly to me as a priest. Along those

lines, the Church invites us to have a special awareness of our Blessed Mother during this month, which is dedicated to her in a special way. For many years now, Mary has been such an important person in my life and I find myself expressing my gratitude to her and for her in a special way this month, especially when I pray the Rosary. May is also a month when I think about the priesthood, since so many of the priests of our diocese (myself included) were ordained in the month of May. In recognition of that, the priests of the diocese gather in early May each year for our Priests Jubilee during which we honor those celebrating significant anniversaries of their ordinations.

As I reflect on all of these aspects that make May a pretty remarkable month, these final two – Mary and the priesthood – come together in special way with the Marian title of Mary, Mother of Priests. By virtue of their ordination, priests share in the life of Christ in a very unique way. Because priests share this sacramental bond with Christ through Holy Orders, their relationship with Mary is likewise unique. Mary certainly loves all of her children, but she has a special affection for those sons of hers who are continuing the life of her Son in priestly ministry. I have felt this love from Mary in so many ways as a priest, and I know so many of my brother priests have also found in her that motherly care which is a source of great encouragement and strength.

As you hopefully are aware, we have been asking the parish to pray three Hail Marys each day. One of those Hail Marys is for the clergy of our parish. I know I speak for all of us that those prayers for us are greatly appreciated. For this month of May, though, could I ask you to please pray an additional Hail Mary for all of the priests of our diocese? As you likely know, it is usually in May that we hear about priest assignment changes. That can be a difficult time for a parish, but also for a priest. So please keep those priests in your prayers in a special way, asking Mary to intercede for them during this time of transition. At the end of this month, we will be ordaining two new priests for service in our diocese – Deacon Zach Samples and Deacon Paul Lesupati. Please commend them to the prayers of Mary as they prepare to enter into this beautiful life of the priesthood.

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, May 2

7am - Norma Bartoletti
(Estate)
5:15pm - Special Intention for
Wallace (Ann Vaduk)

Tuesday, May 3

7am - Karen Shea
(Fred & Rita Greenwald)
5:15pm - Mary Celine Sestak
(Mike & Colleen Troesch)

Wednesday, May 4

7am - John Vogt Jr.
(Bill Vogt)
5:15pm - Bob & Dorothy Berberet
(Family)

Thursday, May 5

7am - Maria Martinez
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - William F & Shirley Logan
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

Friday, May 6

7am - Dr. Charles Bud Kenney
(LouAnn & Carl Corrigan)
5:15pm - Betty Lou Rogers
(Loretta Midden)

Saturday, May 7

8am - Torquato "Tony" Bartoletti
(Estate)
4pm - Eulalia Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Sunday, May 8

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)
10am - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
5pm - For the People



Who Wrote the Gospel of Mark – St. Mark or God?

St. Mark has been getting the royal treatment around here recently. Last week, Fr. Rankin wrote his saint article on St. Mark, and it covered two pages. As I celebrated Mass on St. Mark's feast day on Monday of last week, I started thinking again about our Scriptures and how blessed we are to have the Word of God handed down to us from nearly 2000 years ago. I was intrigued by a line I read in my meditation book that morning. According to St. Clement of Alexandria, a bishop who lived from 150-211, Mark wrote his gospel down "at the insistence of the Christians of Rome." What if the Christian community had never encouraged Mark to

write down his account of the Gospel? Would God have found another way to communicate the truth that Mark has given us? I honestly don't know.

Our belief in the inspiration of the scriptures remains a great mystery of our faith. Typically, we write articles, books, or letters using our intellect and doing our best to communicate a message that needs to be passed on. So, if Mark (and all biblical authors) used their intellect and put a lot of effort into writing a short book about the life and teachings of Jesus, how can we say that God was actually the author of these books? Wouldn't it make more sense for the Bible to be dropped out of the sky, straight from heaven? Some other religions believe that revelation occurred like this. Mormons traditionally believe that Joseph Smith discovered the Book of Mormon on golden plates buried in a hill, where the prophet Mormon had buried them around 300. Also, Muslims believe that the Quran was dictated to Muhammed verbatim in Arabic, and he repeated it to his scribes to write down.

It is a common saying in the study of our faith that "grace perfects nature." God does not nullify or cancel who we are as human beings when he shares his divine nature with us through the sacraments. With this in mind, it actually makes sense that God would want the biblical authors to use their natural gifts as part of the process of writing scripture. Biblical books and letters were always written by a human being, but the Holy Spirit guided the thoughts and words of the authors to be exactly as God wanted them to be. The word "inspired" comes from the Latin word *spiritus*, which literally means "spirit"! So when I hear that the early Christians urged Mark to write the Gospel down, I can see how much the Holy Spirit was involved in the whole process. First, God made mark with significant literary talents, provided him with a literate education, made him a companion of St. Paul, St. Peter, other apostles, and the early Christians, and maybe even a companion of Jesus himself. Then, as Mark sat at a desk with some kind of parchment or animal skin, the Holy Spirit guided him to the words to say in Greek, even as Mark worked really hard to craft such a beautiful Gospel. He may or may not have not known that he was writing an Inspired work of scripture.

Because Mark wrote the Gospel using his human mind, the Church needs to undertake serious scholarly research to figure out what he intended to say throughout the Gospel. If you were to read any ancient writing (think of the *Odyssey* or *Gilgamesh*), you would most likely try to find some sort of guide through the text, such as a commentary or online lecture about the cultural significance of each book. The same is true for the Bible, which was written in Hebrew and Greek, and has been translated into other languages for us to read.

Understanding the scriptures has always been a challenge for believers, and thankfully God gave us prophets, and later, bishops of the Church as the authority to teach the meaning of Sacred Scripture. I always take comfort in the fact that Saint Peter himself – the first pope – found the writings of St. Paul hard to understand! He wrote, "In [Paul's letters] there are some things hard to understand that the ignorant and unstable distort to their own destruction, just as they do the other scriptures" (2 Peter 3:16).

Stewardship of Treasure April 23rd & 24th

Envelopes:	\$6,131.00
Loose:	\$2,410.00
Maintenance:	\$30.00
Total:	\$8,571.00

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!

The Second Vatican Council promulgated a document on Divine Revelation entitled *Dei Verbum*, or the Word of God. There are several points in this document that I thought may be helpful to leave here for further reading. If you have read this far, thank you for bearing with me! I understand that not everyone is interested in some technicalities of how God's Word is passed down to us, but I think it's pretty cool. Here are parts of paragraphs 11 and 12 of *Dei Verbum*.

Holy mother Church, relying on the belief of the Apostles, holds that the books of both the Old and New Testaments in their entirety, with all their parts, are sacred and canonical because written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. They have God as their author and have been handed on as such to the Church herself.

In composing the sacred books, God chose men, and while employed by Him, they made use of their powers and abilities, so that with Him acting in them and through them, they, as true authors, consigned to writing everything and only those things which He wanted.

Therefore, since everything asserted by the inspired authors or sacred writers must be held to be asserted by the Holy Spirit, it follows that the books of Scripture must be acknowledged as teaching solidly, faithfully and without error that truth which God wanted put into sacred writings for the sake of salvation. Therefore "all Scripture is divinely inspired and has its use for teaching the truth and refuting error, for reformation of manners and discipline in right living, so that the man who belongs to God may be efficient and equipped for good work of every kind" (2 Tim. 3:16-17, Greek text).

However, since God speaks in Sacred Scripture through men in human fashion, the interpreter of Sacred Scripture, in order to see clearly what God wanted to communicate to us, should carefully investigate what meaning the sacred writers really intended, and what God wanted to manifest by means of their words.

To search out the intention of the sacred writers, attention should be given, among other things, to "literary forms." For truth is set forth and expressed differently in texts which are variously historical, prophetic, poetic, or of other forms of discourse. The interpreter must investigate what meaning the sacred writer intended to express and actually expressed in particular circumstances by using contemporary literary forms in accordance with the situation of his own time and culture. For the correct understanding of what the sacred author wanted to assert, due attention must be paid to the customary and characteristic styles of feeling, speaking and narrating which prevailed at the time of the sacred writer, and to the patterns men normally employed at that period in their everyday dealings with one another.

But, since Holy Scripture must be read and interpreted in the sacred spirit in which it was written, no less serious attention must be given to the content and unity of the whole of Scripture if the meaning of the sacred texts is to be correctly worked out. The living tradition of the whole Church must be taken into account along with the harmony which exists between elements of the faith. It is the task of exegetes to work according to these rules toward a better understanding and explanation of the meaning of Sacred Scripture, so that through preparatory study the judgment of the Church may mature. For all of what has been said about the way of interpreting Scripture is subject finally to the judgment of the Church, which carries out the divine commission and ministry of guarding and interpreting the word of God.

So, to answer my initial question in the title, the answer is "both"! Both God and St. Mark are true authors of the Gospel of Mark.

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

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

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.

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.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Lydia who was initiated into the Church at the Easter Vigil! Please pray for Lydia to always remain close to our Lord.

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!

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

Volunteer Opportunity - St. John's Breadline

Springfield St. John's Breadline is looking for volunteers - St. John's Breadline has resumed indoor dining (as of May 2) from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every day. There are volunteer opportunities available 365 days a year from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Volunteers must be scheduled which can be done by emailing Shawna Harris at or calling 217-528-6098.

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

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.



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

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/>