

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MAY 8, 2022 | 4TH 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 19

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!



World Day of Prayer for Vocations

For the past 59 years, the Church has observed the 4th Sunday of Easter as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The reason for this can be found in the Gospel we hear each year on this Sunday. Although there is a three-year cycle of readings, the Gospel on this Sunday is always drawn from a section of John 10, where Jesus identifies Himself as the Good Shepherd. He invites others to share in His shepherding of the flock by calling certain members to a religious vocation as a priest, deacon, or religious brother/sister. Jesus has commanded that we pray for those called to these vocations when He said: "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest." (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2)

While browsing some resources for this day of prayer, I came across two prayers that stood out that I would like to share, inviting us to join in praying on this day. The first prayer is a prayer that families can pray together for vocations. What makes this prayer unique (and perhaps challenging) is that it asks for openness to a vocation within the family. I have heard stories in the past of how families are happy to commit to praying for vocations but are hesitant for that prayer to apply to their own family. Give this a shot, especially if there are still children in your family who do not yet know their vocation:

FAMILY PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Father, increase our family's love for one another.
May we honor each other in times of happiness or hardship,
bearing with one another in love, just as You love us.
In a special way, help us strive for holiness in our current states of life.
Should You call some of us to the priesthood or religious life,
help us to respond with courage and joy.
Together, we make heaven our goal, and pledge, with Your grace,
to help each other on life's journey to You.
Through the intercession of the Holy Family:
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.
Amen.

The second prayer is one that I saw a couple of weeks ago while sitting next to another priest at a training session I attended. It is a beautiful prayer for priests, the shepherds Jesus has already chosen to minister to His flock, asking His protection on them all in their various circumstances:

DAILY PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

By St. Therese of the Child Jesus

O Jesus, I pray for Your faithful and fervent priests;
for Your unfaithful and tepid priests;
for Your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields.
for Your tempted priests;
for Your lonely and desolate priest
for Your young priests;
for Your dying priests;
for the souls of Your priests in Purgatory.
But above all, I recommend to You the priests dearest to me:
the priest who baptized me;
the priests who absolved me from my sins;
the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion;
the priests who taught and instructed me;
all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way.
O Jesus, keep them all close to Your heart,
and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity.
Amen.

Mass Intentions

Monday, May 9

7am - Father Dominic Rankin
(Chris Sommer)
5:15pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)

Tuesday, May 10

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)
5:15pm - Jean Ann Staab
(St. Joseph the Worker Group)

Wednesday, May 11

7am - Janet Vespa
(Chris Sommer)
5:15pm - James Conkrite
(Litina Carnes)

Thursday, May 12

7am - Amabile Bartoletti
(Estate)
5:15pm - Father Chris House
(Chris Sommer)

Friday, May 13

7am - Sophia Bartoletti & Family
(Estate)
5:15pm - Special Intention for
Bianca (D.A. Drago)

Saturday, May 14

8am - Justine Ford
(Jeannette Giannone)
4pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Sunday, May 15

7am - For the People
10am - John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)
5pm - Deceased Members of CCCW
(CCCW)



Prayer to Discern One's Vocation

When I was a teenager, I believe it was a family friend who gave me a prayer card with a simple prayer on it which was a prayer asking God to help me discern my vocation. I remember many times picking up this prayer card in my room after I got home from school as a high schooler, and authentically asking God to show me what my vocation was. It was around this time that I started to develop for the first time a consistent prayer life, at least for a few minutes every day, in addition to family prayers that we said in the evening or the daily Rosary. I remember being "real" with God in prayer and telling him that my path forward was not clear for me.

After a while, I developed an interior sense that God was asking me to become a priest. With this realization came several different emotions. One of them was a feeling of excitement, as the mystery of that vocation began to interest me. There was also a deep sense of inadequacy, and I don't mean that I was just being humble. I actually thought that I didn't have the confidence or skills necessary to be a priest. (I didn't; that's why we have seminaries). With this came a sense of fear. But overall, I began to develop a sense of peace in my heart, even when joining the seminary required significant sacrifices in my life.

Recently, I heard one of our parishioners speaking about prayer, and he said that two essential aspects of a prayer life are consistency and vulnerability. I have learned a lot about prayer since my vocation discernment, but as I review the paragraph that I just wrote, I can see these two aspects of prayer allowed me to actually hear God's voice in my heart. I was consistent in prayer because I was doing it every day, and usually at the same time of day. I was also vulnerable with God, not trying to impress him with my prayers but just being honest that I didn't have a clear vision of my path in life, and I needed guidance.

My official vocational discernment is over now that I have been ordained a priest, but there are still many things that I, and each of us, should be discerning. Things like how we spend our time, how we can best serve our families and our parish, and how God is calling us to enter that "next level" of prayer.

I am not sure where that prayer card ended up, or if I still have it somewhere in my house or maybe in a book somewhere. I do know that it served its purpose and helped draw me to think about the priesthood. This week the Church prays in a special way for an increase of vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and diaconate. For a vocation to come to fruition, it is necessary for prayer on both ends: on the part of the individual and on the part of the Church. I do not doubt that the prayer of many people helped spur me to pursue the priesthood, while my own fidelity to prayer was also necessary in that equation.

Jesus once said, "The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest" (Luke 10:2). Let us make this prayer our own today and for the rest of this week.
Master, send out laborers for your harvest!

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 30th & May 1st

Envelopes:	\$5,780.00
Loose:	\$3,646.00
Maintenance:	\$1,213.00
Total:	\$10,639.00

April EFT: \$19,541.00

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!



Our Lady of Fatima

Feast Day: May 13th

I want to start our tale this week not on May 13th, 1917, when Our Lady first appeared to Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta in the hills outside of Fatima Portugal, but instead in St. Peter's Square in Rome, on a lovely May 13th 1981. It is just a bit after 5pm and Pope John Paul II has just begun to visit the pilgrims packed between the colonnades before his usual Wednesday Audience. He had been delivering a catechesis on the Sermon on the Mount, but today he was going to begin a new theme. It was the 90th anniversary of Pope St. Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, and JP II was set to carry forward the Church's work, there outlined, of defending the dignity of every person, especially the

poor and degraded. It had only been 60 years since WWI, and 40 years since WWII, and the Iron Curtain still obscured to the world the full horror of what happens when society worships itself and forgets God, but JP II was not going to abandon the Church's mission of continuing to proclaim with Christ the freedom and dignity and blessedness of all those who were poor.

He was set to announce, along these lines, the creation of a Pontifical Council for the Family, and on top of this later this evening he was going across the city to open a brand new Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family. All this was perhaps in his mind as he happily handed the 18 month old Sara Bartoli, back to her mother, but seconds later gunfire rang out and the Holy Father collapsed to the floor of the popemobile, his face strained, the prayer "Maria Madonna" on his lips, and blood staining his white cassock. The horrified security detail sped him out of the square to a brand-new ambulance that the pope had blessed only hours before, providentially praying then for the first person who would ride in it. Providence also directed the ambulance to the Gemelli hospital, miraculously making the 4 mile trip through Roman rush-hour in only 8 minutes. Divine providence was at work through all the moments to come: the second assassin would flee without setting off his bomb; the bullets fired from mere yards away had missed the pope's main abdominal artery by millimeters; JP II would lose 75% of his blood over the next hour and would receive an infected transfusion of blood yet he would eventually pull through.

65 years earlier, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta, who were then speaking to Our Lady for the third time had this singular vision: *"... at the left of Our Lady and a little above, we saw an Angel with a flaming sword in his left hand; flashing, it gave out flames that looked as though they would set the world on fire; but they died out in contact with the splendour that Our Lady radiated towards him from her right hand: pointing to the earth with his right hand, the Angel cried out in a loud voice: 'Penance, Penance, Penance!'. And we saw in an immense light that is God: 'something similar to how people appear in a mirror when they pass in front of it' a Bishop dressed in White 'we had the impression that it was the Holy Father'. Other Bishops, Priests, men and women Religious going up a steep mountain, at the top of which there was a big Cross of rough-hewn trunks as of a cork-tree with the bark; before reaching there the Holy Father passed through a big city half in ruins and half trembling with halting step, afflicted with pain and sorrow, he prayed for the souls of the corpses he met on his way; having reached the top of the mountain, on his knees at the foot of the big Cross he was killed by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows at him, and in the same way there died one after another the other Bishops, Priests, men and women Religious, and various lay people of different ranks and positions. Beneath the two arms of the Cross there were two Angels each with a crystal aspersorium in his hand, in which they gathered up the blood of the Martyrs and with it sprinkled the souls that were making their way to God."*

It was only several weeks after his being shot that John Paul II read the above testimony of Sr. Lucia, and it would be a full year before he was able to go on pilgrimage to Fatima, stating there that *"one hand pulled the trigger, another guided the bullet"*, but by those words he upheld the same sacred freedom that he had meant to speak of during that forgotten General Audience. As Cardinal Ratzinger would put it when the text above was published: *"That here 'a mother's hand' had deflected the fateful bullet only shows once more that there is no immutable destiny, that faith and prayer are forces which can influence history and that in the end prayer is more powerful than bullets and faith more powerful than armies."*

Fr. Dominic Rankin this year has set as a goal to always "pray like I mean it." That is, to never pray the Divine Office or my Rosary mechanically. Seeing this week a moment when history was changed by prayer, he is strongly encouraged in this effort!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Cathedral's Online Prayer Wall

At home, work, wherever and whenever, take a look at the Cathedral's Online Prayer Wall (www.spicathedral.org/prayer-wall/) and take a few minutes pray for those needing support, healing, and the power of prayer. Your prayer intentions can be submitted on the page and will be forwarded to a group of individuals who constantly keep their fellow parishioners in their prayers. If you would like your prayer intention to be anonymous, you may select the checkbox on the form and know your prayers will be shared with Cathedral Parish staff only. No access to a computer? No problem! Call the Parish Office at 217-522-3342 and one of our staff members will enter your intention for you.

We are always looking to add volunteers to our Prayer Team. If you are interested in being a member of this team, please email Haley Dutton at hdutton@cathedral.dio.org to be added to the distribution list.

Annual CCCW Garage Sale - 05/13 & 05/14

Join us for the annual CCCW Garage Sale! Come shop for clothing, accessories, furniture, household/kitchen items, outdoor items, sports gear, toys, books, movies, and more! The sale 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!

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.

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.

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.

All About the Rosary

Join Fr. Peter on Wednesday, May 11th at 7:00pm in the Cathedral Atrium for a presentation on the rosary!

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.

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!

Join the Adventures of Scouting!

Summer camp is just around the corner and we would like to invite more young people to be a part of the adventure! Cub Scout Pack 31 and Scouts BSA Troop 31 at Blessed Sacrament are gearing up for a summer of fun. Join us for outdoor adventures at Camp Illinek on Lake Springfield, hikes on trails in the local area and service projects that help the community. Pack 31 is organizing groups for day camps at Camp Illinek while Troop 31 is preparing for a weeklong camp at Camp Bunn near Carlinville. Scouts also learn more about themselves and how to grow closer to God through the many activities of the Troop and Pack. For more information, go to www.blessedsacramentscouts.com or email blessedsacramentpack31@gmail.com.

Job Opportunity - Christ the King Full-Time Hot Lunch Director

Christ the King Cafeteria is looking for a Full-Time Hot Lunch Director for the 2022-2023 school year. Training would start immediately. The position is responsible for, but not limited to, overseeing the Federal Hot Lunch Program, maintaining finance records on Quikbooks, operating the QuikLunch Program, preparing/submitting payroll. Bachelor's Degree and/or Experience recommended. Candidate must undergo background check and complete Protecting God's Children's course. Benefits offered and pay based on experience. Submit your cover letter and application to Christ the King School, 1920 Barberry Drive, Springfield, IL 62704, Attn: Samantha Black or email to sblack@ctkcougars.com.

Butler Family of Organizations Open Door Session

The Butler Family of Organizations extends an invitation to all who are interested in learning more about planning for their final wishes to help their families celebrate their lives to join us for a lunch and learn program. The details are as follows:

Open Door Session
Thursday, May 19th
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Prairie View Reception Center (PVRC)
8865 State Route 4
Chatham, IL 62629

Complimentary lunch from Café Moxo will be provided. This event is complimentary: no cost or obligation. Please call 217-544-4646 to reserve your space no later than Monday, May 16th.

Second Collection - Catholic Communication Campaign

This May, our diocese will take up a collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). Please prayerfully consider supporting the collection this year. Fifty percent of collected funds stay in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois and the other 50 percent support communications projects in the United States and around the world.

Over the past year, our diocese has been able to build upon several popular media endeavors and create new video series that are helping people better connect with our faith. Things like Hey, Father!, 73 Questions, The Benuh; Series, and Dive Deep, the official podcast of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, continue to grow and we have received many comments from lay Catholics about them learning something new or helping them grow in their relationship with Christ.

You can make a donation online at parishgiving.dio.org/secondcollections or use your second collection envelope to support this collection. You can also mail your donation to your parish office. For more information about the collection and the projects it supports, visit www.usccb.org/cc. Thank you for your generosity.

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/>