

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MAY 22, 2022 | 6TH 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 21

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!



On Christian Love

A major theme running throughout the Gospels for the season of Easter is love. A few weeks ago, we heard the dialog between Jesus and St. Peter as the Lord asked Peter three times: "Do you love me." The following Sunday, we heard about Jesus as the Good Shepherd, who lovingly cares for His flock, the Church, even to the point of sacrificing Himself. Last Sunday, we heard Jesus give His disciples a "new commandment", that we should love one another as He has loved us. Thus Sunday, Jesus says: "Whoever loves me will keep my word."

I sometimes fear that this word "love", especially as it is used in our Christian context, is misunderstood. The type of love to which we are called to as Christians is necessarily radical, which I think is one of the reasons Jesus tells us to love as He has loved us, which involves the total gift of Himself for the good of others, not for His own benefit. Not that there is no room for other forms of love in which we receive affection and support, but we as Christians always need to strive for the Christ-like love toward others.

At the foundation of our love for others is our uncompromising recognition of the dignity of every human life at every stage. It can be tempting to think that the Church only cares about the dignity of life for children in the womb, since that is what we so often hear about when it comes to respect for life. But the Church is likewise insistent that we must see all life as a gift, for each person is a unique, unrepeatable gift of God, created by Him and deserving of love. No life is without dignity. Period. Regardless of the decisions a person has made, regardless of their social and economic status, regardless of their ethnicity, regardless of their gender, regardless of their age...regardless of anything, all life is a gift and deserves to receive love. But remember that love is willing the good of the other, not condoning whatever they do, for the most loving thing we can do in some cases is to correct errors, call to repentance, and invite conversion.

Christian love becomes radical when it asks us to show love to those who are the most undeserving in our mind. Our country witnessed another horrific example of hatred last week in Buffalo when a gunman murdered 10 people and injured three others in what authorities believe to be a racially motivated attack. One might ask how and if Christian love applies in this man? I think you know the answer. But what does that love look like? As I mentioned earlier, it absolutely does NOT mean condoning such violence (or any of his motivations), for his actions took the gift of life from these innocent victims. Christian love does not exclude punishment, for justice is not opposed to mercy. It is well within Christian love to demand justice individually and collectively to address any affront against human dignity, but Christian love also leaves open the door for conversion. Think of St. Paul, how he was involved in the persecution of Christians in the early Church, a persecution that led to many deaths. Had Christians at the time not had a sense of the love to which the Lord was calling them, they would have taken his life and considered it justified. But they did not. They left room for the Lord to work in Saul's (later Paul) hardened heart, to give him an opportunity for conversion, which led to his becoming one of the greatest Christians ever to live, responsible no doubt for countless conversions over the centuries.

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Mass Intentions

Monday, May 23

7am - O'Laughlin Family
(Mary O'Laughlin-Kathleen)
5:15pm - Jean Powers
(Berni Ely)

Tuesday, May 24

7am - Lillian Sgambelluri
(Rob & Jan Sgambelluri)
5:15pm - Kate Rossi
(Sophia Gunter & Family)

Wednesday, May 25

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

Thursday, May 26

7am - Jean Powers
(Berni Ely)
5:15pm - Living & Deceased
Members of the Patterson Family
(Anonymous)

Friday, May 27

7am - Betty Rogers
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)
5:15pm - NO MASS

Saturday, May 28

8am - NO MASS
4pm - Diana J. Schumacher
(Daniel Schumacher)

Sunday, May 29

7am - Dale Spore
(Vicki Compton)
10am - Sophia Bartoletti & Family
(Estate)
5pm - For the People

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Perhaps my bringing this up makes us feel a little uncomfortable thinking about love in the face of such hatred. But once again, this is the radical nature of the love to which Jesus is calling us, and I stress that it is only possible through His love. Left to ourselves, we will remain stuck in anger and hatred. Please do not try to hear what I am not saying on this topic – an atrocity like the one in Buffalo is not acceptable and I am not downplaying it in any way. It must be rejected and responded to, but I am inviting us to consider how we respond as Christians, not as the rest of the world would respond. In the early Church, Christians were seen as different than the rest of the world, and it was commented on by others: “See how they love one another.” Would that the same could be said about us in how we live our lives, how we treat others, how we respond to evil, sin and suffering, that we do so always motivated by the love with which Christ responds – a love always seeking the good which is ultimately salvation, for the Lord “desires all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tm 2:4)

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

ASK FATHER!

Do we keep our personalities after death?

And you were buried with him in Baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. ... If you then have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God (Colossians 2:12; 3:1).

I start my response with this quote from St. Paul to remind myself that, in a certain way, we already share in the Resurrection of Jesus. We can have a glimpse of what heaven will be like (and what we will be like in heaven) by observing God's presence in our own lives now and by the foretaste of heaven that we experience on Earth. Our Baptism ties us to Jesus, like two strings being knotted together, and this knot gets stronger or weaker, depending on how receptive we are to God.

Stewardship of Treasure May 14th and 15th

Envelopes:	\$4,749.00
Loose:	\$2,925.00
Maintenance:	\$155.00
Total:	\$7,829.00

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!

After death, our souls are judged in the presence of God, and we are sent on our way to eternal union with him, or eternal separation from him. At the end of time (the general resurrection) our bodies will be reunited with our souls for all eternity.

A personality is a way or pattern of expressing our “personhood.” We all express thoughts, feelings, and desires differently. Sometimes we can know somebody so well that we know exactly how they will react to a certain situation. The variety of personalities that we exhibit is part of God's beautiful and diverse creation. The world would sure be a boring place if everyone were shy and reserved, but it would also be chaotic if everyone were proud and loud!

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So, do we keep our personalities after death? Since we are the same person after death, and a personality is a way to express our personhood, I would say that we absolutely keep our personalities after death! However, they will be perfected and complete in a way that we cannot yet fully comprehend right now. Dr. Peter Kreeft once wrote, “everything on earth is analogous to something in heaven. Heaven neither simply removes nor simply continues earthly things.” To think that heaven is just a continuation of something on earth is thinking way too “small-scale.” Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard what God has ready for those who love him. Because of our sinful tendencies, our personalities tend to go to the extremes, and we need to practice healthy mortification to keep ourselves in check. There are different traditions and vocabularies for categorizing personality types, but I will just speak broadly about two personality types for the sake of an example: outgoing versus shy.

Is it better to be outgoing or shy? It depends who you ask! The short answer is that God made both outgoing people and shy people, so they are both good. However, each personality can have different strengths and weaknesses. Consider a young man who is very outgoing in his school. He likes to be the life of the party, and he is recognized as an excellent public speaker. However, some people may be offended by him because he tends to talk over others in conversation, and often he turns to gossip because he always has to be talking about something. Being outgoing is not bad, but this young man has taken it to the extreme, and now he dominates the world around him. This means that his personality needs to be balanced out through correction, personal reflection, and self-control. He may need to be very intentional about cultivating the skill of listening to others and becoming more aware of people around him. If he does this, he has certainly grown in virtue, and his personality has become closer to how God intends it to be.

Now consider a young man who is very shy and quiet. He is known as the quiet kid in class, but he’s also known to be one of the nicest people who never says a bad word about anyone. However, he doesn’t have many friends because he does not have the courage or the desire to open up about his life to anyone. After school, he goes straight home to do his homework. In this situation, this young man’s personality tends toward being more reserved, and he has allowed that to go to the extreme to the point where it has limited his growth into maturity. To grow in virtue, he must be intentional about going outside of himself and seeking the good that can be found through engaging others and becoming less reserved. He doesn’t need to stop being quiet or shy, but he does need to become a more balanced individual.

These are two very simple examples, but I hope they get the point across that God made us all with good personalities. We need to be intentional about cultivating our personality to be a healthy, balanced expression of our inner life. In heaven (maybe through purgatory) this process will be completed and perfected, and we will all be able to give and receive love in a unique way.

For further consideration, I would encourage all of us to review some of the accounts of Jesus’ encounters with his friends after his Resurrection. His personality seems to be the same, and he can sometimes be recognized by the way he speaks. What does the voice of Jesus sound like in your imagination?

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

Have a question about your faith? Want to know more about a particular Catholic teaching? Submit your questions to Haley at hutton@cathedral.dio.org or on our website at www.spicathedral.org/ask-father if you wish to remain anonymous.

Sacraments

Deaths

Patti Jo Patton

Date of Death: January 16, 2022

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

First Friday Concert - June 3

Join us on Friday, June 3, 2022 at 7pm in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! June's concert will feature Young Musicians from around the Springfield area. The First Friday Concert Series is sponsored by the Staab Family, and is free and open to the public. All are welcome!

NEW Cathedral Directory

We are pleased to announce that Cathedral will be publishing a new pictorial directory! Photography dates will be June 28-July 2 and July 12-16. Everyone photographed will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 photo and a directory. Right now we need volunteers to help with the sign-up process and check-in on photography days. Please contact Janice Wray jkwray622@gmail.com or 217-622-6737 if you are willing to help. Thank you!

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.

Night of Healing at the Cathedral - June 4

Do you or anyone you know need prayers for healing? The Cathedral will be hosting a Night of Healing on Saturday, June 4th, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Cathedral. At the Night of Healing, there will be an opportunity to pray with one another as a larger group and also there will be prayer teams who can pray over/with those who want to receive prayer for healing. If you have not experienced it before, being prayed over is a very beautiful and powerful experience. Anyone is welcome to come, not just Catholics!

Hygiene Items Collection for Holy Family Food Pantry

As warmer months approach, there is a growing need for hygiene items for clients at the Holy Family Food Pantry. Cathedral parishioner, Adam Wente, a member of the Blessed Sacrament Boy Scout troop is collecting personal hygiene items for his Eagle Scout Project. Donations of shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and laundry detergent have been requested by the Holy Family Food Pantry. Any donation will be greatly appreciated! Items will be collected through the weekend of June 18-19. Place your donations in the specially marked bin in the atrium. Thank you in advance for all your support!

Coffee, Donuts, and Hospitality

Join us in the Atrium after the 10:00am Mass this weekend for coffee, donuts, and hospitality!

Thank You From the CCCW

The CCCW raised \$2,162.00 by selling stickers that supported Ukraine and would like to thank everyone for their generosity. The CCCW would also like to thank everyone for their generous donations to their garage sale this past weekend, and for those who supported the CCCW by volunteering and shopping at the sale.

Baby Bottle Boomerang

It's easier to raise \$100 to help rescue lives by asking family and friends to give to your baby bottle. Did you know that you can conveniently use your favorite social media or email to raise funds? It's easy! Learn more at www.CultureOfLifeSpringfield.org. You can help First Step Women's Center continue to offer safe, caring medical services when you RETURN your baby bottle by the end of May.

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.

Baseball for Babies

Join the Father Tolton Knights of Columbus Council and Cathedral Parish on June 9th for a night at the ballpark. Use promo code "KNIGHTS" and \$2 from every ticket sold will be donated to First Step Women's Center, a pregnancy resource center in the Springfield area. Tickets start at \$8. If you can't join us on June 9th you can still purchase tickets to any Springfield Lucky Horseshoes home game this season to help benefit First Step using the same promo code. Go to <https://shoesbaseball.com/> to get your tickets and help First Step Women's Center!

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 from Sr. Francella and her Cathedral volunteers.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Memorial Day Calvary Cemetery Field Mass

Join the Springfield Diocese and Bishop Paprocki for a traditional field Mass at Father Howard Altar in celebration of Memorial Day on May 30th at 9:30am. This accessible worship event is open to the public and includes music, parking, seating, and golf cart transportation to and from the service location as needed. *Participants may bring lawn chairs if preferred.

Dive Deep: Dealing with Death - The Right and Wrong Ways

Losing a loved one is painful. How we handle that loss depends on each person, but are we grieving in a healthy way? What should we say and not say to someone who lost a loved one? What should we do if the pain of a loss is just as apparent today than when it occurred? Dr. Dee Stern, a Springfield Catholic grief therapist authored a new book to help people grieve healthier and better comfort those who lost loved ones. It's called "Comforting the bereaved through listening and positive responding, what are the bereaved trying to tell us?" Dr. Stern offers her advice on Dive Deep. Go to dio.org/podcast or search Dive Deep on the major podcast platforms.

Catholic Times' Build a Church Lego Contest!

To celebrate the first year of the nationwide Eucharistic Revival starting in June, Catholic Times is hosting a free contest to see what young architect/builder can create the most impressive church from scratch out of Legos! Winners receive \$100! Go to dio.org/buildachurch for more information, the rules, and how to submit pictures of your creations. Sponsored by O'Shea Builders of Springfield.

REFLECT Retreat - Catholic Retreat for Singles

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.

Volunteers Needed - St. John's Breadline

The St. John's Breadline is in need of volunteers. The St. John's Breadline has resumed indoor dining (as of May 2) 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 shawnaharris@stjohnsbreadline.org or calling 217-528-6098.

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.

Vessels: A Day of Reflection for Women

You are invited to a prayerful day for women to experience the power of Christ in Scripture and Sacraments, sponsored by the Diocesan Women's Ministry. Join us on July 23, 2022 for the first reflection day at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in Springfield. Cost is \$35.00 per reflection day. Register at www.dio.org/vessels