

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JULY 24, 2022 | 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 30

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

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

THE REVEREND PAUL LESUPATI
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
IN RESIDENCE

THE REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING
IN RESIDENCE

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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!



Listening to the Church

This past Thursday, we had the privilege of hosting two church tours for participants of the 16th International Congress of Medieval Canon Law. They took a break from their conference, being hosted at St. Louis University, to see some sites in Springfield, with our Cathedral being one of the main attractions. Although I do not do it regularly, I thoroughly enjoy explaining the many beautiful elements of our Cathedral to those who come to visit this stunning church. I always walk away from those tours with a renewed sense of gratitude for the privilege of living here and being able to celebrate Mass here every day.

Catholic churches are built to be holy places where people come to encounter the Lord, to step outside of their daily lives and to be lifted up to a higher place. The beauty of a church serves to foreshadow the beauty of Heaven, the final destination in our journey as Catholics. As I have mentioned in the past, the most important part of the church is the tabernacle, for behind those golden doors rests the King of the Universe, our Lord Jesus Christ. He eagerly waits to welcome us, and upon our entrance into house of God, it is fitting for us to give Him our greeting in the form of a genuflection (or profound bow if we cannot genuflect), acknowledging His Real Presence and offering Him a sign of our adoration.

Having first turned to Our Lord in the tabernacle, our eyes behold so many other beautiful things, all of which speak in some way to the various mysteries of our faith. Historically, churches have been designed to be a place not just to worship God, but to learn about the faith. Paintings, mosaics, stained glass windows, and statues tell a story about our Catholic faith and how it has been lived out through the centuries. In a time when many people were unable to read, or when catechetical materials were not readily available, one could learn much by walking through a church, "reading" the story of our faith through the various elements that make up a church.

In addition to my encouragement to make frequent visits to the church to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, I would also invite you to consider taking time in the church to read the story of our faith as it is expressed in so many beautiful ways. Do not be afraid to walk around the church to look more closely at the treasures that fill it. You will likely be surprised to notice something that you have never noticed. As you notice these things, ask the Holy Spirit to help you to ponder the story, or the mystery being depicted. Just as when we pray before the Blessed Sacrament, the Lord invites us to listen to Him as He speaks to us, so too with the church. If we are open to it, the church will also speak to us through the various elements that adorn it. One important note – we ask that you respect the holiness of the sanctuary of the church and generally to remain out of that area of the church, but you can still see much of what is there by standing at the foot of the steps leading into the sanctuary.

Let us continue to thank God for the gift of this magnificent Cathedral Church. We are privileged to call it our home. May we never become too familiar with this church, but be renewed regularly with a sense of awe at the beauty of such a sacred place.

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, July 25

7am - Rev. Carl Schmidt
(LouAnn Mack & Carl Corrigan)
5:15pm - Will
(Family)

Tuesday, July 26

7am - Rick Weitzel
(Angela Williams)
5:15pm - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)

Wednesday, July 27

7am - John Vogt Jr.
(Bill Vogt)
5:15pm - Special Intention
(Tom Steil)

Thursday, July 28

7am - Steve Roach
(Chris Sommer)
5:15pm - Sophia Bartoletti
(Estate)

Friday, July 29

7am - Darlene Young
(Melissa Ballhurst)
5:15pm - Living & Deceased
Members of the Schmitz Family
(Anonymous)

Saturday, July 30

8am - Brother Anthony McCoy
(Chris Sommer)
4pm - Deceased Members of CCCW
(CCCW)

Sunday, July 31

7am - Laurie Weakley
(Chris Sommer)
10am - For the People
5pm - Norma Bartoletti
(Estate)



My Background and Vocation Journey

My name is Fr. Paul Lesupati, Parochial Vicar of Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Springfield in Illinois. I am a native from Kenya. My parents are Jacob Lesupati and Cecilia Lesupati. We are six children in my family four girls and two boys, I am the baby in the family. My Vocation journey began when I was an altar server. It had been my heart's desire to become a priest, but I never knew where God was calling me to go and serve. After completing high school, I went to visit my sister in Nairobi and one Sunday I attended mass there at Consolata Church. While there, I met a Franciscan Priest and I asked him about their procedure for joining their congregation. After this, I discerned with them for a couple years. After a period of time, I saw that God was not calling me to religious life.

After completing my university studies in 2015, I went to work with Jesuit Refugees Services which is a Catholic Organization run by the Society of Jesus (Jesuit Fathers). I enjoyed working with the refugees and those who had been displaced from their countries because of war, by serving them as a social worker. I was responsible for doing supervision, assessing different cases, and working with different agencies. I focused on refugees who needed someone to listen and understand their issues. The mission of Jesuit Refugees Services is To Serve, To Accompany and To Advocate. As a social worker, I took the vulnerable client or beneficiaries to the service provider. I was working under the counseling department which covers individual counseling, family therapy, group counseling and a peer group for drug and substance abuse. Under the counseling department, I offered different trainings for conditions such as PTSD, loss and grief, and drugs and substance abuse.

During this time, I felt a strong desire to serve God more closely and discern my vocation. Multiple priests strongly influenced me in my prayer life. The first was the elderly priest who I met in my life among the Franciscans. Additionally, the Diocesan priests (such as my own parish priest) played an important role in my vocational journey. The final push came from Fr. Jeff Grant from the Springfield Diocese in Illinois whom I met at Kakuma Refugee. His life of prayer and emphasis on pastoral care influenced me to be more prayerful and to discern joining the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

My journey to the priesthood from Africa to the United States began in 2016 when, in Kenya, I met the pastor for Blessed Sacrament Parish, Rev. Jeff Grant. He came to Kenya for his sabbatical. He came down to Kenya, and he ended up being at the refugee camp, which is run by Jesuit Refugee Service. During that time, I was also there. I was working as a social worker. I was asked by my project director to help Fr. Jeff Grant because he was new. He needed somebody who could take him around the camp and introduce him to different areas and groups. I said, 'Well, I am ready to help Father'. My work as a social worker was to visit different groups collecting data, doing assessments, familiarizing myself with their problems, and determining means of helping them. I was working under the counseling department, and they were dealing with trauma and stress disorder.

I was assigned to an area where there were new arrivals, fresh from fleeing from their countries. I took Fr. Jeff Grant, and we went from tent to tent, asking how the refugees were doing, discovering their needs, and finding ways to assist them. I do remember Father Jeff Grant just looked at me. He asked me one question: 'Paul, have you been a priest before?' I responded, 'No, Father', then Father told me that the way I was talking, listening, and handling the refugees with compassion was more than what could be expected of a social worker.

After this conversation, I shared my experience with Fr. Jeff Grant that day. He encouraged me to tell him about my vocation journey and my desire for discerning priesthood. I was working with Father Jeff Grant as a pastoral coordinator. I started developing an interest and sharing with him about my desire to become a priest, which was already there. Before speaking with Fr. Jeff, I already felt called to be a diocesan priest. Still, I did not know which Diocese to join. It was after talking with Father Grant that I came to know about the Springfield Diocese in Illinois. I asked him about the requirements and procedures for joining this diocese. He gave me the contacts of the Vocation Director, Fr. Brian Alford. I kept in touch with him through email until he requested that I visit the Diocese in 2017 and 2018.

I was accepted as a seminarian for the Springfield Diocese in Illinois by Most Reverend Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. On August 26, 2018, I was enrolled as a seminarian for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, and studied at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, IN. My home parish is Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Springfield where I spent my summer in 2019 working with Fr. Jeff Grant and Fr. Ron Lorilla, and in the summer of 2020, I worked with Fr. Dean Probst at St. Thomas and St. Marie Parish in Newton IL.

I was ordained transitional Deacon by Most Reverend Bishop Thomas Paprocki on April 9, 2022. I worked as transitional Deacon for my summer internship at Immaculate Conception Parish in Mattoon under the mentorship of Rev. Fr. John Titus. I graduated from Saint Meinrad School of Theology with a master's in divinity and I was Ordained a priest for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois by Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki on May 28, 2022. I was appointed Parochial Vicar of the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception by Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki. I am looking forward to journeying together with you to the path of faith as your Parochial Vicar. Please pray for me and all the priests as we work in the vineyard of the Lord.

Father Paul Lesupati serves as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Stewardship of Treasure July 16th and 17th

Envelopes:	\$5,014.00
Loose:	\$3,714.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$285.00</u>
Total:	\$9,013.00

June EFT: \$19,391.00

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!

Sacraments

Baptisms

Maeve Delphine Seifert
Baptized on 07/17/2022
Child of Travis & Madeline Seifert



Saintly Schenanegans (Part 1)

This past week I was chaplain for a Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) retreat in Quincy and at one point during the weekend the young people were asking questions of myself and Sr. Clementia Toalson, FSGM, about the liturgy, specifically differences about the liturgy throughout the history of the Church. Much, of course, could be said on this topic, but the side of things that I would like to look at today regards the placement of feast-days for saints in the liturgical calendar.

Usually a saint's feast day is celebrated on the day that they died. This began early in the Church when they would celebrate the dies natalis [literally "day of birth [into heaven]"] of a martyr, celebrating their entrance into heaven each year on the anniversary of their death. Of course, there are now thousands and thousands of martyrs, and other canonized saints so eventually you had the problem of multiple saints' feast-days falling on the same day. For this reason, the actual liturgical calendar (of the feast-days that we celebrate at Mass) does not contain nearly all canonized saints, but only a sub-set of the whole list. Just to indicate the extent of this "problem", if you look up "saints for July 29th", you will find St. Theadore, St. Antony, St. Lucilla, St. Eugene, St. Seraphina, and St. Flora (from Afghanistan), St. Simplicius, St. Rufo, St. Beatrice, St. Faustinus, St. Seraphina, St. Felix of Rome, and St. Faustinus of Spoleto (from Italy), St. Paulus Chen Changpin, St. Martha Wang, and St. Ioannes Baptista Luo Tingyin (from China), as well as St. William of Saint-Brieuc, St. Prosper of Orléans, St. Lubus of Troyes, and St. Pope Urban II (from France), St. Olaus (from Sweden), and St. John the Soldier (from Turkey). They all have their feast-day on July 29th, along with their team captains, the saints we celebrate at Mass, Sts. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus from Bethany.

You can imagine that as saints pile up on one day like that, eventually the Church has to decide who they're actually going to celebrate on any one day. So, every few hundred years one Pope or another has to clean up the calendar and pick who gets onto the universal calendar. In addition, some particular locations celebrate saints who are important for them, but are not important enough to be celebrated throughout the whole church. Example: St. Kateri Tekakwitha, who we celebrated here in the USA on July 14th, but other countries around the world would not be obligated to celebrate her at all because she would not be as important a patron for them. Now, just to add to the convolutedness of this whole thing: Kateri actually died April 13th which is the day that she is celebrated in Canada, and the Diocese of Phoenix. Why wouldn't we all celebrate her on April 13th? Well, Pope St. Martin I already has that day throughout the universal Church, so apparently in Canada and Phoenix Kateri is considered important enough to trump Martin, whereas for the rest of us that is not the case.

Fr. Dominic Rankin, because of the multiplicity of saints, often struggles to find one to write upon each week. However, the Holy Spirit is good (no surprise there!) and no matter which saint I choose, I always discover an amazing story, and am often drawn deeper into countless other parts of our faith as well. As we continue this series, and stay with Sts. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, I suspect we will find ourselves delighted by God's generosity! Buckle up!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Thank You from First Step

"How God has blessed First Step Women's Center through the generosity of wonderful friends like you! The Cathedral donated over \$2300 as part of the Baby Bottle Boomerang campaign. Precious lives will be saved because of your generosity. Our prayer is that God will richly bless you for helping to make our ministry happen." We continue to accept baby bottles. It's not too late to return yours in the collection basket or parish office. Thank you.

Women's Bible Study - Touching the Divine, A Study of the Gospel of John

Touching the Divine, a 20-lesson Bible study, focuses on the many qualities of Jesus revealed through the Gospel of John. This study draws us into a deeper, loving relationship with Jesus as we reflect on His life and personality. Saint John referred to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" and as we study, John will teach us how much Jesus loves us, and how His love is the true satisfaction of our souls. Knowing Christ more intimately, as John did, will touch your heart and fill you with hope!

Thursdays at 10:00am and 1:00pm beginning on September 1. Contact Vicki to reserve a spot and purchase your book, \$40 217/522-3342 or vcompton@cathedral.dio.org If you'd like to be in an evening group let Vicki know.

Blood Pressure Checks

Our parish nurses, Adrienne and Angela, will be available for blood pressure checks before and after masses this weekend. Please stop by!

Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Course

Register now to attend the Fall 2022 course. Registered nurses of all faiths are invited to attend the Foundations of Faith Community Nursing training course. Faith Community Nurses draw a closer link between their faith and healthcare communities by acting as health educators and counselors to a faith community membership, as well as assisting with homebound, nursing home and/or hospitalized congregation members. Through this nondenominational program, participating registered nurses receive continuing education hours, as well as the support and resources necessary to implement or support a Faith Community Nursing program in their own congregation. Established in 1997 by Carle, the program has trained over 500 nurses who've found joy serving their congregations. Cost is \$200

TO REGISTER VISIT <https://cmetracker.net/CARLE>
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (217) 365-7933

CCCW Christ Child Shower

Please join the CCCW for the Christ Child Shower in July! We will be collecting items for the Mini-O'Beirne Crisis Nursery and the Pregnancy Care Center during the month of July. Items can be placed in the crib located in the Atrium, or members of the CCCW will be collecting items after Mass the last two weekends of July (July 23-24 and July 30-31). We will distribute items to the two organizations in early August.

Items requested are:

Snacks for Kids	Enfamil Gentlelease Formula
Enfamil Infant formula	Walmart Gift Cards
Baby wipes	Diapers (sizes 4,5,& 6)
Pull Ups	Kitchen-size Trash Bags
Lysol Disinfecting Spray	Lysol Disinfecting Wipes
Lysol Disinfecting Concentrate	Toilet Paper
All Types of Premie Clothing	Diapers (Premie and Newborn)
Maternity Clothing	"Take Me Home" Outfits (newborn to 3 months)
Pacifiers	Gently-Used Clothing (newborn to 18 months)
Baby Spoons	Sippy Cups
Baby Wash	Baby Lotion
Baby Shampoo	

Personal Care Items for Moms (Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Paper Towels, Kleenex)

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

SDCCW Convention

The Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (SDCCW) are inviting all women of the diocese to their 93rd annual convention called "Women of the Bible" on Wed. Sept. 28 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Mattoon (1920 Richmond Ave.) It takes place from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The program starts at 9 a.m. with Mass at 11 a.m. The speakers are Dr. Dee Stern a grief therapist and chaplain at St. John's Hospital in Springfield. Dr. Stern, who recently authored the book "Comforting the bereaved through listening and positive responding: What are the bereaved trying to tell us?" will give a talk titled "Comparing their grief to how women grieve today." Patty Winn, a character of true faith and grit, will use her talents to portray historical and biblical characters and present "Women at the well." Women of all ages are welcome to attend the convention which seeks to enhance, enrich, and renew family life with the beauty and riches that God planned for it from the time of creation. The cost is \$50 and includes breakfast and lunch. A block of hotel rooms in Mattoon have also been reserved at the Super 8 and Comfort Suites. Registration is due by Sept. 7. Make checks payable to SDCCW and mail the payment to Jody Secondino-Crandell, 12872 N. 1900th St., Paris, IL 61944. For more information, contact Jody at or call 812-208-4293. Registration forms have also been provided to each parish to put in their vestibules or other locations.

Have plastic containers and/or plastic bags?

St. John's Breadline is asking for donations of plastic containers for Soup To-Go and plastic bags for taking groceries home for their guests. Recycle with purpose! We will no longer be collecting these at the Cathedral; donations may be dropped off directly at St. John's Breadline any day between 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. Thank you for helping them serve others with faith and love!

Dive Deep - St. Louis Cardinals Chaplain Shares Stories from the Ballpark

It is a dream come true for Father Chris Comerford, pastor of St. James and Patrick in Decatur. A huge baseball fan, he has been combining two of his loves, the sport and our faith, for more than 12 years as Chaplain for the St. Louis Cardinals. Fr. Chris shares funny stories, players he has gotten to know, and what it's like ministering in Busch Stadium in St. Louis. Go to dio.org/podcast to listen or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms

Eucharistic Revival - A Mission for You and Your Family Begins NOW!

You are invited to join Catholics in our diocese by participating in a nationwide movement to grow into a deeper understanding and devotion of the holy Eucharist. This movement of Catholics, called Eucharistic Revival, is about healing, conversion, formation, and becoming a unified Body of Christ by focusing on encountering the real Body of Christ, present to us in the Eucharist. Visit www.dio.org to learn more about this mission, how to sign up for updates, the timeline of events, and how to get involved.

49 million People in 46 countries face extreme, life-threatening conditions of hunger and malnutrition.

The war in Ukraine is straining an already-fragile global food system, especially as emerging markets and developing economies depend on Russia and Ukraine for fuel, fertilizer and staples like wheat and sunflower oil. As costs increase, the potential for further conflict and instability continues to alarm the world's most vulnerable countries, where so many rely on imported food to feed their families and survive. CRS is collaborating with our partners on a comprehensive response to meet immediate needs and ramp up programming that will strengthen resilience. Go to crs.org to learn more about our brothers and sisters in need and how you, through CRS, are helping them.

Employment Opportunity - Director of Admissions

SHG is hiring a Director of Admissions. The primary function of this position relates to the analysis, marketing and outreach efforts of prospective students and their families. The Director of Admissions is responsible for providing leadership for the development and implementation of a marketing and communications plan that includes strategies to ensure Sacred Heart-Griffin meets its enrollment objectives. This position reports to the Director of Advancement. For more information, please visit www.shg.org.