

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

AUGUST 28, 2022 | 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

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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!



Precepts of the Church – Part III

We continue our reflections on the Five Precepts of the Church, having looked at the first and fifth precepts: 1) obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, and 5) providing for the needs to the Church. This week, we will jump back to the second precept: **Confession of serious sin at least once a year.**

Notice two key words in this precept: “at least”, which is consistent with the Church's definition of the precepts, that they constitute “the very necessary minimum” of the Christian life. Serious sin is also known as mortal sin. It is mortal because it kills our relationship with the Lord, and we are the ones responsible for that mortal blow. A serious, or mortal sin, requires that we have full knowledge of what we are doing, that we know it is wrong, and that we do it anyway. The classic example is intentionally skipping Mass without

a serious reason (ie being in the hospital, or physically incapacitated by illness or injury). There are many other things in the moral life as well, perhaps most commonly sins against chastity (ie sexual activity outside of marriage, artificial contraception, use of pornography). There are other examples that can be given, but to list them all would take more space than I have.

One of the reasons this precept is worded this way is connected to the third precept: **Reception of Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter season.** One must be in the state of grace (having any serious sins absolved through Confession) in order to receive Holy Communion. So if the very minimum is receiving Holy Communion once a year, it makes sense that we confess serious sins prior to doing that. The Church has rightly encouraged us to receive Holy Communion much more frequently because of how important it is for us to receive the graces that come from this gift. So if we receive more frequently, which most of us do every Sunday, then we need to make sure our use of Confessions roughly matches that. In other words, if we plan to go to Holy Communion regularly, we should probably be going to confession more regularly. We must never approach Holy Communion with unforgiven, serious sin on our soul. To do so is to commit an additional serious sin of sacrilege. So if we are aware of committing a serious sin, make it a point to get to confession as soon as possible for two reasons: 1) so that we can receive Holy Communion the next time we are at Mass 2) to avoid being separated from God for eternity. As Jesus reminded us a few Sundays ago, “You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.” (Luke 12:40) The choice is always up to us. We use our free will to either follow or not follow God. We choose to ask His forgiveness for our serious sins in the way He intended it (ie Confession), or we choose not to. And in the end, we either choose to be with Him in Heaven, or we choose not to. Jesus does not condemn us to eternal separation, we choose that ourselves by choosing contrary to His will and not turning back in repentance.

A clarification on this topic is necessary, because it is often misunderstood. Divine law is to keep holy the Sabbath, which as Christians is to keep holy the Lord's Day. The way we do this is by going to Mass (the first precept of the Church). That obligation is always there, so even if we are not in the position to receive Holy Communion due to unconfessed serious sin, we still need to go to Mass. We are not obliged to receive Holy Communion at each Mass, though we are encouraged to do so, but only if we are aware that we are not guilty of any unconfessed mortal sins.

Since this is such an important and sometimes sensitive topic, I plan to return to it next week, especially since I basically addressed two precepts in this article. In the meantime, ask yourself if it might be time for you to get back to confession.

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, August 29

7am - Dan Casson
(Family)
5:15pm - Family
(Mark Suszko-Jane Bucci)

Tuesday, August 30

7am - Norma Bartoletti
(Estate)
5:15pm - Family
(Genevieve Severino)

Wednesday, August 31

7am - M. Caroline Morrison
(Family)
5:15pm - Dominic Aiello
(Family)

Thursday, September 1

7am - Sophia Bartoletti & Family
(Estate)
5:15pm - Living and Deceased
Members of the Schmitz Family
(Family)

Friday, September 2

7am - Marve Bangert
(Family)
5:15pm - Joseph Reichle
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

Saturday, September 3

8am - Mark West
(Carol E. West)
4pm - Tony Bartoletti
(Estate)

Sunday, September 4

7am - James Conkrite
(Litina Carnes)
10am - Helen “Bobbie” McCarthy
(Family)
5pm - For The People



Prayers of St. Thomas Aquinas

Recently I was reminded of the need to both prepare ourselves to receive Communion and say a prayer of thanksgiving after Mass. This practice helps us to receive the graces that God desires to give us during Communion. The back of our missalette has several prayers to this end, and I encourage you to make use of them both before and after Mass. Many saints have written prayers for this same purpose. I share here two prayers written by St. Thomas

Aquinas as a lesson in how to prepare and give thanks for the Eucharist. The language in this prayer is certainly not how we usually speak today, but these prayers are worth at least reading through, to learn a lesson in how the saints pray!

Prayer Before Mass

Almighty and everlasting God, behold I come to the Sacrament of Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: I come as one infirm to the physician of life, as one unclean to the fountain of mercy, as one blind to the light of everlasting brightness, as one poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. Therefore I implore the abundance of Thy measureless bounty that Thou wouldst vouchsafe to heal my infirmity, wash my uncleanness, enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty and clothe my nakedness, that I may receive the Bread of Angels, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, with such reverence and humility, with such sorrow and devotion, with such purity and faith, with such purpose and intention as may be profitable to my soul's salvation. Grant unto me, I pray, the grace of receiving not only the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood, but also the grace and power of the Sacrament. O most gracious God, grant me so to receive the Body of Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, which He took from the Virgin Mary, as to merit to be incorporated into His mystical Body, and to be numbered amongst His members. O most loving Father, give me grace to behold forever Thy beloved Son with His face at last unveiled, whom I now purpose to receive under the sacramental veil here below. Amen.

Prayer After Mass

Lord, Father all-powerful and ever-living God, I thank You, for even though I am a sinner, your unprofitable servant, not because of my worth but in the kindness of your mercy, You have fed me with the Precious Body & Blood of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray that this Holy Communion may not bring me condemnation and punishment but forgiveness and salvation. May it be a helmet of faith and a shield of good will.

May it purify me from evil ways and put an end to my evil passions.

May it bring me charity and patience, humility and obedience, and growth in the power to do good.

May it be my strong defense against all my enemies, visible and invisible, and the perfect calming of all my evil impulses, bodily and spiritual.

May it unite me more closely to you, the One true God, and lead me safely through death to everlasting happiness with You.

And I pray that You will lead me, a sinner, to the banquet where you, with Your Son and holy Spirit, are true and perfect light, total fulfillment, everlasting joy, gladness without end, and perfect happiness to your saints.

Grant this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

*St. Thomas Aquinas
Prayers taken from catholic.com*

*Fr. Dominic Vahling serves as a teacher and chaplain at
Sacred Heart-Griffin High School in Springfield.*

Stewardship of Treasure August 20th & 21st

Envelopes:	\$5,700.00
Loose:	\$2,378.00
Maintenance:	\$168.00
Total:	\$8,246.00

July EFT: \$21,501.00

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!



Saint Stephen I, King of Hungary

Feast Day: August 16th | Patron of Hungary, Kings, Stonemasons/Bricklayers, Protector against the Death of Children

To continue our remarkable story from last week for a final time, it was there right at the end of the year 1000 AD, that a pagan prince surrounded by only recently settled barbarians, received his blessing, anointing, and crown from Pope Sylvester II. Historians argue whether the crown Stephen received that day was the same famed 4 lb, gold and enamel, circlet once protected in Fort Knox, now housed in the Hungarian Parliament, and universally known as the "Crown of St. Stephen". Certainly, we can trace it back almost that far, and perhaps things are muddled because only part of

the crown came from the Pope and it has been embellished in the centuries since. In any case, we can trace what that crown symbolizes from St. Stephen all the way to today. Already, when Stephen wore it at his coronation, that gold crown, topped with a cross, with its images of Christ the King reigning over the angels, it seemed to those who could see him then that already he was crowned with the halo of a saint. His sanctity, of course, would have to be won over the intervening years – as he worked to evangelize his people, suffered the loss of all his children, and slowly learned that the greatest good he could do as a king was to serve the poorest of his constituents and pray for them.

But those years, with all their crosses, did turn him into a saint! On his deathbed, having lost much, and gained much, in a dramatic moment never forgotten by the Christian people that came after him, St. Stephen lifted the crown from his head and offered it to Christ, and Our Lady. Ever since that day, his gold crown remains a symbol of Hungary's true King: Christ, and Queen: Mary. All the 50 kings of Hungary since crowned with those jewels, have known that they are truly only deputies of their country's true king, and that their highest goal is to join the first of their line in offering their kingship to His reign. Stephen's right arm, perhaps at first a somewhat macabre relic, is housed with honor in the Cathedral of Budapest because it was his hand that entrusted that kingdom into the hand of Christ.

Amazingly, something of that truth was communicated as the United States returned Stephen's crown to Hungary in 1978. We did not give it to the Communist dictator in charge of Hungary. In fact, János Kádár (said dictator) was not invited to the handing-over ceremony! Rather, Cardinal Lekai, the Roman Catholic primate of Hungary, was there to welcome the crown home, as part of the group receiving it back for the Hungarian People, from the American People. That crown, symbolizing the autonomy, and Christianity, of Hungary, was not fit to crown an authority contrary to Christ, but was a fitting treasure to return to the many faithful people who had endured so many attacks against their faith during the prior two decades.

Cd. Lekai, to add a final amazing twist to this whole story, was the immediate successor to Cd. Mindszenty, the embattled Catholic leader of Hungary who had endured torture and had been sentenced to life imprisonment for being a traitor to the Communist State. His show-trial in 1948 was lambasted for its injustice around the globe. Beaten by rubber truncheons, the cardinal was coerced into admitting that he had schemed to overthrow the Party, start World War III, become the supreme power after said war, ... oh, and also stealing the Hungarian Crown Jewels. The Cardinal actually took asylum in the American Embassy in Budapest for 16 years to avoid being killed or exiled by the communists (staying there from 1956 to 1971!) Three black communist cars waited outside of the gate of our embassy in Budapest for the entirety of that decade and a half waiting for a chance to scuttle him off to a soviet prison, or worse. The Vatican actually paid \$50 each day to the Americans who agreed to stay overnight in the embassy so that he wouldn't be kidnapped! Perhaps none of them knew that the crown jewels so desired by his communist persecutors were actually safe and sound in the country where under whom he had found protection! Cd. Mindszenty was declared venerable by Pope Francis in 2019. He was a fitting successor to the first saint of Hungary, whose crown has taught us an awful good story, and been the epicenter of an amazing amount of grace down through the centuries.

Fr. Dominic Rankin got to know some of this story in 2016 when he had the chance to visit Budapest, and the relics of St. Stephen. One other memory of that trip, amongst many, was the incredibly deep metro system under Budapest. Only now to I know that it was placed so deep underground precisely because of the threat of bombing, nuclear or otherwise, during the Cold War.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Blood Pressure Checks – August 27th and 28th

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

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.

Volunteers Needed

Please use this link

<https://ome.flocknote.com/signup/84704> to volunteer to assist with Diocesan Confirmation and First Communion masses that are held at the Cathedral on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Volunteers are needed to greet and to assist with the reception. Thank you!

Thank You!

Adam Wenthe has recently wrapped up his hygiene drive for the Holy Family Food Pantry. He was able to collect a large number of items which will go towards greatly helping many people in the Springfield area. This was all made possible by your very generous donations and will be greatly appreciated by the Holy Family Food Pantry and those who they help.



Women's Bible Study Trip

A few members of the Women's Bible Study took a field trip to Peoria to visit the grave and museum of Venerable Fulton Sheen.

First Friday Concert

Join us for our First Friday Concert Series! September's concert will feature Nathan Laube, Organ. The First Friday Concert Series is sponsored by the Staab Family, and is free and open to the public. All are welcome! Friday, September 2, 2022 - 7pm

Living in the Father's Love Women's Bible Study

In a world where women are measured by their beauty, achievements and possessions, wouldn't it be nice to find a place where you could just be valued for who you are? Living in the Father's Love will lead you to that safe place where you are unconditionally loved, baggage and all. This brief but powerful six-lesson Bible study is the ideal way to revive and refresh yourself. Discover just how much God loves us and how the Gospels are deeply relevant to our relationship with God and with those we love. Thursday evenings, 6:15-7:30 @ Cathedral School Library, Sept 1- Oct. 6, \$20. Contact Vicki to order a book and reserve your spot 217/522-3342 or vcompton@cathedral.dio.org

Families of Faith

The Cathedral welcomes parishioners and non-parishioners all ages to participate in faith formation. This fall we will continue year four of A Family of Faith: Catechesis for the Whole Family, a family-based catechesis and formation opportunity meant to assist parents with the education of their children in the faith. This year will focus on Prayer. Families meet twice a month, on Sunday evenings, for small group and whole group faith formation experiences. All families with children pre-school through high school are welcome. Pick up a registration packet in the atrium or contact Vicki at 217/522-3342 or vcompton@cathedral.dio.org if you have questions.

Touching the Divine Women's Bible Study

Study the Gospel of John with other Catholic women in this 22-week course from Walking With Purpose. You will learn about Christ's divine qualities: Our source of fulfillment for all that we need, The ultimate gift giver, Our model of fidelity, Our redeemer and restorer. Thursdays at 10:00am or 1:00pm @ Cathedral School Library, beginning on September 1, \$40. Contact Vicki to order a book and reserve your spot 217/522-3342 or vcompton@cathedral.dio.org

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Cachet Club Card Party - 09/20

Please join the Cachet Club for a card party benefiting St. John's Breadline and Washington Street Mission, on Tuesday, September 20, from 6:30-9:00 PM, at Little Flower Parish Center, 800 Stevenson Dr. Prizes will be given throughout evening, and pulled pork sandwiches will be available for purchase.

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

Join the members of the Riverton Knights of Columbus Marian Council 3914 in Riverton, IL for a fish fry on Friday, September 2nd from 4:30pm-6:30pm. Dinner includes walleye, tilapia, and shrimp for \$13.00, catfish for \$15.00, and corn dogs for \$2.00 each. Dinners come with a choice of fries or baked potato and slaw and bread. Cash/check only, no credit or debit cards. Thank you in advance for your support!

Save the Date!

Friday, October 28th is this year's Annual Comedy in the City dinner event benefitting the Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield, Inc. Entertainment for this event will be provided by the Murder Mystery Company with the theme: "Midnight at the Masquerade." Ticket information coming soon!!

PSR for Extraordinary People 2022-2023 Academic Year

PSR for Extraordinary People will begin the 2022-2023 academic season on Wednesday, September 14, 2022. Regular classes run from 6:30-7:30pm every Wednesday evening during the academic year. Our class is designed to meet the needs of developmentally disabled youth & adults who want to grown in their Catholic faith and share fellowship with other like-minded people. Please call Jane Mosey-Nicoletta (217-971-4179) or Blessed Sacrament Parish (217-528-7521) for details and opening picnic information.

The Well: Encountering Jesus and Finding Ourselves

After so many months of pandemic, isolation, global strife, illness, and uncertainty, we find ourselves thirsty—thirsty for community, thirsty for "normalcy," thirsty for that which refreshes and revives. Come and join us at The National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows to both pray with and experience some refreshment and revival as we retreat together at "The Well." Through the story of the Woman at the Well, this retreat will offer an opportunity for you to come away for a time and quench some of the spiritual thirst that has accumulated these past several months. Friday, September 9 – Sunday, September 11, 2022 Cost: \$350 per couple (includes lodging and all meals). For more information visit snows.org or call: 618.394.6281

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.

A History of Sin: From Adam to Augustine

At first glance it may seem odd to think that sin has a history – but it does. The saga of sin is a long journey with many twists and turns. In this series we'll see that there are several different meanings of sin in the Old Testament. We'll show that even Jesus and Paul did not share the same understanding of sin. And we'll trace the evolution of sin through some of the important theologians of the early Church. Join us for the history of sin from Adam to Augustine on Saturdays, August 27, September 3, 10 & 17 10 am – 12 Noon at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows Visitor's Center, Belleville, IL. Cost: \$40 for series, or \$10 each session. Register online or call 618.394.6281

Resurrection Parish Carryout/Outside Dining Fried Chicken Dinner

Please join the Resurrection Parish in Illipolis for a Fried Chicken Dinner on Sunday, September 11 from 11am to 2pm. Dinner includes fried Chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, coleslaw or applesauce, iced tea/coffee and choice of homemade pie or cake.