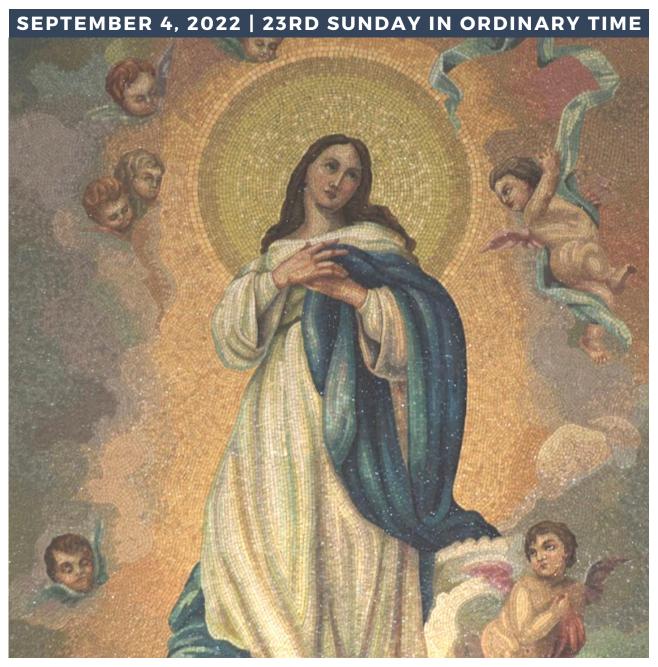
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703 CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342 WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG



VOLUME 4 ISSUE 36

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI

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

THE REVEREND PAUL LESUPATI
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN

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!

RECTOR'S COLUMN





Clearing Up Some Confusion

Last week, I promised that I would continue our reflections on the second Precept of the Church: Confession of serious sin at least once a year. I am humbly asking that you wait another week as another topic has come up that I think deserves our attention. It has to do with three of our previous Parochial Vicars here at the Cathedral and some confusion about what was recently listed in the Catholic Times regarding the assignments of Father Michael Friedel, Father Peter Chineke, and Father Wayne Stock.

Let's start with our most recent Parochial Vicar – Father Peter Chineke. As you are aware, the plan we had in place was to have Father Peter begin full-time Canon Law studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. As we were preparing for this transition, it was brought to our attention that his current immigration status does not really allow us to assign him to full-time studies at this time.

The details are a bit confusing, and if you do not deal with immigration law, I won't bore you with the details. We still hope to have Father Peter study Canon Law full-time in the future, but for now, for the purposes of immigration, he needs to be in a parish assignment, thus his being appointed Parochial Administrator at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Decatur, as well as Chaplain of St. Teresa High School and Millikin University, both in Decatur.

If you read Father Peter's appointment carefully, you will see that it includes information about Father Michael Friedel, and this is where many have been confused. Due to some unforeseen challenges with another assignment (see below) in Decatur, it became no longer possible for Father Friedel to serve both of his parishes by himself (Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Thomas the Apostle). Up until July 1, Father Friedel had a second priest to assist him, but after July 1, he was left by himself, as I will explain below. The solution was for Father Friedel to request a Leave of Absence from his role as Pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle so as to focus his efforts on Our Lady of Lourdes, thus making room for the diocese to assign a priest to take care of the pastoral care of St. Thomas the Apostle temporarily. The diocese therefore assigned a priest for a month at St. Thomas, then when the situation with Father Peter arose, it made good sense for him to take care of St. Thomas. Where people have grown concerned with Father Friedel is the mention in the appointment for Father Peter that Father Friedel's Leave of Absence was necessitated by his Parochial Vicar's Medical Leave of Absence. Several people saw "Medical Leave of Absence" and the closest name to that phrase was Father Friedel, so many assumed he was on a Medical Leave of Absence, when in reality, it was his Parochial Vicar.

That brings us to our final priest – Father Wayne Stock, and his situation brings clarity to the last point. Father Wayne Stock was initially scheduled to take a new assignment on July 1 as Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Thomas the Apostle in Decatur, as well as Chaplain of St. Teresa High School. Unfortunately, Father Wayne has requested and received a Medical Leave of Absence for the time being. Since this happened after all of the assignments had been made, we needed to pivot to address the situation in Decatur while trying to avoid upsetting other assignments that were already set.

I hope this explanation helps to clear things up. I know that Father Friedel has been pretty surprised at how many people have been asking about him, if he is okay. I assure you, Father Friedel is doing great in Decatur. Nevertheless, I am sure he still very much appreciates your prayers! The same goes for Father Peter as he settles into his new assignment. Finally, I invite you to keep Father Wayne in your daily prayers. Many of you came to know and love him during his time here, and I know he will very much appreciate your prayers during this time in which he is attending to his well-being.

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, September 5

7am - Marg Munn (Julie Berberet) 5:15pm - NO MASS

Tuesday, September 6

7am - Mary Prosperini Coffey (Jo & Robert Wassell) 5:15pm - John Montgomery (John Busciacco)

Wednesday, September 7

7am - Gregory Fleck (Chris Sommer) 5:15pm - Jean Anne Staab (Deane Murphy)

Thursday, September 8

7am - Amabile Bartoletti (Estate) 5:15pm - Maren Bowyer Gallagher (Gallagher Family)

Friday, September 9

7am - Daniel Gauwitz (Chris Sommer) 5:15pm - Special Intention for Bianca (D.A. Drago)

Saturday, September 10

8am - Sophia Bartoletti & Family (Estate) 4pm - Pamela Harmon (Jane Stone)

Sunday, September 11

7am - Mary Ann Midden (William Midden) 10am - For The People 5pm - Irene Louise Holmes (Woody & Becky Woodhull)

CONTEMPLATION CORNER





The Theological Virtue of Faith

Last Sunday the Lord Jesus reminded us about the virtue of humility and in order to understand all this, we must turn our eyes to the Lord himself. Today let us turn to the theological virtues, the virtues of faith, hope, and charity, which have God as their direct object. By faith we know God, by Hope we trust His promises and goodness, and by Charity, we love Him. Many times, in our prayer, we ask for many things, both for ourselves and others. This week we begin reflecting on the theological virtue of faith and

how the Catechism of Catholic Church defines it. Faith is foundational in our Christian life, because it helps us believe, hope, and love God. As I was reflecting on the theological virtue of faith, I remembered my early years attending Catechetical classes and the teaching was based on Baltimore Catechism; I do recall answering this question: why did God create us? God created us to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world and at the end, we return back to Him. God is our ultimate end. The definition of faith does matter. What matters is the place that faith hold in our daily life. Faith is a gift to see the presence of God in everything; it a new way of looking at myself, others, the event of life. Therefore, the Catechism of Catholic Church states: "The theological virtue of faith is a virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because he us truth itself. By faith man freely commits his entire self to God, for this reason the believer seeks to know and do God's will" (CCC, 1814). The Catechism of the Catholic Church goes further to define Faith as the supernatural virtue, which is necessary for salvation. The Catechism adds that Faith is a divine gift and human act; God moves this act to the contemplation of his very truth (CCC, #.153-184).

Furthermore, the Second Vatican Council describes Faith as a personal response to God's revelation of love. God comes toward humanity and condescends to open up to human beings the secrets of his intimate life, looking for a reciprocal love. Human beings, for their part, turn to God through Faith and open up to him in friendship. The council says explicitly that by faith "man entrusts his whole self freely to God, offering 'the full submission of intellect and will to God who reveals,' and freely assenting to the truth revealed by him" (Dei Verbum, 5).

Our Faith comes true through the visible God in Christ. The whole Trinity has been revealed in the Person of Christ. We cannot claim, as Christians, that we have Faith in God when we reject whom he has sent to us. Whoever sees me (Christ) sees the one who sent me (God the Father) (Jn 12:45). This is one of the foundational acts of the Christian faith. So as Christians faithful we need to: "turn to the witnesses of faith: to Abraham, who

in hope ...believed against hope; to the virgin Mary, who, in her pilgrimage of faith, walked into the night of faith in sharing the darkness of hers son's suffering and death; and to so many others: 'therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith" (CCC, Paragraph 165 on profession of faith). As we reflect on theological virtue of faith, are we ready, like the Apostles, to ask for the gift of faith? "Lord increase our faith" (Lk 17:5).

Father Paul Lesupati serves as parochial vicar at the Cathedral.

Stewardship of Treasure August 27th & 28th

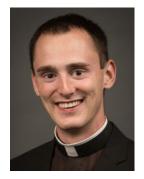
Envelopes: \$5,263.00 Loose: \$3,271.00 Maintenance: \$185.00

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!

CONTEMPLATION CORNER





Saint Peter Claver Feast Day: September 9th | Patron of Slaves, Race Relations, Seafarers, Colombia

Pere Claver i Corberó had just finished his bachelor's degree in humanities at the University of Barcelona. The 22-year-old had done his father, Pedro (the mayor of his hometown) proud, getting good grades and becoming a leader of his peers. Peter had lost his mother just before going to the university, but he now fondly recalled her injunction that "nothing should come between him and the love of God." She had prayed constantly for her son's vocation, asking Hannah and our Mother Mary to lead and protect him. Now her, and their, prayers were being answered because as Pere thought of his future, the thought of becoming a priest continued to flicker through his soul. He had met priests of the new religious order calling itself the Society of Jesus, a gutsy title

that fired the heart of the young man. He had finally written to the Order, putting words on his deep desire to "become a saint, and ... save many souls." God loved that prayer.

The superior general of the Jesuits, Cludio Aquaviva, accepted Pere into the novitiate and he was sent to Tarragona for two years of learning about the order and giving time for God's grace to deeply enter his heart. As a novice, he kept a notebook with meditations from the various times of prayer, many of them rather ordinary, some too sublime to describe, and some articulating desires that he had not placed in the depths of his heart. On one occasion he penned this line: "I must dedicate myself to the service of God until death, on the understanding that I am like a slave, wholly occupied in the service of his master and in the endeavor to please and content him in all and in every way with his whole soul, body, and mind." The year was 1602. He returned often to those words in the years to come.

Brother Peter did his philosophical studies at the College of Montesión on the lovely island of Majorca. There he became friends with the lay brother who manned the door to the college, Alphonsus Rodríguez. Rodríguez did not know it, but he was one of the many holy porters that the Church would produce in the years to come. This humble man would be canonized along with St. Nuno de Braganza of Portugal (+1431), St. John Masias (+1645) and St. Martin de Porres (+1639) of Peru, St. Padre Pio in Italy (+1968), and their group now includes Bl. André Bessette of Montreal (+1937) and Bl. Solanus Casey (+1957) of Michigan as well. The 80-year-old Alphonsus would entrust to Peter much of the spiritual wisdom he had received in the simple work of meeting and greeting, passing onto him a profound love for those who need it the most, and encouraging him to go as a missionary to the New World.

God, in his providence, placed another person in Peter's life to guide his steps into the future. This was Fr. Alonso de Sandoval, himself a missionary in Colombia who had spent 40 years ministering on the plantations there. Slavery had been made legal there some 70 years before, and ever since that wretched day, the number of Africans being bought, imported, and forced to work had kept growing. Once again, Peter, now a newly ordained Jesuit priest, found his heart fired by the love at work in this man. Fr. Claver had felt that interior-fire in Barcelona after the death of his mother, in Tarragona in the silence of prayer, on Majorca chatting with Br. Alphonsus, and now in Cartagena, assisting Fr. Sandoval to publish his rich knowledge of the customs, languages, and religions he had come to know working with those enslaved in Colombia. He would need that fire every day on the docks of Cartegena. Here are his own words describing the scene:

Yesterday, May 30, 1627, numerous blacks ... disembarked from a large ship. Carrying two baskets of oranges, lemons, sweet biscuits, and I know not what else, we hurried toward them. ... We had to force our way through the crowd until we reached the sick. Large numbers of the sick were lying on the wet ground or rather in puddles of mud. ... they were naked, without any clothing to protect them. There were two blacks, nearer death than life, already cold, whose pulse could scarcely be detected. With the help of a tile we pulled some live coals together and placed them in the middle near the dying men. ... they seemed to recover their warmth and the breath of life. The joy in their eyes as they looked at us was something to see. This was how we spoke to them, not with words but with our hands and our actions. And in fact, convinced as they were that they had been brought here to be eaten, any other language would have proved utterly useless. Then we sat, or rather knelt, beside them and bathed their faces and bodies with wine. We made every effort to encourage them with friendly gestures and displayed in their presence the emotions which somehow naturally tend to hearten the sick. ... we declared to them the mysteries of the Trinity, the Incarnation and the Passion. Showing them Christ fastened to the cross, as he is depicted on the baptismal font on which streams of blood flow down from his wounds, we led them in reciting an act of contrition in their own language.

Peter went into those ships almost every day for four decades. He saw almost a million slaves arrive on those docks. He baptized a third of them. One spark of divine love can carry you far.

Fr. Dominic Rankin has never been given the assignment of porter, but it might be a great way to become a saint!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Silver Rose

A Silver Rose on a nine-month pilgrimage will be the centerpiece of a special prayer service at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on September 11th after the 10 am mass. The Silver Rose is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe for both international unity and dedication to the sanctity of human life

The journey of the Silver Rose begins each year in March and ends on Dec. 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. During that time, Silver Roses travel from town to town along eight routes throughout North America. Several of those routes begin in Canada and end in Mexico. The Silver Rose Program began in 1960, when the first rose – a real, live one – was blessed by a bishop in Ontario. The rose then traveled to New York and then to Texas where it was taken across the border into Mexico. The rose ended its pilgrimage at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Monterrey on Dec. 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. To better ensure future annual trips, a silver rose was ultimately made. Today, due to the popularity of the program throughout the North American continent, eight silver roses travel unique routes. In 2001, when Carl Anderson, Past Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, expanded the Silver Rose Program, he commented: "Through [the Silver Rose Program] we honor not only Our Lady of Guadalupe and express the unity of the [Knights of Columbus], but we also reaffirm the Order's dedication to the sanctity of human life. It is to the Blessed Mother that we turn in prayer as we work to end the Culture of Death that grips our society. As we think in terms of 'One Life, One Rose,' it is most appropriate that we turn to Our Lady of Guadalupe who made known her will through Juan Diego and the miracle of the roses." Faith in Action Life 10722 10/21

All members of the community are encouraged to join the Knights of Columbus on September 11th after the 10 am Mass to pray for a civilization of love and culture of life in our own country and throughout the world.

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.

Men's Bible Study

"Iron is sharpened by iron; one person sharpens another." (Proverbs 27) Exploring God's Word together allows men to learn from one another, be challenged, and encourage each other as we live out our faith in everyday life. We meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 a.m. No experience or pre-reading is required. Coffee is available. All men are welcome. Join us in the Cathedral Parish Library (behind the south side of the sanctuary). Contact: Deacon Rob, (217) 836-7900 or rsgambelluri@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.

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!

Come Watch The Chosen on Cathedral's Big Screen

The Chosen is an 8-part drama depicting the life of Jesus Christ as seen through the eyes of those who knew him. Join us in the atrium for Season 2, each Sunday afternoon, beginning October 23rd from 2:00pm-3:15pm to watch and discuss and reflect. The Chosen is suitable for all ages and everyone is welcome.

Bereavement Ministry

Cathedral parish will be hosting another cycle of 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, November 1, 1:00-2:30 in the Cathedral School Library. (Enter through the atrium doors off 5th street parking lot) 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 Register online or call 217/522-3342 or email Vicki at vcompton@cathedral.dio.org All adults, of any or no faith background, are welcome.

CCCW Meeting - September 20

The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women welcomes all women of the parish to join us for our first meeting after the summer break! We promote spiritual growth and a willingness to share our faith with others through prayer and actions of servant leadership. We do this through programs, meetings, social gatherings and fundraisers. The CCCW encourages support of our parish and community.... and we have fun doing it! Join us on Tuesday, September 20 in the School Hall. Blessing and meal will begin at 6pm, with the meeting following at 6:30pm. We hope to see you there!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

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.

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.

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.

CRS: Global Food Crisis

The urgency of the global food crisis has only escalated. Right now, 49 million people in 46 countries face extreme, life-threatening conditions of hunger and malnutrition. Catholic Relief Services' work to end hunger is especially critical now as so many of our sisters and brothers struggle to access food to survive. Take action today to meet the immediate needs of this global emergency and to ensure this type of crisis doesn't happen again. Learn more about the global food crisis and the work of CRS at www.crs.org.

Employment Opportunity - Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is hiring for the position of Controller. The Controller manages the accounting functions and staff, which has responsibility for all financial reporting, accounting systems and internal controls, the annual budgeting process, financial statement audits, tax compliance, payroll, and banking treasury operations. The Controller also assists with defining diocesan policies as well as supports short and long-term operational strategies. More information may be found at

Troop 31 Open House

The adventures of Scouting are in high gear at Troop 31 as the new school year begins! Whether it's hiking the local trails or camping in the great outdoors, Troop 31 is always on an adventure. The Boy Scouts of America has a reputation for helping youth develop self-reliance, strong character, respect for others, good citizenship skills, and physical and mental fitness, all guided by trained leaders who share these adventures with the Troop. And as a Catholic unit, we are always mindful of a Scout's Duty to God. We are having an open house on Monday, September 12 at Blessed Sacrament in Springfield. Current members of the Troop will be presented with various awards that they have earned in recent months and new members are always welcome to join in the fun. The open house starts at 7 PM in the rectory basement. For more information about Troop 31, email bspstroop31@gmail.com, or call Kyle Holtgrave at (217) 622-4994.

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, September 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

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

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.

Pregnancy Care 18th Annual Comedy in the City Dinner

The Pregnancy Care of Springfield, Inc. is holding its 18th Annual Comedy in the City Dinner: "Midnight at the Masquerade" Murder Mystery on Friday, October 28th at the Northfield Center. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for the cash bar and silent auction. A formal dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m. followed by a live auction and entertainment. There will also be an EAT LOCAL RAFFLE with the winner receiving \$500 worth of gift cards (need not be present to win). Tickets to the event are \$70 per person or \$560 for a table of 8. Reservations are required for this event by October 21st and can be made by calling (217) 525-5630 or through the website at springfieldpregnancycare.org. Come help us celebrate 44 years of serving pregnant women in our community at this fun event!