

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 | 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342  
[WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG](http://WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG)

FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

# *Cathedral Weekly*

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 38

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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  
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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!

Diocesan Victim Assistance is available. For the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, please call 217-321-1155.  
Please remember that if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a nursing home or homebound, to contact the Parish Office at 217-522-3342.



## Precepts of the Church – Part IV

A few weeks ago, when I wrote about the second Precept of the Church on going to confession at least once a year, I set it in the context of the third Precept: Reception of Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter season. I feel like my explanation that week covered this precept well, so let's address the final remaining Precept which states: **Observance of the days of fast and abstinence.**

When we hear these two terms, fasting and abstinence, it is likely that our minds go immediately to the season of Lent. Perhaps you have seen the Lenten regulations that we publish from the diocese each year. They are as follows:

1. ABSTINENCE – Everyone 14 years of age and over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.
2. FAST – Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 is required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is permitted. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each person's needs, but together these two should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids (including milk and fruit juices) are allowed.

Sounds pretty straightforward, right? Well, there is another important point about which many Catholics are unaware. We turn first to the universal law of the Church found in the Code of Canon Law:

*Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by the Episcopal Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday. (Can. 1251)*

In a statement from 1966, the US Bishops give a nice commentary on the reason for this law when they write:

*Friday should be in each week something of what Lent is in the entire year. For this reason we urge all to prepare for that weekly Easter that comes with each Sunday by freely making of every Friday a day of self-denial and mortification in prayerful remembrance of the passion of Jesus Christ.*

This means that every Friday, unless it is a Solemnity, is a day to abstain from meat. But the Code provides the following important stipulation:

*The conference of bishops can determine more precisely the observance of fast and abstinence as well as substitute other forms of penance, especially works of charity and exercises of piety, in whole or in part, for abstinence and fast. (Can 1253)*

Here in the United States, it has been decided that Friday abstinence can be exercised in other ways than not eating meat. While the US Bishops praise and give first place to the practice of abstaining from meat on Fridays, they leave room to choose an alternative penitential practice, such as abstaining from alcohol. They also offer a helpful commentary which provides some insight into another way of observing Friday:

*It would bring great glory to God and good to souls if Fridays found our people doing volunteer work in hospitals, visiting the sick, serving the needs of the aged and the lonely, instructing the young in the Faith, participating as Christians in community affairs, and meeting our obligations to our families, our friends, our neighbors, and our community, including our parishes, with a special zeal born of the desire to add the merit of penance to the other virtues exercised in good works born of living faith.*

So if you are not doing anything penitential, sacrificial, or charitable on Fridays, now is a good time to start! And if you find it hard to think of something, remember the Church's recommendation of abstaining from meat as a worthwhile way of remembering the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on Good Friday.

*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 19

7am - John & Edith Bakalar  
(John Busciacco)

5:15pm - Paul & JoAnn Slaughter  
(Dave Slaughter)

#### Tuesday, September 20

7am - NO MASS  
5:15pm - NO MASS

#### Wednesday, September 21

7am - NO MASS  
5:15pm - NO MASS

#### Thursday, September 22

7am - NO MASS  
5:15pm - Shirley Logan  
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

#### Friday, September 23

7am - Kathleen Price  
(Chris Sommer)  
5:15pm - Sophia Bartoletti & Family  
(Estate)

#### Saturday, September 24

8am - Ruth Staab  
(Chris Sommer)  
4pm - For the People

#### Sunday, September 25

7am - Pamela Rose Harmon  
(Archie Harmon)  
10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt  
(Kathy Frank)  
5pm - Norma Bartoletti  
(Estate)



## From Story of a Soul

One of the challenges that we all face in the Christian life is staying faithful to prayer even when it becomes “difficult” or when we have little desire to do so. St. Therese of Lisieux is one of the Church’s most beloved saints of the 20th century and she wrote very simply but beautifully about prayer. Her nickname of the “Little Flower” was one that she gave to herself. She imagined herself in God’s beautiful garden as just a simple little flower, compared to the spiritual masters who are more like bushes or trees! May her simple

words on prayer inspire us to “keep at it” this week as we seek to love the Lord with all our heart!

### From Story of a Soul

*Sometimes when I am in such a state of spiritual dryness that not a single good thought occurs to me, I say very slowly the “Our Father,” or the “Hail Mary,” and these prayers suffice to take me out of myself.*

*I take refuge, then, in prayer, and turn to Mary, and our Lord always triumphs.*

*My strength lies in prayer and sacrifice; they are invincible weapons, and touch hearts more surely than words can do, as I have learned by experience.*

*We often think we receive graces and are divinely illuminated by means of brilliant candles. But from whence comes their light? From prayers, perhaps, of some humble, hidden soul, whose inward shining is not apparent to human eyes.*

*In a word, prayer is something noble, supernatural, which expands my soul and unites it to God.*

*For me, prayer is a burst from my heart, it is a simple glance thrown toward heaven, a cry of thanksgiving and love in times of trial as well as in times of joy.*

*Frequently, only silence can express my prayer.*

*Let us not grow tired of prayer: confidence works miracles.*

*The power of prayer has been understood by all the saints, and especially, perhaps, by those who have illumined the world with the light of Christ’s teaching.*

*My strength lies in prayer and sacrifice; they are invincible weapons, and touch hearts more surely than words can do, as I have learned by experience.*

*Our fulcrum is God: our lever, prayer; prayer which burns with love. With that we can lift the world!*

Excerpt from [littleflower.org](http://littleflower.org)

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

### Stewardship of Treasure September 10th & 11th

Envelopes:	\$5,505.00
Loose:	\$2,634.00
Maintenance:	\$85.00
Total:	\$8,224.00

August EFT: \$20,741.00

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 Marriages

Sean Slattery & Courtney Pence  
Married on September 10, 2022





## St. Padre Pio

**Feast Day: September 23rd | Patron of Adolescents, Civil Defenders, Pietrelcina, Italy**

1887, like most years in human history, had a whole lot of ordinary events, and a few that you would recognize. Gustave Eiffel began work on his eponymous tower in Paris. King Kalākaua of Hawai'i was forced to sign the Bayonet Constitution, leading to Hawai'i's annexation to the United States. Yamaha Corporation was founded in Japan, originally a manufacturer of organs. Sherlock Holmes first appeared in print in England.

God's grace was available in all of these moments, though, as is often the case, it was more visible in the humbler moments that history has long since forgotten. On March 25th of that year, on the Friday two weeks before Easter, after a day fasting from meat and working with her husband, Grazio, in the fields, Giuseppa "Beppa" Forgione gave birth to their fourth child, though only their second to survive infancy. They were a lovely couple: Neither had received much academic education, but Beppa had a dignity and sincerity that melded marvelously with Grazio's simplicity and lightheartedness. The townspeople would fondly recall Beppa's penetrating eyes and Grazio's wiry tenacity, attributes that marked them through all 47 years of their marriage.

But that Friday evening when Francisco was born, those personal characteristics, and their own past and future, were far from the couple's mind. Instead, they endured together the struggle of childbirth, the surreal joy of welcoming a son into their family, the poignant sadness of recalling his deceased brother and sister, and yet the sure hope that held their hearts knowing that they had given each of their children the greatest gift they ever could: baptism into God's very life.

They owned a simple jumble-of-a-house comprised of a few connected rooms on Vico Storto Valle [hilariously, literally, "Crooked Valley Lane"]. Their whitewashed walls were adorned with little more than two crucifixes and a lithograph of Mary, but their home was filled with the love that cascades around a little Catholic family. They woke when the bells of Castle Church rang out for daybreak, starting the day with some family prayers and daily Mass. Then Tata [Papa] would saddle the ass and begin the hour trek to his strip of farmland where he grew grapes, wheat, corn, olives, figs, and plums. There were a few sheep and hogs around, and a little cottage there if they had to stay the night, but usually they were back in Pietrelcina for nightfall, eating a dinner of produce from Beppa's garden – apparently a lot of green beans – and maybe some pasta. If it was a feast day, Mammella [Motherdear] would prepare some of the pork sausage they had saved from last year's hog.

Music and stories from the Bible (Grazio was a wonderful storyteller!) and meditation on the life of Christ through their daily rosary filled the last part of the day. Days quickly became years as the life of their family was swept along through the Church's seasons. One of the children's favorite stories was that of the great martyred Bishop Januarius, who was buried only 40 miles, but whose blood would sometimes miraculously liquify on his feast day, September 19th. On the one hand, nothing was notable about the Forgione's, but on the other hand, their love for God was evident to all, and their fellow townspeople them the "God-is-everything-people".

We often hear only the second half of Padre Pio's story: of his miracles and bilocation; his fervent Masses and the profound encounter with God's Love that many received going to confession to him; how misunderstood he was by the Church, and the world; his battles with Satan; his love for Mary; his participation in Jesus' wounds; his prediction that Karol Wojtyla would be called to be the Holy Father... But where did this holy priest come from?: A family, with a farm, and not much more than the simple meals of a loving mother and the saintly stories of a goofy dad, and consistent daily encounters with Jesus, and Mary. They sang and suffered, and loved and labored together, and from that soil grew one of the most captivating lives of all the Church's saints. It does not take much to become a saint, a mystic, a martyr, or a stigmatist ... just saying yes to God's love into our human lives every single day.

*Fr. Dominic Rankin once visited the tomb of St. Padre Pio. He is enshrined behind glass, beneath a big, modern Church, and thousands meander past every day. Some encounter a saint, some see a celebrity, some scoff at the stories, but a few pilgrims meet there the son of two peasants who loved Jesus with as much of his heart as he could. We can all do that.*

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### 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](mailto:jackandberni96@yahoo.com) Register online or call 217/522-3342 or email Vicki at [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org) All adults, of any or no faith background, are welcome.

### Directory Update

The directories are expected to arrive in mid-November. If you have not received your photos, please contact the Parish Office at 217-522-3342.

### 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](mailto:rsgambelluri@dio.org).

### Covenant Network Fall 2022 Radiothon

Fr. Alford will be on air Thursday, September 22, at 3pm for the Covenant Network Fall Radiothon! Please support FM 88.9 WTTT Catholic Radio by calling (314) 752-7000 or (877) 305-1234 or by visiting [OurCatholicRadio.org](http://OurCatholicRadio.org).

### 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!

### Come Watch The Chosen on the 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.

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Diocese

### 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 [springfieldpregnancy.org](http://springfieldpregnancy.org). Come help us celebrate 44 years of serving pregnant women in our community at this fun event!

### Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

Join the members of the Riverton Knights of Columbus for a fish fry on Friday, October 7 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!

### St. Cecilia Knights of Columbus Music Trivia

Join the St. Cecilia Knights of Columbus on Saturday, October 1st in the St. Cecilia Parish Hall in Glen Carbon, IL for Music Trivia benefitting individuals with intellectual disabilities. Doors open at 6pm and play begins at 7pm. To reserve a table, please contact Phil at 618-691-8425. Tables are \$200 each with a maximum of 8 players.

### Employment Opportunities - The Hospital Sisters of St. Francis

The Hospital Sisters of St. Francis are seeking a Sacristan and Cantor. The Sacristan will work under the direction of the Coordinator of Music and Liturgy preparing for liturgical rites and celebrations. The Cantor will enhance the worship and prayer life of the Sisters by leading the congregation in song. Interested candidates may contact or send their resume to Joyce Sprague, Director, HR at 217-522-3386 ex. 684 or [jsprague@hsosf-usa.org](mailto:jsprague@hsosf-usa.org)

### St. Cabrini Parish Bus Trip

ThSt. Cabrini Parish is sponsoring a bus trip to St. Frances Cabrini National Shrine in Chicago, IL on Wednesday, November 9, 2022. The cost is \$75.00 per person and includes Bus Fare, Box Lunch, and Tour of the Shrine. For more details and to make reservations, contact Elaine Spearie: [elspearie@gmail.com](mailto:elspearie@gmail.com) or 217-481-0272. The deadline is September 30th.

### Butler Funeral Home Open Door Session

The Butler Family of Organizations extends an invitation to all who are interested in learning more about planning for their final wishes to help their families celebrate their lives to join us for a lunch and learn program. This Open Door Session will be held Thursday, September 22nd from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at the Prairie View Reception Center, 8865 State Rte. 4, Chatham, Illinois 62629. This event is complimentary: no cost or obligation. Please call 217-544-4646 to reserve your space no later than Monday, September 19th.

### Catholic Charities Holy Family Food Pantry

Each year, the Springfield Catholic Charities Holy Family Food Pantry serves hundreds of families in need through their Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. In preparation for the holidays, we are in need of donated food items and volunteers to create these much appreciated Thanksgiving and Christmas blessings. Wish list items for our food pantry include: cake mix, pancake mix, syrup, cane sugar, cereal, oatmeal, boxed dinners, stuffing mix, instant mashed potatoes, gravy packets, mac & cheese, pasta & pasta sauce, canned fruits & vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, butter, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, paper towels, toilet paper, and bars of soap. More information is available at 217.523.4551. Donations can be dropped off at 120 S 11th St. in Springfield Illinois between 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Thank you for making a difference in our community!

Here is a video highlighting our Springfield Catholic Charities office: <https://vimeo.com/747769630>

### "Saints & Animals" Video Series

This series provides a sampling of saint-and-animal stories up to the lifetime of St. Francis (1182-1226). Br. Short has provided English translations of the Latin originals to help make these often-charming legends more accessible to a wider audience. This will also help to familiarize you with some little-known figures who are well worth knowing including saints Godric and Guthlac, Gudila, Menna and Afra. They are hardly household names today, but once were well-known as examples of Christian sanctity. These stories of saints and animals in this course are designed to offer people today an idea of how earlier Christian generations understood their fellow creatures as significant, communicating important messages of their Creator. Tuesdays, September 20, 27, October 4 & 11 10 am – Noon Shrine Visitors Center Cost: \$5 each session or \$20 for the series Online registration begins Monday, August 15, 2022. For more information visit [snows.org](http://snows.org) or call: 618.394.6281. Learn more: <https://snows.org/saints-animals-video-series/>

### 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.