

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 | 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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

# Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 39

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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!



## The Family that Prays Together Stays Together

Several years ago, I came across the story of Father Patrick Peyton, a member of the Congregation of the Holy Cross. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1940, but his ordination almost did not happen. He became severely ill with tuberculosis and a priest challenged him to turn to Our Lady, believing that Mary would give him 100 percent of what he asked. Father Peyton turned to the Rosary and he was miraculously cured. At that moment, he promised that if he would be ordained, he would dedicate his ministry to Mary, who had interceded for him to save his life.

Father Peyton did indeed dedicate his ministry to Mary, becoming one of the greatest promoters of the praying of the Rosary. In particular, he promoted the practice of praying the Rosary as a family, and he became known for the phrase: "The family who prays together, stays together."

I offer that brief story as a way of introducing a new year of *A Family of Faith: Catechesis for the Whole Family*. For those of you who may not already be aware, we have been using this program over the past three years and we have been intentional about making it apply not just to our school-age families, but to all families, for we are all a part of one parish family here at the Cathedral. This program follows the four sections of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Having completed the first three sections (the Creed, the Sacraments, and the Moral Life in Christ) we are set to focus our attention this year on the final section: Christian Prayer.

The Catechism begins this section by showing how prayer ties all the sections of the Catechism together:

*"Great is the mystery of the faith!" The Church professes this mystery in the Apostles' Creed (Part One) and celebrates it in the sacramental liturgy (Part Two), so that the life of the faithful may be conformed to Christ in the Holy Spirit to the glory of God the Father (Part Three). This mystery, then, requires that the faithful believe in it, that they celebrate it, and that they live from it in a vital and personal relationship with the living and true God. This relationship is prayer. (CCC 2558)*

I am looking forward to what lies ahead for us as we delve more deeply into what prayer is and how to pray. But as we look forward, I invite you to let that slogan of Father Peyton resonate in your hearts this week and consider how the Lord is inviting you to pray more regularly with your family, whether it be your family at home, or your family here at church – hopefully both! The strengthening of our relationship with the Lord in prayer over this coming year will undoubtedly strengthen our families and our parish.

*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 26

7am - James & Rebecca Anglum (Family)  
5:15pm - Thanks for Blessings (Richard & Kay King)

#### Tuesday, September 27

7am - Gretchen, Becky & Jamie Anglum (Family)  
5:15pm - Karen Bucari (Alan Bucari)

#### Wednesday, September 28

7am - Kelsey Robb (Russ & Jan Militello)  
5:15pm - Virginia Mercer (Jan & Rob Sgambelluri)

#### Thursday, September 29

7am - Eric Nelson (Family)  
5:15pm - James Henn (Susan & John Klemm)

#### Friday, September 30

7am - John Doedman (Chris Sommer)  
5:15pm - Living & Deceased Members of the Schmitz Family (Anonymous)

#### Saturday, October 1

8am - Tony Bartoletti (Estate)  
4pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl (Angela Ohl-Marsters)

#### Sunday, October 2

7am - Sophia Bartoletti & Family (Estate)  
10am - Living & Deceased Members of the Patterson Family (Anonymous)  
5pm - For The People



## St. Januarius and the Role of Miracles

This past Monday, the Church around the world celebrated the feast day of St. Januarius. He is not a household name, and he is spoken about more today for a phenomenon relating to a very odd but consistent miracle. Little is known about the life of St. Januarius, but tradition tells us that he was a bishop in Italy during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian. Januarius was killed during one of the persecutions of the Church, and a local woman named Eusebia collected some of his blood to keep as a relic. Now, here is the odd thing: three times a year, Januarius' blood liquifies inside of the

transparent glass holders where it is venerated and displayed. This phenomenon was first recorded in 1389, and it just happened again this past Monday on his feast day. The other days that it traditionally happens is on the first Saturday of May and December 16, the anniversary of the 1631 eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Now, to a skeptic, I know that this is a very bizarre and somewhat pointless miracle – not near as useful as Jesus healing a cripple! However, the evidence is pretty clear to me that this miracle does in fact occur. I have never seen it in person, but I have seen videos and images that pretty clearly depict liquid blood inside the display case. It may be surprising to some that the Church is actually the biggest skeptic when it comes to miracles. Some occurrences that may seem to be obvious miracles to many people would be written off by Church investigators because there may be a possible natural explanation. This is the case with any miraculous healing in a canonization investigation or with Eucharistic miracles. The Church has never actually officially approved the miracle of the liquification of blood as being authentic, but this does not mean that it isn't a truly supernatural phenomenon; the Church simply has not made an official judgment.

This past Monday, Archbishop Battaglia of Naples celebrated Mass in the presence of the blood of St. Januarius, and it liquified during the Mass. But he offered a reflection on the role of this miracle in our faith. He said, "Today the sign of Bishop Januarius' blood, shed for the sake of Christ and his brethren, tells us that goodness, beauty, and righteousness are and always will be victorious. Here is the meaning of this blood, which, united with the blood shed by Christ and that of all martyrs of every place and time, is a living testimony that love always wins. It matters little, my brothers and sisters, whether the blood liquefies or not. Let us never reduce this celebration to an oracle to be consulted. Believe me, what really matters to the Lord, what our bishop and martyr Januarius strongly asks of us, is the daily commitment to stake on love."

God gives us miracles as reminders that he is still present in our midst. In the gospels, Jesus used miracles as signs of credibility of his message. He raised the dead, forgave sins, and calmed the sea as proofs of his divine nature, and to invite his disciples to believe in him. Of course, Jesus also said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Many of us have never seen a miracle in person, although we may have read about them online or heard about them. For me personally, accounts of Eucharistic miracles have helped me to believe more strongly in the reality of the Eucharist. But we should not allow accounts of miracles to be the only support for our faith. God has revealed all that we need to know for salvation through Scripture and Tradition, and any supposed revelation from God today needs to be in line with what we already know to be true. This is also true for miracles. God may choose to give us miracles to strengthen our faith, and he will do this as he sees fit. But, if this is the last time that Januarius' blood ever liquifies, that would be ok too. The important part is that it impels us to greater love of God and each other!

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

### Stewardship of Treasure September 17th & 18th

Envelopes:	\$4,790.00
Loose:	\$4,272.00
Maintenance:	\$31.00
Total:	\$9,093.00

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

Zachary House & Jennifer Jennings  
Married on September 17, 2022

#### Deaths

Linda O'Brien  
Date of Death: September 12, 2022



## St. Jerome

**Feast Day: September 30th | Patron of Archaeologists, Bible Scholars, Librarians, Students**

His full name was Eusebius Hieronymus. This precocious child, born to Christian parents at Stridon (modern day Ljubljana, Slovenia) in 347 AD made his way as an adolescent to Rome to complete his schooling, and there found himself moved by the catacombs and stories of the heroism of the martyrs and received baptism. He spent several years traveling throughout the empire: to Germany in the North, to Antioch in the East, and elsewhere. But it was in 375 AD that he began the fight that would make him a saint. It was during Lent, in Antioch, and he came down with a deathly fever. During the health crisis he had a dream:

*Many years ago, when for the kingdom of heaven's sake I had cut myself off from home, parents, sister, relations, and-harder still-from the dainty food to which I had been accustomed; and when I was on my way to Jerusalem to wage my warfare, I still could not bring myself to forego the library which I had formed for myself at Rome with great care and toil. And so, miserable man that I was, I would fast only that I might afterwards read Cicero. After many nights spent in vigil, after floods of tears called from my inmost heart, after the recollection of my past sins, I would once more take up Plautus. And when at times I returned to my right mind, and began to read the prophets, their style seemed rude and repellent. I failed to see the light with my blinded eyes; but I attributed the fault not to them, but to the sun. While the old serpent was thus making me his plaything, about the middle of Lent a deep-seated fever fell upon my weakened body, and while it destroyed my rest completely-the story seems hardly credible-it so wasted my unhappy frame that scarcely anything was left of me but skin and bone. Meantime preparations for my funeral went on; my body grew gradually colder, and the warmth of life lingered only in my throbbing breast.*

*Suddenly I was caught up in the spirit and dragged before the judgment seat of the Judge; and here the light was so bright, and those who stood around were so radiant, that I cast myself upon the ground and did not dare to look up. Asked who and what I was I replied: "I am a Christian." But He who presided said: "Thou liest, thou art a follower of Cicero and not of Christ. For where thy treasure is, there will thy heart be also." Instantly I became dumb, and amid the strokes of the lash-for He had ordered me to be scourged-I was tortured more severely still by the fire of conscience, considering with myself that verse, "In the grave who shall give thee thanks?" Yet for all that I began to cry and to bewail myself, saying: "Have mercy upon me, O Lord: have mercy upon me." Amid the sound of the scourges this cry still made itself heard. At last the bystanders, falling down before the knees of Him who presided, prayed that He would have pity on my youth, and that He would give me space to repent of my error. He might still, they urged, inflict torture on me, should I ever again read the works of the Gentiles. Under the stress of that awful moment I should have been ready to make even still larger promises than these.*

*Accordingly I made oath and called upon His name, saying: "Lord, if ever again I possess worldly books, or if ever again I read such, I have denied Thee." Dismissed, then, on taking this oath, I returned to the upper world, and, to the surprise of all, I opened upon them eyes so drenched with tears that my distress served to convince even the incredulous. And that this was no sleep nor idle dream, such as those by which we are often mocked, I call to witness the tribunal before which I lay, and the terrible judgment which I feared. May it never, hereafter, be my lot to fall under such an inquisition! I profess that my shoulders were black and blue, that I felt the bruises long after I awoke from my sleep, and that thenceforth I read the books of God with a zeal greater than I had previously given to the books of men. [Letter 22, To Eustochium: The Ciceronian Dream]*

It was this dramatic encounter with the Lord that would catapult him into the desert as a hermit (a miserable experience for him as he didn't know Greek yet, couldn't tolerate the food, and was continuously tempted towards impurity) but it was from there that he embarked on the studies and translation-work that would make him famous. He was shortly thereafter ordained a priest and became the secretary for Pope Damasus. Many of his letters are for the formation of consecrated widows and virgins in the Eternal City. Eventually some of them would go with him to found religious communities for men and women in the Holy Land, where Jerome would spend the rest of his days and complete his Latin translation of the Bible.

Often forgotten, Jerome was assailed by temptations to anger, impurity, and worldliness throughout his life. He flung vitriol at heretics, and saints (Ambrose and Augustine both receiving his attack at times), and literally carried a rock with which to knock himself out of his fits of fury or impurity. The Vulgate did not make him a saint; his life-long repentance and turning to Christ's mercy did!

*Fr. Dominic Rankin serves as a promoter of vocations and as priest-secretary for Bishop Paprocki.*

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### 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.

### First Friday Concert

Join us for our First Friday Concert Series! October's concert will feature Diane Dietz, Soprano. The First Friday Concert Series is sponsored by the Staab Family, and is free and open to the public. All are welcome!

Friday, October 7, 2022 - 7pm

### Wild Goose Series on the Holy Spirit

If you allow it, the Holy Spirit will lead you on an adventure greater than you can imagine. The Spirit will lead you to a place of mercy, healing, peace, and presence. The Holy Spirit has been given to us not as a possession to be tamed or controlled, but rather as a Person that will lead us to the Heart of God. The Wild Goose series will help you experience a deeper relationship with the Person of the Holy Spirit, and as you come to experience God's presence and power this very same Spirit will transform you and bring you freedom. 14-part video based series on Tuesdays @ 9:00am in the Cathedral School Library, beginning October 18. Call 217/522-3342 or email [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org) to register. Free and open to all adults!

### Fr. Tolton Council 16126 Tootsie Roll Drive

Members of the K of C Fr. Tolton Council 16126 and their daughters collected over \$4,000 in donations to help organizations that work with people who have intellectual disabilities.

### Fr. Tolton Scholarship Dinner

The Knights of Columbus Council will be holding the Father Tolton Scholarship Dinner on Saturday, November 5 in the Atrium at the Cathedral. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and dinner will be at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$55 per person. Dinner includes steak, baked potato, vegetable, salad, four whiskey tastings, and dessert. Craft beer, wine and whiskey (after the tastings) will be available for purchase. Tea and water are free. Event is by reservation only. Reservations are due Wednesday, November 2. Participants must be 21 or older. Make your reservations online at <https://bpt.me/5576885>.

### 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.

### 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.



# 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 [springfieldpregnancycare.org](http://springfieldpregnancycare.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**

St. 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: [ebspearie@gmail.com](mailto:ebspearie@gmail.com) or 217-481-0272. The deadline is September 30th.

### **National Life Chain Prayer Witness - 10/02/2022**

The National Life Chain Prayer Witness will take place on Sunday, Oct 02, 2022 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm. Join us in public and silent prayer for an end to abortion while holding signs. Springfield's North End participation will take place along both sides of Sangamon Avenue from 19th Street to Dirksen Parkway. Please share at least an hour within that time frame. Life Chain signs can be picked up in the parking lot behind St. Aloysius Church starting at 2:00 pm. You can park in any of the parking lots along Sangamon Avenue or along any street. Participants are requested to stand approximately 15 feet apart (about 3-4 sections of sidewalk). It is ok to stand on the grassy area between the sidewalk and the street. Please avoid blocking anyone's driveway (or the sidewalk to other pedestrians). Feel free to bring along a lawn chair if you wish. Cookies will be available when the signs are returned. Questions can be answered by contacting Dave Klestinski 217-741-8230.

### **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>

### **Mother Teresa: No Greater Love**

Twenty-five years have passed since the death of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, sparking a renewed interest in this spiritual giant of the 20th century. Filmed on 5 continents and featuring unprecedented access to both institutional archives and the apostolates of the Missionaries of Charity, this film reveals not just who Mother Teresa was, but how her singular vision to serve Christ in the poor continues to be realized through the Missionaries of Charity today. This is far more than a documentary. It is at once a soaring tribute to a spiritual icon, a powerful witness of authentic Christian charity, and a guidepost for all who seek hope in our turbulent times. This film will be shown at Showplace 12 in Springfield on October 3rd & 4th.

### **St. Michael's Parish Chicken Dinner and Country Store**

St. Michael's Parish, Staunton, IL will be having their Chicken Dinner is take-out only and the Country Store will be located in the gym this year on Sunday, October 2nd from 11:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m. Cost of dinner—\$15.00.