

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

OCTOBER 2, 2022 | 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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

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

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 40

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.



Lord, Teach us to Pray

As you read this article, I am spending five days in silence for my annual retreat that is part of a three-year Spiritual Direction Training program. Very often, at the beginning of a retreat, I will repeat the request that the disciples of Jesus made to Him in the Gospel: "Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1) Perhaps that sounds a little strange to you. As a priest of more than a decade, shouldn't I already know how to pray? Sure, I have learned a lot about how to pray and I have spent many hours in prayer, yet I know full well that the process of growing in

prayer is far from over, and that I am constantly in need of learning how the Lord is inviting me into a deeper encounter with him through prayer.

I share that little reflection as a way of encouragement to all of us as we embark on this year of faith formation focusing on the topic of Christian Prayer, the fourth of four sections in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. This first month will provide an opportunity to reflect on the basic question: What is prayer? As much as we think we know or don't know about prayer, there is always room to grow. So before we even begin to address that question, I think it would be beneficial for all of us to take some time this week making this very simple, yet powerful request: "Lord, teach us to pray."

Making this request is an act of humility on our part, acknowledging that we are not where we desire to be in our prayer life. But the Lord delights to receive this humble request, for He longs to share His life with us in prayer. He will never force it upon us, though. Rather, He patiently waits for us to invite Him in, to let Him reveal His presence to us, and to lead us to greater unity and intimacy with Him.

Asking the Lord to continue teach us to pray is also a recognition that prayer is first and foremost a gift. Even though we express our desire to learn, perhaps the better word is that our request is a desire to receive the gift of prayer from Him, and in receiving it, to let Him instruct us in how He desires to draw closer to us in the various forms of prayer that make up our lives as Catholics.

Along those lines, we can identify those various forms of prayer in which we engage on a regular basis: personal prayer and meditation, reading the Scriptures, praying the Rosary, intercessory prayer for our needs and the needs of others, and most importantly, praying at Mass. We will be addressing all these forms of prayer throughout the year in various ways. But once again, I invite us all to see these as places to receive anew the gift of prayer that these various forms of prayer are for us.

So before learning anything new (or reviewing what we think we already know) about prayer, let us first ask the Lord in all humility, faith, and love: "Lord, teach us to pray."

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, October 3

7am - John Montgomery

(John Busciacco)

5:15pm - Joe Reichle

(LouAnn Mack & Carl Corrigan)

Tuesday, October 4

7am - Mary Prosperini Coffey

(Jo & Robert Wassell)

5:15pm - Vincent Darrigo Jr

(Jeannette Giannone)

Wednesday, October 5

7am - Amabile Bartoletti

(Estate)

5:15pm - Msgr. Gregory Ketcham

(Andrew & Cheryl Klein)

Thursday, October 6

7am - Mary Jane Kerns

(Estate)

5:15pm - William F. & Shirley Logan

(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

Friday, October 7

7am - Maren Bowyer Gallagher

(Gallagher Family)

5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway

(Rob Gasaway)

Saturday, October 8

8am - Judith Hubbell

(Hubbell Family)

4pm - Barbara McGee

(Tom McGee)

Sunday, October 9

7am - Mary Ann Midden

(William Midden)

10am - Clate R. Dortch

(Beverly & Larry Smith)

5pm - For the People



St. Faustina Kowalska

Feast Day: October 5th | Patronness of World Youth Day and of Divine Mercy

This week, I would like to take us back to central Poland in 1905 (though this was two decades before the country would actually be reestablished after WWI) to the poor Kowalska family. They lived in the town of Głogowiec, pronounced something like gwo'govjets if you're wondering... As a little girl, Helena, the 3rd of 10 children, while her family was attending Eucharistic Exposition felt the first stirrings of a call to religious life. She described it as "God's voice in my soul ... an invitation to a more perfect life." She discovered in her own heart that pull to give herself entirely to Jesus, a sense that Christ desired an exclusive relationship with her. It was a stirring that would at first delight her, but which as the years went by, she would find difficult to reply to.

In this case her parents flatly refused her request to enter the convent once she had finished school. They had good reasons: a big family, not much money, how would they make ends meet without Helena working? How would they possibly pay her dowry to whatever convent she was able to enter? Their daughter would have to live with the practical realities of their life and get a job to support the family. Other girls could listen to their hearts and join the convent, but not her, at least not right now. Helena got a job as a housekeeper, and filled her life with simple work and the pleasures of young life. But God's love would not cease to tug at her heart. Now trying to turn her back on it, she found the Lord prodding her, her heart had that disquiet that often comes when we step off of God's path. One day, at 18 years old, she was at a dance with her sister but found herself face-to-face with Jesus, seeing Him suffering, and speaking directly to her: "How long shall I put up with you and how long will you keep putting Me off?"

The vision shook her, cleared away all the distractions and distance that she had put between herself and Jesus, and reminded her of the gentle, loving voice that had once delighted her. She stumbled from the dance, fell prostrate before the Tabernacle in the Cathedral of Łódź (where she worked, and where the dance was happening), and knew clearly what the voice she had avoided for so long was trying to tell her: "Go at once to Warsaw; you will enter a convent there." She didn't know Warsaw, didn't know any of the convents there, but was willing to take the next step she did know. She boarded a train for the big city, taking nothing but the dress she was wearing, and did not even stop to tell her family what was happening. Christ's words so long ago had found a place in her heart: "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me." [Matthew 10:37]

Getting off of the train, the magnitude of the unknown seemed to swallow her. She did not even know which way to depart from the train station. She whispered a prayer to Mary "Mary, lead me, guide me" and found, marvelously, that she knew where to go, at least for that night. God was good to her the following days, always giving enough insight to know her next step: she stopped in the first church she found the next morning, went to one of the Masses being celebrated that morning, and simply knew that she should talk to that priest. He connected her with a prayerful lady who helped her while she visited the different convents there in Warsaw, but Helena found to her sadness that each one closed the door in her face. Again, in the face of such uncertainty, she again appealed to prayer: Jesus "Help me; do not leave me alone", and with that, finally came across the convent that would one day become her home, the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. The Mother Superior there did not immediately reject the poor girl who stood before her, but instead chose to also simply trust in Jesus. She directed Helena to the chapel with the Blessed Sacrament and waited outside as Helena asked Jesus if this was the right convent. "'Lord of this house, do You accept me?' she prayed (one of the other sisters there had told her to put it that way.) Jesus loves when we ask that question! And He responded immediately in her heart: 'I do accept; you are in My Heart.'" Helena stepped from the chapel with the quiet peace of someone placing themselves in God's hands, and the Mother Superior asked "Well, has the Lord accepted you?" She answered, "Yes", and the good sister responded "If the Lord has accepted, then I also will accept."

Helena would have to work as a maid for another year in order to have enough money to pay for her habit, but that was all that the convent asked of her, and that year was a beautiful one during which the Lord continued to deepen that longing in her heart to be all His, and His own desire to give Himself intimately to her. She entered the convent on August 1st, 1925 with much joy. The fight for her vocation wasn't over, but the Lord's Love had carried her to the community where He had many graces in store for her.

Fr. Dominic Rankin is a guy. Jesus has not drawn him in the intimate and spousal way that He wooed Helena's heart. It was not during a dance that Christ emphatically beckoning him to "come, follow Me"! But Faustina's story is a beautiful glimpse at how Our Lord sometimes calls women into a life consecrated to Him. I have spoken to many sisters, and they often speak of a call along these lines – an invitation to an exclusive love – that they find the Lord offering to them. That's beautiful!

Stewardship of Treasure September 24th & 25th

Envelopes:	\$4,747.00
Loose:	\$2,560.00
Maintenance:	\$393.00
Total:	\$7,700.00

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!

So, we have always taught our kids to avoid using the phrase “Oh my God” due to the commandment to not take the Lord’s name in vain. But what about sayings that invoke the word “hell” such as “what the hell” or “hell, yeah/yes”? Those don’t necessarily seem to fall as clearly under the commandment but they feel similarly inappropriate? Or am I over analyzing?

Your question is one that I have thought about a lot during different periods in my life. Most recently, I have had several conversations and read some articles about Mark Wahlberg’s movie *Father Stu*, which depicts the amazing story of an adult convert named Stuart Long who was ordained a priest after a long journey of sin mixed with God’s providence. I saw the movie with one of my seminary classmates this spring, and at the end of it I was tearing up as it showed a clip of the real Father Stu before he died of a muscle disorder. The only problem with the movie was that it was rated R for language. According to one count I saw, there were around 100 cuss words in the movie, fifty of which were sexual in nature. Before his conversion, Father Stu had a foul mouth, but the movie didn’t really depict that his language changed along with the rest of his life, although that was actually a significant part of his life story.

I share this because it makes me ask the question, “Does it really matter what language we use?” I think the answer seems to be “yes,” although expressing why is not so easy. It seems to come down to the nature of speech and why God gave us this ability. He gave us speech to be used for building others up, to express truth, and to offer praise to God. Surprisingly, the Catechism doesn’t explicitly address the morality of using “cuss words,” although there is a significant section on the Second Commandment, using God’s Name in vain.

You are right to teach your family to avoid the phrase, “O my God,” and other similar phrases that use the name of Jesus, Christ, or Mary. Even if we are not intentionally using these names to curse someone/something, we are using them for a reason that is not worthy of the honor due to them. The Catechism says in paragraphs 2143-2144,

Among all the words of Revelation, there is one which is unique: the revealed name of God. God confides his name to those who believe in him; he reveals himself to them in his personal mystery. the gift of a name belongs to the order of trust and intimacy. "The Lord's name is holy." For this reason man must not abuse it. He must keep it in mind in silent, loving adoration. He will not introduce it into his own speech except to bless, praise, and glorify it. Respect for his name is an expression of the respect owed to the mystery of God himself and to the whole sacred reality it evokes.

But this still doesn’t exactly address the second part of your question about using the word “hell” or similar phrases. I had a high school teacher who would sometimes quip that hell is a place, not a cuss word. There are some words that seem to be appropriate in the barnyard but not at the kitchen table. As human beings, God has made us naturally attracted to goodness, truth, and beauty. Everything in harmony with these three things is worth striving for and loving. It seems that using God’s name in vain, along with all other foul language, does not fit in these categories! Jesus was the most persuasive speaker to ever live, and he never resorted to using bad language to make his point. He appealed to the deepest part of our heart which longs to be known and loved by God. Using cuss words may have gotten attention for a time, but it would have distracted from his message. I think the same is true for our own use of speech. There are better ways to express ideas and feelings that do not include words which refer to hell (a truly horrific place) or various bodily functions. (But, even as I write this, part of me rebels and wants to justify times in which some words really do get the point across. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak!)

Here are a few scriptures for consideration on this topic:

Colossians 3:8 “But put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth.”

Ephesians 4:29 “Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear.”

Matthew 15:11 “It is not what goes into the mouth which defiles a man, but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.”

There are also a lot of fiery quotes from saints on avoiding foul language, that I don’t have space to include today!

It is good to teach children (and ourselves) to avoid using all sorts of inappropriate words. As they grow up, their vocabulary will undoubtedly expand beyond what we teach them, but practicing purity in speech helps provide a loving, affirming environment in which to raise a family. I hope this answer was helpful. Thank you for your witness to raising your family in a spirit of encouragement in the Lord!

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

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

It's SOCTOBER!

The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women is collecting new (or gently used) socks, hats and gloves for men, women & children in area shelters for distribution throughout the winter months. Area social service agencies and nursing homes have been very appreciative of the generosity of Cathedral parishioners in past years as our donations have benefitted many people of all ages. Please place donated items in the White baskets placed in the Atrium. Thanks so much for your generosity to the most vulnerable in our community!

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

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>.

What is Prayer?

Our Family of Faith topic for this year is Christian Prayer. So many desire to have a life of prayer, yet they struggle making that desire a reality. Come and learn the first step as we address the very basics of what prayer is. Everyone is welcome!

Sunday, October 6, 6:15-7:30pm, Cathedral Atrium

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.

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@cathedra.dio.org to register. Free and open to all adults!

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 School Library (behind the south side of the sanctuary). Contact: Deacon Rob, (217) 836-7900 or rsgambelluri@dio.org.

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.

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.

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. 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!

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The 40 Days for Life prayer vigil to end abortion will be observed every day from Wednesday September 28 to Sunday November 6, on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood, two doors from the Springfield Right to Life offices at 519 North Bruns Lane. Please sign up for at least one full hour shift.

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

Two Hearts (Mommy Fund) BBQ Fundraiser Dinner

Join the Springfield Right to Life on October 13 from 5pm-7pm at Christ the King Parish Center for a carry-out or dine-in BBQ fundraiser dinner. You will get \$5 off if you volunteer for the 40 Days for Life - see the above announcement for more information.

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.

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.

The Matter of Life

The award-winning film The Matter of Life cuts through the angry rhetoric and divisiveness about the most contentious issue of our day: abortion. This powerful film brings compassion and clarity to the abortion debate and presents a message that goes beyond pro-life and pro-abortion arguments. It forces us to ask the question: Are the unborn one of us? Featuring the stories of women, former abortion clinic workers, historians, religious workers, pro-life atheists, and many more, The Matter of Life stresses entering this conversation with understanding, love, and support. Doing so is critical to save the lives of the unborn and to care for the women who carry them. If you didn't have a chance to see this film on its limited release in Springfield, two screenings are scheduled. Sunday, October 16 @ 2:00 at Christ the King Parish Center, and Wednesday, October 19 @ 6:00pm at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Representatives from area pro-life, pro-woman, pro-family groups will be on hand to help you become more involved in the pro-life movement.

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.