

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

OCTOBER 9, 2022 | 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 41

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
IN RESIDENCE

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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!



A Personal Response to God's Presence

As I mentioned in my last bulletin article, the retreat I just completed is a part of a Spiritual Direction Training program in which I am enrolled. The first year of the program did not really say anything about the practice of giving spiritual direction. Rather, the main focus was our own relationship with the Lord in prayer. I could tell that some of the participants initially thought this was unnecessary, as they wanted to jump right into how best to direct others in the spiritual life. But we all soon discovered the wisdom of taking time to ensure we as

future directors were on solid ground with our spiritual lives. As the saying goes: You cannot give what you do not have.

As we began the program nearly a year and a half ago, one of the first resources we read was an article titled: "Prayer: A Personal Response to God's Presence", by Armand, M. Nigro, S.J. Having read this article many years ago, I was surprised how returning to it was such a refreshing experience. As the title explains, the author defines prayer in rather simple terms: "Prayer is a personal response to God's loving presence."

Though simple on the surface, this short definition is profound in depth. It makes clear that prayer is first and foremost about God, not us. God is the one who is present to us, inviting us to turn to Him in prayer. We think that it is we who decide when to pray, but in reality, the initiative is on the part of the Lord. Our deciding to pray is a response to His being present to us.

Beginning our prayer with understanding this dynamic is very important, because it will get us moving in the right direction. It prevents us from becoming too self-centered in our prayer. Instead of jumping into telling the Lord what we want, thinking about our needs, our desires, we first acknowledge that He is present. He has called us, and He is delighted that we are present to Him who has never ceased to be present with us.

The author then proposes a beautiful recommendation on what our first step in prayer should be:

First of all, if prayer is a personal response to God's presence, then, the beginning of prayer is to be aware of that presence, simply to acknowledge it, to be able to admit: "Yes, God my Father, You do love life into me. Yes, You love life and being into the things around me and into all that comes into my senses. You love talents and these longings into me, etc." The focus is on God and what God does.

Perhaps the next time you sit, stand, or kneel to pray, whatever form that prayer may take, you can pause and call this important truth to mind. God, who loves you and delights in you, is already present, and your coming to pray is a response to that presence. Take a moment to acknowledge His loving presence to you, and thank Him for that gift. Beginning prayer in this way can be a game changer.

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 10

7am - Charles Slaughter
(Andrew & Cheryl Klein)
5:15pm - NO MASS

Tuesday, October 11

7am - Richard Dhabalt
(Rob & Jan Sgambelluri)
5:15pm - Tom & Delores Anglum
(Family)

Wednesday, October 12

7am - Pamela Harmon
(Archie Harmon)
5:15pm - Erma Bartoletti
(Estate)

Thursday, October 13

7am - Mary Coffey
(Cecelia Kulavic)
5:15pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Friday, October 14

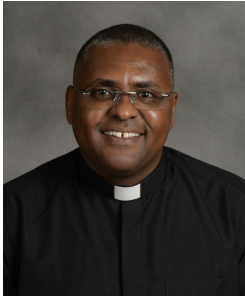
7am - Sophia Bartoletti & Family
(Estate)
5:15pm - Special Intention for
Bianca (D.A. Drago)

Saturday, October 15

8am - John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)
4pm - Shirley Lanphier
(Rob & Jan Sgambelluri)

Sunday, October 16

7am - For The People
10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)
5pm - John Baker
(Michael & Margaret Baker)



Theological Virtue of Charity

We are back again on the Theological virtue of faith, Hope, and Charity (Love). These Theological virtues are directly connected to God. They are not gain by human efforts but are given to us through sanctifying grace we received during our baptism. These theological virtues, "they are infused by God into the souls of the faithful to make them capable of acting as his children and of meriting eternal life" (CCC, # 1813). Today, I would like us to reflect on the theological virtue

of charity, a virtue that invites us to examine ourselves on how we relate and our desire to will the good for another person. The theological virtue of Charity is the greatest of all other virtues, it is the one that unites all the other three virtues. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines: "Charity is a theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God" (CCC, 1822). It is love that moves us to wish good for others and to do good for others. This love is entrusted to the Apostles and us by Jesus Christ, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love" (John 15:9); and 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). Therefore, Theological virtue of Charity is the key virtue to love God and our neighbor.

Pope Benedict XVI, reminds us in his encyclical Caritas in Veritate, "Charity is love received and given, it is grace, its source is the wellspring of Fathers love for the Son, in the Holy Spirit, love comes down to us from the Son" This is expressed in countless ways as St. Paul testifies, love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, does not reject over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1Cor 13:4-7). Love is the main point upon which the entire Christian life turns to. To possess the virtue of charity is to possess God; without it, one has nothing and is nothing. Charity is the greatest form of all the virtues.

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi before the Crucifix at San Damiano

Most High Gracious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart
And give me true Faith, Certain Hope, and a perfect Charity,
sense and knowledge, Lord. That I may carry out your Holy and
True Command.

Father Paul Lesupati serves as parochial vicar at the Cathedral.

Stewardship of Treasure October 1st & 2nd

Envelopes:	\$7,405.00
Loose:	\$3,010.00
Maintenance:	\$911.00
Total:	\$11,326.00

September EFT: \$20,848.80

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!



St. Faustina Kowalska Part II

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

Last week we got to know Helena Kowalska, seeing how the Lord's gently loved her into the convent. This week, I would like to pick up her story again, finding in this young woman an example of continuing to discern and follow the Lord. After three weeks in the convent the peace and consolations she had been flooded with fled from her heart. She was frustrated by the busy-ness of that particular convent, and found the chapel where once Jesus seemed so clear and close, to be now filled with other sisters, and a nagging feeling of futility in prayer. Helena thought that maybe she was called elsewhere, and this voice got ahold of her heart. She would try to bring the question to Jesus, but found that only silence and unrest filled her soul. One night, in anguish from the

uncertainty, she was in her cell, unable to sleep, and threw herself into fervent, anxious, prayer. All the other sisters seemed so serene, so prayerful, so content, but her heart was breaking: where had Jesus' love gone?

She was desperate. She planned to talk to the Mother Superior and ask to leave the convent. But she first took her breaking heart to Jesus, and He showed her the constancy of His Love. Again, she saw the face of Christ in His suffering, and her prayer immediately became one of concern for Him: "Jesus who has hurt You so?" The Lord seemed so clear then: "It is you who will cause Me this pain if you leave this convent. It is to this place that I called you and nowhere else; and I have prepared many graces for you." What a gift to hear His voice! What a relief to have such clarity, at last, in her vocation. What a grace to finally realize that she would have to fight against the false voice that disquieted her soul, but that to flee that temptation was actually to make another act of love for Jesus!

She would bring that prayer to her confessor the following day, and he would reassure her that the Lord's voice was never the disquieting one nudging us away from love, but only the gentle, never-accusing, one that leads us to purer and greater love. We must all fight to listen only to Jesus' voice! It takes time, effort, prayer, and trust to know the voice of the Good Shepherd! How easily we are also tempted away from our vocations, often by so many good, but false, reasons: "It would be easier over there."; "I would do more good if I didn't have to deal with this hardship or worry."; "If God called me here certainly I wouldn't be so annoyed at times ... so weak ... so unproductive ... so humbled." But the Voice of Truth, the Voice of Christ, is the one that speaks to us in that suffering, not necessarily eradicating it, but also not ignoring it. He knows our lives and vocations are hard sometimes, but that truer and more beautiful love is only found upon His path, sometimes carrying the cross with Him.

Sr. Faustina, as she would be called after completing her novitiate 2 years later (her full name being "Sr. Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament", named after an early deacon and martyr, St. Faustinus: feast day February 15th), would find tremendous peace and solace from this encounter with Christ in her suffering. Jesus did not promise that she would no longer suffer. In fact, right before receiving her habit, she had the joyous pain of knowing that her life would often require suffering, but the assurance that those would be crosses that always won the fruits of conversion and mercy for sinners all over the world, and that in accepting them she was stepping up to the cross with Jesus Who had already carried it so far for her.

During the following years of her novitiate she found herself at times completely engulfed in spiritual anguish, feeling the darkness of hell catch ahold of her. It was disconcerting, horrible, painful, and went on for months. Again, her soul cried out to Jesus "where are you?!" and He seemed so far from her. She fought the despair that filled her heart but all her recommitments and acts of trust seemed so ineffective against the torment. Little sparks of grace kept her going: during one time of prayer Mary's voice broke through the shadows "I know how much you suffer, but do not be afraid. I share with you your suffering, and I shall always do so", and later, when she professed her first vows (her mom and dad now present!) and found in her heart the ineradicable and ardent desire to empty herself for God. And then, so tenderly and lovingly, His response "You are My joy; you are My heart's delight." Somehow, at long last, these words finally broke the darkness and her soul was inundated with the light of knowing herself a daughter of her Heavenly, Beloved Father. Again, sufferings would return, but this bedrock assurance would never budge from her heart.

Why such suffering for the good young sister? We cannot know, and she did not know then, but beautifully, the Lord would work through her heart so sorely tested, to bring His message of mercy to the world. In some way she had experienced the darkness that we all plunge into when we sin – though sometimes this abyss is not as clear to us as it was felt by her – but by this hard-won personal experience of God's Mercy, Sr. Faustina would now be able to spread that message to the world.

Fr. Dominic Rankin has often been puzzled by the particular set of circumstances he is going through. Why this Lord? Why this frustration, this experience, this conundrum? What good can it possibly be?! Every single time, at some point later on, he has found that that hard-won wisdom and grace was something that someone else needed. Trust God that He will carry you through the fight, and that it is worth it in His larger plan.

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!

Join the Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others and defend values in a busy changing world. The Father Tolton Council #16126 will be holding a membership drive at after all Masses the weekend of October 22 & 23. Whether you become an individual member or a member of our council you will find that Knights of Columbus membership brings Catholic men together in a powerful way. If you would like to join today simply go to KofC.org/joinus and enter our council #16126 for local information.

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>.

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 springfieldpregnancy.org. Come help us celebrate 44 years of serving pregnant women in our community at this fun event!

Christ the King Fatima Rosary Rally

Join us at Christ the King for a Fatima Rosary Rally on Saturday, October 15, 2022. We will begin at 1pm in the church.

Butler Funeral Home Peace of Mind Seminar

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. The details are as follows:

Peace of Mind Seminar
Thursday, October 20th
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
American Legion - Post 32, Mess Hall
1120 E. Sangamon Ave.
Springfield, IL 62702

Complimentary lunch will be provided. This event is free: no cost or obligation. Please call 217-544-4646 to reserve your space no later than Monday, October 16th.

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.

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.

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.