

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 13, 2022 | 33RD 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 46

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!

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.



How Can I Possibly Say No?

For the past few weeks, I've been writing about our Season of Stewardship and I hope my reflections have been helpful to you as you discern how the Lord is inviting you to exercise your stewardship toward the parish through your time, talent, and treasure. Although I cannot read all (or any for that matter) of the minds of those in the parish, I am willing to bet there have been some who have thought: "That is a good idea. I like that idea of stewardship. I am sure somebody in the parish will step up!" I think I am safe in saying this because that is how I have thought about invitations to step up in the past. To be honest, there are still many times when I have that same thought.

To be sure, none of us can do everything, but every one of us can do something to be more invested in our parish. I say this not from the perspective of desperation that the parish *needs* what you have. While what we bring to our parish family in the form of time, talent, and treasure is necessary for a vibrant parish, we need to make an adjustment to how we think about our relationship to the parish, and the Church more broadly. It is not primarily that the Church needs you and me, rather, you and I are the ones who need to the Church. The Church has been given to us by Christ as the means to our salvation. The Church has been entrusted with the stewardship of God's grace through the sacraments which grant us the gift of His life and the hope of eternal life. It is not that your giving money to the parish or volunteering for a ministry is somehow your doing the Church a favor. Do not get me wrong, giving of our time, talent, and treasure is very much a gift that is very appreciated, and very helpful to the well-being of our parish. But the ideal in our giving of these gifts is to do so from that place of gratitude which I began our reflections with a few weeks ago. We are grateful for the gift of the Church which gives us these many helps to our relationship with the Lord and the promise of eternal life. From that place of gratitude, and the awareness of how much we depend on God and His Church for everything, how can we not want to give back to Him and His Church?

When I was thinking about entering the seminary, I had a lot of reasons why I could not give my time, and indeed my life, to the Church as a priest. I was not qualified enough, I was not holy enough. I had every reason under the sun why it was not possible for me to say 'yes' to His invitation. Somebody else could do it far better than I. But the Lord spoke clearly to me in a way that has shaped that decision and many thereafter. He made me aware of the many, many graces He had given to me in my life, how He had cared for me in so many ways, both known and unknown. In prayer, He said very distinctly to me: "If I have done so many things for you, and now I am asking you to take this step in faith and consider being a priest, the question is not: 'How can I possibly say yes?' Rather, the question to ask is: 'How can I possibly say no?'"

Perhaps as you consider the various reasons why you feel you cannot possibly say 'yes' to taking a step in faith toward greater stewardship in whatever form it may be, ask the Lord to reveal to you His many blessings, how He has guided you, how He has blessed you and your family, and how He has been at work in your life in ways known and unknown. After doing that, I would not be surprised if the Lord prompts you to respond to Him the same way He did (and still does) to me: "After all you have given to me and done for me, and now that you are asking something more of me, how can I possibly say no?"

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 14

7am - Herbert Dulle

(Jen Rhoda)

5:15pm - Mary Celine Sestak

(Julie Kruzick)

Tuesday, November 15

7am - Cynthia Crisp

(John Busciacco)

5:15pm - Ruby Carlucci

(Barbara Bitschenauer)

Wednesday, November 16

7am - Richard Dhabalt

(Bev Hoffman)

5:15pm - Mary Frances Coffey

(Sharon Masterson)

Thursday, November 17

7am - Sophia Bartoletti

(Estate)

5:15pm - Cathy Furkin

(Family)

Friday, November 18

7am - Brother Francis Skube

(Ed & Bonnie Pinc)

5:15pm - Maren Bowyer Gallagher

(Gallagher Family)

Saturday, November 19

8am - CCCW

(CCCW)

4pm - For The People

Sunday, November 20

7am - Sophia Bartoletti & Family

(Estate)

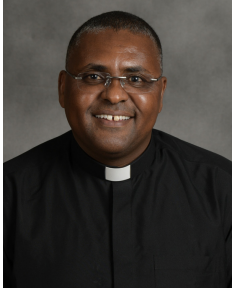
10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt

(Kathy Frank)

5pm - Christina Maher

(Chris Sommer)

Father Alford is the Rector of the Cathedral and serves in the diocesan curia as the Vicar for Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations.



The Journey of Mind to God by St. Bonaventure - Part I

This week as we commemorated All Soul's Day, it reminded me a book entitled a journey of the mind to God by Saint Bonaventure. When I was discerning with Franciscans, I recall reflecting on spirituality of St. Francis and his experience in Mount La Verna in Assisi Italy.

Saint Bonaventure was born in 1221 in Bagnoregio near viterbo, Italy, later join the Franciscan Order about 1240 and after completing his studies in the University of Paris, he taught theology for twelve years, later in 1257 he was elected Minister General of the Order of the Friars Minor at the age of thirty – six years, he remained in the office until 1273, where Pope Gregory made him a Cardinal Bishop of Albano, he participated in the council of Lyon where he was instrumental in

bringing about the temporary reunion of the Greek Church in Rome. He died at the age of fifty – three on July 5, 1274, and after three centuries of his death, Saint Bonaventure was canonized on 14th April 1482, he was declared a Doctor of the Church, the bull, "Triumphantis Hierusalem" of Pope Sixtus V, by elevating him to this new dignity, solemnly confirmed his merits as one of the greatest minds of the Christian Middle Ages.

The Profound spirituality of St. Francis and his experience on the hill of La Verna where he received the stigmata is my motivation in reading this spiritual classic book. The journey of the mind to God as Bonaventure himself explain in the six chapters of the Itinerarium, are concern with search of God. As I meditate on St. Francis experience of the world, his human thoughts, the love of the creatures, Action and the inner experience of his Vision of the seraphim in the form of the Crucified Christ through deep prayer and meditation in solitude; am moved to contemplate the richness of God's glory through this writing of St. Bonaventure. Also, I realize that it is through devotion to prayer that St. Francis journey towards God. Hence, my driving force of this Spiritual classic book is to find myself journeying towards God as Our Seraphic Father Francis did.

From personal experience it shows that our journey to God is more adventurous than we can describe. We can't say what we live. Too much happens. Words, images and symbols fail to express our experience. When we try to describe God's love, we fail miserably. That's why most of us say nothing about love. Spiritual geniuses, like St. Bonaventure his experience with God's love through following the example of the Most blessed Father Francis, he says I breathlessly sought this peace, I a sinner, who have succeeded to the place of that most father after his death, the seventh Minister General of the brothers, thought in all ways unworthy, it happened that by divine will in the thirty-third year after the death of that blessed man I ascended to Mount La Verna as to a quiet place, with the desire of seeking spiritual peace; and staying there, while I meditated on the ascent of the mind to God, amongst other things there occurred that miracle which happened in the same place to the Blessed Francis himself, the vision namely of the winged seraph in the likeness of the Crucified. While looking upon this vision, I immediately saw that signified the suspension of our Father himself in contemplation and the way by which he came to it.

Bonaventure starts with common experience, and he says that happiness is enjoying the highest good but the highest good is not down here among the creatures. It is above, above means beyond material, upon spiritual being. He says that when we try to ascend spiritually to God we don't rise very far, so we know that clearly that we cannot rise up above ourselves unless a higher power lifts us up, no matter we plan our spiritual progress, nothing comes of it unless divine assistance intervenes, and the divine assistance is there for those who seek it humbly and devoutly, who sigh for it in this vale of tears by fervent prayer. Prayer, then, is the mother and beginning of the ascent to God. So, let's pray and say to our God: teach me, O Lord, your way, that I may walk in your truth; direct my heart that it may fear your name. By Praying this way, we receive light to discern the steps of the ascent into God. Some created things are vestiges, other images; some are material, others spiritual; some are temporal, others are everlasting; some are outside us, others within us. In order to contemplate the first principles this is God. Who is most spiritual, eternal, and above us we are invited to pass through His vestiges, which are material, temporal and outside us and this will lead us in path of God. In addition to that we are also invited to enter into our soul, which is God's image; hence we enter into the path of God, truth of God and knowledge of God.

As I was Reflecting on this threefold we can become ecstatic over this trinity which remind us of the three fold events, Moses leading the Israel into the desert for three days, (Ex 3:18), then threefold daylights: evening, morning, and noon in order of brightness, and three ways that creatures exists: in matter, in human mind, and in God's mind which Eternal Art, (Gen 1:3), so Christ provides three substantial aids: bodily, spiritual, and divine. Here I can see Bonaventure is showing us our image and likeness to God in three acts: sensation, spiritual and mind. Bonaventure uses all these reflections to ascend into God in order to love Him, with our whole mind, our whole heart and our whole soul. (Mk 12:13)

Father Paul Lesupati serves as parochial vicar at the Cathedral.

Stewardship of Treasure November 5th & 6th

Envelopes:	\$6,893.00
Loose:	\$3,266.00
Maintenance:	\$1,075.00
Total:	\$11,234.00

October EFT

\$21,323.80

October Second Collections

World Mission Sunday
\$5,137.00

October Special Envelopes

Maintenance:	\$2,537.00
Debt Reduction:	\$697.00

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

Baptisms

Audrianna Zuri Rama Cayas
Child of Ed Justin & Candice Joyce Cayas
Baptized on November 6, 2022

Deaths

Mary Ann Palazzolo
Date of Death: October 5, 2022



St. Elizabeth, Princess of Hungary

Feast Day: November 17th | Patron of Bakers, Brides, Charities, Hospitals, the Homeless, Widows, Third Order of St. Francis, those Falsely Accused.

Two Hundred years after the saintly King Stephen led Hungary towards Christ, we find another canonized saint about a dozen generations down the line. The daughter of King Andrew II (a descendent of Stephen, though the line is nowhere near a straight one) and his wife Gertrude (a princess from a noble family in Bavaria), Elizabeth was going to endure in her life a concentrated dose of the ruckus that was always

erupting between kings, dukes, nobles, and everybody else that wanted power. By the age of four, she was already arranged to marry Louis IV, the future Landgrave of Thuringia.

Now, in case you haven't met any landgraves recently, that title means that he was technically at the level of a count in the feudal hierarchy but, unlike a typical count, a landgrave did not have a duke, bishop, or count palatine above him before the King, and ruled over a larger swath of land than a typical count. Basically, this meant that such a nobleman was treated at if he were at the rank of a duke, though was not at all part of the royal family. So, off the 4-year-old Elizabeth goes to Bavaria to be raised in the court of Hermann I of Thuringia, learning the language and culture of her future-husband's people. Just two years later, Elizabeth's mother back in Hungary was assassinated. Whether from political jealousy (she may have been inclined toward her German ancestry) or revenge (some member of her family had slighted, attacked, or raped someone in a Hungarian noble family), Gertrude's death prompted Elizabeth to deepen her life of prayer.

At the age of 14, when Louis was 20, they were married. Now, I think anyone living in our day would raise an eyebrow at the thought of a 14-year-old getting married, as well as to a man 6 years her senior, and, just the thought of arranged marriages themselves. But, we should recall the basic requirements for a valid marriage: free consent to a faithful and permanent union with your spouse, and sufficient maturity to offer yourself to your spouse in such a way that you can bear children. None of that is necessarily impeded by the arrangement that Elizabeth's father made with Louis' father. Both young people were asked to commit their own futures to each other, and both agreed to that commitment. Furthermore, at 14 and 20, thought they were both young, especially Elizabeth, they lived in an age of less complexity, younger responsibility, greater cultural/familial reinforcement, and a higher likelihood of an early death, so on that count too they were both able to marry.

So, in 1221, they were married and Louis was enthroned as the Landgrave since his elder brother had died. From all accounts their marriage was a happy one. They deeply loved and respected each other. It was at this time that the Franciscans first arrived in the area, and Elizabeth quickly took upon herself the virtues of the man from Assisi especially simplicity, charity, and obedience. Before St. Francis died in 1226, he is said to have wrote her a letter of thanks for her support of his friars there. Elizabeth dedicated herself to the care of the poor around her area, distributing alms, food, even state robes and ornaments to those who needed them. Louis defended her in those acts, even entrusting her with responsibility for their lands and property when he left to join the sixth crusade.

And then her life changed again, because Louis died from the plague on his way to that crusade. They had only been married for 6 years, and their third child had been born only days before. Now Elizabeth had no authority in the court, and was at the whim of Louis' brother, the regent for her 5-year-old son. Furthermore, Elizabeth had come to trust a Fr. Konrad of Marburg, who she had chosen as her spiritual director, and had promised to obey. Unfortunately, though learned and ascetical, his zeal led to harshness, even brutality especially towards anyone accused of heresy, for whom he had little mercy, but also for Elizabeth and others who tried to follow his spiritual counsel. Elizabeth would take the money she did get from her dowry to build a hospital in Marburg, where, caring for the sick, she died in 1231 only having reached the age of 24. She would be canonized quickly, especially with so many stories of her love for the poor from her close companions as well as Fr. Konrad.

Fr. Dominic Rankin will have to return to the topic of obedience next week. In Elizabeth's life, we see obedience at play both in her arranged marriage, and in her faithfulness to Fr. Konrad's direction. What of that was the authentic virtue of obedience, to which we are all called, and what of it was a distortion of obedience? Our world prizes freedom above all else, with much damage and trauma being the result, but how did Elizabeth's world elevate authority and subservience to too high of a position? What is Christian obedience, Christ-like obedience?

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

The Chosen Season 2, Episode 5

The life of the saviour through the eyes of those who knew him best. Come watch the Chosen on Sunday, November 20 @ 2:00pm in the Cathedral School Hall

Keep Christ in Christmas Posters

Do you have a young artist in your family? Cathedral's Father Augustine Tolton Knights of Columbus Council would love to have them show their skills in the KofC's annual Keep Christ in Christmas poster challenge! Children between five and fourteen will have until December 11th to design their own poster celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. Winners in each of three age groups will receive a \$25 gift card and their entry will advance to the next level in this international contest. The Knights will have materials, information, and entry forms available in the Atrium through November and posters can be returned to the box in the Atrium. For more information email or questions email info.kofc16126@gmail.com.

Cathedral Merchandise Sale

Cathedral has partnered with Primo Designs to help you show off your Cathedral pride! Merchandise offered is long and short sleeve T-shirts, polos, sweatshirts and quarter zips. Order and pay online at https://shop.primodesigns.net/Cathedral_of_Immaculate/shop/home Merchandise can be picked up at Primo or the Cathedral or shipped to your home. The online store closes on November 13 at midnight so don't delay!

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 (enter through the atrium doors off 5th street parking lot). Contact: Deacon Rob, (217) 836-7900 or rsgambelluri@dio.org.

Second Collection - Diocesan Campaign for Justice and Hope (DCJH)

November 19-20, 2022 is the annual collection for the Diocesan Campaign for Justice and Hope (DCJH). Donations make it possible to provide hope and assistance of food, clothing, housing, education and medication to local people living in poverty. 100% of the contributions goes to fund organizations within our Diocese. Thank you for your generosity.

Vocations Support Raffle

Support vocations and help the Father Tolton Knights of Columbus Council at the same time. Each raffle "book" is \$15 and gives you 15 chances in the raffle. The Grand Prize will be \$10,000.00, with smaller prizes totaling \$20,000.00. The Father Tolton Council receives \$9 for every book sold. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/4nx3fa36> to donate. You must enter the council number (16126) on the order form for the Council to receive credit.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Volunteers Needed for Sacraments

The Diocese of Springfield in IL is looking for volunteers to assist with the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion at the Cathedral. Over 1,200 third graders come to our church each year from throughout the Diocese to receive these holy Sacraments. This is a great blessing for us to welcome them here to experience what we already know - that the Cathedral is a special place to come and worship! Please pray about joining the Curia staff in helping to welcome these people to our home. All volunteers need to have Safe Environment on file with their parish. Contact Sister M. Clementia, FSGM for more information (ctoalson@dio.org or 217-321-1130), or access the sign-up at <https://ome.flocknote.com/signup/84704>. Thank you!

Employment Opportunities - Concordia Village

Concordia Village is hosting Clinical Open Interviews for CNAs, LPNs, and RNs on Tuesday, November 22nd, 1pm-5pm. We are hiring for all shifts (Day, Evening, and Nights) for Full Time and Part Time Hours. Additionally, Concordia Village is looking for a Part Time Chauffeur to drive our residents to and from appointments or events around Springfield. This position is 16-24 hours/week, no weekends. Any candidates interested in either of the above can reach out to Coartney Foster at Coartney.Foster@LSSLiving.org, or 217.993.7100

Springfield Deanery Council of Catholic Women Meeting

PRAYER, PLANNING and PARTICIPATION: Springfield Deanery Council of Catholic Women Meeting: Tues., Nov. 15, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM (Lunch: NOON), Cathedral Lower-Level Meeting Room. We request that women from all 37 parishes in the Springfield Deanery attend. We will be showcasing EACH of our Springfield Deanery Parishes at the 2023 SDCCW Convention: Wed., Sept. 27, 2023: Sacred Heart Griffin West Campus, Mass at St. Agnes Church, Main Celebrant --- Bishop Paprocki. ATTENDING THE DEANERY MEETING, Nov. 15? Please R.S.V.P. to Janet Zimmerman, Pres. of the Springfield Deanery by Tues., Nov. 8: janetzim14@yahoo.com or 217-494-4743. Thank You!

St. John Vianney Cookie Walk, Raffle, and Christmas Gift Gala

The 22nd Annual St. John Vianney Cookie Walk, Raffle and Christmas Gift Gala will be on December 10, 2022, at the St. John Vianney Activity Center, 902 St. John Drive in Sherman, IL. Hundreds of beautifully decorated homemade cookies, candies and breads will be available for purchase. A raffle with top notch prizes from local merchants will be going on throughout the morning. Direct Sale Vendors will be available to help you finish your holiday shopping with cash and carry purchases. The jolly ole man himself, Santa, will be on hand from 8-10 for photo ops with free will offerings being donated to the Holy Family Food Pantry. And for all our shoppers – complimentary refreshments will be served. Doors open at 8 a.m. For more information, contact Cindy Trainor (217) 414-4279 or visit <https://sjvsherman.org/womens-society>.

St. Frances Cabrini Nativity Festival

Join us on Saturday, December 3 from 12pm-4pm and on Sunday, December 4 from 11am-4pm for our 2022 Nativity Festival! Over 90 sets will be displayed in the St. Cabrini Parish Hall at 1020 N. Milton Ave. in Springfield. Admission is free and everyone is welcome!

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, November 17th
8:30 am - 10:30 am
MCL Restaurant & Bakery
2151 Wabash Ave.
Springfield, IL 62704

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, November 14th.