

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 20, 2022 | SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



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 47

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

DEACON ROBERT SGAMBELLURI

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

VICKI DHABALT COMPTON
COORDINATOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND MISSION
VCOMPTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

HALEY DUTTON
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
HDUTTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

MARK GIFFORD
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MGIFFORD@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

KIM GUNTER
PARISH SECRETARY
KGUNTER@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

JAN SGAMBELLURI
BOOKKEEPER
JSGAMBELLURI@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

BILL VOGT
OFFICE AND PLANT MANAGER
BVOGT@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

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.



On Giving Thanks

"In all circumstances, give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thess. 5:18) These words from St. Paul express a fundamental attitude that we as Christians should constantly seek to foster in our lives. I proposed gratitude as a way of beginning to reflect on the topic of stewardship, but gratitude should be present at every point in the journey of discipleship and stewardship. When we actually exercise our stewardship, giving of our time, talent, or treasure, are we doing so with an attitude of gratitude, or do we harbor some resentment, begrudgingly offering what is mine? After we have exercised our stewardship, do we thank the Lord? By this I do not mean that we should say:

"Thank goodness that is over! Now I can get back to what I want to do." Rather, do we thank Him for the good that He will work in us and in those we support through our generosity?

As our country prepares to celebrate Thanksgiving Day this coming Thursday, now could be a good time for us to do an examination of our lives, asking the Lord to reveal to us if we are people of gratitude. Perhaps some questions to consider might be:

- Do I tell God thank you for my blessings every day? Or do I just tell Him how difficult my life is, rattling off my problems?
- Do I express gratitude to others for the good that they have done for me or for others? Or do I question their motives, or think that I deserve it?
- What is my general outlook on my life? Is it positive or negative? A negative view of ourselves is often a sign that we are lacking in gratitude.
- How do I view others around me? Am I grateful that God has placed them in my life? Or am I inclined to notice their weaknesses, harbor grudges about how they have treated me, make judgments about them?
- Do I find myself being envious of what others have, how they look, what they do, etc.? An excessive preoccupation with others can be a sign of lack of gratitude for what God has given us.
- If somebody were to describe me, would they see me as a grateful, and thus joyful person? Or would they see me as somebody who always seems to complain, somebody who is always negative?
- Do I thank God even for the crosses in my life, believing that "all things work for the good for those who love God"? (Rom 8:28)

This list is not necessarily exhaustive, but hopefully it can be helpful so that we can understand where we are at. If you are like me, going through this exercise is a little discouraging, because I know I lack the gratitude the Lord invites me to have. But there is good news – growth and progress are possible! Do not let that discouragement bring us down, but let's give thanks to God for shining His light to reveal where we are, and also giving us the encouragement to begin again. Next Sunday begins a new liturgical year, and perhaps we can make a spiritual resolution to be more grateful to God for everything in our lives – our blessings, our crosses, our opportunities, our time, our money, those around us, our family, our faith, our parish. We have so much to be grateful for, so let us bring that gratitude to the Lord even now as you read this, and ask the Lord for the grace to live the command of St. Paul more fully in the year ahead, to give thanks in all circumstances!

Please know of my gratitude for all of you, and the blessing of being entrusted with the stewardship of this parish and your souls. I give thanks to God for all of you every day!

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, November 21

7am - Palma & Fred Tucker

(John Busciacco)

5:15pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl

(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Tuesday, November 22

7am - Joseph Szerletich

(Chris Sommer)

5:15pm - Norma Bartoletti

(Estate)

Wednesday, November 23

7am - Father Peter Chineke

(Chris Sommer)

5:15pm - William F. Logan

(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

Thursday, November 24

7am - NO MASS

5:15pm - NO MASS

Friday, November 25

7am - James Bock Jr.

(Chris Sommer)

5:15pm - NO MASS

Saturday, November 26

8am - Michael Christie

(Chris Sommer)

4pm - Jean Ann Staab

(Brian & Michelle Lauer)

Sunday, November 27

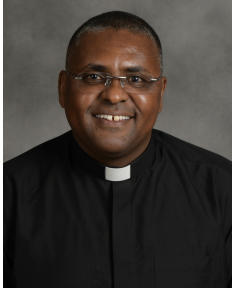
7am - Bernice Lauduskie

(Jim & Sandy Bloom)

10am - Wilbur "Bill" West

(Carol West)

5pm - For The People



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

While reflecting on the possibility of the soul ascending to God, am motivated by this wondrous event that occurred in the hill of La Verna to Blessed Francis, namely the vision of the winged seraphim in the form of a crucifix. And meditating on this immediately I realized that such a vision offered me a contemplative ecstasy of Father Francis himself and the same time the way that led to it the journey of the mind to God. The six wings of the seraphim thus became the symbol of the six stages that lead man progressively to the knowledge of God through observation of the world and of creatures and through the exploration of the soul itself with its faculties, up to satisfying union with the trinity through Christ, in imitation of St. Francis of Assisi, so this vision of the six- winged seraph in the form of Christ crucified symbolizes both St. Francis rapture in prayer and the six stages of illumination by which the soul was disposed to pass into peace by the

ecstatic elevations of Christian wisdom which are the stages towards union with God is are purgation, illumination and union. The way however is only through the most burning love of the crucified, who transformed St. Paul, "caught up into the third heaven" (2Cor 12:2), he said that "with Christ I am nailed to the cross, yet I live, now not I, but Christ lived in me" (Gal 2:19).

In addition to that the six wings of the seraphim symbolize the Bonaventure's responsibility as the minister General of the Franciscan friars, those who are to be effective leaders of others must be men of virtue. Regarding themselves they must have virtues necessary for a blameless life. Regarding their superior, they must have the virtues that lead them to render humble obedience when obedience is required. Regarding their subjects, they may guide them correctly and bring them to greater perfection. He must teach all virtues because of the office he holds must himself possess all virtues in an eminent degree. As a religious I must be resplendent with six extraordinary virtues just as Isaiah says the seraphim that are pre-eminent in the ranks of the heavenly spirits are adorned with six wings. Perhaps therefore the Lord appeared to Our Father Saint Francis in the likeness, in the glorious vision in which he imprinted the stigmata of his passion, to show that those who are to lead his family effectively must have such spiritual wings. The six wings of the seraphim signify: zeal for justice, loving kindness, patience, exemplary life, prudent discernment and devotion to God. Each religious, too, being a responsible for my spiritual welfare and accountable to God in the last judgment needs these wings for himself. He must have them to soar to the things above so as to be fervent in justice, compassionate to fellow men for God's sake, patient in trials, edifying others by his good example, circumspect in all things, and above all closely united to God by devout prayer. May God protect us in all things, guide us and lead us to a greater perfection and finally bring us to the soar aloft to heaven. May Jesus Christ grant us this Grace to love him and devout oneself to Him as Our seraph Father Francis.

The Mystical wisdom is revealed by the Holy Spirit, Christ is both the way and the door, and Christ is the stairway and Vehicle, like the throne of mercy over the Art of the covenant and the mystery hidden from the ages. A man should turn his attention to this throne of mercy and should gaze at his Him hanging on the cross, full of faith, hope and charity, devoted, full of wonder and joy, marked by gratitude and open to praise and jubilation. Then such a man will make with Christ a Pasch, that is, a passing over. Through the branches of the cross he will taste the hidden manna, and rest with Christ in the sepulcher, as is possible for one who is still living, what was promised to the thief who hung besides Jesus Christ: today you will be with me in paradise; for the Passover to be perfect, we must suspend all the operations of the mind and we must transform the peak of our affections, directing them to God alone. This is a sacred mystical experience. It cannot be comprehended by anyone unless he or she surrenders himself or herself to it; nor can he or she long for it unless the Holy spirit, whom Christ sent into the world, should come and inflame his innermost soul. Hence the Apostles say that this mystical wisdom is reveal by the Holy Spirit. As I reflect on the last words of St. Bonaventure's 'Itinerarium,' which respond to the question of how one can reach this mystical communion with God, would make one descend to the depth of the heart: if you ask how such things can occur, seek the answer in God's grace, not doctrine; in the longing of the will, not in the understanding; in sight of prayer not in research; seek the bridegroom not the teacher; God and not man; darkness not daylight; and look not to the light but rather to the raging force that carries the soul of God with intense fervor and glowing love. The fire is God, and the furnace is in Jerusalem, fired by Christ in the ardor of his loving passion. Only he understands this who said: my soul chose hanging and my bones death. Anyone who cherishes this kind of death can see God, for it is certainly true that: No Man can look upon me and live. So, lets us die, then, and enter into the darkness, silencing our anxieties, our passions and all the fantasies of our imaginations. "Let us pass over the crucified Christ from the world to the Father," (Jn 13:1) so that, when the Father has shown himself to us, we can say with Philip: "it is enough for us." (Jn 14:8) We may hear with Paul: "my grace is sufficient for you;" (12:9) and we can rejoice with David, saying: my flesh and my heart fail me, but God is the strength of my heart and heritage forever. Blessed be the Lord forever and let all people say: Amen.

The journey of the mind to God, Saint Bonaventure completes his travel guide with a hymn of devoted love, where the perfect journey is describes, if our journey is imperfect, our second chance is purgatory, only then can we enter into Heaven (God). Hopefully we will complete our journey here on earth and die as St. Francis of Assisi died. So let us hope and pray to follow Saint Bonaventure's steps and die in perfect love.

Father Paul Lesupati serves as parochial vicar at the Cathedral.

Stewardship of Treasure November 12th & 13th

Collection numbers for the weekend of November 12th and 13th were unavailable at the time of publication. Please check back next weekend for these collection numbers.

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!



St. Columbanus

Feast Day: November 23rd | Patron of Motorcyclists!

This week we turn to a saint that most of us haven't gotten to know very well, St. Columbanus. Much of the account of his life I will draw from a monk that lived at one of the monasteries that he founded, and who lived only a few decades later, Br. Jonas. Just one note, realize that St. Columbanus was born in Ireland, in the 600s, and because the faith was so strong there, he took upon himself to (re)evangelize Western Europe. We often think that the faith spread linearly out from Jerusalem, to Rome, and then to the north and west from there, but Columbanus shows the reverse also happening. Something similar is always happening in the Church; lands that were once strong in the faith grow worldly and fall-away, but the lands that received the Gospel from them, with zeal and love, bring it back to their fathers in the faith. Enough of me, let us read what Br. Jonas tells of the early days of St. Columbanus ["The Life of St. Columban", by the Monk Jonas, #9-11, (7th century)]:

*After he had been many years in the cloister he longed to go into strange lands, in obedience to the command which the Lord gave Abraham: "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, into a land that I will shew thee." Accordingly he confessed to the venerable father, Congall, the burning desire of his heart and the longing enkindled by the fire of the Lord, concerning which the Lord says: "I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?" [*King James Version translation of Luke 12:49, The Vulgate, which is quoted here, reads "quem volo ut ardeat"]. But he did not receive the answer which he wished, for it was hard for Congall to bear the loss of so great a comfort. At length, however, the latter began to conquer himself and to think that he ought not to consider his own need more than the necessities of others. Nor was it done without the will of the Almighty, who had educated His novice for future strifes, in order that He might win glorious triumphs from his victory and secure joyful victories from the phalanxes of slaughtered enemies.*

*The abbot accordingly called St. Columban and although sorrowful, he considered the good of others before his own good, and bestowed upon him the bond of peace, the strength of solace and companions who were known for their piety. Having collected a band of brethren, St. Columban asked the prayers of all, that he might be assisted in his coming journey, and that he might have their pious aid. So he started out in the twentieth [*or thirtieth, MSS differ] year of his life, and under the guidance of Christ went to the seashore with twelve companions. Here they waited to see if the mercy of the Almighty would allow their purpose to succeed, and learned that the spirit of the all-merciful Judge was with them. So they embarked, and began the dangerous journey across the channel and sailed quickly with a smooth sea and favorable wind to the coast of Brittany. Here they rested for a while to recover their strength and discussed their plans anxiously, until finally they decided to enter the land of Gaul. They wanted zealously and shrewdly to inquire into the disposition of the inhabitants in order to remain longer if they found they could sow the seeds of salvation; or in case they found the hearts of the people in darkness, go on to the nearest nations.*

Accordingly, they left Brittany and proceeded into the Gallic lands. At that time, either because of the numerous enemies from without, or on account of the carelessness of the bishops, the Christian faith had almost departed from that country. The creed alone remained. But the saving grace of penance and the longing to root out the lusts of the flesh were to be found only in a few. Everywhere that he went the noble man preached the Gospel. And it pleased the people because his teaching was adorned by eloquence and enforced by examples of virtue.

So great was his humility and that of his followers, that just as the children of this world seek honor and authority, so they, on the contrary vied with one another in the practice of humility, mindful of that saying: "He that humbleth himself shall be exalted," and of the text in Isaiah: "But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." Such piety and love dwelt in them all, that for them there was only one will and one renunciation. Modesty and moderation, meekness and mildness adorned them all in equal measure. The evils of sloth and dissension were banished. Pride and haughtiness were expiated by severe punishments. Scorn and envy were driven out by faithful diligence. So great was the might of their patience, love and mildness that no one could doubt that the God of mercy dwelt among them. If they found that one among them was in error, they strove in common, with equal right, to restrain the sinner by their reproaches. They had everything in common.

Fr. Dominic Rankin will return to obedience again this week. For now, let it suffice to say that we find in Columbanus' obedience to his superior – though so difficult at the time – in God's providence was actually the necessary foundation for the other virtues that he would need to bring the Gospel to Gaul. You can't have one virtue; they all come together! But also, that lesson learned in his own life, was exactly the lesson that he would teach the Gauls, building upon the foundation of obedience to the Christian creed, up to the joy of a real relationship with God in His Church. Isn't it often the case that a hard-earned lesson that God has taught us comes back to be exactly what we're called to give to another?!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Blood Pressure Checks

Our parish nurses, Adrienne and Angela, will be available for blood pressure checks before and after the masses this weekend. Please stop by!

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.

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.

The Chosen Season 2, Episode 6

Matthew and Simon try to get along as they search for Mary in dark places; the group fears for Mary as they struggle with lack of food and bad news about John the Baptist; Jesus continues to upset Pharisees across multiple regions. Come watch the Chosen on Sunday, November 27 @ 2:00pm in the Cathedral School Hall

Pastoral Care for Cathedral's Sick & Elderly

If you, or someone you know from the Cathedral parish are homebound, hospitalized, or in a nursing care facility, please let the Cathedral Office know (217-522-3342). You may request to be put on the Cathedral Prayer Line or request a Pastoral Visit from Sr. Francella and her Cathedral volunteers.

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.

Come Pray the Rosary

You are invited to join us in praying the rosary at the Cathedral every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4:45pm.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Free Episode of "The Chair" Highlights the Rich Story of our Diocese from Yesterday to Today

The story of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is featured in an episode of The Chair, a television series celebrating the best of Catholicism in the United States. From the physical beauty of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield to the history of our diocese from our founding to the present, you'll learn things about our region you never knew before and see Bishop Thomas John Paprocki in his role of bishop. This intimate portrait of our diocese is an opportunity to see our history and the journey of Bishop Paprocki from his youth to our shepherd of today. To watch the FREE episode and others, go to thechair.com/watchnow. Note, you'll have to create a FREE account to watch.

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!

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!

The New Evermode Institute in Springfield

In March of 2022, the Diocese of Springfield announced plans to create The Evermode Institute in Springfield. What will it entail and how will it benefit Catholics in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois and even across the country? We talk with Father Augustine Puchner, the Prior of the new Springfield based community of Norbertine Fathers who are leading this exciting endeavor. Go to dio.org/podcast or search Dive Deep on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe.

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

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>.