

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 27, 2022 | 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 48

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!



Season of Expectation

A couple of months ago, at our October Pastoral Council Meeting, one of our agenda items was to consider having some sort of parish party, a time for our parishioners to come together for a time of celebration. As we looked at dates, a few dates in Advent were proposed, thinking that might be a nice season to do something. One of our members humbly and very insightfully brought up the point that the Advent Season is more of a penitential season, one that is more subdued in

nature as we prepare for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Wouldn't having a celebration at the parish send a conflicting message? What a helpful comment that was as it really helped me to remember the proper focus on Advent, a season which has been so overlooked in a society which basically celebrates Christmas from Thanksgiving until Christmas Day, then moves on. In reality, Advent has a distinct character of being a season of expectation, one which prepares us to celebrate the Season of Christmas, which only begins on Christmas Day, instead of ending that day as our society is so used to doing.

I offer this as a way of inviting us to enter into this season with the mind of the Church, not the mind of the culture. This can be a very difficult thing to do because of how overwhelming the Christmas theme is around us over these next four weeks. We will be offering some recommendations throughout the Advent Season on ways to maintain that proper perspective through the rich devotional life that the Church proposes for us.

Perhaps a good place to start would be participating in our annual Immaculate Conception Novena which takes place each night at 7:00pm beginning November 30. Each night we will include Eucharistic Adoration, a Liturgy of the Word with a preached homily on a different Marian title, praying of the Rosary, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and the Novena Prayer. Our themes for this year will be titles related to Mary as Queen. Mary is a great model for us of how to celebrate this season well. She carried Jesus in her womb these final four weeks before His birth. What eager expectation and joy there must have been in her heart as she looked forward to the night that the world would change forever.

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 28

7am - Brother Francis Skube

(Marge Seville)

5:15pm - Sophia Bartoletti & Family
(Estate)

Tuesday, November 29

7am - Herbert Dulle

(Jen Rhoda)

5:15pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)

Wednesday, November 30

7am - Richard Dhabalt

(Kevin & Earlene Keen)

5:15pm - David Paoni
(Lou Ann Mack)

Thursday, December 1

7am - Tony Bartoletti

(Estate)

5:15pm - Jean Anne Staab
(Diane Murphy)

Friday, December 2

7am - Joyce Ray

(Brian Heatherton)

5:15pm - Special Intention
(Richard & Kay King)

Saturday, December 3

8am - Ryan McCarty

(Chris Sommer)

4pm - For The People

Sunday, December 4

7am - Sophia Bartoletti & Family

(Estate)

10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt

(Kathy Frank)

5pm - Puring Garde
(Family)

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Here is the schedule of topics and preachers for this year's Novena:

Wednesday, November 30 – Queen of Angels - Very Reverend Brian C. Alford

Thursday, December 1 – Queen of Patriarchs - Deacon Larry Smith

Friday, December 2 – Queen of Prophets - Reverend Paul Lesupati

Saturday, December 3 – Queen of Apostles - Reverend Monsignor David Hoefler

Sunday, December 4 – Queen of Martyrs - Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki

Monday, December 5 – Queen of Confessors - Reverend Dominic Vahling

Tuesday, December 6 – Queen of Virgins - Deacon Rob Sgambelluri

Wednesday, December 7 – Queen of Families - Reverend Dominic Rankin

Thursday, December 8 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Novena concludes with the 5:15 pm Mass for the Solemnity)

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



Saint John Damascene

Feast Day: December 4th | Father and Doctor of the Church | Patron of Theology Students, Icon Writers, Hymnographers, Poets, and Pharmacists.

“Iconoclasm.” Not a word we throw around every day, nor even consider all that often. It was a movement in the 700s and 800s, primarily in the Eastern Roman Empire (thus, often referred to as “Byzantine Iconoclasm”), that questioned the place of icons, really any religious imagery, in Christian worship and devotion. If God commands the Israelites to “make no graven image”, why do Christians dare to do so? Shouldn’t the great culture, and great emperor, of Byzantium have better subjects than the poor, unthinking Christians, bowing and venerating images? Does Islam, quickly becoming a real threat on the eastern border of the empire, and which decried the use of images and icons as idolatry, have a point? Have the Christians grown attached to their devotions and fallen from true worship, (and perhaps are afflicted because of it)? As the emperors began to exert their authority to destroy icons and “purify” the worship in churches under their dominion, many Christians were horrified to see the images of the saints, of the Mother of God [theotokos], and of Christ emptied from their churches and burned, but did the emperor perhaps have a point (and all the power)? Into this crisis stepped one of the final Fathers of the Church, and one of its first Doctors, St. John Damascene (of Damascus). He wrote three letters to the emperor, the first of which I offer an excerpt to us today:

This is the word the Lord hath commanded, saying: Set aside with you first fruits to the Lord; let every one that is willing and hath a ready heart, offer them to the Lord: gold, and silver, and brass, violet and purple, and scarlet twice dyed, and fine linen, goat’s hair, and ram’s skins dyed red, and violet, and coloured skins, selimwood, and oil to maintain lights, and to make ointment, and most sweet incense, onyx stones and precious stones for the adorning of the ephod and the rational: Whosoever of you is wise let him come and make that which the Lord hath commanded: to wit, the tabernacle,’ etc.

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Behold, then, matter is honoured, and you dishonour it. What is more insignificant than goat's hair, or colours, and are not violet and purple and scarlet colours? And the likeness of the cherubim are the work of man's hand, and the tabernacle itself from first to last was an image. 'Look,' said God to Moses, 'and make it according to the pattern that was shown thee in the Mount,' and it was adored by the people of Israel in a circle. And, as to the cherubim, were they not in sight of the people? And did not the people look at the ark, and the lamps, and the table, the golden urn and the staff, and adore? It is not matter which I adore; it is the Lord of matter, becoming matter for my sake, taking up His abode in matter and working out my salvation through matter. For the Word was made Flesh, and dwelt amongst us. It is evident to all that flesh is matter, and that it is created. I reverence and honour matter, and worship that which has brought about my salvation. I honour it, not as God, but as a channel of divine strength and grace. Was not the thrice blessed wood of the Cross matter? and the sacred and holy mountain of Calvary? Was not the holy sepulchre matter, the life-giving stone the source of our resurrection? Was not the book of the Gospels matter, and the holy table which gives us the bread of life? Are not gold and silver matter, of which crosses, and holy pictures, and chalices are made? And above all, is not the Lord's Body and Blood composed of matter?

Either reject the honour and worship of all these things, or conform to ecclesiastical tradition, sanctifying the worship of images in the name of God and of God's friends, and so obeying the grace of the Divine Spirit. If you give up images on account of the law, you should also keep the Sabbath and be circumcised, for these are severely inculcated by it. You should observe all the law, and not celebrate the Lord's Passover out of Jerusalem. But you must know that if you observe the law, Christ will profit you nothing. You are ordered to marry your brother's wife, and so carry on his name, and not to sing the song of the Lord in a strange land. Enough of this! Those who have been justified by the law have fallen from grace.

Let us set forth Christ, our King and Lord, not depriving Him of His army. The saints are His army. Let the earthly king strip himself of his army, and then of his own dignity. Let him put off the purple and the diadem before he take honour away from his most valiant men who have conquered their passions. For if the friends of Christ are heirs of God and co-heirs of Christ, and are to be partakers of the divine glory and kingdom, is not even earthly glory due to them? I call you not servants, our Lord says; you are my friends. Shall we, then, withhold from them the honour which the Church gives them? You are a bold and venturesome man to fight against God and His ordinances. [St John Damascene, "On Holy Images", Part I.]

Fr. Dominic Rankin has to ask himself two questions this week: In what ways have I also forgotten God, who reveals Himself in matter? Have I also lost my sacramental view of the world, that takes Christmas seriously, and believes that God makes Himself evident to my eyes, darkly now, but will in heaven, truly and fully?! And, digging deeper, would I rather listen to the voice of the world, that says "This is all there is.", or our days' emperors "Forget your medieval devotions. Fill your eyes with media, with what it popular, with what is easy.", or the Evil One, "God isn't real. You can't really hear His voice. Why bother? Why struggle? Why try again?" Christian obedience is not just listening to God. It is also not-listening, not obeying, the lies that attack our faith, our Church, and Our Lord.

Stewardship of Treasure November 12th & 13th

Envelopes:	\$5,458.00
Loose:	\$3,735.00
Maintenance:	\$100.00
Total:	\$9,293.00

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!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Advent at the Cathedral

As we journey through this Advent Season, we invite you to do so with the mind of the Church, not the mind of the culture, which barrages us with all things Christmas. We will be offering some recommended resources throughout the Advent Season that will help you to maintain that proper perspective through the rich devotional life that the Church proposes for us. Please visit our website at www.spicathedral.org/advent/ for more information.

Fr. Alford's Recommendation: Prepare the Way of the King by Dr. Scott Hahn

Dr. Scott Hahn, one of the most eminent Catholic theologians in our country today, reveals what scholars now know about the shepherds, the mysterious Magi, and King Herod. Your Advent journey will take on new meaning as you prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord. This illuminating presentation is sure to help you grow in appreciation of the greatest gift ever given to mankind—Jesus Christ.

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.

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE KING

DR. SCOTT HAHN



The Chosen Season 2, Episode 7

The life of the Savior through the eyes of those who knew him best. Come watch the Chosen on Sunday, December 4 @ 2:00pm in the Cathedral School Hall

CCCW Cookie Walk

Calling all bakers for our Annual CCCW Cookie Walk/ Bake Sale to be held Dec 17th and 18th, just in time for all your holiday get togethers. Our parish bakers have always come through in the past and with the pandemic emergency over, we hope to have a great crowd this year. So whatever your specialty is... Cookies, Candies, Breads, Pies... we are asking for your help to make this the best sale yet. More details to come... did we mention a raffle and a Christmas decor and next to new table?!

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.

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.

Taize Prayer

Please join us at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Springfield for a Taize Prayer on Thursday, December 8 at 6pm. Taize prayer is a contemplative, meditative prayer of peace and reconciliation with Scripture, prayers and silence, prayed in candlelight with choir, instruments, and assembly. All are 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.

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!

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>.