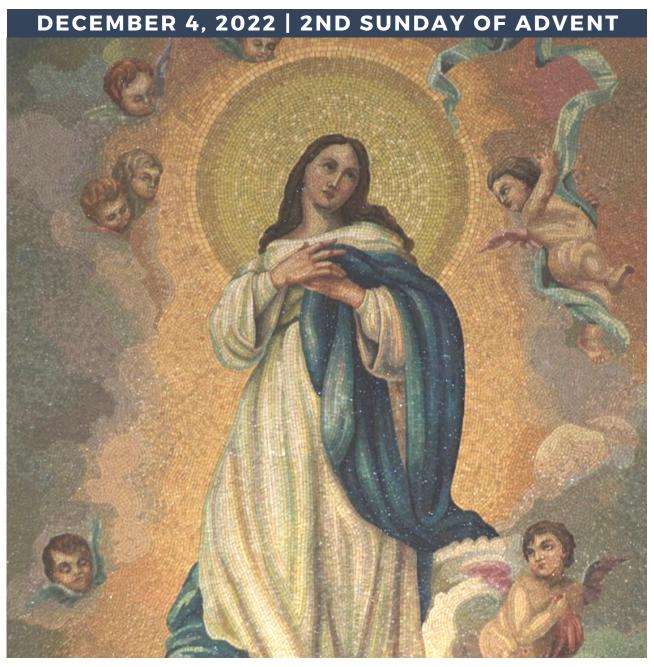
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception



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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!

RECTOR'S COLUMN





Year of the Eucharist

If you have been paying attention to the Catholic media in the United States over the past year or so, you are probably aware of the three-year Eucharistic Revival that is underway here in our county. But perhaps it is not so clear why this effort is underway. I found the following description from the official Eucharistic Revival website to be an excellent summary:

The difficulties and challenges over the last few years have shed lights on the Church's need for healing, unity, formation, and conversion. More than 30 percent of Catholics have not returned

to the pews post-pandemic, and recent data reveals that the majority of Massgoing Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The past decade has also seen the rise of the "nones" among the millennial generation, with more than 40 percent now self-identifying as "unaffiliated" with any religion. Many young Catholics find the faith to be irrelevant to the meaning of their lives and challenges.

Since the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith, we have great faith that a renewal of our understanding and love for the Eucharist is necessary for the Church as we move forward.

The first year of the Eucharistic Revival is to be a Year of Diocesan Revival, and it officially began on Corpus Christi this past June. In our diocese, we have chosen to make a slight adjustment to the timeline and have decided to have our diocesan Year of the Eucharist begin this coming Thursday, December 8. Given that our diocese is under the patronage of the Immaculate Conception, this seems to be a fitting time for us to begin. It also just so happens that this coming year will mark the 100th Anniversary of the transfer of the See city of our diocese from Alton to Springfield. To mark that milestone, Bishop Paprocki will kick off our diocesan Year of the Eucharist with Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Alton, the church that served as the Cathedral when the diocese was located in Alton. The year will conclude with Mass at our own Cathedral Church on December 8, 2023. Please also mark your calendars for October 28, 2023, as we will be hosting an all-day diocesan Eucharistic Congress at the BOS Center here in Springfield. That day will highlight various activities and speakers, including Bishop Robert Barron and Dr. Scott Hahn. The day will conclude with a grand Eucharistic celebration involving thousands from throughout our diocese.

As we begin this year, I acknowledge there is a lot that is yet to be determined about how we will observe this special time. But we know that the Lord will bless it since the goal is for us to draw closer to His greatest gift of Himself in the Eucharist.Perhaps the most important thing for us to do now is to pray for the success of this year, and who better to turn to than to our Blessed Mother whose feast day on December 8 will mark the bookends of this Year of the Eucharist. I am therefore issuing an invitation to add an additional Hail Mary to the three that so many of you have been saying for our parish since last January. As a reminder, those three Hail Mary's are for: 1) the clergy of the Cathedral Parish, 2) for the parishioners of the Cathedral Parish, and 3) for yourself individually. With this 4th Hail Mary, let us ask Mary's intercession that this Year of the Eucharist might be fruitful for our diocese, our parish, and ourselves!

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, December 5

7am - Richard Dhabalt (Bev Hoffman) 5:15pm - Andrew McGee (Tom McGee)

Tuesday, December 6

7am - Maren Bowyer Gallagher (Gallagher Family) 5:15pm - Otis Thompson (Family)

Wednesday, December 7

7am - Amabile Bartoletti (Estate) 5:15pm - Mary Celine Sestak (Steve & Vicki Stalcup)

Thursday, December 8

7am - Cathryn M. Smith (Beverly & Larry Smith) 12:05pm - For The People 5:15pm - William F. Logan (Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

Friday, December 9

7am - Betty & Gene Barish (Family) 5:15pm - Special Intention for Bianca (D.A. Drago)

Saturday, December 10

8am - Mary Celine Sestak (Julie Kruzick) 4pm - John & Edith Bakalar (John Busciacco)

Sunday, December 11

7am - Mary Ann Midden (William Midden) 10am - Catholic War Veterans 1916 (Catholic War Veterans 1916) 5pm - For The People

CONTEMPLATION CORNER



Is it possible for people to get to heaven if they believe in God but not Jesus? Examples - people not exposed to Christianity, those who died before Jesus, Jewish people who are Jesus' ancestors, etc.

This is a great question, and one that Christians have been talking about since the beginning of the Church. St. Paul tells us that we are justified by faith, and Christ himself told us that unless we are born again of water and the Spirit, one cannot enter the kingdom of God (John 3:5). Here Jesus refers to the sacrament of baptism. But, at the same time, Jesus told the good thief on the cross, "Today, you will be with me in paradise." The good thief was probably never baptized, but he did express explicit faith in Jesus. This example proves that even if someone has not received the sacrament of baptism, God is able to give sanctifying and saving grace by another means. In the early Church, there were many martyrs who died as Catechumens, meaning they were still in the preparation phase and had not yet been baptized. The Church has said that these martyrs received a "baptism of blood." They were not literally baptized, but received salvation by their faith and their witness to Christ. Other people, such as the good thief already mentioned, have received a "baptism of desire" in which they explicitly expressed faith, but for some reason, had not actually been baptized.

A related question is what happened to the Jews who lived before Jesus. After all, they never received the sacrament of baptism, either! I think St. Joseph is a good example to consider. The Scriptures calls him a "just man," and considering that he was entrusted with caring for God himself, he must have been very holy. However, it is likely that he died before Jesus instituted the sacrament of baptism. Sometimes Church authors refer to the "sacraments" of the Old Covenant. This refers to the rituals and symbols that God gave the Israelites in the various covenants of the Old Testament. For Jews, a major symbol of the Covenant was circumcision, and it has been understood that God also gave sanctifying grace through these "sacraments." They are not in the same category as the seven sacraments which Christ gave the Church, but they were still occasions on which God gave grace to his people. The sacrifices were only a prefigurement of the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. God gave grace in the Old Testament, because he foresaw the merits of Christ's death on the cross. The Jews were (and can be today) justified by faith, through the Covenants that God has given their people. So, St. Joseph is certainly in heaven, as are all of our Fathers in the faith such as Abraham, Moses, and David.

When faithful Jews died, the gates of heaven were not yet open, so they went to some sort of spiritual "waiting area" until the Savior would open the gates of heaven again. The event of Jesus coming to retrieve these just ones is sometimes called the "harrowing of hell," referring to the line in the Creed when we say that Jesus "descended into hell." This is not the same hell that we typically think of today, which is a state of eternal separation from God. Rather, it was the place the dead went while heaven was not accessible.

A more challenging question to consider is about those who have never known about Jesus, or have known about the Gospel, but not in a compelling way. Plus, what about babies who died without the benefit of baptism? In short, the Church hopes and prays for the salvation of all people, even those who do not explicitly know Christ. They too can be saved by a sort of "baptism of desire," although only in an implicit way, because they do not know that baptism and faith are necessary for salvation. Some people are seeking to live the truth in their lives, but have not yet seen that Jesus is the Truth. God can give graces in ways that we are not aware of. Other religious traditions such as indigenous religions, Buddhism, and Hinduism are not completely devoid of truth or goodness. They can be understood as a preparation to receive the fullness of religious truth through Jesus Christ. God can certainly use these other religious practices as occasions to give saving grace.

A traditional way of understanding the Church's role in salvation is in this Latin phrase: "Extra ecclesiam nulla salus." This translates as, "Outside the Church, there is no salvation." A few have incorrectly interpreted this to mean that only baptized Catholics can be saved. This is obviously not true, based on the story of the good thief. This phrase means that whenever God gives grace to a person, it always comes through the Church, the Body of Christ. Ideally, this is through the seven sacraments. But if God were to give grace to a truth-seeking atheist, this grace also comes through Christ and the Church. In every Mass, the Church prays for the salvation of the whole world. I like Eucharist Prayer IV, which includes this prayer to God the Father: "Lord, remember now all for whom we offer this sacrifice: Francis our Pope, ... your entire people, and all who seek you with a sincere heart. Remember also those ... whose faith you alone have known."

The Catechism says in #994, "It is Jesus himself who on the last day will raise up those who have believed in him, who have eaten his body and drunk his blood." We can understand this to mean that even people who implicitly believed in him can also be raised up on the last day. Of course, I do not mean to diminish in any way the value of the sacraments that Jesus gave us. He especially gave us Baptism as a systematic way to receive his sanctifying grace and forgiveness of our sins. In a world as big and messy as it is, the structured sacramental economy that we have can give us reassurance that we indeed are in the state of grace, and that we have concrete encounters with Christ through the Church.

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

Stewardship of Treasure November 19th & 20th

Envelopes: \$6,103.00 Loose: \$2,362.00 <u>Maintenance: \$2,438.00</u> Total: \$10.903.00

Stewardship of Treasure November 26th & 27th

Envelopes: \$8,273.00 Loose: \$2,936.00 <u>Maintenance: \$75.00</u> Total: \$11,284.00

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!

CONTEMPLATION CORNER





Saint Lucy (of Sicily)

Feast Day: December 13th | Virgin and Martyr | Patronage: Writers; Salesmen; Martyrs; the Blind; Throat Infection; Epidemics; Mtarfa, Malta; and Perugia, Italy | Imagery: Holding a cord, eyes on a dish, a lamp, or swords. A woman: hitched to a yoke of oxen; in the company of Saints Agatha, Agnes of Rome, Barbara, Catherine of Alexandria, and/or Thecla; kneeling before the tomb of Saint Agatha.

This coming year in our diocese, and in all the dioceses of our country, we are setting out on a renewal based on the Eucharist, a Eucharistic Revival, as the USCCB has called it. This first year in the diocese of Springfield, IL, we will begin on December 8th, (asking the patroness of our diocese, Our Lady in her Immaculate Conception,

to bring us to Jesus). By starting on that day, we beg Mary to teach us to "do whatever He [Jesus] tells" us, to "show unto us the Blessed Fruit of thy womb, Jesus", Our Lord Jesus present personally, truly, in the Blessed Sacrament. Mary, of course, is the Queen of all the saints and angels, and the more we come to know and befriend the saints, the more we find that they also only ever point us towards Jesus. So, this coming year, we are going to take the saints as our guides and encouragers in this great project of our Church, that each of us would encounter Jesus anew and ever more deeply in His gift to us of Himself in the Eucharist.

Most of the saints I will look at this year will be those specifically mentioned in the Roman Canon, the Eucharistic Prayer given the most prominence, and having an amazing pedigree, in our Church. Before seminary I had not paid much attention to the different Eucharistic Prayers that the Church gives the priest to pray. There are four primary ones and multiple others for various occasions, though we are probably most familiar with the Second Eucharistic Prayer (the one that compares the callingdown/overshadowing/epiclesis of the Holy Spirit upon the offerings to "the dewfall") and the Third Eucharistic Prayer (the one that begins "You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise", and allows the priest to include after Mary, Joseph, and "Your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs" the Saint of the day or a Patron Saint).

But the First Eucharistic Prayer (called the Roman Canon, because it was the prayer that developed especially in Rome during the first five hundred years of the Church's history), is the one that has had the longest history in the Roman Catholic Church (though there are similarly longstanding Canons/Eucharistic Prayers/Anaphora's [a word meaning "carrying-up"] found in Eastern Rite Liturgies and the Eastern Churches). Some parts of this prayer stretch back to the very beginning of the Church, as we will find throughout this year, and it has been said by every Roman Catholic priest who celebrated the Mass since Gregory the Great in 590 A.D.! This same prayer was recited by Augustine of Canterbury when he brought England to Christ, and Boniface went to Germany. St. Stephen and later St. Elizabeth, heard it at Mass in Hungary, St. Francis in Italy, and St. Margaret in Scotland. It was this same prayer that was offered to God if you had gone to Mass with Thomas Aquinas, Joan of Ark, John Fisher, Isaac Jogues, Andrew dun Lac and his Companions in Vietnam, Alphonsus Liguori, Maria Goretti, Therésè of Lisieux, Padre Pio, or Mother Theresa.

But this great and ancient prayer is not marked as much by all of those saints, but double listing of some of the saints of the early church (think of "... John and Paul, Cosmas and Damien ...") and this week we celebrate one of the women listed in the second such litany: St. Lucy. Named after the Latin word for light, ["lux/lucis", compare with the English words "lux", "lucid", "lucifer", "lumen"], we beautifully begin this year-long project with a saint of light. St. Lucy was a young woman living in the 300s in Sicily. She and her mother, Eutychia, took a pilgrimage to Catania to visit the tomb and shrine of St. Agatha (there Eutychia was cured of her lengthy illness, and Lucy found that she, like Agatha, was being called to consecrate herself as a virgin to Christ). Like Agatha, who had been martyred 50 years before Lucy only 50 miles away, that decision angered the suitors who wanted Lucy's hand (and dowry) in marriage, and when persecution against Christians arose in that Roman territory in the 3rd century A.D., Lucy was also maltreated and then martyred.

How can Lucy begin our delving into the mystery and gift of the Eucharist? Perhaps she teaches us the simplest, but most profound, of truths: the Eucharist is a gift, and must be received. If we receive a gift but never unwrap it, have we really received it?! If we receive Christ, but never return the favor, have we really opened our heart to Him?! When you or I receive Holy Communion, do we listen to Christ then and there to hear how He asks us to give ourselves back? Or do we go on with our day just exactly as we were planning to before?

Fr. Dominic Rankin often asks himself, and the Lord in prayer, why receiving Holy Communion does not seem to do much to him? Shouldn't there be results? Where is the joy? Why haven't I been transformed yet? St. Lucy shows us that the fault lies not with Christ's gift to me, but my lackluster self-gift back to Him.

Sacraments

Marriages

Adam Stenzel & Bridgett Rayhill Married on November 26, 2022

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.

Deacon Rob's Recommendation:
Expectant Mother Mary
In this FORMED Now! special episode, Dr. Elizabeth
Klein sits down to reflect on Mary, the mother of Jesus,
her place in the Church and taking her as our own
Mother in our life in 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.

Keep Christ in Christmas Magnets

Fr. Augustine Tolton Council #16126 is selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets for \$5 each. They will be available for purchase after all weekend masses December 3rd and 4th. You can also contact info.kofc16126@gmail.com to purchase them. Thank you for your support of our parish Knights of Columbus Council.



The Chosen Season 2, Episode 8

While Jesus and Matthew prepare the content of the sermon, the disciples spread the word while fighting amongst themselves; a high-ranking Sanhedrin member is shocked by Shmuel's reports; thousands arrive for the sermon, including familiar faces. Come watch the Chosen on Sunday, December 11 @ 2:00pm in the Cathedral School Hall.

CCCW Cookie Walk

Join the CCCW on Saturday, December 17th from 9am to 1pm for their annual Cookie/Candy walk and bake sale. Price is \$8.00 lb. for both... Mix and Match for one great price! We will also have a next to new sale on Christmas decor items and a Raffle for a Beautiful Nativity set. Proceeds support the Seminarians and the CCCW. Baking volunteers are also needed! Please help us make the Cookie/Candy Walk and Bake sale a Sweet Success! We will be accepting homemade baked goods on Friday, December 16th from 10am to 7pm.

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.

Advent Lessons and Carols

On the evening of Gaudete Sunday, in the holy season of Advent, join Mark Gifford and a select ensemble, including Julia Kay Jamieson on harp, for an evening of Scripture, music, and prayer as we reflect on the two promised comings of Christ.

Sunday, December 11th - 7:00PM @ Cathedral

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

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.

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:

Wednesday, December 14th 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Bella Milano 4525 Wabash Ave. Springfield, IL 62711

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, December 12th.

STRL Peace in the Womb Christmas Caroling

Please join the Springfield Right to Life for "Peace in the Womb Christmas Caroling" on Friday, December 9th from 6pm-7pm. This event will take place on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood in Springfield.

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.

Second Collection - Retirement Fund for Religious

The Retirement Fund for Religious collection is an annual appeal that benefits nearly 25,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Our senior religious are a treasure - both for their service to our Church and for the ways their prayer and witness enrich our faith. Most senior religious worked many years for little pay, leaving their religious communities with a shortage of retirement savings. Rising health-care costs and decreased income compound the challenge to meet day-to-day needs for medications, nursing assistance, and other necessities. Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide financial support that helps religious communities care for aging members while ensuring younger ones can continue the good works of their elders.

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.