

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JANUARY 1, 2023 | SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD



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 5 ISSUE 1

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
NINTH BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.
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THE REVEREND PAUL LESUPATI
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IN RESIDENCE

THE REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING
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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.



Show Yourself a Mother

Some of you may be aware that last year, I purchased an older fishing boat. This acquisition turned into quite a project, one with many lessons learned! Shortly after bringing the boat home, the priests of the house asked if I had given the boat a name, which to that point I had not even thought about doing. At our annual Fishing with Father event at the Villa Maria, some of our youngsters offered recommendations. But the name that I finally decided on stems from my love for the Blessed Virgin Mary. The name I chose was Stella Maris, which is Latin for Star of the Sea.

Just a few weeks ago, I did some winterizing of the boat so that it will (hopefully) be ready for action next Spring when the weather warms up. It got me thinking a little bit about the title of Mary as Star of the Sea. Perhaps that title does not immediately evoke thoughts of Christmas, the Octave Day of which we celebrate today, but there is a connection to this title that is very much in the spirit of this season. The connection is to be found in the hymn to Mary under this title, Ave Maris Stella (Hail, Star of the Sea). One of the verses goes like this:

Show yourself a Mother,
may the Word divine
born for us thine Infant
hear our prayers through thine.

This verse draws our attention to Mary in her role of giving birth to the "Word divine", this claiming the rightful title as Mother of God. In her closeness to her child, we turn to her in confidence asking that she would pray to Him with us and on our behalf.

What strikes me about this verse is the first line: "Show yourself a Mother." This is a phrase that I use from time to time when I turn to Mary, asking for her prayers for some particular situation or need. It could be something that I am struggling with, such as a difficult situation, or the discouragement at not advancing more quickly in the spiritual life. I ask Mary to show herself to be a Mother to me, helping me with her encouragement and prayers. As I encounter the sufferings and struggles of the people whom I serve, I sense their need for consolation and peace. And just as children we turn to our mothers to find that, I ask Mary to show herself a Mother to those individuals in their needs.

On this day when we celebrate Mary's greatest title, that of being the Mother of God, we also take consolation in the fact that she is also our Mother. As Jesus was dying on the Cross, He entrusted Mary to us through the Apostle St. John when He said to him: "Behold, your mother." (John 19:27)

As we look to the year ahead, we have no doubt that there will be joys, but what will prevent us from fully experiencing those joys are the disappointments and setbacks that we will face due to our weaknesses, or due to factors outside of our control. As we make our way through the potentially rough waters of the sea of life, may our eyes turn to Mary, Star of the Sea, asking her with faith: "Show yourself a Mother." Through her prayers, she will help to keep us safe with her Son in the Church and continue to guide us to the safe harbors of eternal life where she awaits us.

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, January 2

7am - Jim Slattery
(Jeanette Malafa)
5:15pm - Sophia Bartoletti & Family
(Estate)

Tuesday, January 3

7am - Special Intention Mark
Meisenbacher (Jeannette
Giannone)
5:15pm - Marshall & Mae Hargan
(Hargan Family)

Wednesday, January 4

7am - Tom Daley
(Tom & Jeannette Bland)
5:15pm - Dr. John Navins
(Lou Ann Mack)

Thursday, January 5

7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Community)
5:15pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)

Friday, January 6

7am - Herbert Dulle
(Dorothy Troop)
5:15pm - Special Intention for
Bianca (D.A. Drago)

Saturday, January 7

8am - Richard Dhabalt
(Louise Ralph)
4pm - Thomas Egan
(Rose & Joann Lenn)

Sunday, January 8

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)
10am - For The People
5pm - Nancy Ann Visnesky
(Victor & Janet Burghart)



Am I Not Your Mother?

We begin every new year fittingly by celebrating Mary's motherhood – first of Jesus, but also of each one of us who are part of the Body of Christ! As Jesus told St. John from the cross, "behold your mother." One of my favorite illustrations of Mary's maternal care is how she interacted and cared for St. Juan Diego and his uncle during the appearances on Tepeyac hill in 1531. Mary is known from these apparitions as "Our Lady of Guadalupe." I would like to share a few examples of her words to St. Juan Diego. The main point of her message was that Juan Diego was to ask the bishop to build a church on Tepeyac hill, where she was appearing. Mary said in the first apparition,

I want very much that they build my sacred little house here, in which I will show Him, I will exalt Him upon making him manifest, I will give Him to all people in all my personal love, Him that is my compassionate gaze, Him that is my help, Him that is my salvation. Because truly I am your compassionate Mother, yours and that of all the people that live together in this land, and also of all the other various lineages of men, those who love me, those who cry to me, those who seek me, those who trust in me.

Juan Diego faithfully transmitted the request to the bishop, but he was dismissed and told to come back another time. Dejected, Juan Diego received another apparition from Mary. He suggested that she send someone else. She said,

Listen, my youngest son, know for sure that I have no lack of servants and messengers to whom I can give the task of carrying my breath, my word, so that they carry out my will. But it is necessary that you, personally, go and plead, that by your intercession my wish, my will, become a reality. And I beg you, my youngest son, and I strictly order you to go again tomorrow to see the bishop. And in my name, make him know, make him hear my wish, my will, so that he will bring into being, build my sacred house that I ask of him. And carefully tell him again how I, personally, the ever-Virgin Holy Mary, I, who am Mother of God, sent you as my messenger.

Stewardship of Treasure December 24th & 25th

Collection numbers were unavailable at the time of publication. Please check back next weekend for these collection numbers.

November EFT
\$21,733.80

November Second Collections

Breadline Sunday
\$5,137.00
Calvary Cemetery
\$1,087.00

Campaign for Justice & Hope
\$3,353.00

November Debt Reduction
\$691.00

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!

After a second visit to the bishop, he was still not convinced of the authenticity of the apparition. Juan Diego encountered Mary a third time and told her that he needed a sign to be convinced. She told him to return the next day to receive the sign. The day of the fourth apparition, Juan Diego's plans changed. He had found his uncle gravely ill and spent much of the day bringing a doctor. When it was clear that his uncle was close to death, Juan Diego then went in search of a priest. Mary interrupted his journey with the fourth apparition. She said,

Listen, put it into your heart, my youngest son, that what frightened you, what afflicted you, is nothing; do not let it disturb your face, your heart; do not fear this sickness nor any other sickness, nor any sharp and hurtful thing. Am I not here, I who have the honor to be your Mother? Are you not in my shadow and under my protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need something more?

In this meeting, Mary arranged various flowers in Juan Diego's tilma, sending these as the sign for the bishop. Of course, the flowers were not the only sign! Mary's image appeared on the tilma, which is miraculously still in perfect condition five hundred years later, in the basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Mary's maternal love for Juan Diego and all of his people was shown clearly by this series of apparitions. Mary shows this same maternal love for each of us, too! Mary, Mother of God, and our mother, pray for us!

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



Saint John

Feast Day: December 27th | Titles: the Apostle, the Evangelist, the Theologian, the Divine, the Beloved, of Patmos, son of Zebedee, son of Thunder | Patronage: Authors, Booksellers, Editors, Publishers, Scholars, Theologians, Burn-victims, Poison-victims | Attributes: Youth, Eagle, Chalice (with snake), Scrolls, Books

One confronts a unique question when engaging with the character of St. John: what is the best title to give him? As you can see above, he is referred to under many different characteristics and names throughout the New Testament. Glancing at his Gospel, we find that he never names himself, referring

instead to the person named John we know from the other Gospels as “the disciple whom Jesus loved”, with some of the other titles – apostle, evangelist, theologian, divine – coming from the profundity and intimacy that the 4th Gospel shows us. “Of Patmos” comes from the end of John’s life, when he was exiled to the island of Patmos (a Greek Island), where he received the visions depicted in the book of Revelation. (There is a final title, “the presbyter” sometimes given to St. John, a character mentioned by the early Church historian, Papias, but this seems unlikely given that he lists a John with the other apostles, and then another John “the presbyter”.)

Though all these titles are ones that would be fruitful to reflect upon, I want to turn first to a funnier name that was given to St. John, a nickname from Jesus Himself. In Mark 3:17, while listing those that Jesus called apostles, we find that Jesus called “James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder).” Mark, helpfully, translates for us the term “boanerges”, which was a term that Jesus coined and isn’t found anywhere else in Hebrew or Aramaic literature. Probably a combination of “ben” [son] and “ragesh” [commotion, tumult], it may refer to James and John’s own vehemence and impetuosity, fitting given their clamoring to call down fire upon the inhospitable Samaritan village in Luke 9. It could also refer back to their actual parents, perhaps their father (Zebedee) had a temper, or we do know from Matthew 20 that their mother (probably Salome, who we see at the cross, and carrying spices/myrrh to anoint Jesus’ body). She is also the one who boldly bring James and John to Jesus to ask him that they would sit at His right and left when He became king (a request that brings them ridicule and animosity from the other apostles).

Whichever way one interprets this nickname, we glimpse in it a closeness and familiarity that perhaps we don’t always visualize between Jesus and His apostles, or Jesus and ourselves. Our Lord called these two firebrands to follow him, with their crazy family, and all the heartache it would bring to Him, and to the rest of the twelve. He befriended them, knowing the arguments, and hardheadedness, and brokenness they would bring. And Jesus did not just endure them, He wanted to be best friends with them (along with Peter, another broken bloke). These were the three who would be invited to witness miracles and teachings that even the other Apostles would not be given, including the transfiguration, catching a glimpse of Jesus as He truly is, a moment that would stay with them the rest of their lives.

And that closeness transformed him! St. John is the only one to tell us about Jesus’ miracle at Cana and raising Lazarus, His conversations with Nicodemus and the Woman at the Well, Christ giving us Himself as the Bread of Life, or when Our Lord washed the apostles’ feet, and opened His heart to them in the incomparable prayers and words in the Garden before His passion. Think of John witnessing each of those moments, hearing those words, being trusted and loved by Jesus that much... And, it was a final gift of intimacy that fully melted John’s heart. The only apostle at the crucifixion, John left Golgotha not forsaken, but entrusted with an unprecedented gift: Jesus’ own mother. “When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.”

Love transfigured thunder. Friendship beatified brashness. Jesus wants to do the same for you, and me, and He does it every time we come to the foot of His cross, when we see His Blood poured out again for us.

Fr. Dominic Rankin has his own dose of thunder in his heart and history, BUT every day Jesus just invites me to give all of it to Him again, and become a son like Him.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Epiphany Party - January 7

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 7 for an Epiphany Party at the Cathedral! Watch the Weekly, website, and eWeeklys for more information to come!

The Parish Directories are Here!

The directories have finally arrived and will be available for pickup after mass the weekend of January 7 & 8, or you can pick up your copy in the Cathedral office. The directories that were damaged in shipping (bent corners) can be purchased for \$1 each. Thanks for your patience.

Ordering Your Priorities - Women's Bible Study

Ordering Your Priorities: Building a Life Well Lived is an immensely practical Bible study that will help you put the most important things first. We'll begin by paying attention to the One who made us, because He can best tell us what we need for our lives to run well. Contact Vicki to register and order your workbook, vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or 217/522-3342

Thursday evenings @ 6:00pm, January 19-March 9.
Cathedral School Library. Cost for the study book is \$20.

Thank You from the CCCW

Our CCCW Cookie Walk was a great success. Thank you to the bakers, workers, and customers...we sold out! The proceeds of the Cookie Walk, Resale table and Nativity Set Raffle will be split between the seminarians and our CCCW general fund. The winner of our beautiful Nativity Set Raffle is Cathedral parishioner, Tara Kaeding! Congratulations Tara!

Save the Date - February 18-19, 2023

"Live the Mass" is a weekend reflective retreat which leads us to a deeper experience of the Mass and all its power, beauty, and wonder. This adult retreat will be held at the Villa Maria overlooking Lake Springfield. For more information, contact Deacon Rob at (217) 836-7900 or rsgambelluri@dio.org.



Helping Hands Volunteer Meeting

Volunteer to be part of a team that provides a meal on the 4th & 5th Saturdays of each month to men at the Helping Hands Homeless Shelter. Those who do not cook can help in other ways. If you are interested in participating in this ministry to "feed the hungry", please join us for a 9:00 am breakfast meeting on Saturday, January 14, 2023 in the Cathedral School Hall. Teams are formed and menus are developed for the entire year at this planning breakfast. RSVP required by January 11h by calling or texting 217-494-4241.

Global Emergency Update: 2022 Impact

Catholic Relief Services is pleased to share highlights of our emergency response and recovery activities of 2022. Our work is possible thanks to the generous support of private and public donors, the dedication of our local partners, and the unwavering presence of Caritas and the Catholic Church. Visit <https://www.crs.org/stories/global-emergency-update-december-2022>.

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Winners

Congratulations to the Keep Christ in Christmas poster competition winners! Thank you to all the children that submitted posters to help remind us all of the true meaning of Christmas. The winning posters will move on to the District level competition for the Knights of Columbus.

Ages 5-7: Grace W.
Ages 8-10: Clara W.
Ages 11-14: Sarah S.



SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Second Collection - Catholic Times

The Catholic Times has always been a key communication tool for our diocese. Whether it is important announcements, teaching the faith, or inspirational stories, the magazine provides tremendous value to readers. In 2022, Catholic Times won eight national awards at the annual Catholic Media Association Awards; the most the magazine has ever won during a single year. Moreover, the team at Catholic Times continues to try new things to engage readers. For example, this entire next year will feature eucharistic miracle stories, saint stories, and monstrances from across the diocese. The magazine will also continue its emphasis on catechesis of the Catholic faith such as their Hey, Father! series, navigating the difficult world of bioethics, and explaining the sacraments. We invite you to support this important communication tool in our diocese.

Escaping Death - A Miraculous Event on I-55

On June 9, 2021 on I-55 just outside Springfield, three sisters from the Sisters of Saint Francis of the Martyr Saint George based in Alton, were driving to Alton from Rock Island. Traffic came to a sudden stop in a construction zone and their van was struck at high speed from behind, sending them into the two cars in front of them. Their van was later described as a crushed soda can or an accordion. Looking at the situation, a common thought was... "no one survived that." But, what was described as "miraculous" – they all did. We talk with Sister M. Clementia Toalson about her escaping death and what she learned about surrendering to God her suffering. Go to dio.org/podcast or search Dive Deep on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe.

Thank You From Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities would like to thank the many volunteers who assisted at the Catholic Charities Christmas Store on Thursday and Friday, December 8 and 9 at St. Cabrini. Without the aid of the many supporters the Christmas Store would not have been a reality. Thank you and blessings.

SEEK Conference in St. Louis Jan. 2-6

"SEEK23: You Are Called" invites souls seeking holiness to St. Louis Jan. 2 – 6. FOCUS (The Fellowship of Catholic University Students) is inviting all people in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois to leave old things behind and answer a new call to greatness, holiness, joy, and mission by experiencing "SEEK23: You Are Called." This five-day event takes place at the America's Center Convention Complex in St. Louis. Through fellowship, prayer, world-class speakers, and entertainment, participants will be inspired to "Fear not; rise, He is calling you" (Mk 10:49). Registration is open at seek.focus.org. Catholics in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois also receive a discount as a neighboring diocese of the Archdiocese of St. Louis (you will receive it when you type in your zip code).

Calling All Young Artists!

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) has an annual Christmas Artwork Contest for students from K-8th grade. Entries should be sent to the Office for the Missions, 1615 W. Washington St, Springfield, IL 62702 no later than January 31, 2023. Local, diocesan winners will be submitted to the National Office of the Missionary Childhood Association. National winners will be on display in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC throughout Advent and Christmas 2023. General information, guidelines and entry form can be found at: [MCA Artwork Contest Entry Form \(missio.org\)](https://mca.org/artwork-contest). Please share this information with school principals, art teachers, and DREs.

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.