

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

DECEMBER 11, 2022 | 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 50

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!



Let Us Go Rejoicing

"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord" We heard these words two weeks ago on the First Sunday of Advent. Since then, this response used for the Responsorial Psalm has been coming up over and over in my mind and heart, and when a passage sticks around like that, it is good to pay attention to it.

On the one hand, from the historical context, these words express the joy of the Jewish people as they journeyed to the Temple in Jerusalem, the place where God dwelt. To be in that place was a source of great joy, the anticipation of which would serve to motivate pilgrims on the often-difficult journey to

arrive at that destination. On the other hand, this response also indicates the joy we have as pilgrims on the way to House of the Lord, which is of our final home in Heaven. When on a journey, the thought of home brings us joy, and it serves as a motivator to keep moving forward, knowing of the peace that we will find when we finally rest at home.

A third and more immediate way of understanding these words is the joy that we should have as Catholics to come to the House of the Lord which is our church. For each Catholic church or chapel is the New Temple of God, more important because God dwells there, truly and substantially in the Eucharist, Jesus's Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. How much more joy should there be in our hearts when we have the privilege of coming to church?

Perhaps this can be a good point of examination for us on this Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday in which we are instructed, rather commanded to "rejoice in the Lord always" (Phil. 4:4) for He is near. Not just is He near in the coming celebration of Christmas in two weeks, but He is near to us in each tabernacle, inviting us to come to Him and to be in His presence. When we are getting ready for Mass each Sunday, is there a joyful anticipation in our hearts that we are going to see our King? As we drive to church, is there joy in our hearts? Or, do we find that we have a sense of reluctance and resignation about having to go to Mass? While at Mass, are we thinking about other things we want to do, other places we would rather be, as opposed to rejoicing in being in the House of the Lord?

In these final two weeks before Christmas, let us spend some time reflecting on the joy (or lack thereof) we should have when coming to and being in the House of the Lord. Doing so will prepare us to really look forward to coming to Mass on Christmas, seeing it not just as something to get done, but truly as the highlight to which we look forward, joyful that we will get to meet the newborn King and receive His life in the greatest gift possible, the Eucharist.

I would also like to issue a little Advent challenge, if you are willing to accept it! Since our culture pushes to celebrate Christmas before December 25, we as Catholics have to work hard to maintain a sense of peace and eager expectation for the coming of the Lord. In the midst of all of the noise, we need silence. Why not come to the House of the Lord, our church, to find that silence, to be with Christ Himself, who is "the reason for the season." Make an effort to make a visit to Jesus in the tabernacle a few times before Christmas apart from coming to Mass. As we come to Him and make time for Him, even if for just a few minutes, He will give us the gift of His peace and an increase of joy in His love for us, a joy that will prepare our hearts to receive Him not only when we celebrate Christmas, but each time we come to the House of the Lord.

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 12

7am - Ericka Dresch
(Judith Mohler)
5:15pm - Mathias Bates
(The Bates Family)

Tuesday, December 13

7am - Ann Gustafson
(Jeannette Giannone)
5:15pm - Erma Bartoletti
(Estate)

Wednesday, December 14

7am - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)
5:15pm - Joseph Reichle
(Lou Ann Mack)

Thursday, December 15

7am - Ben Garde
(Family)
5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway
(Rob Gasaway)

Friday, December 16

7am - Sophia Bartoletti & Family
(Estate)
5:15pm - Agnes Thompson
(Family)

Saturday, December 17

8am - Herbert Dulle
(Dorothy Troop)
4pm - Gary Leach
(Becky & Woody Woodhull)

Sunday, December 18

7am - Pamela Rose Harmon
(Archie Harmon)
10am - For The People
5pm - Delia Sinn
(Pamela Hargan)

Why do some women wear veils at Mass?

If you have attended Mass at the Cathedral regularly, or at most parishes in our diocese, you may have noticed that some women wear a veil from the moment they walk in the door of the church until they leave. You might have wondered what this is all about, or thought that Vatican II did away with women veiling during Mass. I have heard some stories from older parishioners of the nuns who made every girl wear a head covering as they attended Mass at their Catholic school – even if that meant a tissue or napkin out of their purse! I am sure that this was not a pleasant experience for some young ladies who did not understand what wearing a veil was all about.

There is evidence for women wearing veils during prayer in the bible. St. Paul wrote, “A man, on the other hand, should not cover his head, because he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man ... For this reason, a woman should have a sign of authority on her head, because of the angels” (1 Corinthians 11:7-10). Of course, it is true that women are also the image and glory of God, and St. Paul wrote more about this issue than in the few verses I quoted. Essentially, Paul is referring to an analogy that permeates the scriptures to describe God’s relationship with his people: the relationship of a marriage. Earlier in this passage, St. Paul wrote, “The head of every man is Christ, the head of a woman is her husband, and the head of Christ is God” (1 Corinthians 11:3).

Christ is the head of the Church, and Christ is the spouse of the Church. A husband and wife stand in place of Christ and his Church as a sign – a Sacrament – of God’s relationship to the Church. So, when he instructs a woman to wear a veil, he is asking her to stand as a symbol of the Church as the bride of Christ. Admittedly, this symbolism may seem like a bit of a stretch for our modern parishioners, as Paul is also mixing in certain cultural elements which no longer apply today. As it stands now, the Church does not require women to cover their heads in Church, although many women, especially in non-Western cultures, still choose to do so.

Earlier, St. Paul said that a woman should cover her head “because of the angels.” What does this mean? According to one author I read (Peter Kwasniewski), this is a reference to Isaiah when he had a vision of heaven. Here is the passage: “I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory” (Isaiah 6:2). The angels who stand in the presence of God veil themselves using two wings as a sign of reverence, awe, and respect for the God of Israel. In this way, it is a symbol of submission and obedience to God. In this way, the veil is meant to be an exterior expression of an interior disposition of obedience and submission to God.

I have heard a similar explanation during my years in the seminary, and it’s helpful to understand in the context of our Catholic liturgy. In the Mass, we typically veil certain objects and locations to show reverence and honor to sacred places and things. Many churches have a veil over the tabernacle, which holds the Body of our Lord, as a way to show respect to his Real Presence. In the Cathedral, you can’t see the veil unless the doors are propped open, but our tabernacle has a veil hanging inside between the door and the Eucharist. Traditionally, the chalice at Mass has been veiled before it is used at Mass. In wedding Masses, most brides choose to wear some sort of veil to cover their head, which symbolizes purity and reverence for her husband. In the temple of Israel, the Holy of Holies was covered by a veil which hung from floor to ceiling.

Most women who wear veils today wear some sort of lace mantilla, but the same idea applies to any kind of hat or scarf which can be used to cover one’s head. I have heard a few stories of young ladies being reprimanded by older women for wearing a head covering in church, thinking that it is a symbol of repression. This is a misunderstanding of the tradition of covering one’s head. In some cultures, it is certainly true that men force women to wear a veil because they see them as lesser members of society. This is not the case in Christian cultures. Mary is almost always depicted wearing some sort of veil, which symbolizes both her great dignity and great humility as the Mother of God.

An organization called “Veils by Lily” is a great resource for more information about veiling at Mass, along with a good variety of veils for purchase. I used this website in writing this article. Ladies veiling their head during Mass is a pious custom which many find to be a good way to show their love for Jesus. This practice is a beautiful tradition in which the Church still sees great value, but does not currently require at Mass.

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

Stewardship of Treasure December 3rd & 4th

Envelopes:	\$6,537.00
Loose:	\$4,037.00
Maintenance:	\$125.00
Total:	\$10,699.00

October EFT

\$21,323.80

October Second Collections

World Mission Sunday
\$5,137.00

October Special Envelopes

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

Online Giving: If you would like to extend a special gift to the Cathedral, please visit our website. Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!

Sacraments

Deaths

Doris M. Ray
Date of Death: November 15, 2022

Deborah J. Waitkus
Date of Death: November 19, 2022



Saint Nicholas

Feast Day: December 6th | Bishop, Wonderworker | Patronage: Children, Sailors, Merchants, Broadcasters, Repentant Thieves, Brewers, Pharmacists, Unmarried | Attributes: Vested as a Bishop, Holding Gospel-Book, Three Gold Coins/Balls; Blessing with Right Hand.

There is an amazing tale told of St. Nicholas, who, being bishop of Myra (in southwest Turkey, a port-city visited by St. Paul 300 years before), attended the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., and at one particularly strident moment stood before Arius, the priest from Alexandria, who argued that Christ was not fully divine, unequal to God the Father, not eternally begotten, but the first and highest of the Father's Creation. Nicholas, it is said, stood before the heretic and slapped him in the face. Or maybe punched him. Or maybe it had been that Nicholas knocked Arius to the floor and was stripped of his episcopal regalia and imprisoned by the other bishops for such an unseemly outburst during a Church council. But then, the following morning, he was found in his cell not only wearing his vestments again (in particular, art often depicts him wearing the omophorion, an ancient precursor to the pallium that archbishops now receive) but also carrying the book of the Gospels. It is said that Mary appeared to him restoring his vestments, with Our Lord Himself placing in Nicholas' trustworthy hands the Holy Gospels. The other bishops were admonished, Nicholas was exonerated, and Arius condemned as a heretic.

Now, this particular story was not written down until a thousand years after the Council of Nicaea, and different lists that date back closer to the time of that council differ on whether Nicholas is included among the bishops in attendance. Of course, since he lived until 345 A.D., Nicholas would have lived during the tumultuous years before and after that great convocation of bishops. Also, with Athanasius (himself quite the strident defender of the faith) and others considered the leaders of the council, perhaps it is not surprising, especially given the lack (and costliness) of documents at that time, that there would be disagreement between the few, and fragmentary, documentation we do have. (This is true not only of Church documents, but also in the Roman Empire at large. Our records of those years are spotty.)

But perhaps we can uphold the core of this tradition without ever tracking down a parchment that recounts Arius getting knocked flat by a righteously angered Bp. Nicholas. Nicholas' parents died while he was a priest, or early in his episcopal care, for the people of Myra. Already known for his holiness and generosity, he turned to the Scriptures to find what the Lord was calling him to do with the large inheritance he received from his parents. Hearing "give to the poor and come follow me", he began his famous incognito visits, distributing funds and food to those who needed them under cover of darkness. This was how he saved the three sisters from prostitution – tossing bags of gold through their window in the middle of the night. Not only does this kind of charity fit with a Church known across the ancient world for its defense of the dignity of women, but it is also told of no other character in antiquity. It stands out among many other stories of the heroism of saints, and so must link back to the actual heroic generosity of Good St. Nicholas. Other legends with similar distinctiveness speak of Nicholas' being imprisoned before the legalization of Christianity under Constantine, and also providing for the city during famines whether by miracles or plain, audacious, leadership.

One thing is irrefutable. Nicholas was loved and heralded as a saint very soon after his death. Within a century or two pilgrimages were taking place to his tomb, and other priests were taking his name as their own, choosing him as their patron. If I may link a few things together, though we have no writing of St. Nicholas himself, it is eminently logical that as daring, sacrificial, and Christ-like a bishop as Nicholas, would have spoken and acted much like his more famous confrere, Athanasius. Defending the divinity and humanity of Christ, Whom He emulated with a boldness that has not dimmed through the long centuries since.

Fr. Dominic Rankin cannot help but notice that Nicholas' risking his own life, his livelihood, even his episcopacy, is itself only an emulation of Christ, Who not only risked, but truly gave away his own life, livelihood, and all earthly esteem in order to give His followers eternal life. When I receive Christ's Body and Blood am I similarly disposed to risk my own body and blood to love in that same way?

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. Rankin's Recommendation:

This Week on FORMED and Advent and Christmas Join us each week as we walk you through amazing content on FORMED! You'll discover all kinds of videos and audio to accompany you during the weekly liturgical calendar, Saint feast days and world events taking place. There is also a section particularly for Advent & Christmas, which is a collection of content centered on the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

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

Rorate Caeli Mass

Join us for Cathedral's Rorate Caeli candlelit Mass in honor of Our Lady during Advent. The Rorate Mass is lit only by candlelight. In the dimly lit setting, priests and faithful prepare to honor the light of the world who is soon to be born and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illuminated by the sun as our Faith is illuminated by Christ. All are welcome to join us for this special Mass!

Saturday, December 17th - 6:30AM @ Cathedral

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.



Extended Confessions and Advent Adoration

The Cathedral will be hosting extended adoration hours on Friday, December 16th from 12pm to 8pm, and Saturday, December 17th from 7am to 5pm. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Adoration for the faithful to spend time before our Eucharistic Lord. Confessions will also be heard during those hours. Please consider joining us for an hour during that time to pray so as to prepare well for the celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas.

Blood Pressure Checks - December 17th and 18th

Our parish nurses will be available for blood pressure checks before and after masses next weekend. Please stop by!

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.

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.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Children's Christmas Choir

All children are invited to participate in the children's choir that sings at the 7:00pm Christmas Eve Mass. Choir practice will be on Sunday, December 18 @ 6:15pm in the choir room (school third floor). Contact Mark Gifford with any questions mgifford@cathedral.dio.org Thanks in advance to our children for this gift of song!

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.

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).

Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal

Catholic Charities has been working very hard all year to serve those in need in our local communities. It is time for the annual Christmas Appeal fundraiser that helps fund the many programs throughout the 28-county Diocese. We encourage you to make a donation so you can help make a difference.

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.

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.