

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**JANUARY 8, 2023 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342  
[WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG](http://WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG)

FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

# *Cathedral Weekly*

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2

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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  
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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.



## Remembering a Spiritual Father

On New Year's Eve, the Church lost a truly great shepherd as Pope Benedict XVI completed his earthly journey. Even though I had heard that his health was declining and that he was in his final days, when I read the headline that he had died, I was surprised and saddened to receive the news. At the same time, it provided me an opportunity to recall with gratitude the impact this humble and faithful shepherd has had on my life as a priest.

My first encounter with Pope Benedict was in Rome in 2006. I was there for a sort of personal pilgrimage as I was in the process of applying to the seminary. Somebody had shared with me that there was to be a candlelight prayer vigil in St. Peter's Square on April 2 to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the passing of Pope John Paul II. I decided to go, especially since I knew that Pope Benedict was going to be there. As he addressed the crowd that night, although I did not understand what he was saying, there was an overwhelming sense of awe that I was looking upon the leader of the Universal Church. I had followed him pretty closely during his first year as Pontiff, but seeing him in person for the first time was something I will always remember fondly.

Fast forward two years to April 2008 and Pope Benedict was making a visit to the United States. A generous benefactor of the seminary I was attending made it possible for the entire seminary community to travel by bus from St. Louis to New York to see the Pope. There was a special gathering that the Holy Father was to have with seminarians on the grounds of St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, NY. We waited in the sun for a few hours, eagerly anticipating his arrival. When he finally did arrive, he came out on the stage and joyfully greeted the large crowd as we cheered our chief shepherd. I was probably about 20 yards from the stage, and seeing Pope Benedict so close was very powerful. I still do not know how to describe it, but what I felt as he looked at us was that he was a very holy and fatherly figure and his joy at seeing these sons of his was evident and authentic.

In 2011, as a newly ordained priest, I had the joy of travelling with a group of high school students to World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain. At the prayer vigil before the conclusion of the event, more than a million young people gathered in a former airfield waiting for the Holy Father to lead us in prayer. I remember it being extremely HOT that day, with the sun blazing and no shade in sight. As the afternoon drew on, clouds started to form and bad weather was threatening. Most of the group I was with decided to head back to the hotel, as we had a flight the next morning. I expressed my desire to stay, and another chaperone and a couple hearty souls decided to stay with me.

### Mass Intentions

#### Monday, January 9

7am - Larry Freeman

(Paul Steil)

5:15pm - Mary Conchola & Family  
(Kay & Dick King)

#### Tuesday, January 10

7am - Sophia Bartoletti

(Estate)

5:15pm - William F. & Shirley Logan  
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

#### Wednesday, January 11

7am - Mary Jane Kerns

(Estate)

5:15pm - Richard Dhabalt  
(Louise Ralph)

#### Thursday, January 12

7am - Mary Ann Midden

(William Midden)

5:15pm - Special Intention for  
Bianca (D.A.Drago)

#### Friday, January 13

7am - Dottie Tamai

(Jeanette Malafa)

5:15pm - Tony Forlano Sr.  
(John Busciacco)

#### Saturday, January 14

8am - Edward Dombrowski

(John Busciacco)

4pm - Meghan Davenport  
(RCIA Team)

#### Sunday, January 15

7am - For The People

10am - John A. Sestak

(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)

5pm - Brother Francis Skube  
(Community)

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A heavy storm rolled through just before the Holy Father was about to lead us in Eucharistic Adoration. I found out later that his advisors encouraged the Holy Father to just cancel the prayer service due to the bad weather, but he was insistent that they continue, though in an abbreviated form. He came out and exposed the Blessed Sacrament. Everybody knelt in adoration, and the silence among the crowd brought me chills. What love this spiritual father showed to his children, not giving up on them and leading them to contemplate the love of God truly present in the Eucharist.

I could say more about how Pope Benedict's writings before and after becoming Pope has influenced me, but space does not permit me to say all that this spiritual father has meant to me. I thank God profoundly for the gift of his life and ministry, and I pray that the Lord, in His mercy, will grant him what he long desired, to see the Lord face to face.

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace!

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

## Stewardship of Treasure

### December 17th & 18th

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| Envelopes   | \$6,193.90  |
| Loose       | \$6,465.00  |
| Maintenance | \$292.69    |
| Total       | \$12,951.59 |

### December 24th & 25th

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| Envelopes   | \$12,186.02 |
| Loose       | \$8,383.35  |
| Maintenance | \$20.00     |
| Total       | \$20,589.37 |

### December 31st & January 1st

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| Envelopes   | \$5,821.00  |
| Loose       | \$5,446.00  |
| Maintenance | \$1,100.00  |
| Total       | \$12,367.00 |

### December EFT

\$24,753.80

### December Christmas Decorations

\$1,754.00

### December Second Collections

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Retirement Fund for Religious | \$5,103.00 |
| Catholic Children's Home      | \$5,184.00 |

### December Debt Reduction

\$483.00

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

### Baptisms

Ruby Lee Arenz  
Baptized on December 18, 2022  
Child of Andrew & Olivia Arenz

### Marriages

Adam Johnson & Kara Logan  
Married on December 30, 2022

Grant Gebhards & Laura Brenneisen  
Married on December 31, 2022

### Deaths

Daniel "Danny" Joseph Millburg  
Date of Death: December 21, 2022





## Mary, Mother of God

**Feast Day: January 1st | Mother of God, Theotokos | Patronage: Pregnant Mothers, Natural and Spiritual Mothers, | Attributes: Pregnant, Holding Child, Pointing to Christ Child, Angels above.**

During the octave of Christmas, priests when using the first Eucharistic Prayer, add an additional line when invoking the saints to join in our prayer/offering to the Heavenly Father. After the opening lines when he prays for the Church (especially our Holy Father and local Bishop) and then the prayer called the Memento (when the priest prays for the living members of the Church), he begins the prayer called the Communicantes. It means what it sounds like: this is the first prayer that references the communion we have with all the saints.

You probably recognize the usual opening line: *"In communion with those whose memory we venerate ..."*, but during the Octave (8 days) following the celebration of Christmas, there is an addition to the Communicantes with an extra opening line: *"Celebrating the most sacred night [day] on which blessed Mary the immaculate Virgin brought forth the Savior for this world, and in communion with those whose memory we venerate, especially the glorious ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ, and blessed Joseph, her Spouse..."* It is a splendid addition to our prayer, and if you noticed that the priests used the first Eucharistic Prayer more often during this week, this is probably why! (There are similar additions for Epiphany, during the Octave of Easter, for Ascension, and also Pentecost, so look for your priest to use EP1 [Eucharistic Prayer 1] then too!)

Spend a moment reflecting on that simple line *"celebrating the most sacred night on which blessed Mary the immaculate Virgin brought forth the Savior for this world..."* and let your heart be overwhelmed again by this truth we believe, and Mary held! During these days of Christmas we recall that our divine communion ... our life in the community of the Trinity ... our fellowship with the saints, is specifically connected to the moment when Our Lady brought forth her child, Jesus, Our Savior, into this world. We don't just recognize those saints that are such lights and models and intercessors for us. We don't just reverence Mary, Queen of All Saints. We approach Mary, with Jesus on her lap, and discover in the manger the source of all the saints. Jesus, as a newborn, has already accomplished what truly transforms anyone into a saint: *holding God close*.

No one can teach us better how to hold Jesus than the woman He chose to be His mother. This week I give Pope Benedict the last word on how we can learn from her how to do that. This was his homily in 2008, during vespers opening the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God: *"Although many clouds are gathering on the horizon of our future, we must not be afraid. Our great hope as believers is eternal life in communion with Christ and the whole family of God. This great hope gives us the strength to face and to overcome the difficulties of life in this world. This evening the motherly presence of Mary assures us that God never abandons us if we entrust ourselves to him and follow his teachings. Therefore, while we take our leave of 2008 and prepare to welcome 2009, let us present to Mary our expectations and hopes, as well as our fears and the difficulties that dwell in our hearts, with filial affection and trust. She, the Virgin Mother, offers us the Child who lies in the manger as our sure hope. Full of trust, we shall then be able to sing at the end of the Te Deum: "In te, Domine, speravi: non confundar in aeternum—In you, Lord, is our hope: and we shall never hope in vain". Yes, Lord, in you we hope, today and for ever; you are our hope. Amen!"*

*Fr. Dominic Rankin gets to hold Jesus, in the Holy Eucharist, every single day, but sometimes wonders why he hasn't been utterly transformed yet by this encounter?! It seems, reflecting on these words (and the example) of Pope Benedict, that the saintly-transformation we all seek is not waiting for a greater-gift of God's self, but a greater-gift of my self in return. And, that is a gift that will take my whole life to give. All the different "expectations ... hopes ... fears and ... difficulties that dwell in our hearts" can only be given as we live through them!*

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### Pastoral Care for Cathedral's Sick & Elderly

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

### 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!

### Come Pray the Rosary

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

### 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 11th by calling or texting 217-494-4241.

### 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](mailto: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.

### The Parish Directories are Here!

The directories have finally arrived and will be available for pickup after mass this weekend, 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.

### 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](mailto: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](http://thechair.com/watchnow). Note, you'll have to create a FREE account to watch.

### **What It's Like Working for Two Popes Inside the Vatican**

Springfield's own, Ashley Noronha, has an amazing journey from the classrooms of Christ the King School and Sacred Heart Griffin High School in Springfield to the halls of the Vatican working for Popes Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. Join Dive Deep as she shares stories and insights about working at the Vatican. Go to [dio.org/podcast](http://dio.org/podcast) or search Dive Deep on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe.

### **Please Donate to Support Catholic Times**

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. The magazine's commitment to local coverage means when each edition is opened, readers will see stories that are important to their lives and read stories written by people and priests they know. Please support Catholic Times so the magazine can continue serving Catholics in our diocese. You can give through your second collection envelope or online at [dio.org/give](http://dio.org/give). Thank you!

### **Butler Funeral Home Open Door Session**

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:

Open Door Session  
Thursday, January 19th  
11:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Prairie View Reception Center  
8865 State Rte. 4  
Chatham, Illinois 62629

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, January 16th.

### **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 \(missio.org\)](http://MCA Artwork Contest Entry Form (missio.org)). Please share this information with school principals, art teachers, and DREs.

### **St. Joseph the Worker Pancake & Sausage Breakfast**

St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Chatham, IL will hold its annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on Sunday, January 15, 2023 from 8am to 1pm. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children ages 4-11, and free for children under age 4. Proceeds benefit local food pantries. For more information, please contact the Church Office at 217-483-3772.