

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**JANUARY 15, 2023 | SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



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 3

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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  
IN RESIDENCE

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## **Sunday Masses**

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 7:00am, 10:00am, & 5:00pm

## **Weekday Masses**

Monday through Friday - 7:00am & 5:15pm

Saturday - 8:00am

## **Reconciliation**

Monday through Friday - 4:15pm-5:00pm

Saturday - 9:00am-10:00am & 2:30pm-3:30pm

Sunday - 4:00pm-4:45pm

## **Adoration**

Tuesday & Thursday - 4:00pm to 5:00pm

## **Welcome to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception!**

On behalf of our bishop, the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, our parishioners, deacons, and priests, we welcome you to the mother church of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

The seat of the diocese was moved to Springfield from Alton in 1923. In the same year, "Old St. Mary's" church of Immaculate Conception Parish was named as the pro-cathedral of the new diocese until this cathedral church was built and dedicated in 1928. Currently, our diocese comprises twenty-eight counties in central Illinois, serving over 140,000 members of the Catholic faithful.

We hope that your visit to our Cathedral is one of grace and beauty and that you feel at home in the mother church. We also hope that you will find this edition of the Cathedral Weekly to be both informative and spiritually enriching. May God bless you and yours!

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.



## Back to Basics

Having just completed the liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas, the Church returns to a short stretch of Ordinary Time before ramping things up again with Lent which begins February 22. Beginning the Sunday after next (January 29) we will hear from the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, arguably Jesus's most important teachings given during the time of His public ministry.

Among those teachings (though we will not hear it during Ordinary Time this year) is Jesus's instruction on how to pray as He gives us the Lord's Prayer. This is such a profound prayer, but sadly, due to its

familiarity, we can often just recite it without thinking what we are saying. To show this point, I once heard a rather funny story that goes like this:

*There were two individuals walking together, one of whom had a horse that belonged to him. They were discussing the difficulty of staying attentive during prayer. The man with the horse shared how he can't even make it through the Our Father without getting distracted. The other man laughed, as he was convinced that he could keep focused through the entire recitation of this simple, short prayer. The man with the horse said: "Ok, let's make a deal. If you can pray the Lord's Prayer without getting distracted, I'll give you this horse." The other man smiled and gladly accepted the challenge, and he began: "Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name." At this point, he stopped and asked the man with the horse: "Does the saddle come with the horse?"*

This is indeed a humorous example of how easily we can get distracted when we pray, and I bet that many of us can relate with this story in some way.

As you may recall, the focus of our Family of Faith catechesis for this year is the fourth section of the Catechism on Christian Prayer. Among the various types of prayer, the Lord's Prayer stands out as the model for all prayer. The Catechism calls the Lord's Prayer "the summary of the whole Gospel" (CCC 2761) and St. Augustine wrote the following about it: "The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers.... In it we ask, not only for all the things we can rightly desire, but also in the sequence that they should be desired. This prayer not only teaches us to ask for things, but also in what order we should desire them." (CCC 2763)

As our children meet for their catechesis this month, they will be spending time focusing on the Lord's Prayer, learning about the various petitions that are contained in the prayer and how this prayer serves as a privileged way for us, as beloved children of God, to address Him, our good and loving Father.

Perhaps we could take on a little challenge for the rest of the month. I am fairly confident that many of you pray the Lord's Prayer every day, but the quantity of this prayer is not the main thing. We are looking for quality. So I invite you to pray the Lord's Prayer every day, but do so with as much attention as possible. Pause before you pray it each time, recognizing that you come before the Father as His adopted son or daughter. Be reminded how the Father delights to give good things to those who ask Him. (cf. Mt. 7:11) Then pray the prayer with faith and love, and let this familiar prayer become a place of renewal in your relationship with 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, January 16

7am - Herb Dulle  
(Becky & Woody Woodhull)  
5:15pm - NO MASS

### Tuesday, January 17

7am - John Ansell  
(Shirley & Bob Dunham)  
5:15pm - John W. Montgomery  
(John Busciacco)

### Wednesday, January 18

7am - Deceased Members of the  
Darrigo Family (Jeannette  
Giannone)  
5:15pm - Sophia Bartoletti  
(Estate)

### Thursday, January 19

7am - Carol Morgan  
(Becky & Woody Woodhull)  
5:15pm - Richard Dhabalt  
(Louise Ralph)

### Friday, January 20

7am - Rick Rebecca  
(Andrew & Cheryl Klein)  
5:15pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl  
(Angela Ohl Marsters)

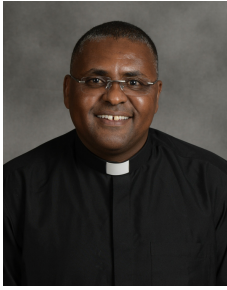
### Saturday, January 21

8am - Andy & Marie O'Neill  
(James & Julie Berberet)  
4pm - Thomas Egan  
(Pia Yoswig)

### Sunday, January 22

7am - Mildred Wray Holck  
(Children)  
10am - Deceased Members of the  
CCCW (CCCW)  
5pm - Linda O'Brien  
(John O'Brien)





## The Epiphany of the Lord

As we have celebrated the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, I would like to share some insight on how it is celebrated in my home Parish back in Kenya. In our parish we celebrate the feast of Epiphany as Pontificate Missionary Children feast day. Our Pontificate missionary Children with the help of their promoters/animators, animates the Mass of the feast of Epiphany by cleaning the Church, bringing offertory for the poor, they oversee the reading for the day, they lector 1st reading, Psalms, and 2nd reading. They participate in liturgical dances as they process with the offertory.

During Mass the Pontificate missionary children perform a small skit/drama/play according to the Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12 on the feast of the Epiphany. The pontificate missionary children act and dress like Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, others take part as the Magi from the east. As the priest proclaims the Gospel according to Matthew 2:1-12, the pontificate missionary children demonstrate by acting the part of the Magi: they went into the house and when they saw the child with his Mother Mary, they knelt and worshipped him. They brought out their gift of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh and presented them to him. As they present their gifts it is accompanied by singing the song of the Magi following the star from the east. The Pontificate missionary children are also responsible for the prayer of the faithful with various intentions, praying for the Church leaders, Pope, Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, world leaders, the sick, for Children in war zone countries and those who are abused, the poor, and deceased brothers and sisters.

After Mass there is a little reception at the parish hall. All the faithful join the Pontificate missionary children in sharing a cup of tea, and the Pontificate missionary children entertain the parishioners by singing some traditional, and sacred songs. The feast of the Epiphany comes to conclusion with a final blessing from the Pastor.

As I was reflecting on the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, it reminded me of my own Samburu culture in Kenya. The three gifts offered by the Magi Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh has some symbolic and significance among the Samburu tribe:

Gold is used as an identification of marriage worn by married women in their ears as earrings. No woman can wear this unless she is married. This signifies its value. It is also worn by heroes (war warriors) on their right hand. This signifies patriotic, strong, fearless soldiers in war. Hence respected by the community as heroes in their own community; they defend the community from oppression from other communities. In other words, they're like Kings and Queens.

Frankincense is a local available incense from a tree known as Silalei. It is used during the offertory especially as a sacrifice of a burning offering of an animal. It used during prayers by the elders. It used during blessing of other items, and livestock.

Myrrh is used especially when an elder is at the point of death. An elderly dying person is given oil, if in risk of death. He/she is anointed with oil on his/her lips or the body before the person passes away. The oil that is used is only from a fat sheep, not any other oil.

As Christian interpretation for the three gifts offered by the Magi, the gift of Gold stands for the kingship of Jesus. The gift of Frankincense stands for divinity of Jesus, and the gift of Myrrh stands for humanity of Jesus. As the magi look at the child Jesus, they believe and they did not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: frankincense for God, (worship of God) (divinity) Gold for a king, (kingship) and Myrrh for one who is to die (humanity). As the Magi offered their gifts to the Child Jesus, we too are invited to offer the gift of our life to Jesus by participating in the Holy Sacrifice of Mass, deepening our relationship with God through personal and family prayers, listening to the word of God by reading the Holy Scriptures, spending some time with Jesus in adoration by recognizing His presence among us and everyone we encounter in our daily life.

*Father Paul Lesupati serves as parochial vicar at the Cathedral.*

## Stewardship of Treasure

### January 7th & 8th

Envelopes	\$13,536.00
Loose	\$2,326.00
Maintenance	\$316.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,178.00</b>

### 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!



## St. Agnes of Rome, Part I

**Feast Day: January 21st | Virgin and Martyr | Patronage: all Girls, Virgins, those seeking Purity and Chastity, Betrothed Couples, Gardeners, Victims of Sexual Abuse, City of Rome | Attributes: girl with long hair, pictured with a Lamb, holding the martyrs palm, sometimes with a sword at her feet.**

I begin today about a century before Agnes was born. It is the year 200 A.D., and we are watching a Roman orator and philosopher speak to a rapt crowd in the city of Carthage (being almost 500 years after Rome defeated Carthage in the Punic wars, they were happy to listen to Tertullian give his speech in Latin. He also may have been born there to a Roman centurion.) He stood before them, though, shockingly appareled not

in the regal and authoritative Roman toga, but simply wrapped in a pallium, a cloak or mantle worn by the goofy philosophers of Greece, and the shoddy and scorned sect of Christians.

This, one of his shortest speeches, begins hilariously *"Men of Carthage, ever princes of Africa, ennobled by ancient memories, blest with modern felicities, I rejoice that times are so prosperous with you that you have leisure to spend and pleasure to find in criticizing dress... you too of old time wore your garments--your tunics--of another shape; and indeed they were in repute for the skill of the weft, and the harmony of the hue, and the due proportion of the size, in that they were neither prodigally long across the shins, nor immodestly scanty between the knees, nor niggardly to the arms, nor tight to the hands, but, without being shadowed by even a girdle arranged to divide the folds, they stood on men's backs with quadrate symmetry..."* [Tertullian, "De Pallio", "On the Mantle", Chapter 1, Paragraph 1.1]

He was veiling in humorous, elegant (if desperately difficult to translate) prose, a serious announcement: I am a Christian. To wear the Christian pallium placed him squarely under the ire of the governors who would only two years later send Ss. Perpetua and Felicity to the arena in that same city of Carthage. Those eminent martyrs we all recognize from their leading the procession of female saints in the Roman Canon. Felicity and Perpetua from Carthage (in Northern Africa); Agatha and Lucy from Sicily; Agnes and Cecilia from Rome, and Anastasia from Sirmium (now in Serbia). It is Agnes we befriend this week.

After discovering her to be a Christian, this 12-year-old girl endured the abuse of her persecutors, eventually being killed by sword-stroke to her neck. Fellow Christians lovingly collected her body, even soaking up the blood of one who had so faithfully poured it out in faith. Her own foster-sister, Emerentiana, would herself be martyred for the reverence she persevered in showing to the body of her foster-sister. Others were cured by their own veneration of the relics of the little saint.

Perhaps the best testimony to how beloved she was to the early Church comes a further century forward in Church history, when another orator steps before a crowd, now with a scene opposite that we saw in Carthage. Now, it is St. Ambrose who begins his speech, and it is about a Christian practice far more startling than a pallium: the life of consecrated virginity. Where would you begin if asked to describe and defend the Christian belief that some are called by Jesus to virginity for the sake of the Kingdom of God? St. Ambrose began with little St. Agnes:

*Today is the birthday of a virgin; let us imitate her purity. It is the birthday of a martyr; let us offer ourselves in sacrifice. It is the birthday of Saint Agnes, who is said to have suffered martyrdom at the age of twelve. The cruelty that did not spare her youth shows all the more clearly the power of faith in finding one so young to bear it witness.*

*There was little or no room in that small body for a wound. Though she could scarcely receive the blow, she could rise superior to it. Girls of her age cannot bear even their parents' frowns and, pricked by a needle, weep as for a serious wound. Yet she shows no fear of the blood-stained hands of her executioners. She stands undaunted by heavy, clanking chains. She offers her whole body to be put to the sword by fierce soldiers. She is too young to know of death, yet is ready to face it. Dragged against her will to the altars, she stretches out her hands to the Lord in the midst of the flames, making the triumphant sign of Christ the victor on the altars of sacrilege. She puts her neck and hands in iron chains, but no chain can hold fast her tiny limbs.*

[St. Ambrose, "Concerning Virginity", Book 1, Chapter 2, Paragraphs 5 and 7]

*Fr. Dominic Rankin will return to St. Agnes, and St. Ambrose, and never-canonized Tertullian next week. Until then, perhaps St. Agnes can stand with St. Thérèse of Lisieux as another "little" saint, reminding us that lowliness does not disqualify us from discipleship but rather is a prerequisite for membership in Christ's Kingdom.*

# 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.

### FORMED: Renewing a Culture of Life

In these three videos, Dr. Ben Akers sits down with Lynn Grandon, Director of the Respect Life Office at the Archdiocese of Denver, to discuss the pro-life movement. In light of the leaked Supreme Court document, the first episode examines the potential ramifications of Roe v. Wade being overturned. In the second video, the conversation continues, covering why the Church is pro-life. Finally, in the third video, the conversation reaches a crescendo, talking through how our lives can give witness to the pro-life disposition of the Catholic Church. For more pro-life content, visit: <https://watch.formed.org/pro-life>

### 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.

### CCCW Trivia Night

Join the women of the CCCW for Trivia Night! Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 18, starting at 7pm. More information to come!

### 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.

### 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 [rsgambellun@dio.org](mailto:rsgambellun@dio.org).



### The Parish Directories are Here!

The directories have finally arrived! If you have not yet picked up your copy, you can do so by stopping by the Cathedral Parish Office. The directories that were damaged in shipping (bent corners) can be purchased for \$1 each. Thanks for your patience.

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Diocese

### Second Collection - Collection for the Church in Latin America

Next weekend, we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. For more than 50 years, this collection has been a way for Catholics in the United States to unite more closely with our brothers and sisters in faith throughout Latin America and the Caribbean through supporting diocesan pastoral catechetical and family life ministries, seminary studies, and formation programs for religious sisters and brothers. The collection even helps the poorest dioceses obtain basic necessities that they otherwise would be unable to afford, which would leave them unable to minister effectively to the faithful. Please be generous toward this collection. Consider giving at Mass or through our online giving platform ([www.spicathedral.org/give-online/](http://www.spicathedral.org/give-online/)). Your support truly makes a difference.

### SDCCW Scholarship Opportunity

Attention Diocesan Catholic female high school seniors! You are invited to apply for the Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (SDCCW) Female High School Senior Leadership Scholarship. Young women who are interested in applying for the scholarship should contact their high school principal, high school guidance office or parish office for applications. A typed completed application, essay, and two letters of recommendation are required. Deadline to enter is March 30, 2023. Winners will be announced in May and honored at the Woman of Distinction Banquet in June.

### Pregnancy Care Center Music Trivia Night

The Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield, Inc. is having a Music Trivia night on February 3rd, 2023. This event is sponsored by Butler Funeral Homes and Cremation Tribute Center and will be held at the Prairie View Reception Center in Chatham. Cash bar will be available and guests can bring their own snacks for their table. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and Trivia begins at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each or \$150 for a table of ten and can be purchased by calling the Center at (217) 525-5630.

### 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.

### Christ the King Bible Study

Christ the King will host the Bible Study No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion. This series of 5 weeks is from Ascension Press, with video lessons presented by Dr. Edward Sri. We will meet Tuesdays 9:30-11 a.m. from Feb. 21 to March 21. The study set is \$27 plus shipping. To get on the list for a study book set, contact Mary Kay Hinkle at 217-899-2599 to leave a message or write to [mbhinkle75@comcast.net](mailto:mbhinkle75@comcast.net) by February 1, 2023.

### 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.

### SDCCW Meeting - February 8

Please join the Springfield Deanery Council of Catholic Women on Wednesday, February 8, from 10am-2pm (with lunch at 12pm) at the Christ the King Parish Hall, 1930 Barberry Dr, Springfield for a Deanery Meeting. We request that at least one woman from all 37 parishes in the Springfield Deanery attend. In addition to prayer and participation, we will continue planning the 2023 SDCCW Convention: (Wed., Sept. 27, 2023: Sacred Heart Griffin West Campus, Mass at St. Agnes Church, Main Celebrant --- Bishop Paprocki).

ATTENDING THE DEANERY MEETING, Feb. 8? Please R.S.V.P. to Janet Zimmerman, Pres. of the Springfield Deanery. [janetzim14@yahoo.com](mailto:janetzim14@yahoo.com) or 217-494-4743. Thank You!

### Taize Prayer at Sacred Heart Chapel

In celebration of their 150th anniversary, the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois will open their chapel for a Taizé-style prayer service. The service is open to all and begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 2nd in the chapel at 1237 W. Monroe Street, in Springfield. The facility is fully accessible and has plenty of free off-street parking. For more information about this or the sisters' other 150th anniversary events, visit [springfieldop.org/150years](http://springfieldop.org/150years) or call 217-787-0481.