

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JANUARY 22, 2023 | THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 5 ISSUE 4

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.



Ask, Seek, and Knock

Before jumping back into our reflections on the Lord's Prayer, I have a quick correction to make to last week's bulletin article. I attributed a quote to St. Augustine about the Lord's Prayer being the "most perfect of prayers" and that the petitions proposed by Jesus in this prayer express "all the things we can rightly desire, but also in the sequence that they should be desired." (CCC 2763) In fact, this quote came from another theological giant – St. Thomas Aquinas! As I went to where St. Thomas wrote this in his Summa Theologiae, he actually references St. Augustine! Nevertheless, my apologies to St. Thomas, though I have no doubt he would be flattered to be confused with St. Augustine!

The point made by St. Thomas, rooted in the thought of St. Augustine, that the petitions of the Lord's Prayer express all we should rightly (as opposed to inordinate desires) is key to our appreciating the Lord's Prayer. Spending time reflecting on each of the petitions of the Lord's Prayer can be a very fruitful spiritual exercise. But in the interest of space and time, I will only make a few comments in my articles for the next two weeks.

The first point I would like to reflect on comes from another teaching that Jesus offers on prayer, found later in the Sermon on the Mount in chapter 7 where Jesus says: "Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." (Mt 7:7-8) With this teaching, the Lord is inviting us to be persistent in our petitions to Him. We do not simply ask Him for something just once, we keep on asking. That continual knocking in prayer is not to be understood as a way of convincing God to give us what we want. Rather, our persistence in prayer helps to strengthen our desire for what the Lord already, in His loving Providence, desires to give us. Sometimes He seems to remain inattentive to our petitions when we pray, but that silence is a preparation that our hearts need so that we can receive His gifts in the way that is best suited to our well-being, and ultimately, our salvation.

Now, as this relates to the Lord's Prayer, since the petitions proposed by Jesus are the perfect set of petitions, this prayer should be one of the go-to ways by which we approach the Lord. For sure, this means praying the entire prayer with faith, but we can also take individual petitions from the Lord's Prayer and use them as a prayer in themselves, repeating them over and over, like a person knocking on the door.

Let me give you an example of what this might look like. Perhaps we are praying that the Lord will bring an end to a difficulty we have been having. Let's say it is a bodily pain we have. Our prayer might sound something like: "Please, heal me of this affliction. Take this pain away from me." Knowing that the Lord's Prayer offers us those perfect petitions, we can add: "but thy will be done!" We ask, seek, and knock, but in the end, we trust in God's will for us, which is always better than what our will desires. Perhaps being freed from our suffering is the Lord's will. Great! But even if it is not, we know that the Lord, in permitting our suffering, has something even greater in store for us through His Providence. How do we know this? Listen to a few verses later in Matthew 7: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (Mt 7:11) Remember that we always begin the Lord's Prayer with the words: "Our Father." We are His beloved children, upon whom He delights to give us good things when we ask Him, good things according to His most perfect and loving will for us. So ask, seek, and knock in prayer with confidence, always concluding with that great petition of trust in the Father: "thy will be done!"

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 23

7am - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)
5:15pm - Mary Conchola & Family
(Kay & Dick King)

Tuesday, January 24

7am - Peter Troesch
(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)
5:15pm - John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)

Wednesday, January 25

7am - Deceased Members of the
Vincent Giannone Family (Jeanette
Giannone)
5:15pm - Richard Stalcup
(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)

Thursday, January 26

7am - Sophia Bartoletti
(Estate)
5:15pm - Richard Dhabalt
(Scott & Marlene Mulford)

Friday, January 27

7am - George Nicoud
(Timothy Nicoud)
5:15pm - John & Mary Kauffman
(Tom McGee)

Saturday, January 28

8am - Herb Dulle
(The Gaffigan Family)
4pm - For The People

Sunday, January 29

7am - Deborah Waitkus
(Maria & Angel Plaza)
10am - Richard Malafa
(Jeanette Malafa)
5pm - John Ansell
(Dianne Cycholl)

When was the first building that we would consider a Catholic church built? Not a converted home or pagan temple, but a church dedicated the worship of Jesus Christ. – Joe Kessler, Cathedral Parishioner

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the oldest Christian church was built between 293 and 303 in Jordan. Here is what their website says about it:

The oldest known purpose-built Christian church in the world is in Aqaba, Jordan. Built between 293 and 303, the building pre-dates the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem, Israel, and the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, West Bank, both of which were constructed in the late 320s. The church is the first purpose-built Christian church discovered from the period before Christianity found favour with the Roman imperial government. It even pre-dates the greatest of all the Roman anti-Christian persecutions, that of Diocletian in 303-313. The church, the ruins of which were excavated in 1998, is in the form of an east-west oriented basilica, with apse and aisles. It also had a narthex and chancel. Excavation has unearthed walls up to 4.5m 14ft 9in high. During its first phase the church would have held about 60 worshipers; it was later extended to hold about 100. The building appears to have been abandoned during the persecution of 303-311, then refurbished between 313 and 330. It was destroyed by an earthquake in 363.

There was a sort of “in-between” stage in which Christians set aside or remodeled houses for the exclusive purpose of praying and worshiping God. Christianitytoday.com tells us:

Unless claims for recent discoveries of early Christian meeting places are confirmed, the earliest building certainly devoted to Christian use is at Dura Europos on the Euphrates River in eastern Roman Syria. It was a house that came into Christian possession and was remodeled in the 240s. Two rooms were combined to form the assembly room, and another room became a baptistery—the only room decorated with pictures. Dura was destroyed by the Sassanian Persians in 256, so the house's use as a church was short-lived.

The church's house at Dura represents an intermediate stage between meeting in members' houses or other suitable places, and constructing buildings specifically for church meetings. There are literary references to separate church buildings from the end of the second century and through the third century, but it is uncertain whether these were existing structures remodeled for church use, like the house at Dura, or new constructions. We have archaeological evidence of halls being built for church meetings at the end of the third and beginning of the fourth century. The great era of church buildings began with Constantine's patronage of the church in the fourth century. He commissioned basilicas to signal his support of the new religion and to advertise his reign.

It is true that Constantine's legalization of Christianity in 313 led to a widespread construction of churches. This is true for several reasons. First of all, before Christianity was legal, there would not be much effort to build a church that was destined to be destroyed in short order. Also, funding for churches would probably have been directed to a different purpose in the Church, given their challenges with persecution and poverty. St. Helen, Constantine's mother, was also responsible for some prominent churches being built. She journeyed to the Holy Land and helped organize and pay for churches to be built at the site of the Nativity of Jesus, the Ascension of Jesus, and possibly at Calvary, where Jesus died and rose from the dead. It is also said that St. Helen discovered the true Cross of Christ, which was still nearby the place of crucifixion.

We are certainly blessed with many amazing churches as Catholics, including right here in Springfield! Our Cathedral, the chapel at the Evermode Institute, and Blessed Sacrament are all amazing places to pray and experience a special closeness to God through beauty. It is fitting that the largest church in the world is St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, built over the tomb of St. Peter, who was the leader of the Apostles of Christ.

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

Stewardship of Treasure

January 7th & 8th (Corrected)

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Envelopes | \$9,851.00 |
| Loose | \$2,326.00 |
| Maintenance | \$316.00 |
| Total | \$12,493.00 |

January 14th & 15th

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| Envelopes | \$4,651.00 |
| Loose | \$3,824.00 |
| Maintenance | \$85.00 |
| Total | \$8,560.00 |

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

Deaths

A. George Hovanec
Date of Death: January 8, 2023



St. Agnes of Rome, Part II

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.

Last week we got to know the beloved, and little, virgin and martyr of Rome, St. Agnes. Let us recall St. Ambrose's reverential words preaching on her example of Christian virginity (and continue on further into his beautiful homily):

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. ... 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.

A new kind of martyrdom! Too young to be punished, yet old enough for a martyr's crown; unfitted for the contest, yet effortless in victory, she shows herself a master in valor despite the handicap of youth. As a bride she would not be hastening to join her husband with the same joy she shows as a virgin on her way to punishment, crowned not with flowers but with holiness of life, adorned not with braided hair but with Christ himself. In the midst of tears, she sheds no tears herself. The crowds marvel at her recklessness in throwing away her life untasted, as if she had already lived life to the full. All are amazed that one not yet of legal age can give her testimony to God. So she succeeds in convincing others of her testimony about God, though her testimony in human affairs could not yet be accepted. What is beyond the power of nature, they argue, must come from its creator."

[St. Ambrose, "Concerning Virginity", Book 1, Chapter 2, Paragraph 5, 7, & 8]

St. Ambrose does not make the comparison explicit, but he constantly returns to St. Agnes' willingly and joyfully going to her death for Christ recalls Jesus' own patient and uncomplaining acceptance of all the assaults and tortures inflicted upon Him in His passion. Agnes follows the Agnus Dei, her name itself a feminine version of the Latin word for "lamb". Her life, like the Lamb of God proclaimed by John the Baptist, emulates Jesus' example in quietly forgiving while being taken to slaughter, uttering not a word in fulfillment of Isaiah 53:7.

It was these very words that would puzzle, and then convert, the eunuch of Acts 8, who asked Phillip about whom they referred. Could it have been that this court official of Ethiopia was the first one to carry the Gospel back to Northern Africa where it would spread rapidly West across the continent? Did he begin the proclamation of Christ that would eventually capture the hearts of Tertullian, Perpetua, Felicity, Augustine and so many thousands of saints since?

With these sisters and brothers in the communion of saints, we find ourselves brought back to Tertullian. Not that these he and Agnes ever met, but in an odd twist of history, their lives intertwine. Years after Tertullian's speech, the pallium became indicative not just of any Christian, but specifically a vestment worn by the great bishops of Christianity. In the East it is called the omophor, and in the West it is still called the pallium. In the Roman Catholic Church this vestment is one worn by the Holy Father as well as metropolitan archbishops (and a few others that he gives it to). It has been simplified to a strip of white woolen cloth marked by 6 (sometimes 5) crosses and is draped around the bishop's shoulders on top of the chasuble.

The pallium, along with the bishop's staff (crosier), symbolize for us the primacy of his role as a shepherd of Christ's flock. He is a man entrusted with feeding and tending some part of the flock of the Good Shepherd (as was Simon Peter), protecting, healing, directing, and carrying his sheep to the safety of eternal life with the Lord. St. Agnes, the Church's preeminent example of a faithful lamb of Christ flock, has long been thus connected with the pallium.

And thus was born a lovely 500 year old tradition that now takes place every year on the feast of St. Agnes. Two lambs, raised by Trappist monks outside of Rome, are given to the Sisters of the Holy Family in Nazareth who carefully wash and dry the little creatures. They are wrapped up with bows and white veils, surrounded by flowers, and carried carefully from St. Agnes' church outside the city walls to the Vatican where the Holy Father blesses them. (Funny pictures of this can be found all over the internet!) The lambs will be placed in the care of another group of religious, the Benedictine nuns of St. Cecilia in Trastevere, until they are large enough to be sheared (this happens right after Easter), and that wool is carefully turned into yarn, and woven into the necessary pallia (plural of "pallium") by the faithful sisters. These are taken back to St. Peter's and kept near the tomb of St. Peter until the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul (June 28th) when the Holy Father blesses these vestments and then bestows them upon the new bishops.

Fr. Dominic Rankin continues to be amazed at the interweaving, even centuries down the line, of the lives of the saints. Every saints seems to have been inspired, edified, challenged, or encouraged by another saint. Little do we know how big of an impact our sanctity, even small, may have on the Church a thousand years from now!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

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!

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>

National Sanctity of Life Weekend

Stop in the Cathedral Atrium this weekend and celebrate the wonder and SANCTITY of LIFE! You will find life-like models of babies in various stages and sizes as they are in a mother's womb telling the incredible story of LIFE and our growth as human beings! You can SEE, FEEL and TOUCH these beautiful models of LIFE. Start off the new year seeing and remembering the theological truth of all human life - from conception to natural death - is special, sacred, and created in the image of GOD. The displays include many replicas of what can be seen in the "Creation Museum" located in Kentucky. On this side of Roe being overturned, it is more important than ever for local churches to lead with love on this issue. This educational program is brought to you by: Two Hearts - Springfield Pregnancy Resource Center.

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.

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 (rsgambelluri@dio.org) or, to register, call Paula Black at (217) 652-2662.



SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Memorial Hospital

Do you have an interest in sharing the Holy Eucharist with hospitalized Roman Catholics and their loved ones? Opportunities are available at Springfield Memorial Hospital. The number of our Catholic patients continues to rise, so we would like to grow our Ministry Team to meet this larger need. Our particular needs include Eucharistic Ministers who are available any day of the week or weekends. If this opportunity interests you and you would like further information regarding this ministry, contact Fr. Teddy Adukus at (217)788-3588 or email adukus.thaddeus@mhsil.com

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 or 217-494-4743. Thank You!

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.

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 by February 1, 2023.

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.

World Marriage Day

On Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 2:30 pm., Auxiliary Bishop Mark S. Rivituso will celebrate a Mass for World Marriage Day at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, 4431 Lindell Blvd. St. Louis, MO. A reception will follow in Boland Hall. All married couples are invited to attend and celebrate the gift of marriage. World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family – the basic unit of society. It emphasizes the faithfulness, sacrifice and joy of daily married life. World Marriage Day started in Baton Rouge, LA in 1981 and was later adopted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter who now is sponsoring this event on February 12th.

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 or search Dive Deep on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe.

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 or call 217-787-0481.