

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

FEBRUARY 5, 2023 | FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 6

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

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



Discernment of Spirits

As I have mentioned in a previous bulletin article, I have been involved for the past two years in a Spiritual Direction Training Program offered by the Institute for Priestly Formation. At the heart of the teaching is understanding and applying the 14 Rules of Discernment proposed by St. Ignatius of Loyola in his Spiritual Exercises. These rules have their origin in an experience the saint had while recovering from an injury.

As he thought about different directions he might follow in life upon his recovery, he became aware of an important truth, described in his autobiography:

From experience he knew that some thoughts left him sad while others made him happy, and little by little he came to perceive the different spirits that were moving him; one coming from the devil, the other coming from God. (Autobiography, no. 8)

The fact that we have two opposing voices speaking to us is something we as Catholics generally acknowledge, but perhaps our best image of this is those cartoons which depict a devil on one shoulder and an angel on the other, leaving the person to try to figure out which voice to follow. While this image may capture the reality generally, it is far more complex than that, thus the several rules of discernment proposed by St. Ignatius. All the rules of discernment can fall under a basic formula that we as Catholics can follow. The formula involves three steps: 1) Be aware 2) Understand 3) Take action.

For the next three weeks, before we begin Lent, I would like to reflect briefly on these three steps, one each week. While there is so much more that can be said, I am hopeful this introduction will open us all to a more attentive experience of prayer, such that we are able to discern when the Holy Spirit is speaking, and when another voice, not of God is speaking. In knowing which voice is speaking, we can choose how to act based on that understanding.

The first step is being aware. Whether we know it or not, there is always a voice that is speaking into our lives. That is the first thing to acknowledge. By knowing that, we can pay closer attention to what has our attention. In other words, we are invited to notice our thoughts, feelings, and desires as they come up throughout the day. This is the raw data for the discernment of spirits. Having thoughts, feelings, and desires are not inherently sinful. It is rather what we choose to do with them that determines their moral value (more on that in a later article).

Continued on next page

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 6

7am - John Ansell
(Judy Ansell & Family)
5:15pm - Richard Dhabalt
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

Tuesday, February 7

7am - Russell Steil Sr.
(Steil Family)
5:15pm - James Henn
(Susan & John Klemm)

Wednesday, February 8

7am - Tom Daley
(Tom & Jeannette Bland)
5:15pm - John W. Montgomery
(John Busciacco)

Thursday, February 9

7am - Bob & Dorothy Berberet
(James & Julie Berberet)
5:15pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)

Friday, February 10

7am - Delbert Fairweather
(Andrew & Cheryl Klein)
5:15pm - Special Intention for
Bianca (D.A. Drago)

Saturday, February 11

8am - Herb Dulle
(Virginia Kelly)
4pm - Sophia Bartoletti
(Estate)

Sunday, February 12

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)
10am - For The People
5pm - Richard Malafa
(Jeanette Malafa)

Continued from previous page

Living a life of spiritual maturity is more than just taking time to pray each day at specific times, necessary as that is. A truly spiritual soul is one who is always aware of God's presence, and the moment-by-moment opportunity that we have to consciously choose to love Him and follow Him as He communicates to us. But we will never make those decisions to follow Him and reject the voice of the enemy if we are not aware of what is going on in our hearts and minds throughout the day.

Perhaps an exercise you could try this week is set an alarm or a reminder at some fixed intervals throughout the day – perhaps every hour, or a few times a day. Then pause and just notice what your thoughts, feelings, and desires are. Don't think too much about them, or try to figure them out. Just notice them, perhaps jotting them down. This does not take much time or effort at all, but it is an important start to realizing what St. Paul encourages us to do, that we should "pray at every opportunity in the Spirit." (Eph 6:18)

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



St. Agatha

Feast Day: February 5th | Virgin and Martyr | Patronage: Sicily, Malta, & Gallipoli; Nursers, Jewelers, Rape Victims, Sufferers of Breast Cancer, Sterility, Natural Disasters, and Torture | Attributes: Maiden mistreated, imprisoned, visited by St. Peter; tortured by pincers, amputated breasts.

St. Agatha is one of those saints that we know desperately little about except that where she was from (Sicily) and when she was killed (under the Decian persecution, around 251 AD). We have legends

of her beauty and purity, accounts of her choice to remain a virgin and the angry reprisals inflicted upon her by the powerful (spurned) Quintianus. It seems she was miraculously cured, for she survived for a time the horrible injuries and indignities before dying imprisoned.

When writing or speaking about martyrs, we often run out of details, or simply cannot fathom their endurance, and conclude our account with the simple truth that "they died for the faith." But when I look to try and then apply the example of their lives to mine, or seek to incorporate something of the grace they were given, I come up short. How does one "die for the faith"? What could possibly carry me from an ordinary Morning Offering to standing steadfast before the worst tortures and still saying "yes"? Would I have their same endurance? Did it hurt as much as I imagined it did? '

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Stewardship of Treasure

January 28th & 29th

Envelopes	\$6,035.00
Loose	\$2,328.00
Maintenance	\$320.00
Total	\$8,683.00

January EFT

\$21,038.80

January Second Collections

Catholic Times
\$2,961.00

Church in Latin America
\$2,967.25

January Debt Reduction

\$807.00

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!

Continued from previous page

To unravel this conundrum, I want to turn to the Church's wisdom as regards martyrs. We start as always from Our Lord: "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account" Jesus calls out in His most famous sermon (no jokes to be found here!) Later, before His own passion: "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." These were realities that the Early Church endured: its members encouraging those hauled into the arena, praying for those who abandoned the faith, and honoring those who had been killed. Quickly it was these, the highest of witnesses to Christ [martyron in Greek] who were hailed as the greatest of saints.

St. Augustine sharpened this definition, clarifying that martyrdom is not based on the punishment you endure, but the reason for the punishment. (Plenty of Donatists were going around claiming to be martyrs because the government was being hard on them ... Heads up: unfair taxes don't bump you to the highest ranks of heaven, and neither does being penalized for heresy...) St. Thomas Aquinas further hones the Church's definition of martyrdom to being killed for a truth of the faith. (In this way, John the Baptist is a martyr, not because he was killed for faith in Christ per se, but because he was killed for his denunciation of adultery). This logic has been applied more recently to saints like Maximilian Kolbe (a "martyr for charity") and Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (technically killed for her Jewish ancestry, but who remained imbued by Christian love until the end). Neither were killed specifically for their faith. They could not have apostatized and saved their lives. But because they did hold onto Truth and Love to the last, and by God's grace had both the fortitude and charity to do so, we acclaim them not only saints, but martyrs.

What do we discover amid all these developments over the centuries, and all these examples of martyrdom? I take away one simple truth this week: every martyr died for Christ, but never generically, never ambiguously. Agatha died because she chose to live as a perpetual virgin. John the Baptist died because he had the chutzpah to call Herod (and Herodias) out for their fornication. Maximilian Kolbe because he offered his life in place of a doomed father. Teresa Benedicta because she refused to evade the Nazi's, saying instead "come, we are going for our people."

Each died for a particular way that they chose Jesus and followed Jesus – perpetual virginity, the truth of marriage, self-sacrifice, accepting the cross – our discipleship must be similarly particular! We cannot be generic saints! The Lord is calling us to a particular way of following after Him, and only a "yes" to that specific emulation of our can carry us through whatever persecutions may come our way.

Fr. Dominic Rankin has only slowly realized that the particular way he is called behind Jesus is often found in his inbox or on his desk (or floor!). I would love more precision (or maybe what I'm really hoping for is greater glory...), but it seems that fortitude and charity, and truth and love, currently intersect there.

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.

CCCW Trivia Night

The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women are hosting a Trivia Night on Saturday February 18th. Tickets are \$10 per person with 10-12 people at a table. Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase but please feel free to bring your own. Payment is expected that night but to reserve your spot please call Judith Carstens at 217-381-4501 after 5pm or email her at jnrcarstens5@sbcglobal.net. Deadline for reservations is February 16th. There will also be a \$500 gift card Raffle with the winner being announced that night. Raffle tickets are \$1 apiece or 6 chances for \$5.

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.

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.

Volunteers Needed for Sacraments

The Diocese of Springfield in IL is looking for volunteers to assist with the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion at the Cathedral. Over 1,200 third graders come to our church each year from throughout the Diocese to receive these holy Sacraments. This is a great blessing for us to welcome them here to experience what we already know - that the Cathedral is a special place to come and worship! Please pray about joining the Curia staff in helping to welcome these people to our home. All volunteers need to have Safe Environment on file with their parish. Contact Sister M. Clementia, FSGM for more information (ctoalson@dio.org or 217-321-1130), or access the sign-up at <https://ome.flocknote.com/signup/84704>

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

Presentation of "The Chosen" Series

Are you looking for something different to do during Lent? St. Frances Cabrini Parish will present season 1 of the series, "The Chosen" on Sundays at 2pm from February 19th to April 2nd in the parish hall. "The Chosen" is a critically acclaimed drama of the life of Christ. It is a unique production that explores the humanity of Jesus and the relationships between him and the apostles. In his review of "The Chosen", Fr. Hugh Barbour stated, "...efficacious grace moves us by means of delight, and this delightful series, "The Chosen" is indeed a grace." Come and see the story portrayed in a new light. For more information, call or text Anne Powers at 217-381-3847.

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!

World Marriage Day

On Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 2:30 pm., Auxiliary Bishop Mark S. Rivotuso 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.

St. John's Breadline - Souper Bowl Spring 2023 Fundraiser

The Souper Bowl fundraiser for Catholic Charities St. John's Breadline will be serving up fresh soups to go. These made-from-scratch soups will be available on Friday, February 10 at the Catholic Pastoral Center circle driveway, 1615 W. Washington Street, Springfield, IL, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., or until sold out. Chicken Noodle soup, Steak & Mushroom soup, and Chili will be offered. The suggested donation is \$5 for 32 oz. of soup. All proceeds will benefit the St. John's Breadline. To make a donation, or to volunteer, please visit <https://cc.dio.org/> or contact Shawna Harris at sharris_stjb@cc.dio.org or 217-523-6098.

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.

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:

Peace of Mind Seminar
Thursday, February 16th
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, February 13th.