

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

FEBRUARY 12, 2023 | SIXTH 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 7

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.



Whose Voice is Speaking?

Last Sunday, I introduced a brief three-week treatment of St. Ignatius of Loyola's Rules for Discernment. The first step, though not necessarily the most important, is necessary, for if we are not even aware of the thoughts, feelings, and desires that are moving within us, we will not make much progress in the spiritual life. I hope you have been more attentive to these movements as they come up throughout the day.

The second step is to understand. This is by far the most complicated, and it is really at the heart of the teaching of the Rules of Discernment. The 14 rules that St. Ignatius proposes are ways of coming to understand which voice is speaking – that of the Good Spirit, or that of the Enemy. By understanding whose voice is speaking, we are then better able to take action, by accepting or rejecting that voice (more on that next week).

We do not have the time or space to address all of the rules, so I will just make a few remarks that are, in my mind, the key takeaways from the rules. Let's begin by quoting the first rule, just so you can see what the rules look like, but also to point out an important qualification that St. Ignatius makes regarding these rules:

The first Rule: In the persons who go from mortal sin to mortal sin, the enemy is commonly used to propose to them apparent pleasures, making them imagine sensual delights and pleasures in order to hold them more and make them grow in their vices and sins. In these persons the good spirit uses the opposite method, pricking them and biting their consciences through the process of reason.

The important summary here is that the rules for discernment really only benefit those who are striving to grow in holiness. If we are unconcerned about making progress, unconcerned about sins, then the voice of the enemy will leave us with words of pleasure that what we are doing is no problem. The Good Spirit tries to break us from our complacency, stinging us with words that try to make us aware of the peril of continuing down this path. But if we do not really care and we are not convinced that what we are doing is wrong, we will happily ignore the uncomfortable suggestion to repent and remain set in our sinful ways.

On the other hand, the second rule says that when we are striving for holiness, these two spirits act opposite. The evil spirit tries to sting us, telling us we're wasting our time with prayer, following the teachings of the Church, etc. He might say something like: "You're missing out on so much!", or "You can think for yourself, you don't need the Church to tell you what you can and can't do." I think you get the idea. The good spirit, though, continues to offer encouragement, and even if we are stumbling, and the enemy is trying to distract us, our hearts are fundamentally fixed on the Lord, wanting to do His will, wanting to grow in holiness, and so we keep moving forward.

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Mass Intentions

Monday, February 13

7am - Sophia Bartoletti
(Estate of Sophia Bartoletti)
5:15pm - William F. & Shirley Logan
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

Tuesday, February 14

7am - The Vogt Family
(Bill Vogt)
5:15pm - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)

Wednesday, February 15

7am - Teresa Gray
(Chris Sommer)
5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway
(Robert Gasaway)

Thursday, February 16

7am - John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Mary Conchola & Family
(Kay & Dick King)

Friday, February 17

7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Marge Sebule)
5:15pm - Nancy Ann Visnesky
(Victor & Janet Burghart)

Saturday, February 18

8am - James Henn
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)
4pm - Richard Dhabalt
(Louise Ralph)

Sunday, February 19

7am - For The People
10am - Herbert Dulle
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)
5pm - Deceased Members of the
CCCW (CCCW)

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The next two rules treat the topic of spiritual consolation and spiritual desolation. These are the ups and downs of the spiritual life that we are all subject to, no matter how holy we are. There are times when God feels very close (consolation) and times when He feels distant and unresponsive (desolation). We must understand that the evil spirit tries to use those moments of desolation to discourage us, but the good spirit will always be working to sustain us, always offering us the grace necessary to persevere through the darkness, to lead us back to a place of consolation in the future, and to eternal life at the end.

Perhaps a simple thing to remember is this: when we are earnestly striving to grow in holiness, we can be at peace knowing that the Lord always speaks with encouragement. The enemy, on the other hand is, always trying to discourage us. That may be a bit simplistic, but I think it's a good place to start.

So as we go through this week, and as you continue to be aware of the thoughts, feelings, and desires, in other words the voices speaking into our lives – ask the question: Whose voice is speaking? Understanding this is a key skill in the spiritual life and a means to being set free by the Holy Spirit.

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



Bl. Fra Angelico

**Feast Day: February 18th | Religious Brother, Artist, Dominican|
Patronage: Artists**

Now we know him as Blessed Fra Angelico. "Blessed" because he has been beatified, though not yet canonized. "Fra", a shortened version of "frater", Latin for "brother", the title for a mendicant friar. "Angelico", a nickname given him for his devotion to God and

attentiveness to his brothers in the order. But he had been baptized just Guido.

We know little about his family, but Guido was born in 1395 not too far from Florence Italy. He must have expressed an artistic bent from a young age because by the time he was 17 he had already joined an artistic guild in his hometown and was soon hired for a few projects at the Church of St. Stefano del Ponte. We don't know what twists and turns led him from his paintbrushes in that Church to his joining the Dominican order, but 1423 he has taken the religious name Fra Giovanni (often surnamed "de Fiesole" distinguishing him from all the other Friar John's throughout the order.)

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Stewardship of Treasure

February 4th & 5th

Envelopes	\$5,685.00
Loose	\$3,529.00
Maintenance	\$3,205.00
Total	\$12,419.00

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!

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Following the Lord always asks us to sacrifice our own will for God's will. Did Guido struggle to make that sacrifice? Florence was booming with artists and painters – it was the epicenter of the budding renaissance movement! What would it cost him to become a religious? Would he lose himself, lose his joy, lose his gift? Yet didn't Jesus speak directly to everyone wrestling with such questions: "what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?" (Luke 9:25) Jesus knows a key truth about us: freedom is not found in blindly following our desires! Were we to acquire for ourselves the entire world, were we to unrestrainedly follow our urges and instincts, were we to do whatever we wanted ... we would not find ourselves free, but enslaved.

And so Guido entered the Dominicans. He chose to trust God's will above even his own. And soon he discovered that in following God, though we must entrust our freedom and future to Him, He does not leave out of His plan anything that is authentically ours, authentically good. There, in the Dominican convent, Fra Giovanni was asked to assist in illuminating manuscripts. Of the few pages we have of his, filled first with the words of scripture and prayer, the images that he weaves around and among those sacred letters leap from the page. We see not only his skill, but his love in carefully imagining the scene. The color, the lightness, the joy, the balance that pervades so many of his frescoes is visible in the tiny scene of the Annunciation crafted within the first "R".

He would go on to paint that scene – the Annunciation – many more times. Every single one is different. Each shows that he had returned again in his prayer and heart to the place where Mary said "yes" and God was conceived. He also took up anew the person for whom he was painting. When illustrating that manuscript, he uses exquisitely small brushstrokes to give features to Mary, Gabriel, and God, to let the reader come face to face with them. When painting for the altarpiece for a church in his hometown, the scene is vivid, exquisite, colorful, and tender. He uses perspective and light to captivate anyone who would look upon it, and places to the side Adam and Eve in their rejection of God's plan. And when painting for a simple lay brother in his own monastery, the scene is reminiscent of the choir where that friar lived and prayed and welcomed the Lord into his own heart.

Our talents, gifts, joys, and desires are also places to encounter the Lord, and help others to encounter Him. The question is whether we will entrust those parts of ourselves to God's will?

Fr. Dominic Rankin routinely looks for freedom and fulfillment in the wrong places. Once again, the saints remind us that it is found only in God.



SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

40 Days for Life Campaign

The Spring 40 Days for Life campaign is being held from Feb. 22 to April 2nd. There will be people from various churches in and around Springfield peacefully praying in one hour shifts in front of Planned Parenthood on Bruns Lane every day from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is a peaceful prayer event. We need 20 volunteers to help cover Cathedral's day which is Saturday, February 25th. This breaks down to 2 people per hour for the 10 shifts. For more information, please call or text Daphne Southern at 217-638-2805 or MaryJean Sheets at 217-523-2700.

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.

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 jinjcarstens5@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.

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.



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>

Learn About Our Lady of Lourdes on Formed

February 11th is the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes. Formed has 3 family-friendly films, a book, and a children's movie about St. Bernadette ALL FREE because of our parish subscription to Formed! Register today by going to formed.org/signup and adding our parish name or zip code (62703).

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.

Cathedral Bible Study

The Wednesday night Bible study group is beginning a new series, "Fulfilled: Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism." In this study, we will learn how to better explain and defend the Catholic faith as we explore how the Old Testament is fulfilled by Christ and lays the groundwork for the traditions of the Catholic Church. Meetings will be every first and third Wednesday from 6:15-7:45pm and participants will need to purchase the companion texts. For more information contact Larry Travis at LTravisjr@gmail.com.

CCCW Meeting - February 23

Join the women of the CCCW at their next meeting on Thursday, February 23, beginning at 6pm. All women of the parish are welcome!

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.

Men's Evening of Recollection

A Men's Evening of Recollection will be held Thursday, February 23rd at St John's Hospital Chapel (800 E. Carpenter St., Springfield), from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The recollection will include a meditation given by a priest, time for silent prayer and reflection, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. All men throughout the diocese are invited to attend. The spiritual guidance at the Recollection is entrusted to a priest of the Prelature of Opus Dei. Check out: www.opusdei.org

Earthquake Aid for Turkey and Syria

On February 6, 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated large areas of central Turkey and northwest Syria. The death toll has surpassed 7,000 and continues to climb. The earthquake is the worst to strike Turkey this century. Later that day, the region experienced a second magnitude 7.7 quake.

Catholic Relief Services will support emergency relief efforts led by local partners in both Syria and Turkey with Caritas Turkey, Caritas Syria in Aleppo and Lattakia—where extensive damage has been reported—and other local partners, and the Pontifical Mission Societies have mobilized its network of missionary priests, religious sisters, laymen and women to aid survivors.

Your gift will help partners to provide safe shelter, and access to food, clean water and hygiene supplies, and more. Visit www.crs.org or www.missio.org to make a donation help the people of Turkey and Syria.

Second Collection - Church in Central and Eastern Europe

The Diocese of Chişinău, founded in 2000, covers all of Moldova and the unrecognized breakaway state of "Transnistria," currently occupied by Russian forces. Working in cooperation with Caritas Moldova, the diocese has expanded its outreach and ability to reveal Christ's mercy to Moldova's vulnerable children and youth by establishing a network of care and support centers, where children and youth benefit from informal education programs in a safe, caring environment. The centers also help strengthen the parenting skills of mothers and fathers. With funding from the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, the diocese and its local partners have established the centers according to standards for quality and child protection to make them safe and caring environments. Your support is crucial to the success of ministries that affirm the dignity of children, youth, and other vulnerable people and show them the love and mercy of Jesus. Please be generous to the collection, because your support helps the Church bring Christ's mercy to the Ukrainian refugees, Moldovan children, and families most in need. For more information about the collection and whom it supports, visit www.usccb.org/ccce.

Encounter the Women of the Bible.

Young adult women are welcome to join Cor Unum for an exciting opportunity to encounter the women of the Old and New Testaments with scripture scholar and Springfield Dominican Sister Mila Díaz Solano. The five-session course begins at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday March 1, and will run for five sessions, on the first Wednesday of each month, at Cor Unum House, 925 N. Fifth Street. Sister Mila earned her doctorate in Sacred Scripture from the École Biblique, the renowned French Dominican School of Biblical and Archeological Research, Jerusalem. Prior to her election as a member of the leadership team for the Springfield Dominicans, Sister Mila taught scripture at ISET, a graduate school of theology in Lima, and ministered at Instituto Bartolomé de las Casas, a Christian human development organization founded by Dominican theologian Gustavo Gutiérrez, and at Mundelein Seminary in the United States. To register for the course call or text Sister Beth Murphy, OP at 312-780-9553. Cor Unum—Latin for One Heart—is a gathering place for young adult women who want to deepen their spiritual lives, be of service, and make change for a better world. To learn more about additional opportunities at Cor Unum visit springfieldop.org/cor-unum.

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.