

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

FEBRUARY 26, 2023 | FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



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 9

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

DEACON ROBERT SGAMBELLURI

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

VICKI DHABALT COMPTON
COORDINATOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND MISSION
VCOMPTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

HALEY DUTTON
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
HDUTTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

MARK GIFFORD
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MGIFFORD@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

KIM GUNTER
PARISH SECRETARY
KGUNTER@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

JAN SGAMBELLURI
BOOKKEEPER
JSGAMBELLURI@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

BILL VOGT
OFFICE AND PLANT MANAGER
BVOGT@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

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.



Alone in the Desert?

The First Sunday of Lent always presents us with the account of the temptation of Jesus by Satan in the desert. Although the Scriptures do not explicitly state that He was alone, that is what we sometimes think. It was only after 40 days that the devil showed up and began his attempts to throw Jesus off His path. The fact of this matter is that Jesus was indeed not alone in the desert. For as the Second Person of the Trinity, He was always united with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Furthermore, St. Mark's Gospel recounts that during His time in the desert, "the angels ministered to Him." (Mk 1:13)

Why is this important to point out? Because I think we can sometimes fall into thinking that Lent is a time for us to be alone in the desert. I have even heard people recommend that we not tell others what we are doing for Lent. Perhaps the intention is good, to help us avoid drawing attention to ourselves. But that can also foster a sense that Lent is about ourselves, our personal journey to conversion, our trying to become the best version of ourselves. I do not dispute that we should desire to grow in holiness during Lent, but I challenge the notion that it is something we do primarily by ourselves. Thus the reference to Jesus not being alone in His 40 days in the desert. We stand to benefit more from Lent when we make this journey with others, not simply seeing it as a desert journey we make alone. Let me offer some suggestions on how to do this.

First of all, do not conclude that I am telling you not to do those things that are often staples for Lent – giving up candy, going without coffee, giving up social media, etc. We can still choose these things for ourselves, but let us always be aware that others are on the journey with us. The people you live with, the people you see at Mass on Sunday, the random person you see at the fish fry on Friday evening – all are part of the journey. It can be a good practice to make it a habit to pray for our fellow travelers making this desert journey with us. Ask God to bless their efforts, ask Him to support them and encourage them, to help them grow in love of God and of their neighbor through the practices that they choose for Lent. It is a good way of reminding us that we are not alone, and we can be consoled in knowing how we are all united in prayer with and for one another as we journey together.

It can also be helpful to choose to do something with somebody else during Lent. It is like working out at the gym. It is often easier to be motivated to go when we know somebody is there with us. In that regard, we are giving you an opportunity to do just that. Later on in the bulletin, you will see information about joining us for a parish-wide study through FORMED on the Eucharist called Presence. Each week there is a video to watch and a reflection question. I therefore challenge you to identify at least one person (and it can be more, like an entire family) to go through this program with, checking in once a week to discuss the video and the question.

Finally, I would like to invite you to consider joining us on Sunday afternoons during Lent at 4:00 pm for Eucharistic Adoration. At 4:30 pm, we will pray Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours together. If you have never prayed the Liturgy of the Hours, this would be a great opportunity to be exposed to it. In addition to the Mass, it is an official prayer of the Church. Priests and deacons have an obligation to pray these prayers each day, and the lay faithful are certainly encouraged to join in, for this prayer belongs to every member of the Church. It is another opportunity for us to do something together as we all journey together during this sacred season.

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, February 27

7am - John Brunk & Deceased Family (Estate)
12:05pm - Brother Francis Skube (Ed & Bonnie Pinc)
5:15pm - Sharon Saner (Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

Tuesday, February 28

7am - Arthur Holdalski (Pat Klockenkemper)
12:05pm - John Brunk (Sam & Karen Brunk)
5:15pm - Tom Daley (Tom & Jennette Bland)

Wednesday, March 1

7am - Sophia Bartoletti (Estate)
12:05pm - Doris Ray (Carol Muller)
5:15pm - Jack Ely (Berni Ely)

Thursday, March 2

7am - Anita Bates (The Bates Family)
12:05pm - Dick Dhabalt & Family (Linda Howell)
5:15pm - Herb Dulle (Theresa & Dennis Duffin)

Friday, March 3

7am - Fr. Dominic Vahling (Chris Sommer)
12:05pm - Richard Malafa (Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)
5:15pm - Pamela Harmon (Anonymous)

Saturday, March 4

8am - Judith Hubbell (Family)
4pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl (Angela Ohl Marsters)

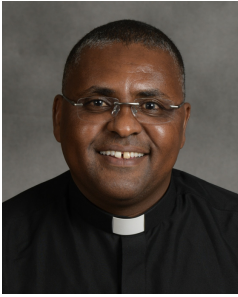
Sunday, March 5

7am - Pamela Rose Harmon (Archie Harmon)
10am - Thomas Peterson (Stanley & Thelma Rhodes)
5pm - For The People

Presence Discussion Question #1

What was one thing from the video that you heard for the first time or that was an "aha" moment for you?

See the announcements at the end of the bulletin for more information, including how to sign up for a free FORMED account.



Season of Our Life, Season in Our Life

As we embark on a new journey of faith, and renew our conviction to remain faithful to God, as we are about to enter into the season of Lent this Wednesday with the Ash Wednesday. Lent season, is a time of conversion, a time for Change, and a time to purify ourselves. Let us all renew our conviction to love the Lord wholeheartedly once again, and with the resolve to love one another most generously, forgiving those who have hurt or pained us, and helping one another to grow ever stronger in faith, by living our own

lives most worthily and by doing what God has taught and shown us all to do.

One very long the liturgical season of Lent is with us. Not very long ago, we were celebrating Christmas, then a short period of Ordinary Time and here we are today in Lent! Then after 40 days or so, we shall usher in the Easter period, Pentecost and on we go on our journey of Faith, why all these changes in time? Why could we not just settle down in one season throughout our journey of Faith?

These liturgical Seasons come with their correspondent graces and Implications! These seasons bring about changes. These seasons and changes are somehow disturbing the inner most desire of man to settle down. The older we become, the less enthusiast and willing are we to change. A change is supposed to introduce something New. One of the many ways of our resistance to changes is to make the OLD come in the form of New! Because anything New makes us suspicious! The more used we are to our environment, our way of doing, our point of view of life, the more comfortable we feel and the more we resist to change! In other words, these seasonal changes are sources of conflicts in our lives and since we do not want conflicts we turn down the seasonal graces that comes to us! For this reason, even if and when we say yes to these seasonal changes, in reality, our style of life, our old habits remain intact all round the cycles! If we desire changes, we desire it for others and not for ourselves! Lenten season, a time of conversion, a time of change. What does this mean to you personally and in your community? We all have seasons in our personal lives. Which season are you experiencing at the moment? Are you in rainy season, dry season, Lenten season or Easter season in your life?

It is only through prayer and regular dialogue with God, that we can acknowledge the various seasons of our lives. Keeping in touch with God, keeping in touch with ourselves would allow us to see God's presence in the different seasons of our lives. Lent is a period of purification and enlightenment or illumination. To purify is the act of making pure, to purify is to cleanse. The season of lent is a time in our personal lives for new life to appear and for old frozen attitudes to disappear. It a time to clear the ground, to clear away rubbish. A time for sowing so that one day, the day of the Lord, there will be harvest. Lent, a time for penance and Charity renews in us our call to Holiness. We need to dedicate more time for prayer, a prayer that helps us to embrace the demand for conversion in preparation for Easter. Let us not miss this opportunity to listen to the voice of the Lord inviting us: "Return to me with whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning, Rend your hearts not your garments, and return to the Lord your God for he is gracious and merciful"(Joel 2:12-13)

Father Paul Lesupati serves as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.



St. Perpetua

Feast Day: March 7th | Mother and Martyr | Patronage: Mothers, Expectant Mothers, Mothers who have lost Sons, Ranchers, Butchers, Carthage, Widows | Attributes: Women standing side by side; Holding Palm of Victory, Cross of Martyrdom; Praying and Singing, Embracing and Giving Kiss of Peace; Attacked by Wild Cow; Halo's Intertwined; Perpetua holding Sword, holding Son, Dressed as Noblewoman.

Some young catechumens were arrested: Revocatus and Felicity, his fellow slave; Saturninus; and Secundulus. And among these was also Vibia Perpetua—a woman well born, liberally educated, and honorably married, who had a father, mother, and two brothers, one of whom was also a catechumen. She had an infant son still at the breast and was about twenty-two years of age. From this point there follows a complete account of her martyrdom, as she left it, written in her own hand and in accordance with her own understanding.

"While," she said, "we were still with the prosecutors, my father, because of his love for me, wanted to change my mind and shake my resolve. 'Father,' I said, 'do you see this vase lying here, for example, this small water pitcher or what- ever?' 'I see it,' he said. And I said to him: 'Can it be called by another name other than what it is?' And he said: 'No.' 'In the same way, I am unable to call myself other than what I am, a Christian.'" Then my father, angered by this name, threw himself at me, in order to gouge out my eyes. But he only alarmed me and he left defeated, along with the arguments of the devil.

Then for a few days, freed from my father, I gave thanks to the Lord and was refreshed by my father's absence. In the space of a few days we were baptized. The Spirit told me that nothing else should be sought from the water other than the endurance of the body.

After a few days we were taken into the prison. I was terrified because I had never before known such darkness. Oh cruel day! The crowding of the mob made the heat stifling; and there was the extortion of the soldiers. Last of all, I was consumed with worry for my infant in that dungeon. Then Tertius and Pomponius, the blessed deacons who ministered to us, arranged by a bribe that we should be released for a few hours to revive ourselves in a better part of the prison. Then all left the prison and sought some time for themselves. I nursed my baby, who was now weak from hunger. In my worry for him, I spoke to my mother concerning the baby and comforted my brother. I entrusted my son to them. I suffered grievously when I saw how they suffered for me. I endured such worry for many days, and I arranged for my baby to stay in prison with me. Immediately I grew stronger, and I was relieved of the anxiety and worry I had for my baby. Suddenly the prison became my palace, so that I wanted to be there rather than anywhere else.

[Passion of Perpetua and Felicity, II-III, Translation by Thomas J. Heffernan, 2012].

I want to dwell this week on that little water-pitcher that Perpetua recorded for us in her diary. The word she uses in Latin is *urceolum*, a small vase or pitcher, and in the Greek version it is *σκεῦος*, a vessel of any kind or household implement. The phrasing that Perpetua uses belies her familiarity with Platonic philosophy as well as the New Testament. Of course, this ordinary word, is used in an ordinary way for the "goods" of the house protected by the strong man (Mark 3:27) and later to describe the bowl containing the vinegar offered to Jesus on the Cross (John 19:29). However, it is uniquely associated with an individual in Our Lord's words to Ananias when He sends him to heal Saul (until then a rabid killer of Christians), "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." [Acts 9:15-16]

Just as a water-pitcher cannot be called something other than what it is ("quam quod est"), so a Christian cannot claim any other identity above the one they have received in Jesus. Perpetua was a noblewoman, a daughter, and a mother, but above all these she was a little-Christ ("Christian"), a daughter of God the Father. Jesus had said that "You will be brought before kings and governors because of my name" [Luke 12:12] and so, even when to claim that identity was the only evidence needed to convict her, Perpetua did not hesitate to take Christ's name as her own. Her own characteristics – her intelligence, nobility, even motherhood – were not of highest importance, but that she was a vessel carrying Christ. "We have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair." [2 Cor 4:7-8]

Fr. Dominic Rankin cannot neglect to point out, following after St. Augustine, that these two saints, named "Perpetua" and "Felicity", point us towards the "Perpetual Felicity" that they have already received from Christ. We will come to know Felicity next time.

Stewardship of Treasure

February 18th & 19th

Envelopes	\$5,150.00
Loose	\$2,536.00
Maintenance	\$50.00
Total	\$7,736.00

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!

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.

Lenten Toiletry Collection

Thanks to the generosity of Cathedral parishioners, the CCCW has been able to provide toiletries for individuals & families who are homeless, in shelters, or nursing home residents who are unable to purchase their own hygiene items for several years. The CCCW will once again collect toiletries during Lent to distribute to these individuals. The following items can be placed in the marked baskets in the Atrium during the Lenten season: Travel size toiletries and lotions, or those provided when staying at a hotel; Combs; Tissue packets; Emery boards; Toothbrushes and small tubes of toothpaste. NOTE: Shaving items, mouthwash and hand sanitizer cannot be accepted. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

A SEASON FOR SLOWING DOWN

During this sacred season, we will intentionally slow down so that we can pay closer attention to our relationship with God, our neighbors and our planet. Reflect on how the pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving can guide your journey for a more enriching Lenten experience. How can practicing these pillars help you to live in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist

Just in time for Lent, Cathedral Women's Bible Study will be watching and discussing Presence, a 4-part series which explores the truth and beauty of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist. Thursdays, 10:00 or 1:00, March 2-23 in the Cathedral School Library. Contact Vicki to reserve your spot. 217/522-3342 or vcompton@cathedral.dio.org

Sunday Holy Hour and Evening Prayer during Lent

Beginning February 26, and each Sunday during Lent, Cathedral will have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 4:00 p.m., followed by Evening Prayer at 4:30 p.m. Evening Prayer (also called Vespers) is part of the Liturgy of the Hours where the Church fulfills Jesus' command to "pray always." In this prayer we come together to sanctify the day by praise of God and prayers of intercession for the needs of the world. Handouts will be available. No experience necessary. The sacrament of reconciliation also will be available during this time, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at the conclusion of Evening Prayer (around 4:45 pm). Our usual Sunday 5:00 p.m. Mass will follow. Join us during Lent for this added devotion.

Cathedral Parishioner Catholic School Tuition Scholarship

The Cathedral Parish believes in the value of Catholic education and is committed to assisting parishioners who choose a Catholic education for their children by providing tuition assistance. Parishioners will receive a \$500 tuition scholarship for each child enrolled in a Springfield Catholic Grade School (Grades K-8), and a \$750 tuition scholarship for each child enrolled at Sacred Heart-Griffin High School. The Scholarship is eligible to any parishioner household who is registered and active in the Cathedral parish. For more information or to apply, please visit our website (www.spicathedral.org/cathedral-parishioner-catholic-school-tuition-scholarship-form/). Applications are DUE by March 15th, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact the Cathedral Parish Office at 217-522-3342.

Parish-Wide Study - Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist

With FORMED, we have an opportunity to grow as a parish family in our understanding of God's true presence in the world today. We want to invite you to participate in a video-based study on formed.org called PRESENCE: THE MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST. With beautiful film-making and powerful teaching, the PRESENCE series will move your heart and give you plenty to discuss as a family or as a group of friends over the next 4 weeks. If you have not already created a FORMED account, you can do so by visiting www.signup.formed.org/ and searching for our parish name or zip code (62703).

Presence™
THE MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST

Week One — God is With Us
God is With Us examines God's saving presence with his people throughout salvation history, culminating in the Incarnation and his abiding real presence in the Eucharist. The question to ask is not only "What is the Eucharist?" but "Who is the Eucharist?"

This week, login to formed.org and watch *Presence*, Episode 1.

FORMED

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Parish Mission - St. Cabrini & St. Aloysius

Join St. Cabrini and St. Aloysius Parishes for a Parish Mission focusing on the Lenten Eucharistic Revival as the people of God journey to the Easter Triduum. The focus will be to inspire parishioners to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist. The mission is hosted by St. Cabrini Parish from March 1st -3rd. Bishop Vann will preach at the parish evening Masses at 6:00 PM and then direct conferences at 7:00 PM each evening. Talks will be centered on the mystery of the Eucharist in the life of the Church and families. The Parish Mission will conclude at St. Cabrini Parish on Saturday, March 4th at 5:30 PM Mass.

Second Collection - Catholic Charities

The Mission of Catholic Charities is "to extend to all the healing and empowering presence of Jesus." They do this through St. John's Breadline, Holy Family Food Pantry, Mobile Food Pantry, Legal Services, Intact Family Services and Crisis Assistance. Your generosity in next week's second collection will ensure that the ministry of Catholic Charities can continue. Thank you!

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 Diáz 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.

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.

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.

Trivia Night - St. Joseph Church

Join St. Joseph's Church for Trivia Night on Friday, March 10th at the St. Joseph Church Gymnasium. Doors open at 6pm and Trivia starts at 7pm. Cost is \$15 per person with a max of 10 people per team. There will be prizes for the top 2 teams and a silent auction. Beer and food will be sold but feel free to bring light snacks. All proceeds will support local medical students volunteering for a medical brigade in Panama through the non-profit Global Brigades. To register, email medglobalbrigades2023@gmail.com.