

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**MARCH 5, 2023 | SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342  
[WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG](http://WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG)

FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

# *Cathedral Weekly*

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 10

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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  
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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!



## What Do You Seek?

In the first chapter of the Gospel according to St. John, we hear the account of the two disciples of St. John the Baptist who begin to follow Jesus. Jesus turns to them and asks the question: "What do you seek?" (John 1:38) Another translation reads: "What are you looking for?" It was this question of Jesus that arose in my heart as I watched the first episode of the Presence study on FORMED that we are doing as a parish this Lent. It is a question

that the Lord invites us to consider especially when it comes to our going to Mass.

If you pause to consider that question for yourself, what is it that you seek when you come to Mass? For some of us, we desire to hear a good homily. We want to be fed by the Word of God and an explanation of it that helps us to see how it applies to our lives. Others come to Mass to seek the peace their hearts long for, especially as they face the challenges and sufferings of everyday life. Others seek reverence where the prayers and music of the Mass raise us to the heights of Heaven, where we journey each time we go to Mass. Other seek the joy of being with others to worship God, finding in the Mass a family gathered together, giving some hope and light to a life that is otherwise lonely and empty feeling.

As a priest who celebrates Mass every day, I have noticed a shift in what I seek when I celebrate Mass. As a younger priest, I was much more focused on trying to get the homily just right, such that it would encourage, inspire, and challenge the congregation. If I felt a homily was a little flat or off the mark, I would let it discourage me, as though I had somehow let the people down. But as I matured a little, I began to realize how I was drawn to something deeper than preaching when celebrating Mass. I found that I sought to enter more into the mystery of the Mass, the praying of the Eucharistic Prayer, and the remarkable gift of being chosen by God to bring Christ present on the altar in the Eucharist. With that primary focus, I was able not to get so caught up in the quality of the preaching, but I could rejoice in the gift of the Eucharist, Jesus coming to be among us, and becoming our food.

With all of that said, I am not saying I do not take preaching seriously, but I understand better how it must be at the service of preparing our hearts to more fully embrace the gift of the Eucharist at each Mass, for this gift will surpass even the greatest homily ever preached. We have many options for places to go to Mass, and we are often drawn to those places or those priests which resonate with our preferences, but we must never forget that the greatest gift is always the Eucharist, God with us, sharing His very life with us. When that is our primary focus, even if we did not like the homily, even if we did not like the music, or whatever thing we may have found lacking (and believe me, we are good at finding things that are lacking with Mass), one thing is NEVER lacking at any Mass, and that is the fact that God becomes present and feed us, His children, with His very being, body, blood, soul, and divinity. When we can grasp this and make this the one thing above all others that we seek at Mass, we will never walk away from Mass being disappointed. For even if all of those other elements of our experience at Mass disappoint us, God giving Himself to us will never disappoint us.

If you have not watched Episode 1 of Presence yet, please do so, and go ahead and watch Episode 2, taking special note of the weekly question on the bottom right of this page.

*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, March 6

7am - Mary Celine Sestak  
(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)  
12:05pm - Robert Dorr  
(Vicki Compton)  
5:15pm - Rick Rebecca  
(Andrew & Cheryl Klein)

### Tuesday, March 7

7am - Herb Dulle  
(Virginia Kelly)  
12:05pm - Carol Morgan  
(Vicki Compton)  
5:15pm - William F. & Shirley Logan  
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

### Wednesday, March 8

7am - John W. Montgomery  
(John Busiaco)  
12:05pm - Richard Dhabalt  
(Dale & Jane Grieser)  
5:15pm - Carol Morgan  
(Becky & Woody Woodhull)

### Thursday, March 9

7am - Sophia Bartoletti & Family  
(Estate of Sophia Bartoletti)  
12:05pm - Fr. Brian Alford  
(Chris Sommer)  
5:15pm - Karen Bucari  
(Alan Bucari)

### Friday, March 10

7am - John Ansell  
(Judy Ansell & Family)  
12:05pm - Sam Montalbano  
(Marguerite & Barb)  
5:15pm - Intention for Bianca  
(D.A. Drago)

### Saturday, March 11

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

### Sunday, March 12

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(William Midden)  
10am - For The People  
5pm - Donnie Waibel  
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

## Presence Discussion Question #2

Why do you receive the Eucharist?  
What do you hope for or expect this  
sacrament to accomplish in you?

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



## Stabat Mater

I hope that all of us have experienced the Stations of the Cross at some point during our formation as Christian disciples. The Stations are a prayerful way to share in Christ's walk to Calvary, from his sentencing to death by Pontius Pilate until he is laid in the tomb. A common hymn to accompany the praying of the Stations is called the "Stabat Mater," or in English, "At the Cross her Station Keeping." This hymn has been associated with Mary as Mother of Dolors (sorrows) since the 13th century. It imagines how Mary must have felt during her Son's suffering and death. Jesus suffered the utmost physical pain while he

died for our sins, but Mary suffered the utmost emotional pain as she witnessed her Son experience this.

Many of us have been asked by God to suffer with Jesus physically. Some people seem to never be able to escape physical suffering or illness, and in a mysterious way, Christ's cross can be present through these illnesses. However, a suffering that can be more deeply felt is emotional suffering. Some people suffer not from their own physical pain, but from witnessing people around them making bad choices or suffering from their own illness. Both of these sufferings can be a share in the cross of Jesus, if we respond with faith and ask Jesus for healing and to carry our cross with us. It is significant that Mary stood at the foot of the cross. I recently noticed in the Cathedral's stations of the cross that Mary is depicted as standing by the cross, looking up at Jesus. Other characters in common depictions of the crucifixion scene often show Mary Magdalene lying on the ground or leaning against the cross, overcome with grief. However, even though Mary suffered immensely because of her great love for her Son, she also had a great hope – even the hope that he would rise from the dead. This same faith is what allowed Abraham to be willing to sacrifice his son Isaac in Genesis. And this hope seems to give Mary the confidence to stand by her Son as he died for our sins. I invite you to join us at the Cathedral at 5:45 for the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent. The time of prayer is simple yet profound, as we reflect more deeply during this Lenten season on our need for a Savior. Here are a few verses of the beautiful hymn Stabat Mater for your consideration.

*At the cross her station keeping,  
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,  
Close to Jesus to the last.*

*Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,  
All his bitter anguish bearing,  
Now at length the sword has passed.*

*O how sad and sore distressed,  
Was that Mother highly blest  
Of the sole begotten One!*

*Christ above in torment hangs,  
She beneath beholds the pangs  
Of her dying, glorious Son.*

*Is there one who would not weep,  
Whelmed in miseries so deep,  
Christ's dear Mother to behold?*

*Can the human heart refrain  
From partaking in her pain,  
In that Mother's pain untold?*

*Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,  
She beheld her tender Child,  
All with bloody scourges rent.*

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



## St. Felicity

**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; Felicity Pregnant, Dressed as a Servant**

We continued to recall St. Perpetua's Passion, now reading from the final paragraphs added after their martyrdom by a person who, though anonymous here, may have been as famous an early-Christian character as Tertullian.

*As for Felicity, the Lord's favor touched her in this way. She was now in her eighth month (for she was pregnant when she was arrested). As the day of the games drew near, she was in agony, fearing that her pregnancy would spare her (since it was not permitted to punish pregnant women in public), and that she would pour forth her holy and innocent blood afterwards, along with common criminals. But also her fellow martyrs were deeply saddened that they might leave behind so good a friend, their companion, to travel alone on the road to their shared hope. And so, two days before the games, they joined together in one united supplication, groaning, and poured forth their prayer to the Lord. Immediately after their prayer her labor pains came upon her. And when—because of the natural difficulty associated with an eighth-month delivery—she suffered in her labor, one of the assistant jailers said to her: "If you are suffering so much now, what will you do when you are thrown to the beasts which you scorned when you refused to sacrifice?" And she replied: "Now I alone suffer what I am suffering, but then there will be another inside me, who will suffer for me, because I am going to suffer for him." And she gave birth to a baby girl, whom a certain sister brought up as her own daughter. [Passion of Perpetua and Felicity, XV, Translation by Thomas J. Heffernan, 2012].*

I make note, first of all, that Roman Law – even when entirely comfortable with hurling young men and women, naked, to be torn by beasts as public entertainment, and, when still casting a blind-eye towards fathers who would expose until death unwanted infant children – still held that a pregnant woman could not be executed because of the innocence and individual-dignity of the child in her womb. Yet though much could be said on the inconsistency of Roman Law as regards human life and dignity (not to mention the laws of our own country), I choose instead to dwell again on one important word here used for the first time in Christian literature: "fellow-martyrs" (conmartyres).

Notice that Felicity has also chosen to hold her Christian identity as even more important than her motherhood. She, with all the longings and hopes of a pregnant mother, still yearns for the grace of martyrdom even more. Yet her and Perpetua's desire is not simply to die for Christ, but to die together for Christ. So many words in these their final moments depict their union: "fellow martyrs ... so good a friend, their companion, ... shared hope ... joined together in one united supplication ... a certain sister." Remarkably, these two saints who died on March 7th have trumped no less a saint than St. Thomas Aquinas, who also died on March 7th (we celebrate him instead on his earthly birthday, January 28th). The Angelic Theologian tells us of the splendor of Christian Friendship: "thus there is a twofold grace: one whereby man himself is united to God, and this is called sanctifying grace; the other is that whereby one man cooperates with another in leading him to God, and this gift is called gratuitous grace." [Summa Theologicae, I,II, III,1.Respondeo]. BUT, it is Perpetua and Felicity who show us the splendor of Christian friendship, emboldening each other all the way to their final self-gift!

But they are not only a twosome enduring the arena: "Now I alone suffer what I am suffering, but then there will be another inside me, who will suffer for me, because I am going to suffer for him." It seems that St. Paul's words have transfigured these women's courageous hearts: "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing." [1 Cor 13:1-3] These women speak eloquently; they understand the scriptures and have received baptism and faith; they have converted the hearts of their intransigent jailers and have even given up their bodies and every human relationship ... but all of this would be vain without love, without Christ within them. Truly, at the end, these two were joined by Christ in their final sufferings. "Then [Perpetua] got up; and when she saw Felicity crushed to the ground, she went over to her, gave her hand and helped her up. And the two stood side by side." [XX]

*Fr. Dominic Rankin cannot help but remind all of us these women, though recently baptized, had not yet received Holy Communion. They were imprisoned for the entirety of their Christian lives, and can only describe their yearning for Christ's self-gift as food. Perpetua recounts for us a dream she had while in prison: "And I saw an enormous garden and a white-haired man sitting in the middle of it dressed in shepherd's clothes, a big man, milking sheep. And standing around were many thousands dressed in white. And he raised his head, looked at me, and said: 'You are welcome here, child.' And he called me, and from the cheese that he had milked he gave me as it were a mouthful. And I received it in my cupped hands and ate it. And all those standing around said: 'Amen.' And I woke up at the sound of their voice, still eating some unknown sweet. And at once I told this to my brother. And we knew we would suffer, and we ceased to have any hope in this world" [IV].*

## Stewardship of Treasure

### February 25th & 26th

Envelopes	\$5,730.00
Loose	\$2,850.00
Maintenance	\$110.00
Total	\$8,690.00

### 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!

## Sacraments

### Baptisms

Josephine Marie Steinacher  
Child of Todd & Adrienne Steinacher  
Baptized on February 26, 2023

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Cathedral

### CCCW Garage Sale Donations

Start your Spring Cleaning or downsizing now and donate to the CCCW Garage Sale! All proceeds benefit our Scholarship fund, our parish and other local charitable organizations. Arrangements can be made for donation pick up or we can meet you at the atrium entrance on Mondays and Fridays. Please call or text 217-691-6333 to arrange a drop off or pick up. Thank you!

### CCCW Lenten Soup Suppers

Looking for dinner options during Lent? Join the women of CCCW for Lenten Soup Suppers every Wednesday throughout this season of Lent beginning at 6pm in the Atrium. A presentation will be given at each supper. All are welcome!

### 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!

### Lord, Teach us to Pray

Lent is a time during which the Church invites us to deepen our relationship with the Lord through prayer. While we desire to be prayerful people, we humbly acknowledge that "we do not know how to pray as we ought." (Rom 8:26), thus our asking Jesus, as His disciples did: "Lord, teach us to pray." (Lk 11:1) Come and join Father Alford for a Lenten series on learning how to grow in our life of prayer. Sessions will be at 7:00 pm in the Atrium on the first four Mondays of Lent. Please bring your Bible and something with which to take notes.

Mondays, February 27, March 6, 13, & 20 @ 7pm

### Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who came out on Saturday the 25th to pray at Right to Life. There was a wonderful response of more than 25 people who came out to pray last Saturday!

### Fearless and Free - Experiencing Healing and Wholeness in Christ

This six-week women's Bible study provides a firm foundation to stand on no matter what life throws our way. Based on the book of Ephesians, this study ideal for women who long for wholeness of heart and are in need of freedom from past wounds. Call 217/522-3342 or email [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org) to order a book and reserve your spot.

Thursday evenings, March 30-May 11 (no meeting on Holy Thursday) @ 6:00pm, Cathedral School Library, \$20 for the book

### 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/](http://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](http://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/](http://www.signup.formed.org/) and searching for our parish name or zip code (62703).

**Presence™**  
THE MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST

**Week Two — The Story of the Eucharist**

The whole story of salvation history is a single narrative, culminating in the climactic gift of the Eucharist. The Eucharist was prefigured in the Old Testament and was fully revealed to us in Jesus' life, miracles, teaching, and sacrifice.

This week, login to [formed.org](http://formed.org) and watch *Presence*, Episode 2.

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# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Around the Diocese

### Fine Art Fair at Christ the King

Please join Christ the King for a Fine Art Fair on Saturday, March 18, from 10am-3pm. There is a \$5 adult fee, and the show is for the charity "HOPE". Proceeds go toward a medical clinic in Central America.

### "Our Journey of Faith" SDCCW Lenten Retreat

The Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women invites all women to attend our annual Lenten Retreat at Villa Maria in Springfield beginning at 9:00 am on Tuesday March 28th and ending at noon on Wed. March 29th. Kim Paden, retreat master, will take us on "our journey of faith". She is the Chair of the Spirituality Commission for the National Council of Catholic Women and writes periodically for The Catholic Post, the newspaper for the Catholic Diocese of Peoria. What a wonderful time for spiritual presentations, prayer, Holy Mass, Confession, fellowship and much more. Bring your sister, your mom, your friend. All are welcome! Registration forms with cost and further information is available in the atrium.

### 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 Latakia—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](http://www.crs.org) or [www.missio.org](http://www.missio.org) to make a donation help the people of Turkey and Syria.

### Second Collection - Helping Hands

Helping Hands provides housing, shelter, and support services to people experiencing homelessness in Central Illinois. Your generosity to the second collection next week will assist Helping Hands in providing emergency housing, case management services, and permanent supportive housing to our neighbors in need. Thank you!

### SOCCER AND A BROKEN RESERVOIR

In the Dry Corridor of Honduras, climate change causes persistent drought, making farming nearly impossible. With support from Catholic Relief Services, Rony, a farmer, repaired an old reservoir and installed a new irrigation system to improve his harvests. Now Rony can send his son to a soccer academy to pursue his dream of becoming a professional player. How can you work like Rony to support others' needs and dreams? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more.

### 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](mailto:medglobalbrigades2023@gmail.com).

### 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.