

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MARCH 19, 2023 | FOURTH 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 12

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

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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!



Visits to Jesus in the Eucharist

Since 2006, I have been blessed to live and work in locations where I have never been more than 100 yards from Jesus present in the tabernacle. In several places, I have not even needed to leave the building to gain access to the tabernacle. This thought came to me as I was watching Episode 3 of Presence on FORMED. A

few of the speakers spoke about how, when faced with some challenge or question, they would go to the nearby adoration chapel or church to make a visit to Jesus in the Eucharist, speaking to Him and begging for His guidance. Hearing that reminds me of how privileged I have been to do likewise on so many occasions over the past nearly 17 years. But I am also aware of how many missed opportunities there have been, how I have taken for granted how close and available Jesus was to me, and yet I just went about my day without stopping in from time to time to visit Him, if for no other reason than to just tell Him that I love Him and to thank Him for His love for me.

During this time of Eucharistic Revival taking place throughout our country and in our diocese, there are many things that we can do to deepen our love for this gift of the Eucharist which the Church rightly calls the “source and summit” of our lives as Catholics. I would like to suggest that one such practice is making regular visits to Jesus in the Eucharist. That can be in an adoration chapel, like we have here in town at Blessed Sacrament Church. If you ever find yourself at one of our two hospitals in town, both have a chapel that is accessible to visitors and where Jesus is present in the tabernacle. Of course, most of our churches are open during the day for people to stop in and make a visit to Our Lord. Here at the Cathedral, our doors are unlocked one hour before the morning Mass through shortly after the conclusion of the final Mass of the day.

While making your visit, you can talk to Him about anything! Share the joys and struggles of the day with Him. Ask for guidance to the questions that you have. Give thanks to Him for His goodness and the blessings He has shared with you that day, blessings both known and unknown. As I wrote above, you can just tell Him that you love Him and thank Him for His love for you. And I highly encourage you to conclude your visit by making an act of spiritual communion. Here are the words I use, but you are free to use whatever works:

I wish, my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility, and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints.

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Mass Intentions

Monday, March 20

7am - Mark Beagles
(Family)
12:05pm - Arthur Hodalski
(Pat Klockenkemper)
5:15pm - Joseph Reichle
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

Tuesday, March 21

7am - Michael Kelly
(Chris Sommer)
12:05pm - Herb Dulle
(The Gaffigan Family)
5:15pm - Tom Daley
(Tom & Jeannette Bland)

Wednesday, March 22

7am - Deceased Members of the
Rocco Piccinino Family (John
Busciaccco)
12:05pm - Richard Dhabalt
(Dale & Jane Grieser)
5:15pm - Margaret M. Fassero
(Leo & Norma Dougherty)

Thursday, March 23

7am - Steve Logan
(Chris Sommer)
12:05pm - Cathy Furkin
(Family)
5:15pm - Betty Willis
(Russ & Jan Militello)

Friday, March 24

7am - Rita Fahrendorf
(Berni Ely)
12:05pm - John Ansell
(Judy Ansell & Family)
5:15pm - Angela Squires
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

Saturday, March 25

8am - Sophia Bartoletti
(Estate)
4pm - For The People

Sunday, March 26

7am - Barbara Conkrite
(Litina Carnes)
10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)
5pm - George Hovanec
(Friends)

Presence

Discussion Question #4

How does Mary's life show us how to approach the Eucharist in a biblical way?

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

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Since you have seemed to enjoy receiving Lenten challenges from me in the past, perhaps for the second half of Lent, I issue the challenge to make a visit to Jesus at least a couple of times a week, outside of your normal coming to the church for Mass. If you can do every day, great! But even if you do just once a couple of times a week, it will be more than you were likely doing, and I have great confidence that this practice will very much help strengthen your love for the Eucharist. St. Alphonsus Liguori wrote that the time spent in visiting the Blessed Sacrament “will be the most profitable to you in this life, and the source of your greatest consolation in death and in eternity.”

As a reminder, we have a weekly reflection question to keep in mind as you watch the next episode of Presence. It can be found on the bottom right corner of the previous page.

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



Blessed Joseph, her Spouse

Feast Day: March 19th | Spouse of Mary, Foster Father of Christ, Prince and Patron of the Universal Church | Imagery: Holding Christ child, Lily (for purity), Blooming Staff (from miraculous engagement to Mary), Carpenter's Square, often wearing Brown (carpenter garb) and Green (indicating fecundity)

All of us know St. Joseph. We celebrate him on multiple feasts each year, and spend much of Advent with him and Our Lady as they prepare (with us) to receive the gift of the Christ child. This year we approach him

through the lens of the Eucharistic Prayers. Well, that is a rather impersonal way to put it ... let us choose today to come to St. Joseph and ask him to teach us about our Eucharistic Lord.

And we find an odd thing: He points to his wife. In each Eucharistic prayer, St. Joseph is invoked only in his relationship with Mary, as “Blessed Joseph, her spouse.” Mary, similarly, is only mentioned and revered in relation to her son – “the glorious ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ” (EP1) or “Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God” (EP2, 3, & 4). There is something important to grasp here! Even these greatest saints of the Church, given the highest veneration among the choirs of heaven are only honored within their union with Christ! (Recall, we give Mary hyperdulia [highest-veneration], but only as the mother of God, and Joseph protodulia [first-veneration among the other saints], but only as the spouse of Mary). Here's the key truth: No one becomes a saint without Christ, without becoming a member of His Body (though, as Lumen Gentium mercifully reminds us, sometimes that union is in ways known only to God).

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Stewardship of Treasure

March 11th & 12th

Envelopes	\$6,107.00
Loose	\$5,203.00
Maintenance	\$165.00
Total	\$11,475.00

February EFT

\$20,438.80

February Second Collections

Church in Central and Eastern Europe
\$2,947.00

Pregnancy Care Center
\$2,587.00

February Debt Reduction

\$732.00

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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But isn't it a better thing to be Jesus' virginal father, His foster father, than Mary's spouse?! St. Bernadine of Siena preached of the sublimity of St. Joseph's vocation as Mary's spouse, but then makes the obvious point that his even more exalted vocation was to be Jesus' earthly father, to stand in the place – as a human being – of God the Father! Of course, one becomes a father after first being a husband (both of those vocations themselves flowing from first being a brother, and before all else, a son), so in some ways Joseph's being a spouse is the prerequisite for his being a father. (Notice that this was the case for Mary as well! She was asked to bear God's son after she had already been betrothed, truly entering a preliminary marriage, to St. Joseph).

But I think there is something more important that St. Joseph is teaching us here: Vocations don't vanish; nothing cancels God's call. If God has made you His son, and called you to be His son, nothing will ever steal that identity from you. Not sin, not suffering, not centuries. If God has made you a brother, and called you to be a brother, that relationship never expires. If God has made you a husband, and called you to be a husband, nothing can break or sunder that reality. Not infidelity, not illness, not even death. If God has made you a father, and called you to be a father, as long as you are united to Him, you remain a father like He is Our Father.

Now, earthly "vocations" (with a lower-case "v"): jobs, occupations, hobbies, activities ... these things come and go. They are not grounded in God and so they do not last into eternity. But, those parts of our identity that are grounded in Christ remain and endure even unto heavenly life. Consider St. Joseph. He is called "Guardian of Virgins", "Protector of the Universal Church", "Terror of Demons" ... titles that only apply to him if he is still, in heaven, the spouse of Mary, made mother of the Church on calvary. Yes, "in the resurrection, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage" [Matthew 22:30], but marriage can no more be dissolved in heaven than it can here on earth. Sacraments and vocations will no longer be fundamental in heaven, not because they are abolished but because they are fulfilled. (So is my priesthood!) In-betweens aren't necessary once we live in God, yet all those ways that we were here called into likeness with the Heavenly Father – all those specific ways we were incorporated into Christ – will remain as glorious and perfected characteristics that somehow mark our glorified bodies and souls in heaven!

In other words, Christ must be the nourishment for our vocations now, for nothing else will sustain them in Heaven.

Fr. Dominic Rankin was in seminary when Pope Benedict decided to add St. Joseph's name to the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Eucharistic Prayers on May 1st 2013 (feast of St. Joseph the Worker). Wait, Pope Francis was Pope by then, how did Pope Benedict make the addition?! This was a document, and decision, made by both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. Similar to Pope Francis' first encyclical, Lumen Fidei, the decree which added St. Joseph's name officially to those Eucharistic Prayers, "Paternas Vices", was also written first by Pope Benedict, but left up to his successor to edit and officially promulgate! (Fr. Dominic was not in seminary in 1973 when Pope St. John XXIII added St. Joseph to the 1st Eucharistic Prayer, but our Bishop Thomas John Paprocki was in seminary in that auspicious year!)

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

CCCW Lenten Soup Suppers

Looking for dinner options during Lent? Join the women of CCCW for Lenten Soup Suppers on Wednesday, March 22, beginning at 6pm in the Atrium. 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

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 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.

CCCW Garage Sale Donations

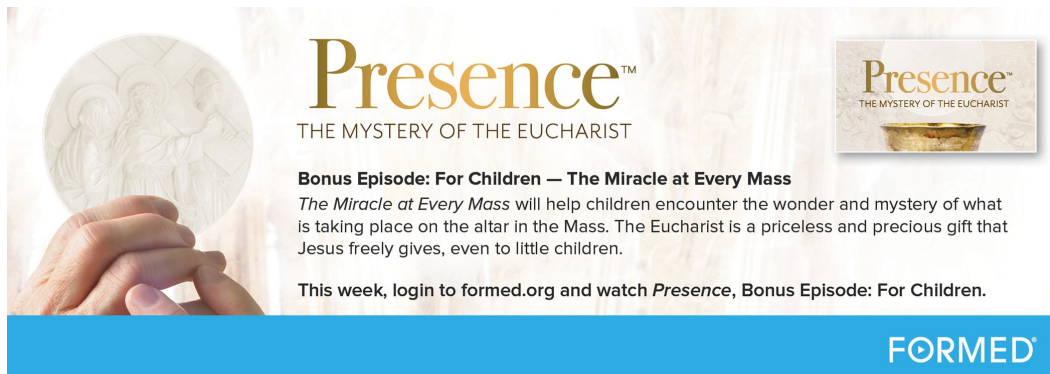
Start your Spring Cleaning or downsizing now and donate to the CCCW Garage Sale! All proceeds benefit our Scholarship fund, our parish and other local charitable organizations.

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!

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

Bonus Episode: For Children — The Miracle at Every Mass
The Miracle at Every Mass will help children encounter the wonder and mystery of what is taking place on the altar in the Mass. The Eucharist is a priceless and precious gift that Jesus freely gives, even to little children.

This week, login to formed.org and watch *Presence*, Bonus Episode: For Children.

FORMED

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Fr. Mike Schmitz on Dive Deep

Fr. Mike Schmitz, the host of the popular podcasts The Bible in a Year and The Catechism in a Year, joins Dive Deep to discuss what many Catholics don't realize about their faith, how faithful Catholics can get our lukewarm brothers and sisters back to the faith, what we should do if God "doesn't answer our prayers," and so much more. Go to dio.org/podcast or search Dive Deep on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe.

"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.

Pregnancy Care Center Spring Luncheon

The Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield, Inc. will hold its 39th Annual Spring Luncheon on Monday, April 3rd at the Northfield Inn and Suites. Entertainment will be provided by the Rochester High School Madrigals. This year's raffle item is \$250 in restaurant gift cards. Raffle tickets are \$10 and will be sold at the event only. There will also be a bake sale and a silent auction. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon. Reservations are required by March 27th. Seats are \$30 each or \$240 for a table of eight. Reservations can be made by calling the office at (217) 525-5630.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Join Msgr. David Hoefler on a trip of a lifetime! Sail the Sea of Galilee, walk the Via Dolorosa, and walk the places where Jesus walked. The trip is from November 27-December 7, 2023. For more information, please visit www.holylandtoursllc.com or email edanaher@dio.org.

Second Collection - Cathedral Student Assistance Collection

Cathedral parish provides scholarships to our children whose parents wish to provide them with a Catholic education. Please be generous in your support of next week's collection to support student assistance. Thank you!

SHARING SUCCESS

Most people in Turkana, Kenya raise livestock, and a few are farmers. But the hot and dry climate makes this work difficult—and climate change is making it even harder. Rebecca and Lotiang participated in a Catholic Relief Services program that installed a water well and taught them new farming techniques. They can support their family with their crops and are teaching others in their community what they learned. How can you use your skills and knowledge to help others? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

Illinois March for Life in Springfield

The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois invites you to join us for the Illinois March for Life, Tuesday, March 21. The day will start with Mass, 10:00 am, Sangamon Auditorium, on the UIS Campus, 1 University Plaza, Springfield. At noon, the Illinois March for Life will hold a rally in front of the State Capitol, 2nd Street, at the Lincoln Statue. A march around the State Capitol complex will begin after the rally. The Mass, rally and march are intended for 7th-12th graders, college students, and adults. To register to attend the Mass and March go to: illinoismarchforlife.org

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.