

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**MARCH 26, 2023 | FIFTH 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 13

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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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PAROCHIAL VICAR

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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!



## Mary and the Eucharist

Throughout Lent, we have been proposing reflection questions for you to consider while watching the episodes of Presence on the FORMED online platform. For the final episode, the question we were invited to reflect on was: "How does Mary's life show us how to approach the Eucharist in a biblical way?"

This question is especially timely given the fact that the Church just celebrated the Solemnity of the Annunciation this past Saturday, March 25. Although we may not initially connect this mystery of the life of Jesus with the Eucharist, it is indeed very Eucharistic. As we know, human life begins at conception, and so when Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary at the Annunciation, the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. (Jn 1:14) This is what happens at every celebration of the Eucharist, the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us in the form of bread and wine, though in reality, truly as the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus.

As I reflect on this scene from the Gospel where Mary welcomes the Savior into her womb, what strikes is what we hear in the next passage: "In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth." (Lk 1:39-40) With Christ in her womb, the love from the One who is love urges her to go in haste to serve her cousin Elizabeth who had conceived a child in her old age. Learning of this joyful news, Mary went right away to share the love of God.

One of the options for the dismissal at the end of Mass is: "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." The first word is key: Go! Having received the love of God in our body and soul in the Eucharist, we are sent out, and we should imitate Mary and go in haste to live the graces the Lord has blessed us with in His coming to dwell in us. Like Mary, we should be eager to glorify the Lord by our lives, in both word and action. Mary's going in haste demonstrates this action, and she glorifies the Lord in her song of praise after she arrives at her cousin's, saying those beautiful words: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior." (Lk 1:46-47)

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## Mass Intentions

### Monday, March 27

7am - Sophia Bartoletti  
(Estate of Sophia Bartoletti)  
12:05pm - Tricia McCoy  
(Morning Women's Bible Study)  
5:15pm - Peter Troesch  
(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)

### Tuesday, March 28

7am - Brother Francis Skube  
(Community)  
12:05pm - Mark Beagles  
(Family)  
5:15pm - Tricia McCoy  
(Celeste Crowley)

### Wednesday, March 29

7am - Danny Millburg  
(Steven Waggoner)  
12:05pm - Dick Dhabalt & Family  
(Linda Howell)  
5:15pm - Tom Daley  
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

### Thursday, March 30

7am - Ted Smith  
(Kathy Howard)  
12:05pm - Herb Dulle  
(Virginia Kelly)  
5:15pm - John Brunk  
(Family)

### Friday, March 31

7am - George Hovanec  
(Bev Hoffman)  
12:05pm - Ben Garde  
(Family)  
5:15pm - Ron & Jean Borre & Family  
(Richard & Kay King)

### Saturday, April 1

8am - Mary Jane Kerns  
(Estate)  
4pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl  
(Angela Ohl Marsters)

### Sunday, April 2

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(William Midden)  
10am - Danny Millburg  
(Margaret Millburg & Family)  
5pm - For The People

## Understanding Palm Sunday

How has your understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist grown during this Lent? Are there any specific resolutions you hope to make regarding your participation in the Mass as a result of this study?



## Continued from previous page

These two incidents of the Annunciation and the Visitation show how Mary's example invites us to live a Eucharistic life. The Eucharist is far more than just coming to Mass to receive Him, only to forget about Him the rest of the week. Coming to Mass is how we are fed and renewed with the love of God which cannot help but overflow in how we live the rest of the week, letting ourselves be instruments of His love in the daily details of our lives. Everything that we do can be an opportunity for us to give glory to God by the way we live our lives. And Mary teaches us how to do this. This is why I often, when praying in thanksgiving after Mass, ask Mary's intercession for me that the graces I have received may not be wasted, but shared generously with those whom the Lord will place in my path that day.

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.*



## How God Makes Saints (Part 1)

Every week I try to tell the story of God's grace alive in one particular person: how He made another ordinary, sometimes struggling, sometimes hurting, person into a saint.

This week I am going to try and tell the story of God's grace around one particular event, basically one week here in our diocese where God, again and again, consistently, continuously provided as only He can. How He is at work right now to make you, and I, and so many others into saints.

It was a rainy afternoon in mid-March and had been a day filled just enough that I hadn't had time to tackle any of the little tasks that tend to fall through the cracks, yet wasn't so packed that I was worn and weary from the day's events. We've all been there: the kind of day where you're just barely getting by on your own steam. It's not quite long or arduous enough that you are absolutely forced to turn to God, but not exactly "easy and light". About 8 of us were having a final meeting to put the finishing touches on our plans for the March for Life that would happen about 10 days later. (Notice that all-important descriptor: our plan...) Little did I know as they asked me to open the meeting in prayer, how much we were going to be leaning on God going forward. (And how He was going to abundantly show that this was His plan.)

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## Stewardship of Treasure

### March 18th & 19th

Envelopes	\$4,987.00
Loose	\$2,941.00
Maintenance	\$93.00
Total	\$8,021.00

### 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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Turns out, our ballpark expectation of a maximum of 1200 people had been obliterated over the prior few days. We had 1700 people registered just for the Mass before the March (and 2500 at least for the Rally and March itself). Instead of one bishop and 8 priests, we had 6 bishops and 40 priests. Rather than using only the main floor of the auditorium, we were going to need every seat in there, and I was going to need to figure out how to distribute Holy Communion through every cranny of loge level. Of course, we rejoiced at the prospect of a biblical multitude, but at the same time I think every person on the team was taken-aback by the magnitude of the project we were now attempting to pull off. I cannot speak for all the other hurdles faced to pull everything off, but I would like to share a few that I got to see for myself, and the astonishing ways that God moved mountains all the way through.

Hurdle #1: We didn't have an altar or ambo. Well, we had a little wooden one, but I already knew it would be dwarfed in the Sangamon Auditorium, and now I doubted it would even be of sufficient size to hold all the corporals, patens, chalices, and missal that we would need for the Mass (not to mention spreading 6 bishops behind it). I thought another member of the team had been in touch with the Archdiocese of St. Louis about borrowing the altar and ambo that they had which Pope St. John Paul II had used during his visit there, but no one had reached out, and I didn't even have a contact for the person I would need to talk to. My heart whipped back and forth between frustration and discouragement and confidence and hope. Of course God would provide ... but everything was falling apart. What are we going to do??!! ... but it'll all work out. I emailed someone at the Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis but knew I needed things to move faster than that, so I texted a priest I know down there and paused and said a prayer that God would open the doors that He wanted us to go down... And the priest called back within one minute, tracked down the business manager at their Cathedral for me, found out that the altar was available, and had him emailing me the details within another minute.

Hurdle #2: To borrow the altar and ambo, you have to have it moved by a honest-to-goodness moving company, and it has to be covered by \$100,000 of insurance. Did I mention we don't have a budget for this? The choice to move the March for Life down here to Springfield happened just a handful of months ago. Hence the skeleton crew. Hence the month-out contract with Sangamon Auditorium. Hence me not having an Altar. And now I needed a moving company with a heap of insurance, this week, and willing to do it out of the goodness of their heart. God was going to ask for trust again, and I needed Him to move a few more mountains.

*Fr. Dominic Rankin will tell the rest of the tale, don't worry. For now – spoiler alert, he survived the March for Life – but he needs some sleep before attempting any more storytelling*

# 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 29, beginning at 6pm in the Atrium. All are welcome!

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

### Understanding Palm Sunday

Focusing on the Biblical account of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Ben Akers break open the meaning of why Jesus rode on a donkey, the significance of the palm branches and the singing of Hosanna, and how this event launched Holy Week and the redemption of the world. Log in to Formed to watch.

### Covenant Radiothon

Parishioners Marlene & Scott Mulford will be on air Wednesday, March 29, at 1 p.m. as hosts for the Covenant Network Spring Radiothon! Please pray for them and support FM 88.9 WTTT Catholic Radio by calling (314) 752-7000 or (877) 305-1234 [www.OurCatholicRadio.org](http://www.OurCatholicRadio.org).

### K of C Fr. Augustine Tolton Council #16126 St. Louis Cardinals Bus Trip

Ready to start scheduling your summer plans? On Wednesday, July 19th join Fr. Augustine Tolton Council #16126 as we take a charter bus down to St. Louis for a seminary tour and St. Louis Cardinals game. Fr. Alford will give us a tour of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, where several of the seminarians from the Diocese attend, and celebrate mass there. That afternoon we will be attending a St. Louis Cardinals game before returning to Springfield that evening. Additional details including an itinerary can be found at the link below. There are 40 spots on the bus available, and an additional 20 spots for those that would like to transport themselves. The cost is \$65/person for a spot on the bus and ticket (section 265) to the game. If you would like to provide your own transportation the cost is \$20 for a ticket. You can reserve your spot now by visiting the link below. If you have any questions about the trip you can contact [info.kofc16126@gmail.com](mailto:info.kofc16126@gmail.com).

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/da3fcaa6-a230-4a40-9109-63dbf5e5fad5>

### Blood Pressure Checks - March 25th & 26th

Our parish nurses will be available for blood pressure checks before and after masses this weekend. Please stop by!

### 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.

### 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!

### 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!

### CCCW Garage Sale

Join us for the annual CCCW Garage Sale! Come shop for accessories, furniture, household/kitchen items, outdoor items, sports gear, toys, books, movies, and more! The sale will be held on Friday, April 21st from 7am to 7pm, and on Saturday, April 22nd, from 8am to 12pm. We hope to see you there!

# 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](http://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](http://www.holylandtoursllc.com) or email [edanaher@dio.org](mailto:edanaher@dio.org).

### Second Collection - St. Martin de Porres Collection

St. Martin de Porres Center supports local residents in need by providing household goods, food and clothing. Your generosity to next week's second collection will help the volunteers continue this work of mercy. Thank you!

### THE POWER OF SACRIFICE

Lent can feel like a long time. Sometimes we'd like to skip right to Easter! But through prayer and sacrifices, we share in Christ's suffering and prepare for the joy of his resurrection. This Lent, we've learned how people in Honduras, the Philippines and Kenya made sacrifices so their families and communities can thrive. How have your Lenten sacrifices helped your family and community and communities around the world? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more.

### Good Friday Way of the Cross for Peace and Justice

The Good Friday Way of the Cross for Peace and Justice will be held on April 7, 2023 beginning at noon at the Supreme Court Building, 2nd & Capitol. The two hour prayerful walk remembers Jesus' passion and its connection with the sufferings of injustice experienced by God's people in our world today. Join with others in this ecumenical experience of prayer. For more information, call/text 217-652-8086 or contact [smkoch@spdom.org](mailto:smkoch@spdom.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.