

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

APRIL 2, 2023 | PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 14

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
NINTH BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.
RECTOR

THE REVEREND PAUL LESUPATI
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
IN RESIDENCE

THE REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING
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Sunday Masses

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 7:00am, 10:00am, & 5:00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday through Friday - 7:00am & 5:15pm

Saturday - 8:00am

Reconciliation

Monday through Friday - 4:15pm-5:00pm

Saturday - 9:00am-10:00am & 2:30pm-3:30pm

Sunday - 4:00pm-4:45pm

Adoration

Tuesday & Thursday - 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Welcome to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception!

On behalf of our bishop, the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, our parishioners, deacons, and priests, we welcome you to the mother church of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

The seat of the diocese was moved to Springfield from Alton in 1923. In the same year, "Old St. Mary's" church of Immaculate Conception Parish was named as the pro-cathedral of the new diocese until this cathedral church was built and dedicated in 1928. Currently, our diocese comprises twenty-eight counties in central Illinois, serving over 140,000 members of the Catholic faithful.

We hope that your visit to our Cathedral is one of grace and beauty and that you feel at home in the mother church. We also hope that you will find this edition of the Cathedral Weekly to be both informative and spiritually enriching. May God bless you and yours!



Institution of the Eucharist

As we come to the culmination of our Lenten journey, it is my prayer that among the graces you have received, you have grown at least a little (if not a lot) in your appreciation for and love of the Holy Eucharist. Holy Week is overwhelmingly Eucharistic. Recall a few weeks ago when I reflected on the words in the consecration: "for you." We see on full display this week the offering Jesus made of His life for you. In a particular way, we recall the institution of this great gift of His Body and Blood when as we begin the Sacred Paschal Triduum with the celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday evening.

As we prepare for Holy Thursday this year, I note that this marks the 25th anniversary of a very powerful moment that happened to me on this night. I was a freshman at Eastern Illinois University at the time and I had attended the Holy Thursday Mass at the Newman Center. Returning back to my dorm room, I did some homework and a friend asked if I was interested in going to a party with him. As an aside, I'm not sure why he asked, I NEVER went to parties. I politely declined and decided instead to head back to the Newman Center to pray before the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose, a tradition on Holy Thursday evening which recalls Jesus's prayer to His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane. At that point in my life, I did not know what adoration was, and I did not even have a clear understanding why I was even going back to church, but I felt drawn to do so. I think a part of it was from having gone to Holy Thursday Mass growing up and how interesting it was for us to do a solemn procession to the Altar of Repose, then departing in silence. Again, I can't say that I really understood what was happening, but something about it stuck with me.

As I knelt in adoration that night in 2008, I do not remember the exact content of my prayer, but I remember that it moved me profoundly. It could very well be one of the first times in my life that I realized Jesus's personal love for me, that the suffering and death we would recall on Good Friday was for me. I can't say that my life changed drastically after that, but years later, probably sometime after I was ordained a priest, the memory of that night came back to me, and it occurred to me that that moment would prove to be a pivotal moment in my relationship with the Lord. A seed was planted that would grow in a hidden way for several years before breaking through the surface and grow into the vocation that I have been blessed to live as a priest.

Much can be said about my experience, but perhaps we can leave it as an encouragement to anybody who, while showing up week after week to Mass, or who goes through the Triduum each year, may not walk away totally changed. We should never doubt the value of our showing up. The Lord is planting seeds, seeds which may take months if not years to grow hidden under the surface, but in God's providential timing, will bring about a bud that will break through the surface and blossom into a new experience of God's love, resulting in our realizing that because He has died for you, you will now resolve to live more fully for Him.

This week, instead of a reflection question, I will offer a spiritual challenge: I am challenging us to commit to fully immersing ourselves into Holy Week. This would include, to the extent possible, attending the Chrism Mass on Tuesday at 6:30 pm, and the Paschal Triduum liturgies. As an added challenge, I invite you to spend some time in silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Atrium following the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday evening. The Atrium will remain open until 11 pm that evening.

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, April 3

7am - John Ansell
(Judy Ansell & Family)
12:05pm - Rita Fahrendorf
(Berni Ely)
5:15pm - Margaret Munn
(James & Julie Berberet)

Tuesday, April 4

7am - Sophia Bartoletti
(Estate)
12:05pm - Tricia McCoy
(Vicki Compton)
5:15pm - NO MASS

Wednesday, April 5

7am - John W. Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
12:05pm - Richard Dhabalt
(Dale & Jane Grieser)
5:15pm - John Brunk
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

Thursday, April 6

6:30pm - James Hughes
(The Hughes Family)

Friday, April 7

3:00pm - NO INTENTIONS;
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Saturday, April 8

8pm - Betty L. Rogers
(Family)

Sunday, April 9

7am - Betty & Gene Barish
(Family)
10am - For The People
5pm - NO MASS



How God Makes Saints (Part 2)

So we were going to have a Mass before our March for Life, and it was going to be at UIS, and we had 1700+ people registered to come. Last week I told the story up to the point where God seemed to be providing an altar and ambo for the Mass – actually the same one that JP II had used when he came to St. Louis! – but I had no good way to get it up here to Springfield.

I asked around if anybody had someone that fit the bill. Coworkers, brother priests, Legion of Valor members, Knights of Columbus ... Does anyone know someone, or know someone who knows someone, that would be willing to do it for us?? I sent out a battery of messages and joined Fr. Vahling in the gym to take out my worries on the squat rack. I was

convinced already that only God could figure all of it out, and wondrously at the same time, somewhere deep in my heart was the further conviction that God had big plans and wasn't going to let mere logistical impossibilities get in the way.

As it turned out (coincidence?), the following day I would be seeing all of the priests of the diocese. Maybe someone would know someone? Fr. Arisman pointed me towards Fr. Goekner. Fr. Goekner pointed me towards Fr. Bergbower. Fr. Bergbower mentioned he already had a portable altar that might be big enough ... but then said "Have you talked with John Hopkins?" I hadn't even heard of the guy, but turns out he owns a truck-repair company, and he is a good Catholic, and he goes to daily Mass at the Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis! Fr. Bergbower texted him while we were eating our salads and before we had even gotten our meat and potatoes he had a response. It was an all-caps "LET'S DO IT!!!" (I do think there were three exclamation points. There certainly were in my memory of the moment). He would be returning from vacation on Sunday, would pick up the altar on Monday, and drop it off that afternoon at the auditorium with 12 hours to spare.

Amazing, providential, assistance came through at every turn. The four-week heads-up that our insurance needed to cover exterior collaborators came together in 24 hours. Meetings on Monday became unnecessary or were covered by other people giving time to hash out all the necessary details. Staff were on hand at the University to get everything moved in, and properly situated, when the altar showed up early Monday afternoon. Fr. Isaacson at St. Katherine Drexel had a glorious set of six candlesticks (and candles, and followers) for either side of the altar. None of the additional servers that I was expecting from high schools ended up showing, yet somehow between the pontifical servers and a few other guys who decided to help out, we had exactly 19 servers, one for each of the 19 places that we would have priests and bishops distribute Holy Communion.

Don't get the wrong impression! Some crises were only solved at the last second. This was definitely like the Manna in the desert: God providing precisely what was necessary in the moment. The printer broke at the CPC and we only had 1950 programs. Then it turned out we only had 1900 seats anyway. 45 minutes before buses began arriving for the Mass, UIS asked us to count everyone who came through the door ... and limit entries to 1750 people (we had 1800+ registrants by this point!) Dozens of members of the curia helped count programs and distribute them to groups, and when the time for Mass came there were still seats available. T-1 minute, we were still eight patens short to carry up to all the balconies Holy Communion. (Fr. Thompson had an emergency hospital call and could not come, along with the four patens we were borrowing from him for the Mass, and Fr. Arisman hadn't yet arrived with his four either.) Yet by the time Mass had started, Fr. Arisman was there (with his four), and we were able to put into service one of the ciboriums we had off to the side giving us just enough to get by.

Two anecdotes remain. As bishop finished greeting all the groups from around the state during his homily, a starling fluttered down from the ceiling ... and landed on one of the candles. Somehow the candle didn't topple, or go out, and bishop happily used it as a reminder for all of us of the Holy Spirit's presence there with all of us. And, in case I still doubted God was working through it all, a woman came up to me during the March afterwards (during which, I might mention, it did not rain as expected) and simply thanked me for the immense Peace that she experienced during the Mass. Now, if you've ever been at a Mass with thousands of people, and in an auditorium, you know that peace is not the obvious experience. Yet it was for her, and for many others, and I take that as a final testimony that God was working behind every detail.

Fr. Dominic saw not only God's providence in it all, but also his continued need to grow in trust in God. Every day the Lord wants to prove His Love for us; do we expect Him to?

Stewardship of Treasure

March 25th & 26th

Envelopes	\$7,142.00
Loose	\$3,124.00
Maintenance	\$430.00
Total	\$10,696.00

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!

Sacraments

Baptisms

Colette Marie Heffernan
Child of William & Katie Heffernan
Baptized on March 19, 2023

Deaths

Dan Sexson
Date of Death: March 17, 2023

WEEK OF APRIL 2

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
Adoration and Evening Prayer 4:00 PM Church	Mass 12:05 PM Church	Mass 12:05 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library	No 7:00 AM Mass	No 7:00 AM Mass	No 8:00 AM Mass
Family of Faith 6:00 PM Atrium		Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Young Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM Parish Meeting Room	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Good Friday - The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday 3:00 PM Church	No 4:00 PM Mass
		No 5:15 PM Mass		No 5:15 PM Mass	No 5:15 PM Mass	Easter Vigil 8:00 PM Church
		Chrism Mass 6:30 PM Church		Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper 6:30 PM Church		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



CCCW GARAGE SALE

Accessories, furniture, household/kitchen items, outdoor, sports, toys, books, movies, and more!

CATHEDRAL SCHOOL HALL

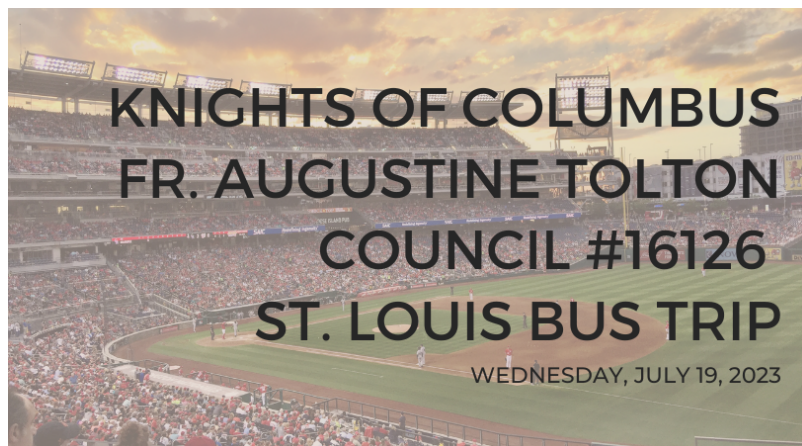
FRIDAY, APRIL 21
7AM TO 7PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
8AM TO 12PM

FACILITIES ARE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

CCCW Garage Sale

Donations are also still needed for the 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.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FR. AUGUSTINE TOLTON
COUNCIL #16126
ST. LOUIS BUS TRIP**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2023

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.

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

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



EASTER TRIDUUM SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday Mass of the
Lord's Supper
6:30pm

The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
on Good Friday
3:00pm

Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday
8:00pm



Catholic Charities Fundraiser

Springfield Catholic Charities will be holding their annual fundraiser on Saturday, May 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2200 Meadowbrook Rd. The evening will include hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, a silent and live auction as well as Dual Pianos with Damien Kaplan & Mark Gifford. Tickets are \$50 per person and may be purchased after masses April 15 & 16 and April 22 & 23 or online at cc.dio.org

Collection for the Holy Land

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection is necessary to meet basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land where the Church was born. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. PLEASE BE GENEROUS! For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit: www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday.

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.

Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage is a beautiful, 30-minute contemplative documentary that cinematically walks through the locations of the Holy Week story, representing the most important days of human history. Immersed in the real and sacred places of the Holy Land, the pilgrim faithful are brought tangibly nearer to the story, the landscape, and the reality of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Triduum draws Catholics and those with open hearts and minds to experience a deeper understanding of these events and places, and offers rich meditations for the pilgrimage of daily life. Long in to Formed to watch.

Pastoral Care for Cathedral's Sick & Elderly

If you, or someone you know from the Cathedral parish are homebound, hospitalized, or in a nursing care facility, please let the Cathedral Office know (217-522-3342). You may request to be put on the Cathedral Prayer Line or request a Pastoral Visit from Sr. Francella and her Cathedral volunteers.

CCCW & Knight's of Columbus Council #16126 Scholarship

Applications for the CCCW & Knight's of Columbus Council #16126 scholarship are now available. Completed scholarship applications, essay, and teacher evaluations must be submitted and received by the Cathedral Rectory by midnight on Friday, May 12, 2023. For more information or to apply, please visit www.spicathedral.org/cccw-knights-of-columbus-council-16126-scholarship-application/

A God Who Knows How It Feels

Christ could have spoken anything from the cross, so why did he choose to recite Psalm 22? And why is it so important that we recite that same Psalm at today's Mass?

"My God, my God, why have You abandoned me?"

We've never known the Jesus of the Gospels to doubt the will of God. We've never known him to be a defeatist or to give into feelings of despair. He's the hero who walks on water, the Savior who is welcomed to Jerusalem with a pathway of palms. And he knows how this story ends; he knows full well that his Father has absolutely not abandoned him.

So why does he say this? Jesus doesn't make offhanded comments, especially in his last hour. Today, when we repeat the words that he calls out in his darkest moment, we must remember that he wants us, very particularly, to consider them.

With his crucifixion, Jesus reminds us of his humanity. He is a man of flesh that can be torn and blood that can be shed. Somehow, in tandem with his divinity, he still possesses a heart that knows fear and pain and longing. And with this seemingly hopeless cry, he reminds us of that.

Let us never doubt that Jesus can relate to us in our brokenness. This is the week, friends. This is the week that reminds us that our God is a God who knows every pang, every trembling, and every uncertainty of human life. Our God knows what abandonment feels like. He knows what rejection feels like. He knows what it is to keep going when the strength and the will has disappeared.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
©LPi

Around the Diocese

- **Good Friday Way of the Cross for Peace and Justice**, April 7, 2023 beginning at noon at the Supreme Court Building, 2nd & Capitol. For more information, call/text 217-652-8086 or contact smkoch@spdom.org.
- **St. Joseph the Worker Church in Chatham, IL Mission Trip Fundraiser/Raffle**, tickets can be purchased by stopping by the church before or after services or by stopping by the office beginning April 22nd- May 7th.
- **St. Joseph the Worker Church in Chatham Chicken Dinner and Auction**, Saturday, May 6 from 4-7pm, and an online basket auction from May 6-13. View items and bid by visiting this link: <https://www.32auctions.com/CHWC2023>
- **Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land**, November 27-December 7, 2023. For more information, please visit www.holylandtoursllc.com or email edanaher@dio.org.

MODERN DAY SIMON OF CYRENE

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. As we walk with Jesus this week, we remember the countless women, children and men who carry heavy crosses even today: crosses of hunger, of vulnerability to climate change, or of a lack of resources. How—like Simon of Cyrene—can you help to carry the crosses of our sisters and brothers in your local community and around the world? Visit crricebowl.org/holy-week to learn more.