

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

APRIL 9, 2023 | EASTER SUNDAY



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 15

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!



Alleluia! He is Risen!

Alleluia! He is Risen! Several years ago, while I was a seminarian, I was involved in a conversation with a few teenagers who were debating on which day was better, Christmas or Easter. The teenagers were learning toward Christmas, especially considering Christmas is often associated with receiving gifts. Who doesn't like receiving gifts? And because our culture has put so much emphasis on Christmas, there can be a feeling that it is maybe more significant than Easter.

At the time, I recall defending the position that Easter was a more important day, since it recalls the Resurrection, the victory of sin over death. Christ's birth at Christmas has to be understood in light of the suffering, death, and Resurrection that He would undergo to save us from our sins. Therefore, Easter should have the pride of place, while not really diminishing the significance of Christmas, for both days point to the common theme of God's bringing about our redemption through the Savior, who took on our human flesh in order to save us through His life, Passion, death, and Resurrection.

As we consider these two peaks of the liturgical year, I would like to reflect on the notion of gift. As I mentioned above, we tend to associate Christmas more with receiving gifts, but it is also on Easter where we receive gifts. I am not talking about chocolate eggs or marshmallow bunnies (delicious as those may be), Easter invites us to appreciate the great gift of the Eucharist. As I mentioned in my article last week for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday is the day on which we celebrate the institution of the Eucharist, the beginning of the Church's practice of celebrating this gift every single day. The following line from the Catechism offers a simple yet profound description of this gift:

In order to leave them a pledge of this love, in order never to depart from His own and to make them sharers in his Passover, He instituted the Eucharist as the memorial of His death and Resurrection, and commanded His apostles to celebrate it until His return; "thereby he constituted them priests of the New Testament." (CCC 1337)

In short, the Eucharist is the gift of God's love for us, a love that is given at the expense of His Son's suffering and death on the Cross due to our sins. It is a gift that has overcome sin and death and is now given to us so that we can share in the new life He has won for us.

Throughout this Easter Season, I would like for us to reflect on this gift of the Eucharist and how we can grow in our appreciation of this gift in our lives as Catholics. He (for this gift of the Eucharist is a person, not a thing) is a gift, sad to say, that I think many Catholics have neglected, taking Him for granted. As we begin this journey through this season of glory, I would like to issue a challenge. It is simple, and may even sound obvious, but it is something I know many struggle with. Here it is: come to Mass. Come every single Sunday. As a bonus, come to daily Mass as your schedule permits. Even if you are not able to receive Holy Communion (more on that in a future article), come! See it not so much as an obligation (which it most definitely is, and to intentionally miss Mass is a grave sin which must be confessed before returning to Holy Communion), but rather see it as an opportunity to receive this gift which is the pledge of God's love for you and His desire for you to share in the gift of His Risen life, already available to us in this life, and fully in Heaven.

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 10

7am - Herb Dulle
(The Gaffigan Family)
5:15pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)

Tuesday, April 11

7am - Brother Frances Skube
(Ed & Bonnie Pinc)
5:15pm - Sara Tucker Cox
(Beverly & Larry Smith)

Wednesday, April 12

7am - Sophia Bartoletti
(Estate)
5:15pm - William F. & Shirley Logan
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

Thursday, April 13

7am - Rose Crispi
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)

Friday, April 14

7am - Dhabalt Family
(Bev Hoffman)
5:15pm - Intention for Bianca
(D.A. Drago)

Saturday, April 15

8am - William Spivey
(Cathedral Parishioners)
4pm - Deceased Members of the
CCCW (CCCW)

Sunday, April 16

7am - For The People
10am - John Brunk & Deceased Family
(Estate)
5pm - Sarala Bhaskharan
(Michael Carlson)



The Gift of the Gospel

It had been a few crazy days leading up to the Illinois March for Life, so I had slept soundly and my conversation with God the morning after was filled with tremendous gratitude for all the graces that had carried us through the prior days, and all the ways that Our Lord had opened doors to make such a tremendous witness of His love for human life possible. On my mind, of course, was the visit I would be making later that day to the schoolkids at Sacred Heart in Effingham. Many rainy miles awaited me and my car bookending the several hours I would be spending engaging all the different grades down there throughout the day, so I leaned into the lesson that God had been teaching me all this Lent and asked Him to lighten the burdens that awaited me that day too. Gradually those voices of fear and fatigue were replaced by confident peace in the Lord and I genuflected before heading inside.

One frustration remained on my heart: I had forgotten the Cathedral's book of the Gospels at the UIS Auditorium. I had realized this the day before as I put some of the things away (altar-cloths, chalices, the 7th candle that indicates when a bishop is celebrating Mass...) I had texted some of the others that could have ended up with it, but the replies that were waiting for me Wednesday morning indicated that nobody had the book and it was my forgetfulness that had left it somewhere over there. Ah well, it couldn't all go perfectly, and someone over there would probably have found (and not tossed) the giant red and gold book. Still, as I stepped past the sacristy, there was a niggling somewhere in the back of my mind, "what if God wanted to provide here too?" Without much expectation, I stopped in the sacristy and flipped open the cabinet that held all the sacred books.

And there it was.

I kid you not.

The Book of the Gospels was sitting there on its shelf already.

I was shocked, surprised, delighted, reassured. What does one do when confronted with a miracle? How do you respond to it, to such a small miracle? I didn't know miracles came in a "small" size. I mean, I wasn't blind and now I could see, or dead and returned to life again. I thought Jesus only tackled the big stuff: leprosy, hatred, unforgiveness, death ... Does God care about me so fully that He would want to solve a problem I could have probably figured out with a phone call, or worst-case, a few hundred dollars?! Yes, it seems He does!

The more I thought about it, the more I realized that I was blind, and could now see; dead, and coming to life again. Some part of my heart had the expectation that God did not care about the small concerns of my life. I had internalized a distorted version of God as a Father Who would only help once I had proven myself, after I had lifted what I could on my own. I had fallen for the lie that I had to earn God's Love. Here, placed on that shelf in our Cathedral sacristy, was proof to the contrary!

Thing is, God wants to marvelously, miraculously, restore the presence and power of His Gospel to all our hearts. What parts of you do you doubt God's Love can heal? What relationships do you assume are irredeemable? What sins do you think will always plague you? What sufferings do you feel are too small for God to care about? When Christ stepped out of the tomb, He wasn't just promising resurrection to those who were dead. He was also promising resurrection to those who are half-dead, to all the parts of us that aren't fully alive, to all who are tired, afraid, burdened, or stuck. God's Love doesn't delay until disaster. God's Truth doesn't wait for us to hit rock bottom. God's Gospel doesn't depend on us finding it.

God is not a Father who waits for us to get our act together.

Consider every encounter of someone and the Christ, Risen from the dead. Jesus steps into the garden of Mary Magdalen's tears. He calls out to Peter swallowed by failure and shame. He beckons Thomas tormented by doubt and loneliness. He walks up to Cleopas and Mary as sorrow carried them far from Jerusalem. He knocks Saul away from his pride and brutality.

This is the same Christ Who is alive, approaching us today. This is the same Gospel that is gently, miraculously, placed in your and my hands. Will I unwrap God's gift today? Will I accept His Love? Will I allow Him into the small stuff too?

Fr. Dominic was recently with a family who had just received the news that their two-year-old daughter had brain cancer. On their family chalkboard were these words: "[Our daughter's] situation is like that of the blind man in Saint John's Gospel (Jn 9:1-38). The apostles said, Lord, who sinned, this man or his parents? And Jesus said, neither, but 'so that the works of God might be displayed in him.' God has important plans for [her] and for our family through all of this. Love, Mom & Dad." Nothing can separate us from the love of God!

Stewardship of Treasure

April 1st & 2nd

Collection numbers were unavailable at the time of publication. Please check back next weekend for these collection numbers.

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!

WEEK OF APRIL 9

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
Easter Masses 7:00 AM & 10:00 AM Church No 5:00 PM Mass		Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Young Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM Parish Meeting Room	Lectio: Eucharist Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

SUNDAY, APRIL 16
2:00PM-3:00PM

CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Divine Mercy Sunday Prayer Service

Join us on Sunday, April 16th from 2:00pm to 3:00pm for a Divine Mercy Sunday Prayer Service. This prayer service will include exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Scriptural readings and devotional prayers, Veneration and Image of Divine Mercy, the Recitation of the Chaplet and Benediction, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All are welcome.

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.



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

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



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/

Livestream Ministry Team

While most of us have been back to in-person Mass for quite a while, there are still some beloved members of our parish family whose physical limitations prevent them from attending Sunday Mass. Our ability to livestream the Mass is a tremendous gift to those who are unable to be with us in person. You are invited to be part of this ministry team by serving on the team that livestreams the Sunday 10:00 Mass and Holy Day and Triduum liturgies. If you would like to help us serve our housebound parishioners in this way, please contact the parish office to arrange for a brief training. 217/522-3342

Grief Share

Cathedral parish will once again be hosting Grief Share, a weekly, faith-based, grief support group. If you, or someone you know, would like help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend, please join us beginning Tuesday, May 23, 1:00-2:30pm in the Cathedral School Library. Grief Share runs for 13 weeks, but guests may join the series at any point and can pick up content they missed during the next cycle. For more information go to <https://www.griefshare.org/> or contact Berni Ely @ 217/899-6637 or jackandberni96@yahoo.com To register call 217/522-3342 or email Vicki at vcompton@cathedral.dio.org All adults, of any or no faith background, are welcome.

Women's Bible Study presents Lectio: Eucharist: Discovering the Mass in the Bible

Acclaimed author and teacher Dr. Brant Pitre digs down to the biblical roots of the Eucharist, through its foreshadowing in the miraculous events of the Old Testament, the Gospels, and Apostolic teaching. "The Lamb of God," "The Bread of Life," "The Body and the Blood of Christ"... these are phrases we know from the Mass. But do we understand what they mean in the greater and deeper context of Scripture and Church teaching? In this 10-part series, we'll discover firsthand how Christ's Body and Blood are an integral and wondrous part of God's plan for our salvation. Register at vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or 217/522-3342 Thursdays @ 10:00am and 1:00pm beginning on April 13, Cathedral School Library

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.

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

Everyday Stewardship

At Easter, we celebrate that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, conquered death, rose from the dead, and remains very much alive. To the world of non-believers: what!? It is quite a big reality to swallow. But for the believer, it is a reality that inspires us to the point where we find ourselves constantly sharing the Gospel with everyone we meet! Right?

So what does Easter mean to you? The question is not what do you believe. The question is what impact does Easter have on you? How do your actions demonstrate the power of Easter? What does it mean we you hear that we, the Church, are an Easter people?

You may be saying right now that you have no intention of becoming an evangelist, passing out Bibles to all you meet. But I would like to suggest that you actually have a more powerful way of evangelizing others: everyday stewardship. Actions speak louder than words and the way you live your life can be a great testimony to all those you encounter. By acknowledging the gifts you have been given, cultivating those so they grow to an increase, and then sharing them fully with God and with others in God's name will give testimony to your belief that Jesus is alive and seeking a relationship with each of his people.

If more of us won't live our lives in this manner, then non-believers and non-intentional disciples will ask the question, "What difference does Easter make anyway?" Jesus died and rose for you and me. To be sure, it DOES make a difference.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
©LPi

Around the Diocese

- **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.
- **Concordia Village Clinical Hiring Event/Open Interviews for Clinical Positions**, Tuesday, April 11th, 8-11am & 1-5pm & Tuesday, April 25th, 1pm-5pm. Concordia Village is also looking for part time evening dining servers, a part time Chauffeur, and a full time exercise class instructor. Questions, please contact Coartney.foster@lssliving.org or 217-993-7100.
- **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>
- **Mark Your Calendar for a Diocesan-Wide Celebration at the BOS Center in Springfield**, a Eucharistic Congress is taking place Saturday, October 28 at the BOS Center in Springfield. This major event will include talks from nationally recognized Catholic speakers, adoration, confession, and Mass where the arena will be packed with thousands of Catholics from across the diocese. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. with the first speaker starting at 1 p.m., and Mass begins at 4 p.m. Stay tuned for how to get free tickets!
- **Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land**, November 27-December 7, 2023. For more information, please visit www.holylandtoursllc.com or email edanaher@dio.org.