

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

APRIL 16, 2023 | 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)



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 16

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!

Diocesan Victim Assistance is available. For the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, please call 217-321-1155.
Please remember that if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a nursing home or homebound, to contact the Parish Office at 217-522-3342.



Divine Mercy and the Eucharist

On Holy Thursday, one of the points the Church desired for us to reflect on was that on that evening, the gift of the Holy Eucharist was instituted, a gift that would serve as a continual pledge of Christ's love for us until He returns in glory. On this Octave Day of Easter, the Gospel invites us to notice the institution of another sacrament, the Sacrament of Reconciliation. After appearing to His Apostles after the Resurrection, Jesus tells them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (Jn 20:23)

It is therefore no coincidence that Jesus asked St. Faustina to ask for the institution of the Feast of Mercy on the Second Sunday of Easter each year, a request that was fulfilled by Pope St. John Paul II in 2000 shortly after St. Faustina's canonization. Every year since 2001, the Church has celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday on this Second Sunday of Easter, recalling the beautiful words of Jesus regarding this day:

My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. ... Let no soul fear to draw near to Me. ... It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy. (Diary, 699)

Notice how Jesus asks that people go to Confession and to receive Holy Communion, thus emphasizing the intrinsic connection between the two. It is for that reason that I believe that to truly grow in our love for the Eucharist, we must grow in our love for Jesus's Divine Mercy offered freely to us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

One of the ways to accomplish this is to resolve to never receive the gift of the Eucharist with mortal sin on our souls. I find it interesting that when people come to Mass, almost everybody comes forward to receive Holy Communion. Is everybody free from mortal sin? I sure hope so, but I wonder. I place myself in the shoes of one coming to Mass, and I realize there were times many, many years ago when I went to Holy Communion any time I went to Mass, even though I did not go every week, sad to say. When I came to an awareness that my continuing to go to Holy Communion without first going to Confession was a very serious sin, it shook me to the core.

Perhaps my situation from long ago does not apply to you, and thanks be to God if that is the case. But, if it does apply to you (and it does not just have to be missing Mass, it can be having any unconfessed grave sins) I plead with you repent and ask for God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation before coming to Holy Communion again, confessing anything that needs to be confessed, but especially any times you have received Holy Communion in the state of mortal sin. What you will encounter will not be judgment, disappointment, or anger. You will encounter a loving Father who rejoices to have His beloved child back in right relationship with Him.

Then, once we have received that gift of His Divine Mercy, we are cleansed and set free, ready to begin again, ready to receive Jesus in a worthy manner. And when we receive Holy Communion in the state of grace, this gift will truly transform us. But if we receive Him in an unworthy manner, we derive no benefit for ourselves and we in effect reject the gift that He made possible for us with His Passion, death, and Resurrection. So let us run to His mercy and be renewed in His love for us, poured out freely in all of His sacraments, especially Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

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 17

7am - Betty & Gene Barish
(Family)

5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway
(Robert Gasaway)

Tuesday, April 18

7am - John W. Montgomery
(John Busciacco)

5:15pm - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)

Wednesday, April 19

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)

5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Community)

Thursday, April 20

7am - Sophia Bartoletti
(Estate)

5:15pm - Frank Coffey
(Family)

Friday, April 21

7am - John Ansell
(The Lemanski Family)

5:15pm - Arthur Hodalski
(Pat Klockenkemer)

Saturday, April 22

8am - Grace Forlano
(John Busciacco)

4pm - For The People

Sunday, April 23

7am - Jack Ely
(Berni Ely)

10am - John Knoedler
(Karen & John Kjellquist)

5pm - Diana Schumacher
(Daniel Schumacher)



St. Cletus

Feast Day: April 26th | Pope, Bishop of Rome, Martyr | Imagery: Pallium, Papal Tiara, Book, Beard | Patronage: Papacy, Rome, Priests

If we peruse the most ancient lists of the Popes, we find in the third place, after Peter and Linus, a man named Cletus. Now, some lists include a Pope Anacletus as well but Sts. Irenaeus, Augustine, and Optatus (as well as the historian Eusebius) indicate that these are simply two names for the same man. The Church in her official list of the Popes in the "Annuario Pontificio" takes this position, as was underscored by Pope St. John XXIII in 1960 when he merged the feast-day of St. Anacletus on July 13th into that of St. Cletus on April 26th). Probably "Cletus" is simply the shorter, and more Christian, version of "Anacletus". Though Cletus was born and died in Rome, his name is Greek in its roots, meaning "one who has been called" [Cletus] or "one who has been called back/from" [Anacletus]. The Greek verb "kaléo", as you could guess even from its linguistic descendants in English, means "to call/recall", and is related to another biblically-charged noun "kleos", translated "glory", meaning "what others hear about you".

We know only the barest facts of St. Cletus' life. He became a disciple of St. Peter in Rome along with St. Linus. Linus would become St. Peter's successor as the second Bishop of Rome with Cletus becoming our third Holy Father when Linus was martyred around 76/79 A.D. St. Cletus would also be martyred, probably under the Emperor Domitian around 88/91 A.D. These were truly Golden Years for the papacy and the Church with 28 of the first 31 popes being martyred and 48 of the first 50 Popes acknowledged as canonized saints!

What captivated each of these men to take up the charge of Christ with knowing they would follow their Lord to the cross?! The only other detail that is mentioned again and again about Pope St. Cletus is that he ordained a number of men priests for the city of Rome (possibly 25, by some records). How many of these men also died? What compelled them to give their lives to that sacred ordination, most likely an oblation to the point of death? It was nothing less than the marvelous, utterly real, truth of Christ's Resurrection! Cletus heard the Gospel, the kerygma, from St. Peter himself. Do you wish you could be similarly captivated by the natural audacity, and supernatural eloquence, of this fisherman-turned-apostle? Do you think you would could be convicted, and called, like Cletus, if you heard St. Peter's preaching for yourself?!

May I recommend a reread of Acts chapter 2: "God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. ... God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. ... So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!" [Acts 2:22-24, 32-33, 36]

Can you hear the man who himself denied Christ utter those words? The man whom Jesus still called to "feed my lambs"?

Recall the similar proclamation in St. Peter's first letter: "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him." [1 Peter 3:18-22]

Christ crucified by me, by you. Yet the messiah was prophesied to suffer and be scorned. And sin and death cannot bind Him! ... nor those who clasp His cross and be plunged, baptized, into His death. For Jesus is alive, and glorious, and wants to welcome me, and you, into His Eternal Kingdom!

The Messiah murdered. Miraculously alive, marvelously merciful. He already died for me! In baptism, I have already died with Him. Can I choose Him again today?

Fr. Dominic Rankin, on this past Easter Sunday, celebrated his 2000th Holy Mass. Every one of them should have, could have, been a recommitment to his priestly consecration, a renewal of his union with Christ's sacrificial offering to the Heavenly Father. Sadly, contritely, many times he forgot. Did those first popes and priests of Rome forget?

Stewardship of Treasure

April 1st & 2nd

Envelopes:	\$6,847.00
Loose:	\$3,332.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$1,040.00</u>
Total:	\$11,219.00

April 8th & 9th

Envelopes:	\$7,636.00
Loose:	\$5,320.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>
Total:	\$13,106.00

March EFT

\$21,547.80

March Second Collections

Helping Hands	\$3,050.01
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	\$4,271.00
Catholic Charities	\$4,764.12
Tuition Assistance	\$2,946.00

March Debt Reduction

\$696.00

March Easter Flowers

\$1,747.00

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

Fiona Elaine Sgambelluri &
Felix James Sgambelluri
Children of Philip & Ashley Sgambelluri
Baptized on April 9, 2023

WEEK OF APRIL 16

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
Divine Mercy Sunday Prayer Service 2:00 PM Church Family of Faith 6:30 PM Cathedral Atrium		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 Cathedral Bible Study 6:15 PM School Library Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Cathedral School	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	CCCW Garage Sale 7:00AM-7:00 PM Cathedral School Hall	CCCW Garage Sale 8:00AM-12:00 PM Cathedral School Hall

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://tinyurl.com/2p823x3x>

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.

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

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/

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

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.

Butler Funeral Home Peace of Mind Seminar

The Butler Family of Organizations extends an invitation to all who are interested in learning more about planning for their final wishes to help their families celebrate their lives to join us for a lunch and learn program. The details are as follows:

Peace of Mind Seminar
Thursday, April 20th
8:30 am - 10:30 am
MCL Restaurant & Bakery
2151 Wabash Ave.
Springfield, IL 62704

Complimentary breakfast buffet will be provided. This event is free: no cost or obligation. Please call 217-544-4646 to reserve your space no later than Monday, April 17th.

The Doors We Lock

As a child, and even for a while as a teenager, I experienced an enormous amount of anxiety whenever I went to confession. For so many years I feared it. For so many years I waited in the confession line trembling, feeling sick to my stomach.

In the upper room after Christ's Passion and death, the anxiety of the disciples was so strong that they locked themselves away. But still Christ found a way into their midst. He would not be prevented from bringing mercy and hope to a place shrouded in despair. No door barred in a moment of fear could keep him out.

This is the genius of the sacrament of Reconciliation — and of all sacraments, really. Here we are, restricted in so many ways by an existence that is woefully physical. We feel fear, and our body reacts, just as we feel anger and our body reacts.

How can God deliver mercy to us in this flesh-bound state? Through that very flesh which can feel so confining. Through confession, which requires a physical action, and the physical participation not just of the penitent but of the priest.

I don't know how or why my anxiety around the sacrament has lessened over the years. Sometimes, I still feel it come roaring back unexpectedly, and maybe one day it will come back to stay. It doesn't surprise me: after all, I am in the flesh, and I will, as Peter says today, "suffer through various trials." But in all of them Christ will find me. He will not be kept away.

Let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy endures forever." — Psalm 118:3

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
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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 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.
- **Men's Evening of Recollection**, Thursday, April 27th at St John's Hospital Chapel, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The recollection will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a meditation given by a priest, time for silent prayer and reflection, an opportunity for confession, a doctrinal talk and Benediction. For more information, visit www.opusdei.org
- **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.