

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**APRIL 30, 2023 | 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**



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 18

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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.



## Praying for our Shepherds

On the 4th Sunday of Easter, the Gospel is always drawn from John 10, which is where Jesus speaks of Himself as the Good Shepherd. This Sunday has therefore become known as Good Shepherd Sunday. 60 years ago, the Church decided that on this Sunday, it would be an opportune time for the faithful throughout the world to pray for vocations, especially for vocations to the priesthood in which the Lord provides shepherds for the Church.

As I consider this day this year, I note that yesterday (or today if you read this on Saturday) marked the 44th anniversary of my baptism. Why is this important? Because on the day of my baptism, the seed of my vocation was planted, as it is in each one of us. In its most basic form, we are all called to a vocation of holiness, to become

saints one day. In His perfect plan for us, God has designed the unique way for that holiness to be lived out, which we call our particular vocation, the awareness of which continues to grow as we journey with the Lord. The discovery of one's vocation, though, is not an isolated experience. It involves the entire Church supporting and praying for vocations, thus the command of the Lord: "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest." (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2) The prayers of the people of God directly assist in the discovery of how the Lord is calling us to follow Him.

It dawns on me this year that my discerning my vocation to the priesthood was assisted by you (and the entire Church) before you ever knew me, and before I ever thought about the possibility of responding to the invitation of the Lord to follow Him as a priest. The same can be said for all of us who have been ordained and are privileged to serve you here at the Cathedral. So I extend my deepest gratitude for those prayers! I think it also highlights the power of our prayers when we unite them with those of the rest of the Church. We never know how and when our prayers will be answered, but the Lord uses all of them in His perfect Providence to accomplish His holy will.

During this Eucharistic Year, and as I have committed to reflecting on the gift of the Eucharist more specifically during this Easter Season, there is an obvious connection to the Eucharist on Good Shepherd Sunday. Without the shepherds of the Church (bishops and priests) we do not have the Eucharist. Only a priest is able to celebrate Mass and feed us with the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Add to that the sacraments of Penance, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, and conferring Holy Orders. As a result, gratitude for the gift of the Eucharist and all of the sacraments necessarily requires gratitude for the priesthood. That gratitude is for the institution of the priesthood in general, but also gratitude for the individual priests who have been shepherds to us. I would therefore encourage you to spend some time today calling to mind those priests who have impacted your life. One of the great blessings of the priesthood is that despite the holiness of the individual priest, Christ still works through them. Not every priest we have known has always been a reflection of Christ, the Good Shepherd. Nevertheless, we can still thank God for using those priests to serve us. Just for your awareness, I share a partial list of the priests for whom I am praying in a particular way today for their role in my life.

Father Joseph Dineen – priest who baptized me; Father Don Knuffman – priest who heard my first confession; Father Pat Jakel – priest who distributed Holy Communion to me for the first time; Bishop Daniel Ryan – bishop who confirmed me; Archbishop George Lucas – bishop who ordained me a deacon; Bishop Thomas John Paprocki – bishop who ordained me (and who has been a good father and friend to me my entire priesthood); and Monsignor David Hoefler – my Pastor for two summers as a seminarian, my first Pastor as a new priest, and my closest friend in the priesthood who has been an example and support to me in so many ways.

May we all give thanks to God this day for those Good Shepherds in our lives, praying that the Lord will continue to bless those who are still living, and that through the mercy of God, those who have passed may rest in eternal peace.

*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, May 1

7am - Sophia Bartoletti  
(Estate)

5:15pm - Tom Eckert's 90th Birthday  
(John Busciacco)

### Tuesday, May 2

7am - John Ansell  
(The Lemanski Family)

5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube  
(Ed & Bonnie Pinc)

### Wednesday, May 3

7am - Wilbur "Bill" West  
(Carol West)

5:15pm - NO MASS

### Thursday, May 4

7am - John Vogt Jr.  
(Bill Vogt)

5:15pm - Joseph Reichle  
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

### Friday, May 5

7am - Danny Millburg  
(Margaret Millburg & Family)

5:15pm - Janet Fitzgerald  
(The Sommer Family)

### Saturday, May 6

8am - David & Christine Platt  
(The Sommer Family)

4pm - Thomas Egan  
(Pia Yoswig)

### Sunday, May 7

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(William Midden)

10am - For the People  
5pm - Helen Guapel  
(James & Julie Berberet)





## St. Alexander

(First, a correction: Ss. Philip and James are celebrated on May 3rd, not May 1st, as I wrote last week!) Ok, we have a puzzle this week. Who is the St. Alexander mentioned in the First Eucharistic Prayer? We're examining the saintly man mentioned among the "apostles and martyrs" in the list given in the nobis quoque prayer [the one that begins "to us also..."] after the Consecration, towards the end of that Eucharistic Prayer. There we find "St. Alexander" mentioned between Saint Ignatius (Patriarch of Antioch, martyred in Rome around 140 AD) and Saints Marcellinus and Peter (a priest and an exorcist, who were martyred in Rome around 304 AD). The problem is, if you do any digging, you'll find a number of different saints ascribed to be the one mentioned here by the name of Alexander.

Many say that the prayer refers to Pope St. Alexander, the 5th Bishop of Rome, mentioned already by St. Irenaeus of Lyons already in the late 100s (so, just 70 or 80 years after his pontificate) and in Eusebius' "Church History" in the early 300s. Tradition holds that the custom of mingling water with the wine at Mass as well as the practice of blessing homes with holy water and blessed salt in Christian homes come from this early Pope, as well as perhaps the introduction to the words of consecration "on the night He was betrayed...". Now, things get convoluted as we try to get more details because quickly this St. Alexander is mentioned along with the priests, Ss. Eventius and Theodulus, early martyrs who were all killed and buried a few miles outside of Rome (near Ficulea, where the Christian cemetery there was named after Alexander).

The problem is that none of those earliest sources mention Pope St. Alexander's martyrdom (which they do mention of other early popes, and you would think would mention if that were the end of his pontificate), so we don't know if there were two saintly Alexander's, one a pope and one not, or if these were the same person. In any case, the Church has traditionally celebrated all three men on the same feast day (May 3rd) and as martyrs. But, if we look at the structure of the Roman Canon itself, we find that every other pope is mentioned not here in the nobis quoque but in the prayer called the communicantes ["in communion of those we venerate..."] that comes before the Consecration. (And, given the reverence that these early prayers of the Church give to the Bishops of Rome, it would seem odd to toss his name in there after Ignatius and before Marcellinus and Peter.)

Ok, so what is another option? Another claimant for the identity of St. Alexander is the Patriarch of Alexandria with that name from the 310s, an eloquent and orthodox bishop who began the battle against Arianism (working for the excommunication of Arius as well as drafting much of the decrees of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea in 325 AD). He crucially named the courageous and faithful St. Athanasius to be his successor as bishop of Antioch. February 26th. Here as well, an argument can be made to the contrary in that everyone else on this list of saints are martyrs, whereas he is not (even if, like St. Ignatius, he was an Eastern Bishop/Patriarch).

Finally, a third (or fourth?!) proposal is the martyr, St. Alexander, one of seven brothers or companions, perhaps the sons of St. Felicity, a saintly widow of Rome (not to be confused with the famous St. Felicity and St. Perpetua, martyrs in Carthage), who was martyred along with her seven faithful sons around 165 AD. St. Gregory the Great famously used this holy mother as an example of courage even greater than an ordinary martyr, saying "She was more than a martyr, for seeing her seven dear children martyred before her eyes, she was in some sort a martyr in each of them." These seven, with their mother, are traditionally celebrated on July 10th.

*Fr. Dominic has been unable to tease out the intricacies, and limitations, of the records we have back at the beginning of the Church to figure out which of these St. Alexander's is the one we call upon in the Eucharistic Prayer, so, you get all their stories this week! As for why he ended up choosing to go with Pope Alexander's feast day of May 13th, that is simply because February and March are already passed, and the Sundays of June and July will be more than filled with the celebrations of Marcellinus and Peter (June 2nd), Barnabas (June 11th), Peter and Paul (June 24th), John the Baptist (June 25th), John and Paul (June 26th), and Thomas (July 3rd)!*

## Stewardship of Treasure

### April 22nd & 23rd

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

### 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!

## WEEK OF MAY 1

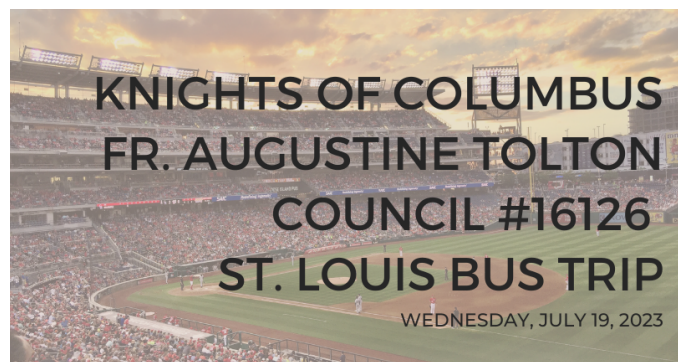
<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library  Young Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM Parish Meeting Room  Cathedral Bible Study 6:15 PM School Library  Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Cathedral School	Police Officers Memorial Service 9:30 AM Church  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	First Friday Concert 7:00 PM Church		Family of Faith 6:15 PM Atrium

## What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



### First Friday Concert

Join us for our First Friday Concert Series! May's concert, Fanfares and Flourishes, will feature Aaron Duncan, Trumpet & Mark Gifford, Organ. The First Friday Concert Series is sponsored by the Staab Family, and is free and open to the public. All are welcome!



### 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://tinyurl.com/2p823x3x>

# 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/](http://www.spicathedral.org/cccw-knights-of-columbus-council-16126-scholarship-application/)

## Kids Good Grief Camp

If you are a parent or guardian of a child who has experienced the death of a loved one, consider Kids Good Grief Camp. This annual camp helps young people in our community cope, understand, and handle their grief. Register at [StaabFuneralHomes.com](http://StaabFuneralHomes.com).

Sunday, May 7, 12:30-4:30

Erin's Pavilion at Southwind Park

## Family of Faith Trivia Winners

Congratulations to the winning Anselment team at our Annual Family of Faith Trivia night!



## 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](http://cc.dio.org)

## 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](mailto:jackandberni96@yahoo.com) To register call 217/522-3342 or email Vicki at [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org) All adults, of any or no faith background, are welcome.

## Cut to the Heart

Everyone who has been married knows this feeling: you're in the midst of a disagreement with your spouse. You've really dug in your heels. You're ready to die on this hill. And you have the awful, heartbreaking realization that you are wrong. Whatever it is you're arguing about, you're wrong. You.

So where do you go from here? The only way forward is to own it. Fess up. Grab a fork and dig into that humble pie. It makes me cringe just to write about it, because it's the worst feeling.

I use the example of marriage because it's the one I'm most familiar with — my closest relationship, the one that teaches me the most about who I am and who God asks me to be. But this is a universal experience, and everyone — single or married, child or adult, lay or ordained — knows how badly it feels to realize that you're wrong. You're human. You messed up.

It is hard to recognize that the Christian life is one of ongoing repentance. It is painful to acknowledge the ways in which we are falling short, even as we strive to follow in Christ's example.

It can, in the words of today's reading, "cut to the heart."

But that feeling of despair is what propels forward motion. We have to allow ourselves to feel bad, that's the fertile ground of penitence. We are meant to have not just life, but life "more abundantly." Stasis isn't the goal. Baptism isn't the finish line.

Examining our conscience is hard. It cuts to the heart. It cuts to the truth.

*"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." — Acts 2:38*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman  
©LPi

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