

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MAY 7, 2023 | 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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 19

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!



Thanksgiving After Mass

At a recent Family of Faith gathering, some of our families shared some reflections on how their families pray together. One family had mentioned how the children asked the parents about why they did not pray the Thanksgiving after Meals Prayer, as they had observed with their grandparents. The parents humbly received the challenge from their children and have added it to the end of their meals.

I think this example highlights something many of us experience. We can be pretty good about praying before our meals, but how often do we conclude our meal with a prayer of thanksgiving? Perhaps some of us are not even aware that there is a standard prayer for after meals! For reference, here is one I usually use:

We give you thanks, Almighty God, for these and all of thy benefits, which we have received from your bounty, through Christ, our Lord. May the divine assistance remain always with us, and may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Now, this also applies to the meal of the Eucharist. Many of us take time to show up a little early to pray as we prepare for Mass. But it is not so common to see people remain after the final blessing to spend some time in thanksgiving for the gifts received in the Eucharist. There are a variety of ways to offer thanksgiving, typically usually your own words, thanking God for the gift of His life shared in the Eucharist, praying that the graces received will bear fruit in your life, guarding you from all of the threats that can throw you off from following Him.

There are some very beautiful prayers that have been composed over the years that can be used as well. There is a Prayer after Communion written by St. Thomas Aquinas that can be found on the back of the white Pray Together booklets in our pews. One of my favorite prayers is called the Universal Prayer, which has been attributed to Pope Clement XI. It is rather long, but beautiful, and I share it here in case you would like to give it a shot. Whatever prayer you offer, I encourage you to do something, as it will only strengthen your love for this sublime gift of His Body and Blood that He offers to us at each Mass:

Lord, I believe in You: increase my faith. I trust in You: strengthen my trust. I love You: let me love You more and more. I am sorry for my sins: deepen my sorrow. I worship You as my first beginning, I long for You as my last end, I praise You as my constant helper, and call on You as my loving protector. Guide me by Your wisdom, correct me with Your justice, comfort me with Your mercy, protect me with Your power. I offer You, Lord, my thoughts; to be fixed on

You; my words: to have You for their theme; my actions: to reflect my love for You; my sufferings: to be endured for Your greater glory. I want to do what You ask of me: in the way You ask, because You ask. Lord, enlighten my understanding, strengthen my will, purify my heart, and make me holy. Let me love You, my Lord and my God, and see myself as I really am: a pilgrim in this world, a Christian called to respect and love all whose lives I touch, those in authority over me or those under my authority, my friends and my enemies. Help me to repent of my past sins and to resist temptation in the future. Help me to rise above my human weakness and to grow stronger as a Christian. Help me to conquer anger with gentleness, greed by generosity, apathy by fervor. Help me to forget myself and reach out toward others. Make me prudent in planning, courageous in taking risks. Make me patient in suffering, unassuming in prosperity. Keep me, Lord, attentive at prayer, temperate in food and drink, diligent in my work, firm in my good intentions. Let my conscience be clear, my conduct without fault, my speech blameless, my life well-ordered. Put me on guard against my human weaknesses. Let me cherish Your love for me, keep Your law, and come at last to Your salvation. Teach me to realize that this world is passing, that my true future is happiness of heaven, that life on earth is short, and the life to come eternal. Help me to prepare for death with a proper fear of judgment, but a greater trust in Your goodness. Lead me safely through death to the endless joy of heaven. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 8

7am - Fr. Dominic Rankin
(Chris Sommer)
5:15pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)

Tuesday, May 9

7am - Marla Martinez
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Sophia Bartoletti
(Estate)

Wednesday, May 10

7am - Tom Weitzel
(Angela Williams)
5:15pm - Richard Dhabalt
(Dale & Jane Grieser)

Thursday, May 11

7am - Barbara Conkrite
(Litina Carnes)
5:15pm - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)

Friday, May 12

7am - Sydney & Richard Beemer
(Vicki Compton)
5:15pm - Intention for Bianca
(D.A. Drago)

Saturday, May 13

8am - Fr. Christopher House
(Chris Sommer)
4pm - Herb Dulle
(Susan Johnson)

Sunday, May 14

7am - For the People
10am - Dick Dhabalt
(Leza Ulrich)
5pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)



St. Matthias

Feast Day: May 14th | Apostle and Martyr| Imagery: Bearded and Robed as an Apostle, Holding Scroll or Book of the Gospels, and/or an Ax, the instrument of his martyrdom.

On the feast of St. Matthias each year the church offers for our reflection in the Office of Readings, a homily by St. John Chrysostom on the call of St. Matthias. I place it before you today, (having no better words to say myself about this great addition to the Apostles) and wanting to focus our attention on what happens whenever the Church chooses, ordains, a man as a priest (or bishop, a full member of the apostles)! Chrysostom is reflecting on the scene given to us in Acts 1:12-27, right after the Ascension, when St. Peter calls upon the early Church to replace Judas who had lost hope in Christ and hung himself, and his emphasis cannot be underestimated: this

is God's choice, and made by the Church! All of us are called by God, within the Church, to some way of faithfully following the Lord, some way of witnessing to what we have seen of Christ's power. Have you and I let the Church call that out from us?! Here is how the great golden-tongued-preacher told the story:

"In those days, Peter, stood up in the midst of the disciples and said..." As the fiery spirit to whom the flock was entrusted by Christ and as the leader in the band of the apostles, Peter always took the initiative in speaking: "My brothers, we must choose from among our number." He left the decision to the whole body, at once augmenting the honor of those elected and avoiding any suspicion of partiality. For such great occasions can easily lead to trouble.

Did not Peter then have the right to make the choice himself? Certainly he had the right, but he did not want to give the appearance of showing special favor to anyone. Besides he was not yet endowed with the Spirit. And they nominated two, we read, "Joseph, who was called Barsabbas and surnamed Justus, and Matthias." He himself did not nominate them; all present did. But it was he who brought the issue forward, pointing out that it was not his own idea but had been suggested to him by a scriptural prophecy. So he was speaking not as a teacher but as an interpreter.

So, he goes on, "we must choose from those men who lived in our company." Notice how insistent he is that they should be eyewitnesses. Even though the Spirit would come to ratify the choice, Peter regards this prior qualification as most important. Those who lived in our company, he continued, "all through the time when the Lord Jesus came and went among us." He refers to those who had dwelt with Jesus, not just those who had been his disciples. For of course from the very beginning many had followed him. Notice how it is written that Peter himself was one of the two who had listened to John, and followed Jesus.

"All through the time when the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning with the baptism of John" – rightly so, because no one knew what had happened before that time, although they were to know of it later through the Spirit. "Up to the day", Peter added, "on which he was taken up from us – one of these must be made a witness along with us of his resurrection." He did not say "a witness of the rest of his actions" but only a witness of the resurrection. That witness would be more believable who could declare that he who ate and drank and was crucified also rose from the dead. He needed to be a witness not of the times before or after that event, and not of the signs and wonders, but only of the resurrection itself. For the rest happened by general admission, openly; but the resurrection took place secretly, and was known to these men only.

"And they all prayed together, saying: You, Lord, know the hearts of men; make your choice known to us." "You", not "we". Appropriately they said that He knew the hearts of men, because the choice was to be made by Him, not by others. They spoke with such confidence, because someone had to be appointed. They did not say "choose" but make known to us the chosen one; the one you choose, they said, fully aware that everything was pre-ordained by God. They then drew lots. For they did not think themselves worthy to make the choice of their own accord, and therefore they wanted some sign for their instruction. [From a homily on the Acts of the Apostles by Saint John Chrysostom (Hom 3, 1.2.3: PG 60, 33-36, 38).]

Fr. Dominic sometimes considers what he would be pictured with if he were ever canonized a saint. Would it be a book or scroll, for carrying the Gospel to all places? Would it be the instrument of my death, or my death to self? It gives me pause to consider the things I often carry around, and how they seem to not bear much importance in light of eternal life...

Stewardship of Treasure

April 29th & 30th

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

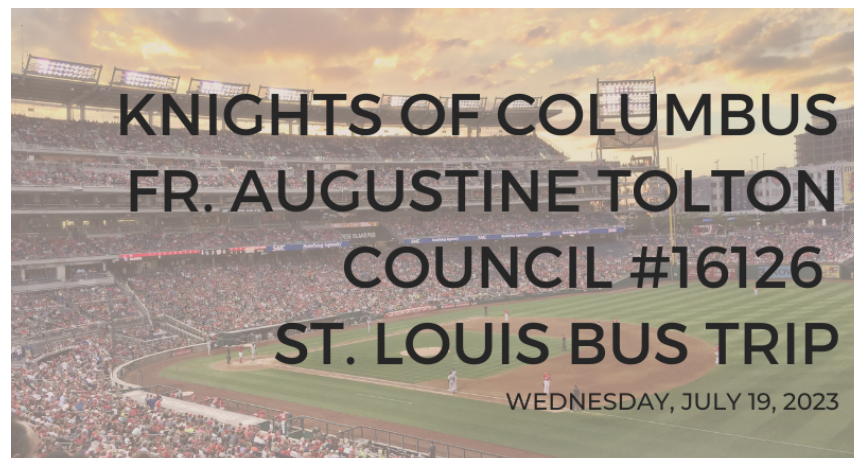
\$1,747.00

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 8

<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 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	First Friday Concert 7:00 PM Church		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



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



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/cwcw-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

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 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.

Come Pray the Rosary

You are invited to join us in praying the rosary at the Cathedral every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4:45pm.

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.

Building on the Cornerstone

Before I married my husband, I assumed there were “ugly houses” and “pretty houses,” and that was that. But Matt is an architect, someone who reads books with titles like “A Field Guide to American Houses” for fun and who uses the term vernacular architecture like he knows what it means.

Through him, I’ve come to learn a lot about why certain structures simply don’t have a pleasing look. There is a logic to ugliness, as it turns out. One of the main reasons a building or a home might strike some of us as ugly is because it has undergone a careless renovation. Whether out of laziness or an effort to be cost-effective, additions are made that depart from the architectural style of the original structure. The result is slapdash, confusing — ugly, for lack of a better word.

What is added on later must somewhat resemble the original. If you want to depart dramatically from the original style of a building, it’s better to build a separate structure altogether.

I think of this principle when I consider Christ as the “cornerstone.” We know we are called to model ourselves on Christ, to build on his example. But so often we cherry-pick elements of his message and attempt to build on it with additions that make no sense.

When someone looks at us, at our lives, they should be able to tell after whom that life is patterned. We must resemble the cornerstone, if we do not, it will be apparent, unseemly. You can’t see God the Father without embracing God the Son. You can’t chart the future of a house without any thought for its past.

If Christ is not our inspiration, he will be our contradiction.

“...like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house...to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” — 1 Peter 2:5

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.
- **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 edanaheer@dio.org.