

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JUNE 25, 2023 | TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 26

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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DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

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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.



Understanding our Greatest Prayer

If all you did was read the title of this article, you might guess that this will be about the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples (the Our Father) when they asked Him to teach them to pray. To be sure, this is one of the most important and powerful prayers we have in our spiritual arsenal, and much can be written (and has been written) on this prayer. But the prayer that I want to consider is the Mass.

As our country is in the midst of this time of Eucharistic Revival, we often point to the sad statistic of how many Catholics do not believe in the Real Presence of the Eucharist, that Jesus is truly, really, substantially

present – Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity – in the Eucharistic species following the Consecration at Mass. Some have therefore concluded that this Eucharistic Revival is about strengthening our belief in this important truth of the Real Presence of Jesus. And while very necessary, the Bishops of the United States envision more for us during this special time.

As many of you know, many of the priests of the diocese were on retreat a few weeks ago. Our Retreat Master was Bishop Robert Lombardo, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago. He happens to be on Bishops Advisory Group for the Eucharistic Revival. In a conversation one evening with some of the priests, he shared with us how there is a great need also to grow in our appreciation and love for the celebration of the Mass, our greatest prayer.

Now that we are in a rather long stretch of Ordinary Time, I would like to begin a series of reflections on how we can all pray the Mass better, appreciating the richness of this great prayer, such that we truly see it as the “apex” of all Christian prayers, as Pope Benedict explained several years ago.

I have not organized this series in a strict manner, so there is some room for flexibility on the topics that I will address. If there is something about the Mass that you are interested in learning about, feel free to suggest a topic and I will see if I can't work it in at some point.

My plan is to begin next week by reflecting on how we prepare for Mass and how that has a direct impact on our experience of attending and praying Mass. A good preparation can transform our experience of this great prayer. After that I hope to begin with the Introductory Rites and work my way through the various parts and prayers of the Mass, offering a mix of catechesis and personal reflections based on my experience of praying the Mass, both as a layperson, and now as a priest. I hope to conclude my series with some thoughts on how the Mass commits us to the life of missionary discipleship.

I am personally excited about this new series, partly for selfish reasons because I look forward to how writing these articles will serve to increase my love for this great prayer that I have the privilege of offering every day. But I am also praying that these reflections will be received with open hearts by all who read them, so that as we journey through them, our hearts will be kindled with love for the Mass and, by extension, the gift of the Jesus in the Eucharist whom we have the opportunity to encounter and receive at each Mass.

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, June 26

7am - Sally Hays
(Anonymous)
5:15pm - Edward Kindred
(The Kindred Family)

Tuesday, June 27

7am - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)
5:15pm - Julie Kennedy-Padgett
(Chris Willis)

Wednesday, June 28

7am - Francella Vyverman
(Michelle Gillen)
5:15pm - Richard Dhabalt
(Dale & Jane Grieser)

Thursday, June 29

7am - Betty Fleck
(The Fleck Family)
5:15pm - John Brunk
(Family)

Friday, June 30

7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Community)
5:15pm - Cheri Mitchell
(Jantzen Eddington)

Saturday, July 1

8am - Eileen Borg
(Judy Standerfer)
4pm - Cornelius McCue
(Tom McGee)

Sunday, July 2

7am - Pamela Rose Harmon
(Archie Harmon)
10am - For the People
5pm - Jane Anderson
(Jantzen Eddington)

WEEK OF JUNE 26

<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
	Grief Share 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library	Lectio: Eucharist Bible Study 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church			

Biking for Babies!

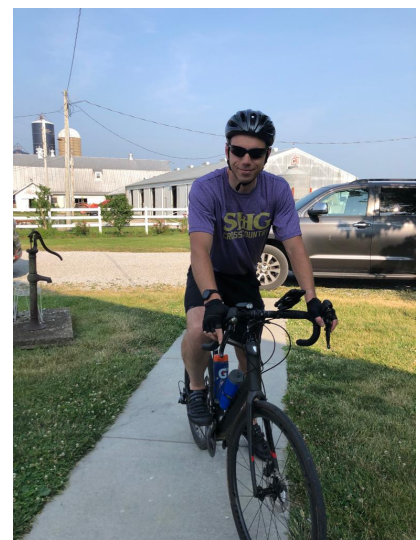
Many of you know that our Cathedral household is full of runners – you might see one of us sometimes heading out the back patio when Mass is about to start. As much as I enjoy running, I am switching things up a bit this summer, as I am training as a biking missionary with an organization called Biking for Babies. The mission of Biking for Babies (B4B) is threefold – form pro-life missionaries, raise awareness for Pregnancy Resource Centers, and raise funds for Pregnancy Resource Centers.

Our efforts will all come together this summer during the week of July 9-15 when we will do the national ride. Eight teams will bike from various places around the country and meet in St. Louis (6 teams) or Washington, DC (2 teams). My team will be meeting in Columbus, Ohio, and finishing in St. Louis. To save you looking up how far that is, it is around 600 miles! We won't be taking the most direct route, but each day we will arrive at a planned stop with a community that will be hosting us for a meal and putting us up for the night. At each event, I will celebrate Mass, and some of the missionaries will share their story or a pro-life testimony during dinner.

I would like to request your support in several ways. First, please pray for me and the other missionaries (around 80 of us) as we make our final push in training, that we stay safe and healthy as we offer our rides up to promote the culture of life. Fortunately, my team (and two others) will be making a stop right here at the Cathedral! **Please join us for the 5:15 Mass**

on Friday, July 14, with dinner and testimonies to follow. Two years ago, a team came to the Cathedral, which was a major factor in my decision to be a part of the organization this year! Third, if you are able and feel called, I am also looking for financial support for the ride. My goal is to raise \$5,000 for pregnancy resource centers – our combined goal this year is over \$200k. Many pregnancy resource centers run on shoestring budgets, and we don't want money to be an obstacle to anyone choosing life for her child! The easiest way to find my page is to google, "Biking for Babies, Fr. Dominic Vahling." Or, you can drop something in the collection with a note that it is for my bike ride. I am most grateful for your support, but I know that our parish just did the Baby Bottle Boomerang to support First Step here in Springfield. (They are my partner center!) I don't want this to be any sort of competition between pro-life things, so please prioritize supporting First Step directly, if you have to choose.

I plan to write more about First Step Women's Center in the coming weeks – as a way to raise awareness for the amazing resources they offer. Thank you for your prayers and for your faith in Jesus Christ, who made each one of us in his image and likeness!



Fr. Vahling is about to embark on a training ride from his family farm in Teutopolis.

