Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703 CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342 WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG



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

THE REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING

SIDENCE IN RESIDENCE

DEACON ROBERT SCAMBELLURI

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

VICKI DHABALT COMPTON
COORDINATOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND MISSION
VCOMPTON@CATHEDRAL DIO ORG

HALEY DUTTON
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
HDUTTON@CATHEDRAL DIO ORG

MARK GIFFORD
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MGIFFORD@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

KIM GUNTER

PARISH SECRETARY

KGUNTER@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

JAN SGAMBELLURI

BOOKKEEPER
JSGAMBELLURI@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

BILL VOGT
OFFICE AND PLANT MANAGER
BVOGT@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

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!

RECTOR'S COLUMN





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)

CONTEMPLATION CORNER





Ss. John & Paul

Feast Day: June 26th | Patronage: brothers, soldiers, various cities in Italy, men in prayer | Iconography: praying together, martyred together, they are dressed as soldiers (boots, spears, armor, swords, cloaks), and shown to be martyrs (being beheaded, holding palm-branch)

John and Paul were brothers who lived around Rome during the 300s. They were both Roman soldiers and were blessed to grow up, and serve, during the reign of Constantine when peace was restored around the empire (after decades of infighting and political turmoil) and their Christian faith was now allowed to be publicly practiced around the realm. It must have been an exciting time to be alive and a wondrous thing to see giant basilicas being built after centuries of Christian worship being hidden (even if Christian charity, and witness/martyrdom, had been manifest all

the more during those centuries of persecution).

Constantine held these brothers in high esteem, both as excellent soldiers and virtuous men, for they were entrusted to protect his daughter Constantia. The Church, in her hagiagrophy, also has remembered the prayerfulness of these brothers, often recalling them praying together in their house on the Caelian hill. As it turned out, their courage and devotion would soon be put to the test. Upon the death of Constantine's son and heir, a new emperor came to the throne, Julian, named "the apostate" for the horrible reason that he tired to undo his own Christian baptism

with a sordid ritual of bull's blood, and then proceeded to attempt to stamp out the Christian faith around the empire. Knowing the valor and quality of John and Paul, he called them back to serve in his own military. The brothers, knowing this would now require them to offer sacrifice to Jupiter, refused to follow Julian into apostasy, and that emperor, angry at their fealty to God over himself, but lacking the courage to confront his soldiers himself, dispatched a minion to behead them in their home (where they were found kneeling in prayer.)

So many lessons could be learned from these men! I consider how, though given tremendous riches by Constantine (including that affluent villa), in their final days they didn't scheme how to maintain those possessions but hustled around the city giving it all away (indeed, their magnificent home would itself become a magnificent basilica in the years to come!) I am struck as well by the fact that they did not defend themselves, though certainly they could have put up a fight, and morally would have been more than justified in doing so. And I especially hold in mind those sturdy men kneeling in prayer awaiting a crash upon their door. How infrequently do we kneel in our own homes? How infrequently do I kneel with other men in prayer?

Earlier this month after my cousin's wedding, her husband asked if before the pictures, and the signing of the marriage certificate, even before the wedding party had processed out of the church that we all kneel down and pray the rosary together. Not only that, but he personally asked his dad and hers, and his godfather and hers, to each lead one of the mysteries (the new husband took the final decade himself). Everyone was moved to see this new couple beginning their married life in prayer, and especially to have each of those men leading the entire congregation in the rosary. As a priest, I get to lead prayer all the time, but even with brother priests, and often with friends and family, our prayer together is somewhat rote, not that vulnerable and "risky".

Why do I hesitate to be real in opening up in prayer together, man-to-man, brother-to-brother? Why do I find it easy to go on a bike-ride with other guys, and sweat and work and struggle and banter with them, but forget to start with a prayer, or forget to ask for their prayers for me? Why does it stick out to us when we hear of Dcn. Rob leading a men's bible-study on Wednesday mornings, or a group of dads joining together to hold each other accountable, or the dozen men who I pray morning prayer with over zoom on weekdays, or that we have four priests and a bishop living together here at Cathedral? Do men need prayer less than women? Are Christian fathers unchallenged in their vocation, or is that the kind of vocation best done solo? Are priests better off on their own? John and Paul became saints by praying together, it seems likely that most all the rest of us will only be able to follow Jesus with a similar level of devotion, and friendship.

Fr. Dominic Rankin is going to take another step in building priestly-brotherhood by inviting the local priests over for the fourth of July, not only to have a cookout and watch the fireworks together, but to pray together and be real with each other, and the Lord.

Stewardship of Treasure

June 17th & 18th

Envelopes: \$5,012.00 Loose: \$2,832.00 Maintenance: \$90.00 Total: \$7,934.00

May EFT

\$21,943.80

May Second Collections

Catholic Communication Campaign \$2,158.25

> Retired Diocesan Priests \$4,688.00

> > Calvary Cemetery \$937.00

May Debt Reduction

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

Adam Reese Garner Child of Derek & Brittany Garner Baptized on 6/17/2023

Elizabeth Marie Frank Child of Victor & Meredith Frank Baptized on 6/18/2023

Nora Grae Kitchens Child of Logan & Jourdan Kitchens Baptized on 6/18/2023



WEEK OF JUNE 26 WEDNESDAY SATURDAY MONDAY **TUESDAY** FRIDAY SUNDAY **THURSDAY** Lectio: Eucharist Grief Share Men's Bible Bible Study 1:00 PM Study 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library 6:00 AM School Library School Library Adoration Adoration 4:00 PM 4:00 PM Church 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.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Totus Tuus - July 9-14

Mark your Calendars and Register! Totus Tuus, a week-long summer catechetical program, is coming back to Springfield! July 9-14, 2023 at St. Katharine Drexel Parish The Totus Tuus program aims to inspire young people to long for holiness, develop a deep desire for conversion, and personally renew their faith with a stronger prayer life. To register, please use the QR code or the following link: https://dio.org/totus-tuus-camper-registration/?parish=SkdS. For more information, text Janice Rothering at 217-438-6019 or email at Janice.rothering@gmail.com.

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

Daily Reflections with Dr. Tim Gray on Formed!

Deepen your understanding of Scripture with Daily Reflections with Dr. Tim Gray. In videos delivered straight to your inbox, renowned Scripture scholar Dr. Tim Gray comments on the Mass readings and shares tangible ways to respond to God's Word. Visit formed.org for more.

Baby Bottle Boomerang - last call!

Please return any baby bottles or envelopes with your donations to First Step Women's Center. You can pop them in the collection basket or deliver to the parish office. Thank you for your generosity to First Step's life-saving mission!

Calling All Cooks

As you may have heard, three teams of Biking For Babies are coming through Springfield and making a stop at the Cathedral. We will be welcoming 33 riders and their crew to 5:15 Mass on Friday July 14, and then providing them with dinner afterwards. We'll also be sending them out the door bright and early the next morning with a good breakfast. If you would be interested in cooking and/or serving dinner or breakfast, please contact Vicki @vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or 217/522-3342. Thank you for supporting these pro-life athletes, including our own Fr. Dominic Vahling!

The Turning Point Women's Bible Study

The Turning Point is a nine-session Bible study experience that's perfect for people who want to get to know Jesus in the Scriptures but don't know where to start. This study will introduce you to people and stories in the Gospel of John that you won't find anywhere else in the Bible: the woman at the well; a man named Nicodemus; the woman caught in adultery; and Lazarus, the friend Jesus raised from the dead. You'll read stories about Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana, Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, and Peter's marvelous redemption after he denies Jesus three times. The people in these stories were transformed by their encounters with Jesus. By entering into their miraculous stories, you will encounter Jesus in a personal way and develop a deeper relationship with him that will transform your everyday life. Register by email vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or phone 217/522-3342. Order your packet for \$15.95 https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/turning-pointparticipant-program-pack/TPNT-008-PP-ENG.html Thursday evenings, 6:00-7:15 starting August 24, in the Cathedral School Library

AROUND OUR DIOCESE AND BEYOND



The Necklace

I have a necklace that originally belonged to my great-grandmother. I don't really know much about the man who gave it to her, most of those details have been lost to time. But I know that he wanted to marry her, and that she refused, and it had something to do with religion — ultimately, he did not share her faith. And while I've certainly seen many interfaith couples have loving and successful marriages, in this particular case, my great-grandmother discerned that this would not be one of those marriages.

Like I said, I don't have many details about this man, but I know that she felt she couldn't marry him because it might jeopardize the souls of her children, and therefore the souls of their children, and their children after them — me. She turned him down because of me.

My great-grandmother never sold that necklace, not even when the Great Depression further reduced her financial circumstances. She kept it, and she gave it to her daughter, who gave it to her daughter, who gave it to me. The necklace is always given with a warning: there is something worse than being poor, worse than being scared, worse even than being desperate. Worse than all of these things is separation from God.

When I wear this necklace, I think about my grandmother and this man she possibly loved a hundred years ago. I think of the many decisions we make every day — large and small, good and bad — that reverberate down through the generations in ways we cannot, at the time, imagine. I think of the God who knows every hair on my head.

"And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna." — Matthew 10:28

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPi

Around the Diocese

- Employment Opportunity St. Patrick Catholic School is seeking part time teachers for choir, art and P.E.. For more information, please contact Michael Carlson at mcarlson@st-patrick.org, or call 309-259-9931.
- God is Alive Documentary | Incredible stories of faith and miraculous events in Central Illinois, an original documentary, created and produced by the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, answers that question in an adventurous, impactful, and local way. Premieres on Saturday, July 8 at Sacred Heart Griffin High School in Springfield at 7pm. To RSVP to the free showing and watch the trailer, go to dio.org/documentary.
- St. Cabrini's Altar & Rosary Society Annual Garage Sale, July 13, 14, and 15. 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and from 7:30 a.m. until noon on Saturday. If you have items you would like to donate, you can bring them to the parish hall on July 10, 11, and 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Advocate Training for those interested in representing the Tribunal in preparing marriage nullity cases as Advocates will be held Saturday, July 15, 2023, 9:30 am-3:00 pm. at Christ The King Parish, 1920 Barberry Drive Springfield, Illinois. There will be no cost for the training but please preregister by July 10th by contacting cbranyan@dio.org or 217-321-1117. Lunch will be provided.
- The Little Way, A Journey Along St. Therese's Path of Confidence and Love Retreat, July 13-16, 2023 at Villa Maria Catholic Life Center. All women are welcomed and invited to participate. For registration information visit https://www.theresians.org/events.html. Look for Midwest Regional. Online registration deadline is June 15. If you have questions, please contact Vicki Schmidt at 217.652.8632 or Email: v.schmidt55@outlook.com.
- Springfield Dominican Sisters 150th Anniversary Mass, Saturday, August 19, 2023, 10:30am at the Sacred Heart Convent Chapel, 1237 W. Monroe Street, Springfield, IL, 62704. RSVP by August 1 is appreciated. This may be made either with a phone call to 217-787-0481 or at springfieldop.org/150years/. For those unable to be present a livestream is offered at springfieldop.org/livestream/.
- 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.