

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JULY 16, 2023 | FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 29

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
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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!



Disengaging Autopilot

In my previous two articles, I wrote about the internal and external ways that we prepare for Mass. Those reflections were intended to focus on what we do for preparation before we actually go to the church itself for Mass. But when we actually set foot in the church, what should we do just before Mass begins in order to prepare ourselves well for this greatest of all prayers?

The first thing we often encounter when we enter a Catholic church is a receptacle that contains Holy Water. We know the drill – we dip our fingers in and make the Sign of the Cross. But how conscious are we

of why we perform this almost mechanical action? The purpose of the Holy Water is to remind us of our Baptism, the most important day of our life. For it was on that day that we became God's adopted children, able to call upon Him as our Father. Our Baptism makes it possible for us to be admitted to share in this great prayer of the Mass. Will we remember this every time we enter church? Probably not, but nevertheless, perhaps we can challenge ourselves to it at least the next time we go to church. Start small and let it grow!

The next action we usually take is when we enter our pew. If our knees can handle it, we usually genuflect toward the tabernacle. Not that I spend a lot of time watching people genuflect, but I can't help but see it from time to time. Some genuflections are very sincere looking, and others are a bit sloppy. Now, I realize not everybody has good knees, but my guess is that many of us have knees that are capable of doing a full genuflection. As a reminder, our practice is to genuflect with the right knee, to where it goes all the way to the ground, pausing ever so briefly, and then rising up again. For the pause while down on the right knee, a good traditional practice is to use the aspiration that St. Thomas the Apostle used when Jesus invited him to put his finger into the nail marks of His risen body after the Resurrection: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28) This is an exclamation of adoration, which is what the action of making a genuflection is all about. In place of a genuflection, it is just fine to do a profound bow, bending at the waist toward the tabernacle, making the same internal act of adoration.

There is one final action to consider, and that is the Sign of the Cross, something that applies to blessing ourselves with Holy Water, and which is also sometimes done when genuflecting. We also make it when we kneel down in our pew, and when we begin Mass. The Sign of the Cross can be sloppy as well if we don't pay attention to what we are doing. Try to be very intentional about making those distinct movements without rushing. Otherwise, it sort of looks like we are swatting flies away! The Sign of the Cross is a prayer, even if we do not actually say it out loud, and it's important that we use all of the words: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." Sometimes we cut corners and just say: "Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Amen." Sure, we got all three Persons of the Trinity, but we have truncated it, not explicitly calling to mind we are praying in the name of all three Persons, thus the importance of those beginning words and each 'and'.

There are three simple gestures that we perform every time we come to Mass. Our being aware of these actions, and our efforts to be intentional about their significance sets us up well to prepare for Mass. If we do these actions on autopilot, our brains will just continue with the rest of the Mass in that mode. Let's be conscious about disengaging our spiritual autopilot when we walk in and do these three actions so that we can be fully present, fully conscious, and fully active in our participation in the great prayer that is about to follow!

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, July 17

7am - Jerry Weitzel
(Angela Williams)
5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway
(Robert Gasaway)

Tuesday, July 18

7am - Michael Poggi
(Family)
5:15pm - Dan Sexson
(A Friend)

Wednesday, July 19

7am - John W. Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - John Ansell
(Jerry Newquist & Sandy Venturini)

Thursday, July 20

7am - Betty & Gene Barish
(Family)
5:15pm - Don Weitzel
(Angela Williams)

Friday, July 21

7am - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)
5:15pm - Lori Saathoff
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

Saturday, July 22

8am - Deceased Members of the
Kruzick & Tobin Family (Steve and
Vicki Stalcup)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, July 23

7am - Raymond Ohl's 95th Birthday
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)
10am - Andrew Hansen
(Chris Sommer)
5pm - Deceased Members of the
CCCW (CCCW)



St. Apollinaris

Feast Day: July 20th | Patronage: Ravenna Italy and Region, Those suffering from Epilepsy or Gout | Iconography: Chasuble for Mass, Pallium as Metropolitan Bishop, with Sheep or Shepherd Staff as a Pastor, Tonsure and White Hair and Beard linking him to St. Peter

The Roman Martyrology gives us a typically terse record of the life and death of the early bishop, St. Apollinaris:

In Ravenna, the natal day of St. Apollinaris, bishop. After the Apostle Peter ordained him in Rome and sent him to Ravenna, he underwent many different tortures. Afterwards, he preached in Emilia and converted many people from the worship of idols. When he returned to Ravenna he suffered a glorious martyrdom under Caesar Vespasian.

Assuming you all wanted more of a story than that, I turn to the Basilica that now houses most of the mortal remains of this early bishop. We travel to the Basilica of St. Apollinare Nuovo in Ravenna, Italy ("Nuovo" to distinguish it from an older basilica that originally held St. Apollinaris's relics, St. Apollinare in Classe. His relics were removed from that church, over the place of his martyrdom, in 856 AD because pirates kept threatening in raids from the Adriatic coast.)

What is so cool about the New St. Apollinaris is that it was originally built in 504, and dedicated to Christ the Redeemer, by the Ostrogoth King, Theodoric the Great (as his personal palace chapel... after he had taken over Rome and moved his capital to Ravenna). Also, Theodoric was an Arian! So, this church would have to be reconsecrated as a Catholic Church, and dedicated to the great foe of Arianism St. Martin of Tours, in 561. (Only later would it be dedicated to St. Apollinaris once his relics were moved there). This all means that, if we examine the church carefully, we can see indications of its Arian roots. Many overtly Arian (as well as Theodoric's empirical) imagery has been removed over the centuries but not quite all. Stretching down the entire length of both sides of the nave (body) of the Church are grand mosaics depicting saints approaching Our Lord. To the left are 22 female virgins stepping towards Our Lady holding the Christ-child surrounded by four angels and approached by three magi (here given the names Balthasar, Melchior, and Gaspar, the earliest time we find those names given to these kings). On the right are 26 male martyrs, approaching Christ the King attended by four angels.

High above these saints are depictions of the life of Christ as the congregation would have heard during the readings throughout Holy Week, a permanent visual depiction of the most important days of the liturgical year! Also we discover in this Church depictions of the port of Ravenna from those early days, an artistic rendering of Theodoric's palace, and the fantastically detailed raiment and crown of each of the many saints. (Hit up the QR Code for a video walking you around this Basilica).



But I want to focus in on that depiction of the mature, reigning, Christ, Who here in Ravenna is bearded. Now, you and I wouldn't notice such a detail given how typical it is ever since to see our Lord with facial hair. But, at this time in Roman culture, men were typically clean-shaven (a practice made popular several hundred years earlier by Alexander the Great!) and would only grow out a beard when they were mourning. SO, a bearded Christ was actually a covertly Arian depiction of Jesus because the Arian heresy was the one that rejected Christ's divinity, something they claimed here by using a beard to emphasize His human maturation, mortality, sufferings, etc. Needless to say, a beard no longer symbolizes an Arian conception of Christ, but when this mosaic was made, it did have that emphasis!

Fr. Dominic Rankin brings you all of these details not just to change things up a bit this week, but to remind all of us that the way we image, speak, or portray Jesus does matter! He became man, wonderfully allowing us to depict Him at all, yet we must be careful not to let our own conceptions of Our Lord ever tug us away from Who our faith tells us He truly is.

Stewardship of Treasure

July 8th & 9th

Envelopes:	\$5,981.00
Loose:	\$2,866.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$145.00</u>
Total:	\$8,992.00

June EFT

\$20,773.80

June Debt Reduction

\$501.00

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!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



WEEK OF JULY 17

MONDAY

TUESDAY

Grief Share
1:00 PM
School Library

Adoration
4:00 PM
Church

Jesus and the Jewish
Roots
6:30 PM
Cathedral Atrium

WEDNESDAY

Men's Bible
Study
6:00 AM
School Library

Cathedral Bible
Study
6:15 PM
School Library

THURSDAY

Prayer Bible Study
1:00 PM
School Library

Adoration
4:00 PM
Church

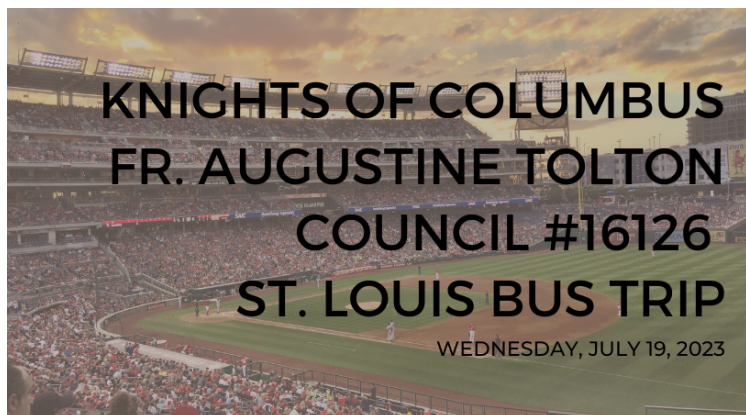
FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Fishing with Father
7:30 AM
Villa Maria
Retreat Center

SUNDAY

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>



Fishing with Father

July 22, 2023
7:30 AM
Villa Maria
Retreat Center
1903 E Lake Shore Drive
Springfield, IL 62712



Join us for Mass, Breakfast, Fishing, and a tree climbing Gospel experience with Mercy Tree Adventures!



Fishing With Father - All Are Invited!

Our resident fishing expert, Fr. Alford, invites you to our third annual Fishing With Father event. We'll start our day at 7:30 with Mass in the Villa Maria chapel followed by breakfast snacks, fishing, and a tree climbing Gospel experience with Mercy Tree Adventures. Safely climb a tree using ropes and harness. Sign-up and waivers are available on site at the Villa Maria. Climbers must be age 7 or older. mercytreeadventures.org.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Mission Appeal in Springfield

Sister Ann Fearday, is an Adorer of the Blood of Christ. She is a native of Teutopolis, Illinois and has worked in Bolivia as a missionary for more than 44 years. She will be participating in a mission appeal here in the Cathedral and will be speaking in the 4PM Mass on July 22 and 7AM, 10AM and 5PM Masses on July 23. Please be generous with your support. Thank you.

Sacred Heart Major Seminary Online Course

Embark on a new journey this fall as Dr. Patricia Cooney Hathaway, Professor of Spirituality and Systematic Theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, leads a new course, "An Introduction to Spirituality." This online, college-level course will empower you to become a missionary disciple equipped to bring spirituality into your everyday life and fulfill the universal call to holiness. For more information or to enroll, visit <https://explore.shms.edu/online-programs>

Eucharistic Miracles Display

Each week during the month of July, as part of our parish focus on the Eucharistic Revival, we will be displaying Eucharistic Miracles posters in the Cathedral atrium. Each week we will highlight a different part of the world. This week check out the Eucharistic miracles that have occurred in Italy. The display will be changed every Thursday.

Priest Runs Boston Marathon in 6:35/Mile (Under 3 Hours)!

It is one the most prestigious marathons in the U.S., the Boston Marathon. Runners must qualify for it. Our very own Father Dominic Rankin not only competed, but completed it in under three hours (6 minutes and 35 seconds per mile)! How did he do it? We discuss with him the physical and spiritual components of running the Boston Marathon. Go to dio.org/podcast or search Dive Deep on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe.

Eucharistic Congress Tickets

The Cathedral will have about 100 tickets to share with parishioners who would like to attend the Eucharistic Congress at the Bank of Springfield Center on Saturday, October 28. If you'd like to enter the lottery for a ticket, please contact the parish office by calling 217/522-3342 or emailing info@cathedral.dio.org. Drawing for tickets will be August 1.

Blood Pressure Checks – July 22nd & 23rd

Our parish nurse will be available for blood pressure checks before and after masses next weekend. Please stop by!

Retreat For Married Couples

Worldwide Marriage Encounter presents weekend experiences for married couples to rekindle romance, enhance meaningful communication, and deepen and renew commitment. Sign-up now! For more information or to apply, go to wwme.org or call Terry & Eric Engholm at 314-649-7317. The next retreat will be held 8/4/2023 – 8/6/2023 in St. Peters, MO.

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-point-participant-program-pack/TPNT-008-PP-ENG.html> Thursday evenings, 6:00-7:15 starting August 24, in the Cathedral School Library

Soil Conditions

I am a hopeless gardener. I never met a plant I couldn't swiftly kill with good intentions and poor understanding of soil conditions.

Because really, it's all about the soil conditions — at least, that's what Google tells me when I helplessly search phrases like "Why aren't any of my seeds sprouting? Please, I tried so hard." I can never seem to match the right type of soil offering the right type of drainage and texture with the right plant. I can't understand why it's not enough to bury the seed in whatever ground is available, sprinkle some water and ask it, very nicely, to grow.

This is also a quality that makes me a poor evangelist to people who do not share my beliefs. How many times have I encountered a friend or loved one who left the faith, and I tried to coax them back by hurling Catechism passages in their direction, offering advice they never asked for and are ill-equipped to understand? I sow these seeds of witness and bang my fists in frustration that they rot where I plant them, never realizing that it's all about the soil.

It is Christ, and Christ alone, who works within the heart. It is Christ who is the sower of the seed, not me. When I leave him out of the equation, when I fail to offer the Person and instead only offer the teaching, I can anticipate that any witness I have to offer will rot where it is planted just as sure as a tulip bulb in a bed of clay.

"...my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it." — Isaiah 55:11

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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Around the Diocese

- **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 edanaheer@dio.org.