

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

AUGUST 6, 2023 | FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD



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 32

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THE REVEREND PAUL LESUPATI  
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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!



## Reverencing the Altar

Throughout the Mass, there are various roles that are fulfilled by different members of the assembled congregation. You will have the ordained clergy who have a specific role in leading the worship, while the rest of the lay faithful fulfill other roles pertinent to the prayerful celebration of the Mass. As we work our way through these reflections, when something that is unique to me as a priest (or as a member of the clergy), I will provide some thoughts as they can help all of us in better praying at Mass, not just those who perform those specific actions and words.

One of the first things that you might notice is when the priest and deacon enter the sanctuary, we kiss the altar. Personally, I try to be mindful of having this kiss represent my desire to be as faithful to Christ as possible, whether it is in how I celebrate Mass, or how I live as a priest. I never want that kiss to be like that of Judas, whose kiss was a sign of betrayal.

Although only ordained ministers kiss the altar, all of us can unite ourselves with the priest and deacon as they reverence the altar as a way of showing our reverence to Christ, asking Him that we, too, might be as faithful to Him as possible, especially through our full, active, and conscious participation in the Mass.

Although at present, nothing is said with this kiss, though historically, there was a prayer associated with the kissing of the altar that went something like this: "We beseech you, O Lord, by the merits of your saints, whose relics are here, and of all the Saints, that you would pardon me all my sins." Masses in the early Church were celebrated over the tombs of martyrs and other saints as a sign of our special connection to them in the Mass, and our seeking their intercession for us as we continue our journey which we pray will one day conclude by joining them in Heaven.

Therefore, the kiss is a sign of reverence for the relics that are typically placed in an altar when it is consecrated by a bishop. Here at the Cathedral, the relics in our main altar are: a Relic of the True Cross, St. Isaac Jogues, St. Maria Goretti, St. Charles Lwanga, St. George, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and St. John Vianney (whose feast day was this past Friday). Even if there were no relics in the altar, as is the case with some newer altars, the kiss is still relevant as the altar represents Christ Himself, though obviously not in the same way as He is present in the Eucharist.

The presence of these relics reminds us of another important point, that when we are gathered together at Mass, we are united not just with those gathered in the physical church, we are united with all of the Catholics throughout the world, for every celebration of Mass is a re-presentation of the one sacrifice that Christ offered on the Cross. We are also united with the Church in Heaven, who gather around the throne of the lamb in unending worship. In fact, right after the opening Sign of the Cross, the priest offers a greeting, such as: "The Lord be with you", to which all respond: "And with your spirit." The General Instruction of the Roman Missal says about this greeting: "By this greeting and the people's response, the mystery of the Church gathered together is made manifest." (GIRM, §50) The mystery being expressed is what I just mentioned, that the ENTIRE Church, past, present, future, near, far, on earth, in Purgatory, and in Heaven are all gathered together as we enter into this greatest prayer of the 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, August 7

7am - Julie Kemp

(Family)

5:15pm - John Brunk & Deceased Family (Estate)

#### Tuesday, August 8

7am - Robert Gasaway

(Rob & John Gasaway)

5:15pm - Deceased Members of the Patrick/Fleck Family  
(The Fleck Family)

#### Wednesday, August 9

7am - John & Edith Bakalar

(John Busciacco)

5:15pm - William F. & Shirley Logan  
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

#### Thursday, August 10

7am - Mathias Bates

(Bates Family)

5:15pm - Karen Bucari  
(Alan Bucari)

#### Friday, August 11

7am - Jeffrey Weitzel

(Angela Williams)

5:15pm - Intention for Bianca  
(D.A. Drago)

#### Saturday, August 12

8am - Robert & Anna Gasaway

(Rob & John Gasaway)

4pm - Brother Francis Skube  
(Community)

#### Sunday, August 13

7am - For The People

10am - Deacon Frank Maynerich

(Beverly & Larry Smith)

5pm - Joseph Laudeuskie  
(Jim & Sandy Bloom)



## St. Lawrence, Deacon

**Feast Day: August 10th | Patronage: Rome, Comedians, Archivists, Librarians, Students, Miners, Tanners, Chefs, Chefs, BBQists, Firefighters, the Poor | Iconography: Wearing Deacon's Dalmatic, Surrounded by the Poor, Holding or Martyred by Gridiron**

St. Ambrose tells us our saint story this week. He recounts the final days of the Deacon Lawrence in a work entitled "On the Duties of the Clergy" – modeled after a famous discourse of the Roman Orator, Cicero, "On Duties" – both of them expositions on morality, on what is honorable, virtuous, and right. Ambrose's work is the first true synthesis of Christian morality, integrating what was good and true with secular moral systems (like stoicism) with Christian revelation and grace. He makes this plain in his opening lines, "Just as Cicero wrote for

the instruction of his son ... so I also write to teach you, my children. For I love you, who I have begotten in the Gospel". These are words addressed to his young priests, but certainly not limited to them (Augustine would pass this work onto his flock, and it has been promoted ever since as an enduring summary of what the Christian life calls all of us to.

*And let us not pass by St. Lawrence, who, seeing Sixtus his bishop led to martyrdom, began to weep, not at his sufferings but at the fact that he himself was to remain behind. With these words he began to address him: "Where, father, are you going without your son? Where, holy priest, are you hastening without your deacon? Never were you wont to offer sacrifice without an attendant. What are you displeased at in me, my father? Have you found me unworthy? Prove, then, whether you have chosen a fitting servant. To him to whom you have entrusted the consecration of the Saviour's blood, to whom you have granted fellowship in partaking of the Sacraments, to him do you refuse a part in your death? Beware lest your good judgment be endangered, while your fortitude receives its praise. The rejection of a pupil is the loss of the teacher; or how is it that noble and illustrious men gain the victory in the contests of their scholars rather than in their own? Abraham offered his son, Peter sent Stephen on before him! Father, show forth your courage in your son. Offer me whom you have trained, that you, confident in your choice of me, may reach the crown in worthy company."*

*Then Xystus said: "I leave you not, nor forsake you. Greater struggles yet await you. We as old men have to undergo an easier fight; a more glorious triumph over the tyrant awaits you, a young man. Soon shall you come. Cease weeping; after three days you shall follow me. This interval must come between the priest and his levite. It was not for you to conquer under the eye of your master, as though you needed a helper. Why do you seek to share in my death? I leave to you its full inheritance. Why do you need my presence? Let the weak disciples go before their master, let the brave follow him, that they may conquer without him. For they no longer need his guidance. So Elijah left Elisha. To you I entrust the full succession to my own courage."*

*Such was their contention, and surely a worthy one, wherein priest and attendant strove as to who should be the first to suffer for the name of Christ. ... But here there was nothing to call holy Lawrence to act thus but his love and devotion. However, after three days he was placed upon the gridiron by the tyrant whom he mocked, and was burnt. He said: "The flesh is roasted, turn it and eat." So by the courage of his mind he overcame the power of fire. [St. Ambrose, De Officiis Ministrorum, Chapter 41, Paragraphs 214-216]*

*Fr. Dominic Rankin has always found the story of St. Lawrence's martyrdom to be humorously daunting: How can I have the courage to not only embrace martyrdom, but to fearlessly joke with whoever is torturing me: "turn me over, I'm done on this side..."?? Yet St. Ambrose does not propose Lawrence as an "over the top" example of martyrdom, but an exemplar of authentic Christian discipleship. This deacon was willing to obey his Pope, St. Sixtus II, even above his own desire for martyrdom. We will not be asked at our judgement "did you have the guts to be martyred?", but "did you obey Christ and His Church?" I cannot choose to be martyred, but every day I have the choice to obey fully and joyfully, and only one of those things will determine whether I enter heaven or not. Do I risk asking God what His plans are for today? When someone walks up in need, do I try to evade the request, or see them as sent by God? Am I content with the vocation and mission given me, or do I look elsewhere for tasks, fulfillment, or success?*

## Stewardship of Treasure

### July 29th & 30th

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Envelopes:   | \$4,728.00 |
| Loose:       | \$3,434.00 |
| Maintenance: | \$345.00   |
| Total:       | \$8,507.00 |

### July EFT

\$20,358.80

### July Second Collections

Peter's Pence  
\$2,747.00

Mission Co-op Appeal  
\$5,420.00

### July Debt Reduction

\$611.00

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 AUGUST 7

### 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

### THURSDAY

Bible Study -  
Prayer  
8:00 AM  
School Library

Adoration  
4:00 PM  
Church

### FRIDAY

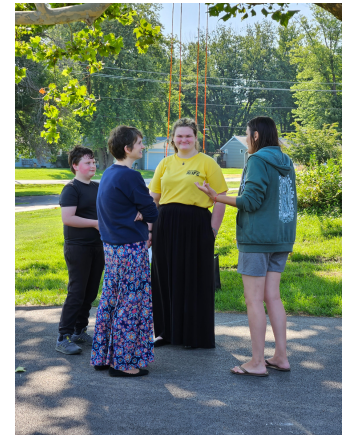
### SATURDAY

### SUNDAY

## What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

### **Fishing with Father**

We had a great time fishing and climbing and praying at Fishing with Father! Thanks to Fr. Alford for celebrating an early morning Mass and for his expert fishing advice, and to Carlos and Elena Tejeda and Mercy Tree Adventures for adventurous encounters with God's word!



### **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](mailto:info@cathedral.dio.org).

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## St. Louise Bunco

St. Louise is having a bunco game on 8/20/2023 at Christ the King hall from 2-4pm. The cost is \$10 and snacks, desserts and drinks will be served. We will also have 50/50 and raffle basket tickets available for purchase. All proceeds goes to Catholic Charities. Please call me, Linda Patterson, at 217-971-1642 for a reservation or e-mail me at [threeinone62@comcast.net](mailto:threeinone62@comcast.net). All e-mail requests will receive a reply back. It is limited to the first 100 ladies. So please come and have a good time and help out Catholic Charities.

## Butler Funeral Homes Peace of Mind Seminar

The Butler Family of Organizations extends an invitation to all who are interested in learning more about planning for their final wishes to help their families celebrate their lives to join us for a lunch and learn program. The details are as follows:

Peace of Mind Seminar  
Thursday, August 17th  
11:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Prairie View Reception Center  
8865 State Rt. 4  
Chatham, Illinois 62629

Complimentary lunch will be provided. This event is free: no cost or obligation. Please call 217-544-4646 to reserve your space no later than Monday, August 14th.

## 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](mailto: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

## Lectio: The Case for Jesus

Cathedral Women's Bible Study presents a 9-part video/discussion series with Dr. Brant Pitre. Can we trust the Gospels? Do we really know who wrote them? Do the Gospels communicate truth – or fabricated fables? Who is Jesus? Who did Jesus claim to be? Join Dr. Brant Pitre as he draws evidence from both early Christian and non-Christian writings attesting to the authenticity, authorship, and dating of the Gospels, and as he gives an in-depth look at the Gospel accounts of Jesus's Crucifixion, Resurrection, and the proclamation of Christ's divinity. Order your study guide by calling 217/522-3342 or emailing [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org). Thursdays, starting September 7, 10:00am or 1:00pm, Cathedral School Library

## 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>

## Springfield Dominican Sisters' 150th anniversary Mass

Celebrate the Springfield Dominican Sisters' 150th anniversary with Mass Saturday, August 19 at the Sacred Heart Convent Chapel, 1237 W. Monroe Street, Springfield, IL. Mass begins at 10:30 with a beautiful musical prelude at 10:15 a.m. Mass is followed by a light meal. RSVP by August 4 at [springfieldop.org/150years/](http://springfieldop.org/150years/) or call 217-787-0481. Free event with off-street parking. Fully accessible. Livestreamed at [springfieldop.org/livestream/](http://springfieldop.org/livestream/).

## Free Online Course - The Cardinal Virtues: Keys to the Good Life

Enrollment is now open for our next free, online course: The Cardinal Virtues: Keys to the Good Life. This course will examine the four cardinal virtues—prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance—according to the thought of Aristotle, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Josef Pieper. Mondays, September 11 - November 13  
Live Course: 8:00 - 9:15 PM ET / Pre-class discussion 30 minutes prior  
For more information or to register, please visit <https://instituteofcatholicculture.org/events/the-cardinal-virtues/>

## Biking for Babies – Thank You!

I just wanted to give a big “thank you” to our parishioners and community members who helped to welcome the Biking for Babies crew to the Cathedral on July 14 and 15. I got to know B4B two years ago when the Cathedral hosted them for the evening and I was the celebrant at the evening Mass. They were a joyful bunch and gave great witness to their cause of promoting life and pregnancy resource centers. My week of Biking for Babies was an incredible week – physically demanding, but spiritually uplifting. On July 14, I biked around 100 miles from Charleston to the Cathedral. I was so happy to have my teammates and new friends at the parish where I am serving in my fourth year. The guys slept at SHG where I also serve. It was two worlds colliding – B4B and my Springfield life! After Mass, dinner was a joy on Friday evening as several of us shared stories and testimonies about how God has used Biking for Babies in our life. On the morning of July 15th, I celebrated Mass at 3:30 (yes, in the morning...I was tired) before the teams had breakfast and departed between 4:30 and 5. We had a 130-mile ride to Manchester, MO, so we had to get an early start. Thank you to our generous parishioners who made food, hosted riders, and got up early to feed us and send us on our way. Biking for Babies is changing lives, starting with the missionaries and spreading to the pregnancy resource centers we support. As a group, we have raised over \$250k this year and hope to reach \$300k soon. Personally, my goal was to raise \$5,000. As of the end of July, I have surpassed \$12,000. Thank you to those who supported me financially and spiritually! As I said before, please continue to support our local pregnancy centers, First Step and Springfield Right to Life financially. Biking For Babies was founded in response to John Paul II telling young people, “Woe to you if you do not succeed in defending life!” Thank you all for being shining examples of defending life. Let us never lose hope in our proclamation of the Gospel of Life!



## Around the Diocese

- **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/](https://springfieldop.org/150years/). For those unable to be present a livestream is offered at [springfieldop.org/livestream/](https://springfieldop.org/livestream/).
- **Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women 95th Annual Convention**, Wednesday, September 27, at Sacred Heart Griffin West Campus with Mass at St. Agnes Church, Springfield. More information to come.
- **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.
- **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 [edanaheer@dio.org](mailto:edanaheer@dio.org).