

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**AUGUST 13, 2023 | NINETEENTH 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 32

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THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI  
NINTH BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

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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!



## The Penitential Act

A couple of years ago, I came across a book that helps the reader to pray the Mass more intentionally. The title of the book is: *A Biblical Way of Praying the Mass: The Eucharistic Wisdom of Venerable Bruno Lanteri*, written by Father Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V. Father Gallagher is best known for his writings on Ignatian spirituality, but he has also done much research and writing on the founder of his community (Oblates of the Virgin Mary), Venerable Bruno Lanteri. In this book on the Mass, Father Gallagher writes:

*For each part of the Mass, Venerable Bruno urges us to "seek the sentiments and the heart" of some biblical figure. In a later version of this text, he invites us to pray the Mass "with special attention to its principle parts so as to enkindle sentiments in keeping with each," again presenting these biblical figures. (p. 25 of Kindle version of book)*

When Venerable Bruno approaches the Penitential Act, the biblical figure that he invites us to emulate is the tax collector in the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector. We know the story and the key line of the passage for us is this: "But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.'" (Lk 18:13)

We know that earlier in this story, one of the faults of the Pharisee is his focusing more on the faults of the tax collector as opposed to his own. When we come to Mass, we cannot help but notice those who are around us at Mass. We might notice how somebody is dressed, or how they may be talking before Mass. We might see somebody with whom we have had a disagreement. The temptation can be there to criticize what we perceive to be lacking in our neighbor, which is always easier than acknowledging what is lacking within ourselves. But if we take on the attitude of the tax collector, we come before the Lord aware of our need for God's mercy, not where we think our neighbor needs God's mercy.

As I wrote in a previous article, spending some time before Mass in prayer, doing an examination of conscience, is the best way to actually pray this brief, though important, part of the Mass. It is when we are aware of our lowliness and our need for God that we will come to the Eucharist with hearts open to conversion. If we do not foster that spirit of humility and our need for God's mercy, remaining convinced of our righteousness like the Pharisee, then we set ourselves up for an experience of prayer that will not be of maximum benefit to us, not because the Mass is in any way lacking, but because our hearts are not open to receive the fruits of this great prayer.

In the past year or so, there is a line from Psalm 51 that has been coming to mind more frequently when I think about this part of the Mass. As a reminder, Psalm 51 was composed by David right after his adulterous affair with Bathsheba. As David becomes aware of the gravity of his sin, he assumes a posture of humility not unlike that of the tax collector and he writes these words: "A clean heart create for me, God; renew within me a steadfast spirit." (Ps 51:12) So David could be another biblical figure we seek to emulate in our hearts as we acknowledge our sins and so prepare to enter the sacred mysteries that 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, August 14

7am - Dan Sexson  
(Richard & Cindy Allender)  
5:15pm - Herbert & Mary Priester  
(Priester Family)

#### Tuesday, August 15

7am - For the People  
12:05pm - Jon Anthony Boehm  
(Jim Boehm)  
5:15pm - Jim Steil  
(Steil Family)

#### Wednesday, August 16

7am - Adele B. McFadden  
(Paul & Suanne Palazzolo)  
5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway  
(Robert Gasaway)

#### Thursday, August 17

7am - Keisha Ysabelle Castillo  
(Cecile Castillo)  
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the  
Gaston & Gries Family  
(The Fleck Family)

#### Friday, August 18

7am - Albert Crispi  
(John Busciacco)  
5:15pm - Mildred Raffa  
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

#### Saturday, August 19

8am - John Brunk & Deceased Family  
(Estate)  
4pm - For the People

#### Sunday, August 20

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(William Midden)  
10am - Betty Rogers  
(Family)  
5pm - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt  
(Kathy Frank)





## St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe (Part 1)

**Feast Day: August 14th | Patronage: Families, Prisoners, Amateur Radio Operators, Journalists, Political Prisoners, Pro Life Movement, Recovery from Drug Addiction | Iconography: Gray Beard, Franciscan Habit and Cord, Nazi Concentration Camp Uniform, Holding Crucifix, Rosary or Image of Our Lady, White Crown for Purity, Red Crown for Martyrdom, Palm of Martyrdom, Newsletter of Militia Immacolata.**

I turn to a variety of fellow prisoners of the Nazi Concentration Camp of Auschwitz to recount for us the dramatic self-sacrifice of the (up till then an extraordinary evangelist and charismatic) Conventual Franciscan Father, Maximilian Kolbe whom we celebrate this week:

Francis Mleczko, a fellow laborer from Block 14 who had been imprisoned since 1940 and, as a Polish government official, often took the brunt of the Gestapo's wrath, recounted: *"We were working digging gravel (to be used in building more Blocks) outside the camp when suddenly, about three in the afternoon, the sirens began to wail and shriek. That was a terrible sign. It meant there had been an escape. At once the German sentries lifted their guns, counted us, and began to keep an extra strict watch. ... it even reached the villages outside the fifteen-mile penal zone, warning the police to set up roadblock and watch for the poor fugitive. The thoughts of all of us were not on him, however, but ourselves; for if the escapee was from our Block, we knew ten to twenty of us would die in reprisal. So I prayed, and I imagine everyone else was doing the same: 'Oh please don't let him be from my Block. Let him be from Block 3 or Block 8 but not from 14.' But when we returned to camp, the worst proved true – the missing man was from Block 14."*

A Palatine Brother, Ladislaus Swies (who had been packed into the same boxcar with Fr. Maximilian two months earlier) recalled that night: *"After work the whole camp stood at attention until we were dismissed to go to bed. No one got even a bit to eat. But the following morning, after just coffee, we had to go to another hard day's work – except for Block 14, which had the missing prisoner. They were again put on the parade ground to stand all day in the sun."* Ted Wojtkowski, a 21 year old university student (half of Fr. Kolbe's age, who would survive Auschwitz and eventually move to Chicago) stood with the other 600 prisoners from Block 14: *"We stood at attention in the sun – boiling – from morning until late afternoon, with our only break at noon when we were given our soup ration. Quite a few keeled over and were left lying however they fell."*

Br. Swies stood about 50 feet away as the deputy-commander of Auschwitz, Karl Fritsch, began to walk along the ten parallel lines of men from Block 14. Wojtkowski is in the very middle of the pack, being of middling height, and desperately hopes that those banished to the death cell will have been chosen by the time Fritsch gets to the eighth row. Mleczko is in the fifth row, near the end, and can only pray as the acting commandant strides back and forth, *"The fugitive has not been found. In reprisal for your comrade's escape, ten of you will die by starvation. Next time it will be twenty."* As he saunters down each line, he stares at each man, deciding whether to send him to starvation or not. Mleczko recounts the demonic game: *"As he came closer and closer my heart was pounding. 'Let him pass me, let him pass me, Oh pass, pass,' I was praying. But no. He stopped directly before me. With his eyes, he examined me from my head to my feet, then back again. A second complete up and down. I saw the [secretary] pose his pencil to write my number. Then, in Polish, Fritsch orders, 'Open your mouth.' I open. He looks. He walks on. I breathe again."*

Wojtkowski recounts a similar torture: *"I am thinking my luck is okay. [Most of the quota had been filled.] Then suddenly he points down the row at me and calls 'You!' I freeze in terror and can't move. Since I don't put my foot forward, my neighbor decides Fritsch is calling him. Unsure, he puts one foot slight out. 'Not you, dummkopf Polish swine,' Fritsch snarls, and points at me again. Then suddenly, in a split second, he changes his mind and, as my neighbor starts to step back, he orders him forward and takes him instead of me."* As the guards check the list of the condemned, Francis Gajowniczek sobs *"My wife and my children."* He is ignored by the Nazi's. He is not ignored by Fr. Maximilian Kolbe.

*Fr. Dominic Rankin has loved St. Maximilian Kolbe ever since reading a child's biography of the saint on multiple family car-rides. The dramatic eyewitnesses that tell his final hours to us this week (and next) are collected in Patricia Treece's captivating biography, A Man for Others: Maximilian Kolbe, Saint of Auschwitz, in the Words of Those Who Knew Him.*

## Stewardship of Treasure

### August 5th & 6th

Envelopes:	\$7,078.00
Loose:	\$3,105.00
Maintenance:	\$950.00
Total:	\$11,133.00

### 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 14

<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
	Parish Office Closed  Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library	Bible Study - Prayer 1:00 PM School Library  Adoration 4:00 PM Church			

## What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

### 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

### 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).

### 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

# 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.

## Men's Evening of Recollection

A Men's Evening of Recollection will be held Thursday, August 24th at St John's Hospital Chapel (800 E. Carpenter St., Springfield), from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The recollection will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a meditation given by a priest, time for silent prayer and reflection, an opportunity for confession, a doctrinal talk and Benediction.

All men throughout the diocese are invited to attend. The spiritual guidance at the Recollection is entrusted to a priest of the Prelature of Opus Dei. Check out: [www.opusdei.org](http://www.opusdei.org)

## 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.

## 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.

## 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/>

## God and the Good Strong Wind

My only real memory of the Mackinac Island ferry was the physical sensation of the wind against my face. I remember, distinctly, that it hurt.

It surprised and confused me because wind had never felt painful before. Looking back now, I realize that it wasn't just the wind but the spray from the waves that crashed against the side of the ferry — that was what produced the sharp, biting sensation on my skin. But I couldn't have known that then, because my eyes were clamped shut. I refused to open them, even if I had, I would not have seen much, because my long hair was blown straight across my face.

I was four years old, and it was, in the immortal words of Winnie-the-Pooh, a very blustery day as my family made our way to Mackinac Island. I remember thinking I was going to die. I'm positive now that it wasn't really all that dramatic, but at four years old, you're awfully scared of a good strong wind.

Deep inside, aren't we all, really?

I think of the apostles who cannot recognize Christ — their friend — because he is doing something new. Something impossible. They are so sure he is a ghost, a sinister thing — children are always frightened of what they cannot understand.

And even when he reassures them, still Peter is not convinced. He demands, essentially, a miracle. He demands that Christ make him do what only Christ can do.

And even when the miracle takes place — he walks on water, he defies physics — still he is human. Scared, doubtful, distractible. No match for a good strong wind.

*"Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter..." Matthew 14:31*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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## Around the Diocese

- **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 [edanaher@dio.org](mailto:edanaher@dio.org).