

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

AUGUST 20, 2023 | TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 34

---

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

DEACON ROBERT SGAMBELLURI

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!

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.



## The Gloria

At all of our Sunday Masses, except during the seasons of Advent and Lent, the Church invites us, after having acknowledged our sins, to raise our hearts in praise to God as we sing the Gloria. That movement strikes me as something that is quite profound. It is a reminder to us that we, who are weighed down by our sinfulness, have been given the gift of Jesus to save us from our slavery to sin. This is the very message that the angel of the Lord delivered to the shepherds on the night that Christ was born in Bethlehem:

*Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:10-12)*

The very next line provides the scriptural foundation for the angels intoning this great hymn that we sing at this point of the Mass: “And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: **“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”** (Luke 2:13-14)

I find this transition from sorrow for sin to immediately giving glory to God a helpful reminder to us to not be so down on ourselves when it comes to our sinfulness. Sure, it is appropriate to have a proper sadness for our lack of correspondence to God's will. But thanks be to God for the gift of Jesus and the infinite mercy He offers to us out of His love for us. The society in which we live would have us fixated on ourselves, how we do not measure up, how we miss the mark. But the Church, as a loving mother, does not want us to wallow in self-pity, but invites us to raise our hearts to the glory of God, whose “light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

In a previous article, I wrote about the importance of joining our hearts and voices to the praise of God during the times of the liturgy when the Church invites us to sing. This is especially true in the Gloria! How unfortunate if we choose to remain silent during this great hymn in which we glorify the God who has saved us. The only reason I can think we do not join in this hymn is that we are stuck in being too focused on ourselves and not on God. “I can't sing.” “I don't want to sing.” “I don't know the music.” This past Sunday I was talking with a former parishioner from my first assignment as a priest. She told me that she is not a good singer, but she at least whispers along because she wants to join in the music, limited as her musical ability may be. I found that to be a beautiful expression! Even if we do not have a good singing voice, or know how to sing, we can all at the very least whisper as we join the song of the angels in giving glory to God for saving us from our sins. So at the next Mass you attend where we sing or recite the Gloria, sing, speak, or even whisper. If we are truly aware of God's goodness to us and the mercy He offers to us, then we think of the words of that familiar song: “How can I keep from singing?”

*Father Alford is the Rector of the Cathedral and serves in the diocesan curia as the Vicar for Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations.*

As many of you are aware, Memorial Health has undergone some rather significant staff reductions in recent weeks. This unfortunately includes their Pastoral Care department. There is no longer a Catholic priest chaplain at Memorial so our ability to provide prompt spiritual care to our parishioners has been affected. If you or your family member is at Memorial Hospital, the sure way for us to know so that we can visit and offer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is to let us know directly by calling the office at 217-522-3342. At this point, it does not seem as though the hospital is sufficiently prepared to make us aware of our parishioners being in the hospital. Also, in the case of an emergency, please call here to ensure that we can respond as soon as possible. Again, it is not clear that the hospital will be able to communicate those needs to us on your behalf. If you call after office hours here, there is an option for End-of-Life Emergencies, and that is the best way to reach us.

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, August 21

7am - Eric Nelson  
(Nelson Family)  
5:15pm - Ramon S. Simbajon  
(Lolita F. Klicker)

### Tuesday, August 22

7am - John W. Montgomery  
(John Busciacco)  
5:15pm - James Hughes  
(The Hughes)

### Wednesday, August 23

7am - Betty Rogers  
(Family)  
5:15pm - Genevieve Bitschenauer  
(Barbara Bitschenauer)

### Thursday, August 24

7am - Hildergard Rader  
(Bev Hoffman)  
5:15pm - Jacob Lesupati  
(Fr. Paul Lesupati)

### Friday, August 25

7am - Brother Francis Skube  
(Community)  
5:15pm - Katie B.  
(D.A. Drago)

### Saturday, August 26

8am - Mary Jane Kerns  
(Estate)  
4pm - Deceased Members of CCCW  
(CCCW)

### Sunday, August 27

7am - John Vogt Jr. (Bill Vogt)  
10am - Donald & Marjorie Layden  
(Michael & Lily Layden)  
5pm - For the People





## St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe, OFM Conv (Part 2)

**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.**

Last week we reached the critical moment of Fr. Kolbe's life. 10 prisoners are destined to die. He is not one of them. Yet this was the man who, as a child, had a mystical encounter with Our Lady, who offered him either the crown of purity or the crown of martyrdom, to which he asked for both. He had been assigned to the worst work-details and had barely survived a second bout of tuberculosis in the Invalid's Block a week before, usually a death sentence.

Routinely inviting others into prayer and offering confession to his fellow prisoners, he had suffered patiently a double-dose of the guards hatred.

Francis Gajowniczek sobs "My wife and my children", now assigned to starvation and death. But then there is a disturbance in the ranks. A prisoner pushes forward from the back. Rifles are raised. The dogs strain against their leashes. Capos shout for him to stop. Fritsch reaches for his weapon. Fr. Kolbe steps out of line, his face firm, serene. "I want to talk to the commander." Marvelously he is not shot as he continues forward. He looks Fritsch straight in the eye, "Herr Kommandant, I wish to make a request, please." Fritsch is further stupefied as Kolbe continues "I want to die in place of this prisoner. ... I have no wife or children. Besides, I'm old and not good for anything." "Who are you?" Asks the incredulous German. "A Catholic Priest" replies Prisoner #16770. Silence blankets the parade ground.

"Request granted."

Gajowniczek marvels that he is allowed back in line and can only thank Maximilian Kolbe with his eyes, "I, the condemned, am to live and someone else willingly and voluntarily offers his life for me – a stranger." Br. Ladislaus saw the ten victims marched away. "I saw that Father Kolbe was staggering under the weight of one of the others as he upheld this man who could not walk with his own strength." Wotjkowski, barely surviving the day himself, is rooted to the spot, "I've just seen a saint made." Mleczo, though unable to witness Fr. Kolbe's final days directly, recalls that the other prisoners kept a prayer vigil for their ten condemned brothers, walking past the slit through which little could be seen of their undergrown starvation bunker. Others heard the guards coming and going from the cell, checking who had perished, screaming at Kolbe to not watch them with his piercing gaze, troubled by his patience and prayerfulness as death approached. He survived for two weeks and was finally murdered by an injection of carbolic acid. Starvation and dehydration were taking too long and the cell was needed for others. And thus, on the evening of August 14th, as the Catholic Church began its celebration of Our Lady's Assumption into Heaven, another saint entered the panoply of those who lived lives with a love like Christ's.

Gajowniczek would survive the war and return to his wife and two sons. He was present at Fr. Kolbe's beatification and canonization, and his memory of St. Maximilian Kolbe is a fitting final word, and a reminder to all of us of the simple choices that led this simple priest to an extraordinary final choice: "I observed him [at] evening in the Block praying fervently and inviting others to join him – a very dangerous activity. I participated in prayer sessions he organized, and once was among his listeners at a conference he gave right outside the Block. Another day a bunch of us were shoveling manure out of a pit. Father Kolbe was beaten very cruelly by an SS guard who hit him many times in the face while his attack dog also assaulted Father, biting him seriously. Father Kolbe bore all this not just with patience but with dignity. ... I recall that when he was put down for a better work squad – that of washing potatoes in the kitchen – he expressed his happiness openly to us and his gratitude toward God and the intercession of the Virgin Mary."

*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 12th & 13th

Envelopes:	\$7,142.00
Loose:	\$4,074.00
Maintenance:	\$107.00
Total:	\$11,323.00

### 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!

## Sacraments

### Baptisms

Gianna Rose Wieber  
Child of Caleb & Sarah Wieber  
Baptized on August 6, 2023

## WEEK OF AUGUST 21

<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
	<p>Grief Share 1:00 PM School Library</p> <p>Adoration 4:00 PM Church</p> <p>Jesus and the Jewish Roots 6:30 PM Cathedral Atrium</p>	<p>Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library</p>	<p>Bible Study - Prayer 1:00 PM School Library</p> <p>Adoration 4:00 PM Church</p> <p>K of C #16126 Meeting 6:00 PM School Classroom</p> <p>CCCW Meeting 6:00 PM School Hall</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library</p>			

## What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

### 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

### 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).

### 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

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Family Catechesis

The Second Vatican Council, in *Lumen Gentium*, calls the family the “domestic church” insisting that “parents, by word and example, are the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children”. Our goal at Cathedral parish is to help parents be true heralds of the Gospel to their children. We know that our culture is largely not supportive of our Catholic beliefs, which is why it is important for Catholic families to know and support each other. We will gather monthly to read, pray with and discuss the Sunday readings, so we can better encounter the Word and so you have a model for praying with the Scriptures throughout the month. Each month we will also gather to celebrate our common faith with game nights, prayer opportunities, and fun. All families are invited to participate – those with babies, those with kids in Catholic school, public school or home school, those with high school or college kids, even those who are empty nesters! We will kick off this new season of family catechesis with a cook out after the 5:00 Mass on Sunday, September 17. Please share this invitation with any family you know who might enjoy whole family catechesis. Hope you can join us! For more information, contact the parish office at 217/522-3342 or [vcompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org).

## 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.

## Women's Day of Recollection

A Women's Day of Recollection will be held this coming Thursday, August 24 from 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Due to on-going construction at Sacred Heart Church, this month's Recollection will be held in the Sacred Heart Parish Center chapel (corner of 12th St and E Cook St, Springfield). There will be a meditation given by a priest and time for silent Adoration. The ladies may take advantage of the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and spiritual direction during this time, as well as following the Recollection. All women throughout the diocese are invited to attend. The spiritual guidance at the Recollection is entrusted to a priest of the Prelature Opus Dei.

## Come Pray the Rosary

You are invited to join us in praying the rosary at the Cathedral every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4:45pm.

## 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)

## 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/>

## The Prayers God Always Answers

When I was a child, my mother bought a book called “The Prayers God Will Always Answer.” I remember my anticipation as I cracked the spine and turned to the first page.

I had been spending a lot of time asking God — begging God, actually — over and over again for some specific things that were not materializing. Frankly, it was beginning to feel a lot like that time I asked Santa Claus for a new house, only to wake up on Christmas morning to find ordinary, non-house-shaped presents under the tree — and a growing sense of suspicion that my faith had been ill-placed.

To the great disappointment of my pre-teen heart, my mother’s book was not a directory of magical phrases God is compelled to obey. It was a list that included things like “Forgive me” and “Help me.” I tossed it aside, disappointed.

I marvel at the wisdom and the confidence of the Canaanite woman who persists in begging Jesus to heal her daughter. She is ignored, and still she will not be deterred. The disciples try to dismiss her — still, she presses on. Christ himself challenges her, and her faith makes her ready with a reply.

Somehow, I am sure that even if Christ had said, “No, it cannot be done for you as you wish,” she would have still dropped to her knees and worshiped him, because she knew what I did not: God is not a vending machine, and he’s not the genie from “Aladdin.” Prayer is not a negotiation, but a relationship.

The story of the Canaanite woman is not a story about how to get God to give you what you want. It is a story about the prayers God always answers.

*“Then Jesus said to her in reply, ‘O woman, great is your faith!’” — Matthew 15:28*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

©LPi

---

## Around the Diocese

- **Encounter the Psalms**, 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays: Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 8 and Dec. 6. In person at Cor Unum House, 925 N. Fifth Street, Springfield, Ill., or online. Women are invited to join Cor Unum community for this 4-session series on the Book of Psalms. Taught by Old Testament scholar Sister Mila Díaz Solano, OP, the series will initiate participants into the psalmist’s world and encourage the exploration of their own lives and world through the psalmist’s lens. Free of charge. Advance registration recommended at [springfieldop.org/corunum](http://springfieldop.org/corunum) or by calling or texting Sister Beth Murphy, OP, at 312-780-9553.
- **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).