

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

AUGUST 27, 2023 | TWENTY-FIRST 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 35

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

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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!



The Opening Collect - Part 1

"Let us pray." These are the words that the priest says immediately following the Gloria (when there is one), inviting the faithful to unite with him as he prays what is Opening Prayer, or more technically called the Collect.

There are a few things worth mentioning as we consider the Collect. The GIRM (remember, when I use that acronym, I am referring to the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*) explains that the Collect is one of the "presidential prayers." "These prayers are addressed to God by the Priest who presides over the assembly in the person of Christ, in the name of the entire holy people and of all present." (GIRM, §30) This is an important point that can sometimes go overlooked. When the priest is reciting prayers at Mass, more often than not, he is doing so in the name of all who are present. When we hear the

Opening Prayer, we can sometimes zone out and not pay much attention, treating it as though we are listening to Father pray. It's as though he is saying: "Listen to me pray." No, we unite ourselves with the priest who is praying on our behalf, praying for us and with us to God. "Let us pray." I will develop this point further when we get to the Eucharistic Prayer, but it is important for us to have that understanding of these prayers in general.

But what is the significance of this prayer? Two sources are helpful in our understanding this prayer. First, we can look at what the GIRM says:

Next the Priest calls upon the people to pray and everybody, together with the Priest, observes a brief silence so that they may become aware of being in God's presence and may call to mind their intentions. Then the Priest pronounces the prayer usually called the "Collect" and through which the character of the celebration finds expression. (GIRM, §54)

Another source I sometime refer to when reflecting on the prayers of the Mass is a little booklet I found online called *Explanation of Prayers and Ceremonies of Holy Mass*, which is a collection of reflections taken from conferences given by Dom Prosper Guéranger, a former Benedictine Abbot of Solesmes. Though these reflections were written about the Mass celebrated according to the Missal of 1962, many of the elements still apply very well. Here is what he says about the Collect, that it is:

the Prayer in which he sums up the desires of the Faithful, and presents them under the form of a petition. The word Collect comes from the Latin colligere, which means to bring together things previously existing apart. The importance of the Collect is great. Hence, holy mother Church urges us to listen to it with all respect and devotion.

What both of these explanations offer is that this is a time during which we bring our various intentions to the liturgy to be offered up in one prayer of petition to the Father. Thus the pause after the priests says: "Let us pray." Recall how when describing the Penitential Act, the pause seems hardly adequate to call to mind our sins, so too here. I think it presumes that we have done a little bit of preparation for this moment, perhaps as we pray before Mass. In addition to examining ourselves regarding our need for conversion, we can also consider the various intentions we want to bring to this Mass – people to pray for, situations that seem unresolved, gratitude for blessings received, etc. In that brief moment, we present those intentions we have already thought about to the Lord through the priest who collects the prayers of everybody and offers them up on our behalf in one prayer.

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 28

7am - Kenneth Stetyck
(Fr. Zach Edgar)
5:15pm - Emily Vincent
(Dr. Stephen & Teena Vincent)

Tuesday, August 29

7am - Rita Greenwald
(Mary Cartwright)
5:15pm - George Miller
(Berni Ely)

Wednesday, August 30

7am - Michael Berte
(The Bertes)
5:15pm - Norma Fairweather
(Andrew & Cheryl Klein Family)

Thursday, August 31

7am - Larry Sapp
(Tom Steil & Sharon Oldfield)
5:15pm - Rick Donaldson
(Vicki Compton)

Friday, September 1

7am - Betty Rogers
(Family)
5:15pm - John Brunk & Deceased
Family (Estate)

Saturday, September 2

8am - Jackie Chambers
(The Cathedral)
4pm - Mark Beagles
(Vicki Compton)

Sunday, September 3

7am - Herbert Rader
(Bev Hoffman)
10am - For the People
5pm - Chester & Evelyn Patrick
(The Fleck Family)

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.



St. Bartholomew, the Apostle

Feast Day: August 24th | Patronage: Neurological Diseases, Skin Diseases, Butchers, Tanners, | Iconography: Bearded as an Apostle; Wearing Tunic and Cloak (often red for a martyr); Carrying Book of Scroll because he brought St. Matthew's Gospel to Mesopotamia, Parthia, Lycaonia, and Ethiopia; Holding Knife or otherwise indication of his being flayed alive.

One quick clarification first of all: Bartholomew and Nathanael have always been considered two names for the same apostle from the earliest ages of the Church. Bartholomew is a family name ("Bar" ["Son of"] "Tolmai"), so it would make sense that he would be called by another name as well, and since St. John's Gospel closely link Nathanael and Philip (whereas the Synoptic Gospels link Bartholomew and Philip), it is evident these two names are for the same man.

The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) tell us that Bartholomew was one of the Twelve, but tell us little more. St. John's Gospel gives us a fuller account of his call. Recall that Jesus first called Andrew (one of John the Baptist's disciples) who then brought to Jesus his brother Simon (Peter). Then Our Lord calls Philip, also from Bethsaida, and it was Philip who convinced Nathanael that he had found the Messiah:

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." [John 1:43-51]

Now, this is a famously cryptic passage! What does it mean that Nathanael was "under the fig tree", and why does Jesus' knowledge of this convince him so suddenly to become Christ's disciple (especially given his unenthusiastic response to Jesus being from Nazareth). Here is a place where we have to know the Old Testament in order to understand the New Testament because the references that harken back to God's covenant with Israel are rampant!

Just to focus on three (skipping past all the ways Philip recognized that Jesus fulfilled the writings of Moses and the Prophets): Jesus immediately calls Nathanael "an Israelite ... in whom there is no deceit!" Now, this comment refers back to the fact that Israel is the new name given to Jacob in Genesis 32 after he wrestled with God ["Israel" means "he strives with God"], whereas his birth name, "Jacob", means "he takes by the heel", which is exactly what he did to his brother Esau when the twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah were born, but it also has the connotation of someone who cheats

Backstabs, which was something that Jacob did consistently in stealing the birthright and blessing meant for Esau, as well as in his dealings with Laban, his father in law. Back to Nathanael, who Jesus says is an Israelite without deceit; unlike so many of us, this is a man who does not connive to get his own way, doesn't fall to mixed motives in his relationships or faith. What a beautiful grace Jesus sees in him!

But, of course, there is more! Nathanael, puzzled at this soul-reading, asks Jesus "How do you know me?", and Jesus responds with the tremendous line, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." What does this mean?! It refers back to the prophecy of Micah about the age of the Messiah:

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken. For all the peoples walk each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever. [Micah 4:3-5]

Why do countries, or individuals, strive and scheme against each other? Because we all operate out of fear, I guess deep down a fear that we will not have enough, or be enough. But what if we lived entirely in confidence on our Heavenly Father? His Love could replace those fears within us with the fruits of His Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, self-control, etc. Notice that this was what the Lord worked to instill in Jacob, and what Jesus recognized in Nathanael, and for this reason, what happened to Jacob in Genesis 28 – when he had a vision of heaven with the angels descending towards him, and back to Heaven – is offered in even greater abundance to Nathanael, and every disciple of Christ. "Truly, truly, I say to you [you all], you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Fr. Dominic Rankin is still facing catching up on email, articles, visits, and everything else after his trip to World Youth Day. More to come about that pilgrimage, for this week I am praying for those fears to be supplanted by the faithful love of God.

Stewardship of Treasure

August 19th & 20th

Envelopes:	\$5,957.00
Loose:	\$4,097.00
Maintenance:	\$105.00
Total:	\$10,159.00

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 28

<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>Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library</p>	<p>First Friday Concert 7:00 PM Church</p>		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



Wednesday Night Bible Study

Cathedral's Wednesday night Bible study group invites parishioners to a new study on St. Paul's Letter to the Romans. In this study we will explore how St. Paul used his theological and missionary skills to explain how God's saving grace, although rooted in his Jewish heritage, is nonetheless destined for all people. Meetings will be every first and third Wednesday from 6:15-7:45pm. Workbooks will be available to purchase. Come learn from St. Paul how God's grace is offered to you too. For more information contact Larry Travis at LTravisjr@gmail.com.

Beginning September 6, 6:15-7:45pm, Cathedral School Library



Adult Faith Formation - On Pilgrimage

Join Cathedral parishioner, Jane Fornoff, as she talks about her recent pilgrimage, walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Fr. Alford will lead off with a brief talk about the purpose and history of pilgrimage. All are welcome!

Wednesday, September 6 @ 7:00pm, Cathedral Atrium



Family Catechesis

Join us for our Family Catechesis program beginning in September! 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. For more information, contact the parish office at 217/522-3342 or vcompton@cathedral.dio.org.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



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. Thursdays, starting September 7, 10:00am or 1:00pm, Cathedral School Library

7th Annual K of C Oktoberfest

The KC Council #364 will be holding its annual Oktoberfest Saturday Sept 9th from 12:00 until 10:00 on the KC grounds, 2200 Meadowbrook Rd. It will feature German music, food, beer and including activities for the kids as well. Admission is \$5.00, Kids under 12 free. Grade and high school students can volunteer for service hours. For more information, please contact Dave Groesch at 691-1506 or e-mail dmgroesch@att.net.

Christ the King Fall Bible Study

Please join us at Christ the King, as we study Mary: The Bible and the Mother of God. This is an 8 week study, authored by Dr. Brant Pitre. We will explore what Scripture, the life of Christ, and the early Church Fathers reveal about Mary. Meetings are on Thursday mornings from 9:15 AM to 11:00 AM in the Christ the King Parish Center, beginning on Thursday, September 28th. Childcare is available for a small donation. All are welcome! Participants will receive a workbook and have light reading with homework. The cost of the materials will be \$15. Each week we will view a 30 minute DVD lecture with discussion following. For more information or to register, contact Kristin Luker at 546-4959 or KLuker@LukerDentalCare.com.

Seeds of the Word Film Series

Cathedral is pleased to announce a Seeds of the Word Film Series. Each month, usually on a Friday night, we will watch a film together and afterwards discuss how we saw remnants of the Gospel in the film. At the Second Vatican Council, the document *Lumen Gentium* acknowledged the good that exists in other religions as well as in those who have never heard of God, saying "whatever good or truth is found among them is looked upon by the Church as preparation for the Gospel" (*Lumen Gentium*, 16). Looking at secular films thru a Gospel lens can help us realize that elements of truth found in popular culture provide a foundation for evangelization and can prepare the way for full acceptance of the Gospel. Few secular films will express the Gospel fully, but we will find bits and pieces of it, provided we have the eyes to see. This series is for adults only so you may bring a bottle of wine, or other beverage of your choice, and we'll provide the popcorn! Our first film is *The Way* on Friday, September 22 @ 7:00pm in the Atrium.

Baby Bottle Boomerang

First Step Women's Center is grateful for our participation in Baby Bottle Boomerang. Our parishioners donated \$1,313.60! Precious lives will be saved because of your generosity!

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.

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/>

Who Do You Say That I Am?

I once knew a very devout woman whose adult godchild had fallen away from the practice of the faith. This godchild still believed in God, and even felt a sense of belonging in the Church. He was a good and kind person. But poor catechesis and a society that confuses pleasure with joy had left him lax in practice, without an appreciation of the sacraments. He was making choices that threatened his soul.

His godmother wanted more for him. She planned to speak with him about his life, hoping to encourage him to return to the practice of the faith. She knew that, when she brought this up, he would reply that it wasn't important to attend Mass or to receive the Eucharist, that was all just "extra."

She told me that she was going to begin their conversation by asking him the question Jesus poses to Peter in Matthew 16:15 — the critical question in all our lives, the question whose answer will define what we become in this world and the next.

Her godson knew the answer. She was confident, unshakably, that he did. He may have forgotten it or ignored it. He may have tried to convince himself he wasn't entirely sure. He may have refused to give an answer. But he knew it. He knew the answer.

There is a reason that, after Peter's response, Jesus gives him the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

"Who do you say that I am?"

Let our whole lives be our answer.

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." — Matthew 16:16

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
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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 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 or email edanaheer@dio.org.