

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 | TWENTY-SECOND 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 36

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

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THE REVEREND PAUL LESUPATI  
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN  
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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 Opening Collect - Part 2

As I was composing last week's bulletin on the Opening Collect, it was my hope that I could explain what I wanted to explain in one article, but there is an additional element about the Collect that I think is worth further reflection.

Recall the explanation of the Collect from the GIRM:

*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)*

I draw our attention to the final phrase, that the Collect expresses the character of the celebration that will follow. We see this in a few different ways. When the Church celebrates a feast day of one of the saints, the Collect has the nature of highlighting something about the saint of the day and asking for their intercession so as better to imitate their fidelity to the Lord. For example, the saint the Church usually celebrates on September 3 is Pope St. Gregory the Great. Here is the Collect for that Mass:

O God, who care for your people with gentleness  
and rule them in love,  
through the intercession of Pope Saint Gregory,  
endow, we pray, with a spirit of wisdom  
those to whom you have given authority to govern,  
that the flourishing of a holy flock  
may become the eternal joy of the shepherds...

During the special seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, the Collect will take on the character of that season or that day. For example, here is the Collect for Easter Sunday:

O God, who on this day,  
through your Only Begotten Son,  
have conquered death  
and unlocked for us the path to eternity,  
grant, we pray, that we who keep  
the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection  
may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit,  
rise up in the light of life...

During Ordinary Time, the Collects are more general and in keeping with the focus of Ordinary Time as "a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ."  
(<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-worship/liturgical-year/ordinary-time>)

In addition to praying with the readings of the Mass as a good way to prepare for Mass, praying with the Collect can also be very fruitful, so do not overlook these gems that the Church offers to us as sources of rich reflection and meditation.

*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, September 4

7am - Helen (Bobbie) McCarthy  
(Family)  
5:15pm - NO MASS

#### Tuesday, September 5

7am - Brother Francis Skube  
(Community)  
5:15pm - George Hovanec  
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

#### Wednesday, September 6

7am - Gregory Fleck  
(Chris Sommer)  
5:15pm - William F. Logan  
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

#### Thursday, September 7

7am - Mary Jane Kerns  
(Estate)  
5:15pm - Karen Bucari  
(Alan Bucari)

#### Friday, September 8

7am - Dan Sexson  
(Sharon Sexson)  
5:15pm - Intention for Bianca  
(D.A. Drago)

#### Saturday, September 9

8am - Bruce Smith  
(The Berte's)  
4pm - Thomas Egan  
(Pia Yoswig)

#### Sunday, September 10

7am - For the People  
10am - Alice Bates  
(Bates Family)  
5pm - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt  
(Kathy Frank)

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. Cornelius, Pope, and St. Cyprian, Bishop

**Feast Day: September 16th | Patronage: | Iconography: Cornelius: Holding Cruciform Staff and Tiara of a Pope, Carrying Book of one who preaches the Gospel and Horn (from his name, which means "battle horn"); Cyprian: Wearing Vestments of a Bishop, including the Pallium and holding a Crosier, Book of one who preaches the Gospel, and Crown or Palm of martyrdom**

St. Cyprian was killed, martyred, for the crime of impiety! Consider this early account of his martyrdom:

*When the bishop appeared the proconsul asked him: 'Are you Thascius Cyprian?' The bishop replied: 'I am.' 'And have you acted as leader in a community of impious men?' 'I have.' 'The sacred emperors have ordered you to sacrifice.' 'I will not sacrifice.' 'Consider your position.' 'Do what is required of you. I have no need to deliberate; the issues are clear.' Galerius*

*consulted briefly with his advisers and reluctantly pronounced sentence in the following words: 'You have lived in an irreligious manner for a long time now and have gathered about you a large congregation of criminals and unbelievers. You have shown yourself hostile to the gods of Rome and the rites by which they are worshipped. ... Your death will be an example to those whom you have gathered into your criminal conspiracy. Your blood will uphold the law.' [from the "Proconsular Acts of the martyrdom of St. Cyprian", 258 AD]*

Killed for "impiety" because he didn't worship the gods of the surrounding culture. He chose to give his highest love, and honor, and fealty to the One True God, no one else. We will suffer, like Christ, and like Cyprian, when we make this same choice! Am I ready for that?

We have a letter that Bp. Cyprian wrote to Pope Cornelius (one of the main reasons we celebrate them both on September 16th), and it offers us a key way that Cyprian practiced this courageous-faithfulness before called to make the ultimate sacrifice:

*Cyprian sends greetings to his brother Cornelius,*

*My very dear brother, we have heard of the glorious witness given by your courageous faith. On learning of the honor you had won by your witness, we were filled with such joy that we felt ourselves sharers and companions in your praiseworthy achievements. After all, we have the same Church, the same mind, the same unbroken harmony. Why then should a priest not take pride in the praise given to a fellow priest as though it were given to him? What brotherhood fails to rejoice in the happiness of its brothers wherever they are?*

*Words cannot express how great was the exultation and delight here when we heard of your good fortune and brave deeds: how you stood out as a leader of your brothers in their declaration of their faith. You led the way to glory, but you gained many companions in that glory; being foremost in your readiness to bear witness on behalf of all, you prevailed on your people to become a single witness. We cannot decide which we ought to praise, your own ready and unshaken faith or the love of your brothers who would not leave you. While the courage of the bishop who thus led the way has been demonstrated, at the same time the unity of the brotherhood who followed has been manifested. Since you have one heart and one voice, it is the Roman Church as a whole that has thus borne witness...*

*Divine providence has now prepared us. God's merciful design has warned us that the day of our own struggle, our own contest, is at hand. By that shared love which binds us closely together, we are doing all we can to exhort our congregation, to give ourselves unceasingly to fasting, vigils and prayers in common. These are the heavenly weapons which give us the strength to stand firm and endure; they are the spiritual defenses, the God-given armaments that protect us. Let us then remember one another, united in mind and heart. Let us pray without ceasing, you for us, we for you; by the love we share we shall thus relieve the strain of these great trials.*  
[Letter by St. Cyprian, bishop and martyr", Epistle 60,1-2, 5]

Two simple things that St. Cyprian did that prepared him to give witness to Christ: First, recognizing and encouraging others when they choose courageous-faithfulness. Do you and I notice when someone makes a certain choice because they are a Christian? Do we tell them how inspiring their action was, that we want to emulate their faith in that way? And secondly, do we simply expect trials to come our way, or have we imbibed in some way, or just in some area of our lives, a "prosperity gospel" that assumes crosses are for other people, that reacts with dis-belief when God allows our Christianity to cost us?

*Fr. Dominic Rankin has been impressed numerous times by the faith, sacrifices, joy, or hope of others. As a priest, he gets to see faith alive in people's hearts on so many occasions, but I often fail to thank them, or mention that they have inspired me. I hope to learn from St. Cyprian how to do that! One quick story: at World Youth Day, like St. Cyprian, I was moved by the witness of my Holy Father, Pope Francis. It's so easy to get confused or cynical by something we hear about him, yet when I saw him at WYD I was moved to tremendous gratitude that Christ has entrusted his Church to a Pope, a Papa for all of us. And, his reflections throughout that week were so centered on Christ, on the joy that comes from Christ, on the love He has for us. I am grateful for his witness of those truths again to me!*

## Stewardship of Treasure

### August 26th & 27th

Envelopes:	\$4,941.00
Loose:	\$3,345.00
Maintenance:	\$65.00
Total:	\$8,351.00

### 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 SEPTEMBER 4

<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
Parish Office Closed  No 5:15 PM Mass	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library  Cathedral Bible Study 6:15 PM School Library  Adult Faith Formation - Pilgrimage 7:00 PM Atrium	The Case for Jesus Bible Study 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library  Adoration 4:00 PM Church  Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library			Silver Rose Prayer Service 11:00 AM Church

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [ycompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:ycompton@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](mailto: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](mailto:KLuker@LukerDentalCare.com).

## Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Please join us for a special celebration of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Friday, September 8, 2023, after the 5:15pm Mass. The Rosary begins at 4:45pm. Bring a friend and enjoy birthday cake and snacks in the atrium following Mass. Contact Donna B. 217-622-8576 with questions.

## The Lamb's Supper Book Discussion

Prepare for the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress by reading and discussing Dr. Scott Hahn's book, The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth. Each time we celebrate the Mass we enter into the heavenly liturgy which is so powerfully and beautifully described in the Book of Revelation. The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth, will help you understand the Book of Revelation in light of the Mass. Participants are asked to purchase their own copy of the book and be ready to discuss Chapter One. Facilitated by Dcn. Rob Sgambelluri Tuesdays @ 6:30pm beginning on September 19, Cathedral Atrium

## Fr. Tolton Council 16126 Intellectual Disabilities Drive

Help the Knights of Columbus support organizations that work with people with intellectual disabilities. The Father Tolton Council will be at Hy-Vee in Springfield on September 9 & 10 and September 16 & 17 handing out Tootsie Rolls and collecting donations to benefit those important organizations. If you are unable to come by Hy-Vee on either weekend please consider donating online at [https://4agc.com/fundraiser\\_pages/c6e6aa48-265d-4ae6-81af-c9156a6468c9](https://4agc.com/fundraiser_pages/c6e6aa48-265d-4ae6-81af-c9156a6468c9).

## National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

The National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children will take place on Saturday, September 9th from 10am-11am. This inter-faith memorial service will start at the Right to Life building at 519 N Bruns Lane in Springfield, and will then proceed onto the public sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood. This event is being co-sponsored nationally by the Pro-Life Action League, Priests for Life, and Citizens for a Pro-Life Society.

## 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.

## 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/>

## 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).

## Silver Rose Prayer Service

Join the Knights of Columbus for the Silver Rose Prayer Service. A Silver Rose, on a nine-month pilgrimage, will be the centerpiece of a special prayer service at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on September 10th after the 10 a.m. Mass. The Silver Rose is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe for both international unity and dedication to the sanctity of human life.

## Life Chain Sunday

Life Chain Sunday will occur on October 1st from 2pm-3pm. Pro-Life prayer warriors will gather for LIFE CHAIN and stand in quiet prayer as a public witness to the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. For more information, please contact Suzanne Moss at 217-523-2700 or Dave Klestinski at 217-741-8230.

## Choosing the Cross

I've been called a lot of things in my life, but I've never been called "Satan," at least not to my face.

It seems to me the worst name you could call a person, and today we hear it straight from the lips of Jesus. It's just one of the many small reminders strewn throughout Scripture that Jesus preaches meekness, but he is not mild — not when mildness serves no purpose, anyway.

And here, when Peter is trying to deter Jesus from making the right choice, mildness serves no purpose at all.

Can we blame Peter? I certainly can't. I'm sure I would have said the same thing to my own dear friend. He is, in today's Gospel, wholly unwilling to embrace the cross — he's afraid of it, even — but aren't we all, in the end, afraid of our cross? I am. It's no sin, it's only human. Fear is natural. Self-preservation is a reflex.

What Christ speaks of today is a choice, one we are all faced with, again and again, just as Peter is. We will not always respond perfectly; Peter does not respond well today. He does not respond well on Holy Thursday.

But on his last day, on the day of the ultimate choice? On that day, he chooses the cross.

We marvel at first responders who put themselves in harm's way for the sake of others, because to do so is not human, it is divine. I have to believe that if even a firefighter's loved one threw themselves in his way, he would still charge toward the flames, crying, "Get behind me."

Christ runs into the burning building for us, shaking off not only his own fear (and he had it, I promise you — he was human, too) but the fear of everyone who loved him.

*"Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God..." — Romans 12:1*

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