

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 | TWENTY-THIRD 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 37

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

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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!



Sacramentality of the Word

In 2019, Pope Francis declared that the 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time each year should be designated as the Sunday of the Word of God. In his decree announcing this annual celebration, the Holy Father made reference to the importance that the Word of God has in the context of the celebration of the Eucharist, citing the Second Vatican Council:

the Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures as she has venerated the Lord's body, in that she never ceases, above all in the sacred liturgy, to partake of the bread of life and to offer it to the faithful from the one table of the word of God and the body of Christ. (Dei Verbum, 21)

Paying attention to how Christ is present to us in the Scriptures proclaimed at Mass is one of the key ways of getting more out of our experience of this greatest of prayers. It can be a common lament of people that when they pray, they do not hear God speaking to them. With reverence for the pain that we can feel when it seems as though He is silent, I ask the person when they last heard or read from the Scriptures. I tell them that when they did so, God was indeed speaking to them, loud and clear! Again, with all reverence for the struggle of trying to hear God speak to us, it is helpful to acknowledge this truth, that when we encounter the Word of God, we encounter God Himself. We may not understand what He is saying, or feel as though He is speaking to us, but He is! What is lacking is never the Word of God. Being aware that God is really speaking to us here and now in the readings at Mass will only serve to deepen the quality of our prayer at Mass and increase our hunger for Him in the Eucharist.

In my bulletin article from the Sunday of the Word of God in 2021, I shared a powerful quote from Pope Benedict XVI to drive this connection home more explicitly. I think it is worth repeating here as we begin to consider this section of the Mass:

The sacramentality of the word can thus be understood by analogy with the real presence of Christ under the appearances of the consecrated bread and wine. By approaching the altar and partaking in the Eucharistic banquet we truly share in the body and blood of Christ. The proclamation of God's word at the celebration entails an acknowledgment that Christ himself is present, that he speaks to us, and that he wishes to be heard. Saint Jerome speaks of the way we ought to approach both the Eucharist and the word of God: "We are reading the sacred Scriptures. For me, the Gospel is the Body of Christ; for me, the holy Scriptures are his teaching. And when he says: whoever does not eat my flesh and drink my blood (Jn 6:53), even though these words can also be understood of the [Eucharistic] Mystery, Christ's body and blood are really the word of Scripture, God's teaching. When we approach the [Eucharistic] Mystery, if a crumb falls to the ground we are troubled. Yet when we are listening to the word of God, and God's Word and Christ's flesh and blood are being poured into our ears yet we pay no heed, what great peril should we not feel?" Christ, truly present under the species of bread and wine, is analogously present in the word proclaimed in the liturgy. A deeper understanding of the sacramentality of God's word can thus lead us to a more unified understanding of the mystery of revelation, which takes place through "deeds and words intimately connected"; an appreciation of this can only benefit the spiritual life of the faithful and the Church's pastoral activity. (Verbum Domini, 56)

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 11

7am - John W. Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Raymundo Figueroa
(Bev & Larry Smith)

Tuesday, September 12

7am - George Miller
(Berni Ely)
5:15pm - Shawn Mathew
(Shawn Mathew)

Wednesday, September 13

7am - Robert Gasaway
(Rob & John Gasaway)
5:15pm - Diana Runge
(Jim & Sandy Bloom)

Thursday, September 14

7am - Frances Klein
(Andrew & Cheryl Klein Family)
5:15pm - Katie B.
(D.A. Drago)

Friday, September 15

7am - Brother Frances Skube
(Friends)
5:15pm - Josephine Beagles
(Berni Ely)

Saturday, September 16

8am - Betty Rogers
(Family)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, September 17

7am - Mary Ann Midden (William Midden)
10am - Alice Bates
(Bates Family)
5pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

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. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Feast Day: September 21st | Patronage: accountants, tax collectors, bankers, and civil servants | Iconography: Bearded, Holding or Writing Book, Inspired by an Angel, sometimes his Call is Depicted with Jesus pointing for him to join the apostles.

One of the oldest fragments we have of St. Matthew's Gospel is academically called "Papyrus 104", and is a tattered page containing Matthew 21:34-37 on its front, and Matthew 21:43 and 45 on the back. We only have part of the whole page, hence the missing in-between verses, though verse 44 is missing on a handful of other ancient papyri, so it could be that some copies of Matthew's Gospel lost it along the way. Now, if you knew ancient Greek, you could determine that this page dates back to between 100 and 200 AD (primarily because of the shape and style of the letters and the types of punctuation that are present).

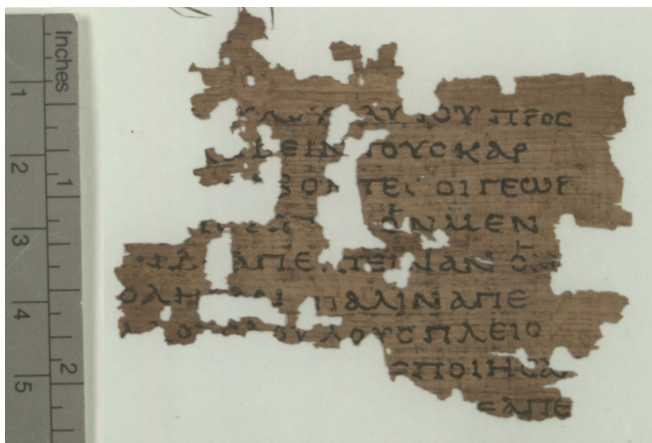
But here's the amazing thing, among ancient documents, the ones we have for the New Testament are massively closer to the events they describe than almost any other ancient texts. For instance, this page from Matthew's Gospel comes from less than a century after Matthew wrote his Gospel. Compare this to The Gallic Wars, a famous writing of Julius Caesar which historians wildly accept as a legitimate record of that particular campaign, of which our earliest fragment/copy comes from 750 years after it was written! We have thousands of fragments from all throughout the New Testament that attest that the Gospels and Letters and Acts that we read and believe is the same one written by Paul and Matthew, Mark and John, and many of them date back to within a century or two of when those books of the New Testament were first written. Almost every other ancient text has at most a dozen such fragments, some like The Gallic Wars not until several centuries after the fact. (Another example: Homer's Odyssey was written 7 or 8 centuries before Christ, and the oldest fragment we have of it is 13 verses, chiseled into a clay tablet from about 300 years after Christ.)

Ok, that's cool enough, but there's another amazing part of this story. That fragment you can see of St. Matthew's Gospel is part of what is called a "codex", a fancy word for a stack of vellum, papyrus, or metal pages held together in some fashion. In other words, it's a page out of a book, that you can flip around in, with text printed on both sides of the page. There are a few examples of codex-like objects from before the time of Christ, but the vast majority appear in the first century AD (most of these being the Christian New Testament!), and codices outstrip scrolls in popularity around AD 300. Christians didn't just want libraries or synagogues to contain the Word of God; they wanted to carry it with them, to see the intricacies of God's word, to see the connections between Old and New Testament, to tease out Who God reveals Himself to be in its pages. (Plus, it's a bit easier to hide a small book of Matthew's Gospel in your pocket than it would be to lug around a few scrolls, especially if the government is out to get you and is looking for such things...) Lastly, codices, besides being more accessible and portable, can also contain a lot more text, even up to the entirety of the New Testament.

And one of the first pages, from one of the first books, is from St. Matthew's Gospel. How cool is that?!

Here's the front side of this amazing page. (**Bold** indicates the letters we have; the others have to be filled in from the other copies that we have of this passage.):

"...he sent **his servants to**
the vine-growers **to collect the harvest**
that was his. And **the vine-growers took**
his servants; indeed,
they beat **one and they killed another,**
and another **they stoned. Again, he sent**
other servants, more than
the first: and **they did ...**
unto them likewise. **But last of all he sent...**"



Stewardship of Treasure

September 2nd & 3rd

Collection numbers were unavailable at the time of publication. Please check back next weekend for these collection numbers.

August EFT

\$23,038.80

August Debt Reduction

\$777.00

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!

Fr. Dominic Rankin has always liked reading books but never realized that proclaiming the Gospel was the impetus that made books popular in the first place!

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11

<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library	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			The Chosen - Season 3 2:00 PM School Hall Family of Faith Potluck 6:00 PM School Hall

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



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.



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.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Chosen-Season Three

Come watch the third season of The Chosen on the big screen in the Cathedral cafeteria at 2:00pm on Sundays beginning on September 10. As always, we'll provide the popcorn! Free and open to all.

Prepare for the Eucharistic Congress in October

Formed has dozens of great programs for helping you to fall more deeply in love with the Eucharist. Treat yourself and your family to one of these offerings!

Lectio: Eucharist with Dr. Brant Pitre, a 10-part video series (study guides available)

Real + True series of short videos focusing on the Catechism as the faithful echo of a God who wishes to reveal himself to us and desires us to respond.

Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist, a three part video series that explores the truth and beauty of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture, to its profound role in the life of the Church and her members

The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church with Bshp. Andrew Cozzens

Alive: the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is a powerful film from Spain which presents the compelling testimonies of five men and women with unique stories of how their lives were completely transformed by experiencing the True Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

And so much more!

Our parish subscription to Formed was funded in part through a grant from the Harvest of Thanks, Springtime of Hope Capital Campaign To Sign up for Formed, visit signup.formed.org and enter our parish name or zip code, 62703

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.

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

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.

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.

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/>

St. Louise Bunco

St. Louise is having bunco on 10/22/2023 at Christ the King hall from 2-4pm. The cost is \$10 which includes cookies, snacks and drinks. We will also have a 50/50 and raffle basket tickets available to purchase. All proceeds goes to Catholic Charities. Please call Linda Patterson, at 217-971-1642 for a reservation. It's limited to the first 100 ladies so ask your family and friends and come and have fun!

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.

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.

Love and Truth

I think even the most devout, the most pious Catholic reading this could summon to mind, if asked, one or even two examples of Catholic teaching for which they have desperately looked for a loophole.

Don't worry, I won't make you share with the group. But bring it to your mind now: the doctrine you once resented, or perhaps still do. The commandment you don't fully understand, the one you bristle against. The rule you find the hardest to follow. The belief you hate explaining to your friends.

If it disappeared from scripture or dropped out of the catechism, would your life really be easier? Would you be happier?

I am thinking of mine. For a long time, I searched high and low for a way around this particular teaching. I read books and Scripture and tradition, I prayed and reflected and tried to argue with myself. For a time, I gave up complying with it entirely. I threw it to the wind, with a shoulder shrug and a self-satisfied assurance to myself that God, being a loving father, does not want his child to be unhappy.

But reader: I was miserable. I was so, so miserable, and I stayed that way until I finally accepted that God is, indeed, a loving father, and desires nothing less than the unhappiness of his children. And so, to ward it off, he has given us the truth, and asked us to share it amongst ourselves like a cherished heirloom, a priceless inheritance.

To share truth, you must show love. To show love, you must share truth. One demands the other. Because this is what Christ does for us, and this is the mission of the Church in this world. Loosening and binding. Bearing witness. Giving testimony. Speaking truth, and in speaking truth, showing love.

"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." — Psalm 95

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.