

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 | TWENTY-FOURTH 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 38

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
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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!

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



Liturgy of the Word

A few weeks ago, I introduced a resource that I have personally found very helpful in praying the Mass more intentionally. That resource is *A Biblical Way of Praying the Mass: The Eucharistic Wisdom of Venerable Bruno Lanteri*, written by Father Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V. Venerable Bruno invites us to "seek the sentiments and the heart" of various biblical figures at the various parts of the Mass.

When addressing the Liturgy of the Word, Father Gallagher writes:

At the Readings and Gospel, I will seek the sentiments and the heart of a disciple." When the First Reading, the Second, and the Gospel are proclaimed, ask for a heart like those of the disciples who heard Jesus on the mountain, by the lakeshore, and in the Temple. Listen as they did, with the same deep attention, undivided heart, and receptivity: when his Word is read at Mass, Jesus speaks to you just as he did to them. (p. 45 of Kindle version of book)

Last Sunday, we resumed our watching of *The Chosen* with Episode 1 of Season 3. The beginning of that episode has Jesus preaching the Sermon on the Mount. As He preaches words that are so familiar to us, the camera shows the faces of those listening to this great sermon. They are rapt in attention as they hear these words for the first time, and you can tell that the Word is really hitting home.

So many of us struggle with trying to listen attentively to the Word of God as it is proclaimed at Mass. Sometimes we struggle because we cannot really hear all that well physically, either due to hearing impairment or the less-than-stellar sound system that a church may have. Sometimes we might have the attitude that these readings (especially from the Old Testament) do not have much direct bearing on us now. Sometimes, we are so familiar with the passages that we tune out thinking: "I've heard this before, I know how it goes, I know how it ends." Sometimes it is just our not being good at keeping focus and paying attention, something we seem to be getting worse and worse at as a society.

One of the recommendations that I have received in this regard, and one that I have also put into practice, is to read the readings ahead of time. That way, the Word has been given a chance to be planted. When the Word is proclaimed again at Mass, it's not unexpected, but received with greater familiarity. One might object that having read the readings ahead of time may contribute to our just tuning the reading out because we know how the reading goes. While that could happen, I do not think that reading ahead of time causes that zoning out, but rather prepares the soil of our hearts to be more attentive to what the Lord wants to communicate to us as we listen attentively to Him speaking to us just as He did to His disciples.

Perhaps I could offer another practical suggestion regarding our paying more attention to the Scriptures at Mass. Once we sit after the opening Collect, there is always a brief pause as we wait for the lector to approach the ambo and begin the reading. There is also a pause before the other readings as well. Those brief periods of time could be a good opportunity for us to say a short prayer, asking the Lord to help us listen to Him with the heart of a disciple who is hearing His Word for the first time and to be open to the specific Word or phrase that He has reserved for each of us individually here and now.

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 18

7am - John Brunk & Deceased Family (Estate)
5:15pm - John & Edith Bakalar (John Busciacco)

Tuesday, September 19

7am - NO MASS (Convocation)
5:15pm - NO MASS (Convocation)

Wednesday, September 20

7am - NO MASS (Convocation)
5:15pm - NO MASS (Convocation)

Thursday, September 21

7am - NO MASS (Convocation)
5:15pm - Shirley Logan (Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

Friday, September 22

7am - Katie Price (Chris Sommer)
5:15pm - Mildred & Edward Nelson (Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Saturday, September 23

8am - Sharon & Kevin Gleason (Vicki Compton)
4pm - Gary Haddock (Lonnelle Haddock)

Sunday, September 24

7am - Deceased Members of the CCCW (CCCW)
10am - Ruth Staab (Chris Sommer)
5pm - For the People



St. Linus, Pope and Martyr

Feast Day: September 23rd | Patronage: Popes, Various Schools and Parishes that have taken him as their saint | Iconography: Papal Tiara or Pallium, Holding Book as Preacher, Balding because even saints grow old.

Linus was the first successor of St. Peter as Bishop of Rome. As early as St. Irenaeus (AD 180), we find him described as entrusted by St. Peter (and St. Paul): “the blessed apostles, then, having founded and built up the Church, committed into the hands of Linus the office of the episcopate.” [St. Irenaeus, Against Heresies, 3:3.3.] Eusebius, the bishop and historian in the 300s, follows suit in saying that Linus was “the first to receive the episcopate of the church at Rome, after the martyrdom of Paul and Peter” [Eusebius, Church History 3.2.] and St. Jerome agrees with him. Now, there are a few (later) accounts that claim that

it was Clement who actually St. Peter, with Linus and Cletus being something more akin to auxiliary bishops, assisting but not entrusted with the full office of Peter. Still, the weight of evidence tends towards Linus being the first successor of St. Peter, then Cletus, then Clement. He would have been martyred around the year 78 or 80 and was buried, along with many Christians who loved their first Holy Father, near to St. Peter’s grave on the Vatican Hill.

One fascinating insight into this early saint and leader of the Church is actually found in St. Paul’s second letter to Timothy. At the end of that letter, as Paul concludes his words to that beloved coworker of his, he mentions several people to pass his greetings onto, and several that send their greetings with his. One of the latter is Linus!:

Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus. Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers. The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you. [2 Timothy 4:19-22]

Now, this letter would have been written towards the end of St. Paul’s life, probably when he had already come to Rome for his trial before the emperor and a decade or more after his many adventures with Timothy. I love the fact that here in Rome, under the most unlikely of circumstances, we have the great Apostle to the Gentiles not quite in chains but certainly hampered from his globe-trotting earlier days, happily stranded with St. Peter laying the foundation for the Church’s heart in the Eternal City. And there, somehow mixed into this fledgling Church is a young man named Linus, growing in his faith under the tutelage of the greatest of the Apostles. Here he is, perhaps some years into his work as a priest or bishop with the craziness of revolving emperors and sporadic persecution, and he stands by as St. Paul pens a final letter to his favorite sidekick. We don’t know if Linus ever met Timothy (though Paul certainly hopes that he would come to Rome!), but somehow they seem like kindred spirits. Separated far from one another in shepherding different parts of the Church, both young bishops got a front row seat to the astonishing work of the Holy Spirit in the early Church, and both also were faced by the same overwhelming uncertainties of guiding and guarding those earliest communities of disciples.

Thing is, the Holy Spirit hasn’t stopped working, nor has the Lord ceased to connect saints-in-the-making to one another to inspire and encourage one another.

Fr. Dominic Rankin was recently with a handful of the priests and seminarians of the diocese down in the Alton deanery for an informal evening with young men considering how to follow the Lord wherever He is calling them. I cannot help but consider the parallels between our brotherhood – often spread from one another, but working in the same vineyard – to those leaders in the early church.

Each of us was inspired by others before us, and each of us also passes that torch onto other men to step into the same spiritual fatherhood. It’s daunting, truly, but we also come to realize that Christ is the one who guarantees that the torch won’t go out.

Stewardship of Treasure

September 9th & 10th

Envelopes:	\$4,716.00
Loose:	\$3,954.00
Maintenance:	\$215.00
Total:	\$8,885.00

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!

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18

<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	Seeds of the Word Film Series 7:00 PM Atrium		50+ Yrs. Marriage Mass 2:00 PM Church
	The Lamb's Supper Book Discussion 6:30 PM Atrium	Cathedral Bible Study 6:00 PM Parish Library	Adoration 4:00 PM Church			The Chosen - Season 3 2:00 PM School Hall
			Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library			

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. 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

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.

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.

St. Monica Ministry

Are you heartbroken because your loved ones have left the Church? You are invited to the inaugural gathering of Springfield-area St. Monica Ministry. This ministry is a dedicated prayer network offering hope and support to families and friends of Catholics who have walked away from the practice of the Faith. Please join us for prayer, conversation and solidarity. Animated by hope and grounded in faith, we rest secure in the knowledge that, in the words of St. Monica, "Nothing is far from God."
Monday, October 2 @ 7:00pm, Cathedral Atrium

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!

Knights of Columbus "Special Needs Planning Seminar"

Join us for an important presentation on Special Needs Planning. For families with a special needs child, financially preparing for the future can be overwhelming and daunting. Many parents quietly worry about their child's future and make arrangements to provide financial support for their child. The Knights of Columbus recognizes the unique challenges that these families face. We understand it's not just about dollars and medical care but also the quality of life for their child. In this seminar, we'll talk through some of the challenges and solutions that you and your family should consider. We'll go through the planning process and share how the Knights of Columbus can help your family.
Tuesday, September 19, 2023 7:00 PM
Register at https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1630950&tp_key=aaaae8e7adff
Please enter 16126 in the "Council Number:" field.

The Hateful Things We Hug Tight

At the end of “Lord of the Rings: Return of the King,” Gollum fights with Frodo for possession of the One Ring. He wins the fight, but in doing so topples over the edge of the mountain ledge, falling into the cavernous fires of Mount Doom. As he falls, we see him smile, and clutch the ring to his chest. He is happy. He has won what he spent his life pursuing.

It is only in the last millisecond before his face slips below the lava that we see his eyes widen in terror as he realizes the truth: the thing he clutches to his heart is the thing that killed him. In choosing the ring, he chooses death.

Sin, and the fallen nature of this world, makes us addicted to something that kills us.

Like any addiction, it is a vicious cycle. The less we forgive, the more hardhearted we become ... and the less we seek forgiveness ourselves.

What breaks the cycle? Reconciliation with God — or, Confession, as we call it. In fact, it does more than break the cycle. It turns it backward. Not only does it detoxify our souls of sin, it weakens our addiction to sin's effects — anger, vengeance, unforgiveness. The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works, said St. Augustine.

Ultimately, I view our whole human life as a struggle on the ledge of a mountaintop. It is certain that we will choose sin — we always do. We will tumble over the side, toward ruin. But let us be Frodo, and not Gollum. Let us cling to the rock of the sacraments and accept the hand that would drag us away from the flames.

“Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight.” — Sirach 27:30

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
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Around the Diocese

- **Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women 95th Annual Convention**, Wednesday, September 27, at Sacred Heart Griffin West Campus with Mass at St. Agnes Church, Springfield
- **Encounter the Psalms**, 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays: 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.
- **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.