

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 | TWENTY-FIFTH 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 39

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!



Responsorial Psalm

As we continue to consider the Liturgy of the Word, I would like to focus our attention this week on the Responsorial Psalm. While it can be difficult to stay focused during any part of the Liturgy of the Word, I think it can be particularly difficult to feel connected to the Responsorial Psalm.

I find this interesting for a couple of reasons. First of all, the Responsorial Psalm demands more attention from the congregation as we are expected to respond, either with signing or speaking, depending on the Mass. Second, the Psalms constitute the most sacred and ancient prayers of the Church. Christ Himself prayed the Psalms, and the Psalms have been at the heart of the Church's liturgical worship, both at Mass and in the Liturgy of the Hours. But for some reason, we find it hard to pray the Psalms well.

When I was in seminary, I took a class on the Psalms as Christian Prayer. In that class, we read a variety of sources that dealt with the Psalms, from a general overview of the Psalms to commentaries on various individual Psalms. There is one particular reading that I still recall fondly as it really opened my mind and heart to a greater appreciation of the Psalms. It comes from a letter written by St. Athanasius to Marcellinus on the Interpretation of the Psalms. A few passages will suffice to show how we can all experience the Psalms in a more significant way:

All Scripture of ours, my son both ancient and new is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, as it is written. But the Book of Psalms possesses a certain winning exactitude for those who are prayerful. Each sacred book supplies and announces its own promise. Yet the Book of Psalms is like a garden containing things of all these kinds, and it sets them to music, but also exhibits things of its own that it gives in song along with them.

And it seems to me that these words become like a mirror to the person singing them, so that he might perceive himself and the emotions of his soul, and thus affected, he might recite them. For in fact he who hears the one reading receives the song that is recited as being about him, and either, when he is convicted by his conscience, being pierced, he will repent, or hearing of the hope that resides in God, and of the support available to believers – how this kind of grace exists for him- he exults and begins to give thanks to God.

Another helpful resource comes from the Anglican theologian N.T. Wright who has a beautiful book on the Psalms, titled *The Case for the Psalms*. In words similar to those of St. Athanasius, he writes:

Those who pray the Psalms day by day...are putting themselves in the position where, when faced with a sudden crisis, they will discover close at hand a line or two of a psalm that is already etched into the heart and mind and says just what they want to say, only most likely better than they could say it themselves in the heat of the moment. (Kindle edition, page 25)

On this point, I can say that this is absolutely true for me. As one who is exposed to the Psalms each day, both at Mass and in my praying of the Liturgy of the Hours, there are so many lines from the Psalms that are close at hand when I need a phrase to latch onto in turning to God in prayer throughout my daily life.

This is therefore an encouragement to try to pay close attention to the Responsorial Psalm at Mass in particular and the Book of Psalms in general and see how, waiting there for us, is a prized gift of God's Word capable of speaking to every emotion and responding to every need we have.

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 25

7am - Emily Vincent
(Dr. Stephen & Teena Vincent)
5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway
(Robert Gasaway)

Tuesday, September 26

7am - Grover & Cora Gaston
(The Fleck Family)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Community)

Wednesday, September 27

7am - Mark Beagles
(Berni Ely)
5:15pm - Thank You for Many Blessings (Richard & Kay King)

Thursday, September 28

7am - Kenneth Stetyick
(Fr. Zach Edgar)
5:15pm - Isabel & Raymundo Figueroa
(Helen)

Friday, September 29

7am - Rita Greenwald
(Mary Cartwright)
5:15pm - Eric Nelson
(Nelson Family)

Saturday, September 30

8am - Bishop Thomas John Paprocki
(Parishioner)
4pm - John Doedtmann
(Chris Sommer)

Sunday, October 1

7am - Frances & Claude Mitchell
(Jeff & Julie Mitchell)
10am - For the People
5pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)



Saints Cosmas and Damian

Feast Day: September 27th | Patronage: Pharmacists, Physicians, Surgeons, and Twins | Iconography: Wearing Turbans (because they're from Arabia), Carrying Scrolls or Instruments of Medicine, Standing Side by Side (as Twins), Holding Palms or Crosses, or Shown as Beheaded (for their Martyrdom)

Saints Cosmas and Damian are primarily known for giving away their services as physicians (and pharmacy) for free, a spectacular act of generosity that brought many of those they treated to Christ. And, it also brought down on them the ire of the governor of Cilicia (modern day Turkey), who was seeking victims during the persecution of Diocletian in 287 AD. They were so well known, and loved for their flagrant charity that they received the nickname anargyroi, "the silverless", or even "the holy unmercenaries" during their lives. After their deaths they

became even more well known, when the stories of the heroic courage of Cosmas, Damian, and their younger brothers in the face of torture spread around the continent. Churches dedicated to their honor were built in Jerusalem, Egypt, Mesopotamia, as well as in Constantinople, Syria and even as far as England. I should mention that the Eastern Churches not only have multiple feast days for Cosmas and Damian, but actually reverence an entire class of saints called the "anargyroi", those who did works of charity without asking for any recompense.

I think we can learn much from the saints of this sort: their other-worldly generosity that not only is unattached to the pleasures and goods of the world, but goes out of their way to put complete confidence in God to provide for them because they're not looking to provide for themselves. I love that title "the holy unmercenaries", because it just emphasizes how these men and women operated completely opposite my own inclinations. How often do I engage in some work, project, effort, or event because I think I'll get something out of it? Or, at least, does that make up part of my motivation? We often repeat, and live by, the idea that: "God helps those who help themselves", but saints like this show us that God's generosity isn't dependent on our efforts, success, profitability, or paycheck. There's something challenging to me in this: what if I were absurdly, irresponsibly, unthinkingly generous? What would happen?

I don't think all of us are called to this kind of radical charity or poverty. Jesus asks the rich young man to "sell everything, give to the poor, and come and follow Me." But He didn't ask that of the women who provided for Him out of their means, or from Ss. Louis and Zellie Martin who raised their holy children (including St. Thérèse the Little Flower) very comfortably. But does that give us all a pass so that we don't have to take seriously the countless saints who did live radical generosity? How do we discern between these different examples of holiness? How do we know what God is asking of us?

First, we pray. We ask God: "Are you asking me to be more generous?" Perhaps we extend ourselves slightly more in giving away our time, attention, love, money, or possessions, and then we see what happens! Does love grow in my heart? Does God's peace abide more firmly inside of me? Do I find faith or hope or courage or self-sacrifice growing within me? Do I have a clearer idea of God, a better sense of His presence, a greater trust in His closeness? If those things are growing it means that God is at work and we should take seriously how we might be more generous.

But there's a second part of this too. What if saints weren't primarily people who were really good at giving? What if they were really good at receiving? What I mean is that every saint who strikes us by their radical charity, first knew they were the beneficiaries of the radical love of God! Have we opened our hearts to God's kindness? His mercy? His compassion, presence, joy, or courage? I think an awful lot of us make our way through life not much loving like God because we haven't much opened ourselves to His love. So, we live mostly human lives with only a sprinkling of grace and gratuity, just enough to be nice, and polite, and practical, but not exactly divine... Ss. Cosmas and Damian show us the freedom and abundance that reign instead in the heart that has first drank deeply of God's love.

Fr. Dominic Rankin just last week was impressed by God's generosity when he had several talks to give for a retreat, and again and again found the Lord providing exactly the idea or story or passage that was needed to continue forward. The minute I thanked Him for those gifts, somewhere in the back of my head was the thought: "oh, I shouldn't have been so needy there, I won't bother God the next time..." BUT, since when did God say He was bothered my request? When did He ask me to figure things out on my own because He's too busy right now??! (He didn't! But now I have a line of thinking that I know to reject next time!)

Stewardship of Treasure

September 16th & 17th

Envelopes:	\$4,632.00
Loose:	\$5,870.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$70.00</u>
Total:	\$10,572.00

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 25

<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church The Lamb's Supper Book Discussion 6:30 PM Atrium	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Rosary 4:45 PM Church Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM School Classroom	The Case for Jesus Bible Study 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church CCCW Meeting 6:00 PM School Hall Knights of Columbus #16126 Meeting 6:00 PM School Classroom Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		Blue Mass 10:00 AM Church The Chosen - Season 3 2:00 PM School Hall Lectio for Families 6:15 PM Atrium

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #16126

Father Tolton Scholarship Dinner

Saturday, October 21, 7 - 11 p.m.
Cathedral Atrium

Fr. Tolton Scholarship Dinner

The Knights of Columbus Council #16126 will be holding the Father Tolton Scholarship Dinner on Saturday, October 21 in the Atrium at the Cathedral. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and dinner will be at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per person. Dinner includes steak, baked potato, vegetable, salad, four whiskey tastings, and dessert. Craft beer, wine and whiskey will be available for purchase. **EVENT IS BY RESERVATION ONLY. RESERVATIONS DUE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17.** Participants must be 21 or older. Make your reservations online by scanning the QR code, or by visiting <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/0f69e858-9ceb-471c-a17a-4d65b01da64c>



ALL SOULS DAY MASS

**THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 2
7:00PM**

All Soul's Day Remembrance

November 2nd is the feast of All Souls. The Church has encouraged prayer for the dead from the earliest times as an act of Christian charity. A special liturgy Mass of Remembrance will be offered at 7:00 pm, Thursday, November 2, 2023 at the Cathedral, devoted to remembering and praying for those who have died during the past year as well as praying for the consolation of the family members who survive and grieve. Please call the parish office at 217-522-3342 if you would like attend and remember a loved one who has died during the past year. We will have a candle prepared and provide you with instructions for lighting the candle during the Mass of Remembrance.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



CCCW Meeting - September 28th

All ladies of the parish are welcome to join us for our September meeting in the school hall on Thursday, September 28th at 6pm. We will have a potluck dinner with chicken provided by the club. Please bring a favorite dish or appetizer or dessert to complete the dinner. We will be going over some old news, talking about recent activities, and electing a new President! We look forward to seeing some old friends and members and some new faces too!

40 Days for Life Campaign

The Fall 40 Days for Life campaign is being held from September 27 to November 7. There will be people from various churches in and around Springfield peacefully praying in one hour shifts in front of Planned Parenthood on Bruns Lane every day from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is a peaceful prayer event. We need 20 volunteers to help cover Cathedral's day which is Saturday, October 14th. This breaks down to 2 people per hour for the 10 shifts. For more information, please call or text Daphne Southern at 217-638-2805.

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

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!

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.

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 Invitation to the Vineyard

I have been working since I was 17, and in that time, I've encountered my fair share of bosses who don't like being, well, fair.

There was the retail gig that paid me less than the official minimum wage because I was a minor and scheduled me for long shifts because it meant cheaper labor. There was the restaurant manager who tried to convince me to leave seventh period early so I could waitress on a busy dinner shift (totally illegal, by the way). There was the unpaid internship with the editor who had no sense of work/life balance.

Our resumes are all full of these experiences — it's capitalism, after all. It conditions us to look out for ourselves, because we know no one else will. And it breeds an attitude of suspicion that often blooms into jealousy when we encounter the reckless mercy of God.

Most of us work hard for what we have in this life, and so we make the mistake of thinking we deserve the good things that come our way. That's all right and good when we're talking about a just wage. But sometimes we get our lines blurred and we begin to think we deserve, or have done something to earn, the salvation offered by Christ.

I am not the laborer who has borne the heat of long hours in the sun. I am the straggler, the lost one, the idler at the marketplace as the day draws to a close.

"As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways, and my thoughts above your thoughts." — Isaiah 55:9

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.
- **Rosary Rally**, October 14, at 1pm, Christ the King Church in Springfield
- **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.