

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

OCTOBER 1, 2023 | TWENTY-SIXTH 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 40

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!



Glory to You, O Lord

When we arrive at the time for the proclamation of the Gospel at Mass, we have reached a very important point of the liturgy, though I sometimes wonder if we overlook just how important it is. I think for some of us, the Gospel is seen as a sort of preparation or introduction to the Homily. As preachers of the Homily, we often have people offer comments to us after Mass about our preaching. Do not get me wrong, we appreciate the feedback. But it is pretty rare to have somebody comment on the Gospel, which is ALWAYS more powerful than the best homily because it is God speaking to us, usually with the very words of Jesus Himself. Here is what the General Instruction of the Roman Missal has to say about the Gospel:

The reading of the Gospel constitutes the high point of the Liturgy of the Word. The Liturgy itself teaches the great reverence that is to be shown to this reading by setting it off from the other readings with special marks of honor, by the fact of which a minister is appointed to proclaim it and by the blessing or prayer with which he prepares himself; and also by the fact that through their acclamations the faithful acknowledge and confess that Christ is present and is speaking to them and stand as they listen to the reading; and by the mere fact of the marks of reverence that are given to the Book of the Gospels. (GIRM, 60)

I think what I have written already regarding our listening attentively to the Word of God is sufficient for how we should approach the Gospel. But I want to share a few things that lead up to the proclamation of the Gospel that often go unnoticed or unappreciated. When the celebrant stands for the Gospel Acclamation, if there is a Deacon present, the Deacon will ask for a blessing from the celebrant, who says quietly: "May the Lord be in your hearts and on your lips that you may proclaim His Gospel worthily and well, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." If there is no deacon present, the celebrant (or concelebrating priest, says a similar prayer silently: "Cleanse my heart and my lips, almighty God, that I may worthily proclaim your holy Gospel."

The Church has the minister pray for God's blessing to proclaim the Gospel worthily, signifying how these are not just mere words that we are proclaiming. It is a humbling privilege to proclaim the Gospel and this prayerful preparation is a good reminder. For the rest of the faithful, there is no such prayer, but I would call your attention to how the Gospel is introduced. After the initial exchange of "The Lord be with you...and with your spirit", the minister announces that he is about to proclaim a reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. The faithful then respond: "Glory to you, O Lord." As with so many of our responses, this can be very automatic without our even really thinking about what we are saying. But consider what saying this means. We are NOT responding back to the minister as though saying: "Thanks for letting us know, I hope you do a good job reading." No, we are making a profession of faith that we are about to hear the Lord speaking to us from that most important section of Sacred Scripture where we hear the very words of Jesus Himself. Our response is one of glorifying God for this gift we are about to receive. The following words of Jesus come to mind as I think about how privileged we are to listen to the Gospel: "Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it." (Mt 13:17)

Over the years, the Church has extended to the faithful the opportunity to join in the gesture made by the minister at this point, making a Cross on one's forehead, lips, and heart. There are no scripted words for the minister or the faithful at this point, but many have come to see it as an opportunity to pray that the Gospel will be in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts, such that our encounter with the Gospel about to be proclaimed will find rich soil in our hearts to produce fruit in our lives.

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, October 2

7am - John Brunk & Deceased Family (Estate)

5:15pm - The DeMuth Family (Dan Schumacher)

Tuesday, October 3

7am - Michael Poggi (Family)

5:15pm - Raymundo Figueroa (Bev & Larry Smith)

Wednesday, October 4

7am - Willie West (Carol West)

5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube (Community)

Thursday, October 5

7am - Caroline Dimont (The Berte's)

5:15pm - Katie B. (D.A. Drago)

Friday, October 6

7am - Diane Kruzick (Steve & Vicki Stalcup)

5:15pm - Louis & Odet Gries (The Fleck Family)

Saturday, October 7

8am - Devlin Grandchildren (Grandpa)

4pm - Barbara McGee (Tom McGee)

Sunday, October 8

7am - For the People

10am - Clate Roby Dortch (Beverly & Larry Smith)

5pm - Greg & Amy Esper (Marielle King)



Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos

Feast Day: October 5th | Patronage: Immigrants, Missionaries | Iconography: Wearing Cassock with Rosary (as priest and redeptorist), Holding Crucifix or Bible (as preacher), Surrounded by Immigrants

During his papacy, the Great Pope St. John Paul II canonized 482 saints, and beatified some 1344 individuals. A constant theme of his papacy was not only the call, and genuine capacity, for every one of us to become saints, but also to put before our eyes countless examples of sanctity: that there is no single recipe for holiness! God's grace can work in any life! During the Great Jubilee of 2000 (heads up, we have another jubilee year coming up in 2025!), JP II continued this rampant pace of canonizations and beatifications, listing among the saints individuals you may know like St. Faustina Kowalska, Katherine Drexel, and Josephine Bakhita as well as beatifying humble characters like the little shepherds of Fatima, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, as well as great world-shapers like the Popes Pius IX and John XXIII.

One of the first to be beatified during this tremendous year was the Redemptorist priest, Francis Xavier Seelos. Born in Germany in 1819, as a young man he was moved by stories of redemptorist fathers who had given their lives to be missionaries serving throughout the young country of the United States, and so as a seminarian he embarked on a ship that would bring him across the Atlantic and onto American soil at New York in 1843. (I should mention that the famous immigration center at Ellis Island would not begin operations for almost 40 years, and the Statue of Liberty would not welcome poor and tired masses until 1924.) Fr. Seelos was ordained a priest in the famous St. James the Less Church in Baltimore (sadly, much destroyed in a fire in 2020), and went on to serve at St. Philomena's in Pittsburg (where St. John Neumann was pastor and where Fr. Francis Seelos would follow him as pastor until 1854). He devoted energy and attention primarily to preaching – constantly honing his craft with a grace-filled engaging and relatable style – and hearing confessions – welcoming “German, English, French [and] whites and of blacks” (as he wrote about it) with tenderness, attentiveness, and empathy.

He thus worked at various parishes throughout Maryland – enduring the cross of being moved like so many other parish priests – and then in formation-work in the Redemptorist seminary in Annapolis. There, in June of 1863, we come to one particularly famous moment of his life, when he traveled to Washington DC to meet with the President Abraham Lincoln to ask that his seminarians not be drafted to fight in the Civil War. Lincoln, in his conscription act, had not exempted clergy or religious, and Fr. Francis was committed to convincing him otherwise. He wrote to his sister of the gravity of the situation:

If one is chosen in the draft, he has either to go, or to pay \$300.00. Because we have so many young members, that would have amounted for us to the gigantic sum of \$25,000 or more. I decided then, with the permission of the provincial, to go to Washington with another father and to present personally to the President and other officials our situation. ... If I do not succeed in obtaining a release from that unjust injunction, we will rather go to prison than to take up arms.

Seelos would later recall that “I liked President Lincoln very much when I went to see him. He spoke to us in a sincere, free, and friendly manner.” Though the President did not grant an official exemption he must have assured the good father that he would personally protect his seminarians for few if any were ever drafted and Seelos would happily write his sister that “the storm passed over thanks to God and the intercession of Mary.” He had less enthusiastic words regarding the Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, “If the feast of rough characters should ever be celebrated in the Church, Stanton will get an octave added to it.” (all these quotations from Sincerely, Seelos: The Collected Letters of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos.)

He actually suffered being removed from his position as Prefect in the Seminary for being too obliging and happy towards the men under his care. Though it must not have tarnished his overall character for he was soon recommended to become Bishop of Pittsburg. Entreating Pope Pius IX to instead let him become an itinerant preacher, he began some years of traveling throughout Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri (including a two-week parish mission at St. Mary of Victories in St. Louis in October, 1865), New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Wisconsin. He finally made his way south to New Orleans in 1866, there prophetically telling the New Orleanians that “I have come here to pass the rest of my days and find a last resting place.” And so he did, in the end caring for victims of yellow fever in 1867, eventually contracting the painful disease himself and dying on October 4th of that year, at the age of 48.

Fr. Dominic Rankin simply notes that Fr. Seelos took for his religious name and patron the great missionary St. Francis Xavier. And though he followed that famous evangelist in his travels and preaching, in so many other areas he could have easily been discouraged by his dissimilarity to the great Jesuit. His travels may have seemed comfortable in comparison, and certainly he did not baptize tens of thousand for Christ. Yet he was called to a different sanctity: that of the confessional, of the complexities of war and American politics, of lots of miles on horseback throughout the American Midwest. Our sanctity can also be found in the humility of the confessional, in enduring our own era's messiness, and even in the daily miles we have to cover.

Stewardship of Treasure

September 23rd & 24th

Envelopes:	\$4,843.00
Loose:	\$3,217.00
Maintenance:	\$92.00
Total:	\$8,152.00

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!

Sacraments

Baptisms

Mason Stone Adams
Child of Jeremy & Misty Adams
Baptized on September 24, 2023

WEEK OF OCTOBER 2

<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	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		The Chosen - Season 3 2:00 PM School Library
St. Monica Ministry Meeting 7:00 PM Atrium	The Lamb's Supper Book Discussion 6:30 PM Atrium	Mission Mass 11:00 AM Church	Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM School Library	First Friday Concert 7:00 PM Church		
		Rosary 4:45 PM Church				
		Bible Study 6:00 PM Parish Library				
		Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM School Classroom				

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



Knights of Columbus **FATHER TOLTON COUNCIL**

Father Tolton Scholarship Dinner

Saturday, October 21, 2023
7 - 11 p.m., Cathedral Atrium

\$75 per person

MAKE RESERVATIONS
<https://tinyurl.com/kofc16126>

For more information, visit our website at www.kofc16126.org

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://tinyurl.com/kofc16126>



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



Grief Share - Bereavement Ministry

The Cathedral will be hosting another cycle of Grief Share, a weekly, faith-based, grief support group. If you, or someone you know, would like help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend, please join us beginning Tuesday, November 7, 1:00-2:30pm in the Cathedral School Library. (Enter through the atrium doors off 5th street parking lot) Grief Share runs for 13 weeks, but guests may join the series at any point and can pick up content they missed during the next cycle. For more information contact Berni Ely @ 899-6637 or jackandberni96@yahoo.com or Vicki at 217/522-3342 or vcompton@cathedral.dio.org.

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.

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!

St. Maurice Baked Turkey Dinner

Please join us at St. Maurice Catholic Church for our Baked Turkey Dinner Drive Thru on Sunday, November 5, 2023 from 2pm-4pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Morrisonville, IL. Meal is \$18 and includes baked turkey, dressing, potatoes, gravy, green beans, cranberry salad, and coleslaw. If you have any questions, please contact Marietta Dunkirk at 217-526-4426.

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

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

Soctober Collection

It's that time of year again - SOCTOBER! The Ladies of the CCCW will once again collect new and gently used (include only those you would accept for your family) socks, hats, and gloves. These items are shared with agencies serving homeless or at risk families and individuals of all ages who are in need. White baskets will be in the Atrium as well as the 6th Street entrance throughout the month of October for your donations. Thank you for your willingness to serve our most vulnerable brothers & sisters!

The Vineyard

The second son never showed up to the vineyard. Did he get lost? Did he get tired? Did he not know where to begin?

When it comes right down to it, good intentions amount to very little. We all know this, don't we? "Show me, don't tell me." "I'll believe it when I see it." It's as true in the workplace and in relationships as it is in the life of the Christian disciple.

It doesn't matter if we intend to work in the vineyard. It doesn't matter if we promise to, if we think about it a lot, or if we make grand plans for what we will accomplish there. None of that matters if we don't show up. Before we show up, we have to find the way.

Showing up is the whole point. The work is the point, not the intention.

But all this begs the question: what does the work mean for us as baptized Catholics in the modern world? Spending our Saturdays in soup kitchens and homeless shelters? Standing on a street corner shouting out the words of the Gospel?

Our baptismal call is to the vineyard. Where is our vineyard? How do we show up? We are ready, Lord, we say. We intend to work. But where do we go?

My vineyard is not your vineyard, and so it's not my place to tell you how to get there. I am glad you want to go, but you'll have to find your own way, just like I will. But I can tell you this: only one voice will lead you there. If you listen to it, you will find your vineyard.

"Good and upright is the LORD; thus he shows sinners the way." — Psalm 25:8

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
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Around the Diocese

- **St. Cabrini Church Nativity Festival 2023.** Display your Nativity set...Tell your story...Begin a tradition! To register call 217-522-8555 St. Cabrini Church, 1020 N. Milton Ave. Springfield, IL. All are welcome!
- **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. Visit www.dio.org for ticket information and more details.
- **Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land**, November 27-December 7, 2023. For more information, please visit www.holylandtoursllc.com or email edanaher@dio.org.