

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 5, 2023 | THIRTY-FIRST 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 45

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

DEACON ROBERT SGAMBELLURI

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

VICKI DHABALT COMPTON
COORDINATOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND MISSION
VCOMPTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

HALEY DUTTON
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
HDUTTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

MARK GIFFORD
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MGIFFORD@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

KIM GUNTER
PARISH SECRETARY
KGUNTER@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

JAN SGAMBELLURI
BOOKKEEPER
JSGAMBELLURI@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

BILL VOGT
OFFICE AND PLANT MANAGER
BVOGT@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

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!



Eucharistic Congress

As we now make the transition from the Liturgy of the Word to the Liturgy of the Eucharist, I want to pause our reflections in order to consider the great blessing of our Eucharistic Congress that took place this last Saturday at the BOS Center in Springfield. At the conclusion of the Mass that closed the Eucharistic Congress, Bishop Paprocki said that he knows that he will always remember that day, and I have been reflecting on that as well. In my nearly eleven-and-a-half years as a priest, I think that day ranks as one of the greatest highlights. I have certainly been to bigger gatherings, with thousands more people at them, but there was something that made this day far more special.

The talks were all amazing, and for those who you who had the chance to hear them, I hope you found them fruitful as well. I was pleased to hear Father Chase Hilgenbrinck, whose friendship I have enjoyed for the past several years, talking about making Mass the priority in our lives. In particular, I loved how he offered some very helpful and practical ways of preparing for and praying at Mass better, something I have enjoyed writing on in these bulletin articles. One of the greatest joys of the day was sitting in the front row as Sister M. Karolyn Nunes, F.S.G.M. gave her talk. I count Sister M. Karolyn as one of my very best friends, and to be there to hear her share such an inspiring talk brought me so much joy, first for the gift of what she shared and second for the gift of her friendship. I am sure I will be processing many more of the graces from that day in the days and weeks to come, and for those of you who were able to be there, I hope you do the same.

Perhaps the greatest grace for me from that day was the experience of the closing Mass. As I sat among my brother priests, looking out on the huge crowd of so many familiar faces, I kept thinking: "This is what Heaven is going to be like!" In Heaven, we will all be united as brothers and sisters in the Lord, friends of one another who rejoice in the gift of those relationships. In Heaven, we will be united with one another as we praise God, surrounded by the beautiful music of the choir of angels. On Sunday, as we resumed our Sunday masses at the Cathedral, that thought continued to stay with me. I caught myself thinking that same thing a few times during those masses: "This is what Heaven is going to be like." Of course, as amazing as our Masses may be here on Earth, gathered as brothers and sisters to praise God, these experiences are merely a morsel of what awaits us in Heaven. But until we get to our final destination, what a gift it is for us to have the Mass to lift our hearts as we receive this foretaste of the Heavenly banquet that awaits us in the Kingdom.

Earlier this week, we celebrated All Saints Day, and the experience of the Mass at the Eucharistic Congress was the image that was in my mind and my heart. The saints are experiencing the fullness of what we have only tasted, a fullness that will continue on for eternity. As filled as my heart was from last Saturday, I know the Lord has more in store for me and for all of us. From their place in Heaven, the saints are praying earnestly for us to persevere in our journey, so that we can one day join them in that experience of the fullness of joy, peace and friendship with one another as we gather together to worship the Lamb unceasingly.

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, November 6

7am - John Brunk & Deceased Family (Estate)

5:15pm - Joe Metzger (The Fleck Family)

Tuesday, November 7

7am - John & Edith Bakalar (John Busciacco)

5:15pm - Joseph & Mary Schweska (Tom McGee)

Wednesday, November 8

7am - Mary E. Steil (Steil Family)

5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube (Community)

Thursday, November 9

7am - Jim Kluckman (Paul Steil & John Paul Steil)

5:15pm - Karen Bucari (Alan Bucari)

Friday, November 10

7am - Thomas John & Family (A Grateful Pilgrim)

5:15pm - Intention for Bianca (D.A. Drago)

Saturday, November 11

8am - Mark Kessler (Margie & Jacob Hermes)

4pm - For the People

Sunday, November 12

7am - Cynthia Crisp (John Busciacco)

10am - Shirley Logan

(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

5pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway (Robert Gasaway)



St. Cecilia

Feast Day: November 22nd | Patronage: Hymns, Musicians, Poets, Organs and Organists| Iconography: Holding Musical Instruments: Flute, Violin, Harp, Harpsichord, Organ, or Musical Notation; With Songbirds; Singing; and as her body was found centuries after its martyrdom.

Who would you say were the two greatest theologians of the Church? Two greatest evangelists? Two saintliest parents? Or consecrated religious? Or martyrs? Of course, the saints themselves are (no longer) asking “who’s the greatest?”, but I think this sort of questioning forces us at the very least to consider which saints we most connect with and how we got to love them.

This week I began investigating the two greatest historians of the Church. Perhaps those who have collected and retold the stories of the past are less famous, renowned, or honored than the apostles and martyrs and mothers and fathers ... but they are the ones who pass onto us the stories of the saints, who put us in touch with all these holy men and women who inspire, encourage, befriend, and intercede for us, so praise God for the humble work of historians. And the two greatest historians of the Church are Eusebius of Caesarea and Caesar Baronius (Bede the Venerable would be a runner up here; he’s the one who got the world dating things according to the “year of our Lord”, “A.D.”, and, it should be said, of these three, he’s the only one who is canonized.)

Now Eusebius was born just a few decades after St. Cecilia had received the crown of martyrdom, but by mainly living and writing in Caesarea, far from the turmoil still engulfing Rome, he was blessed to not himself faced martyrdom there. He was the first to attempt a comprehensive Church History (handily, that is the title that he gave his magnum opus), and while many can critique the biases or limitations of his work, it is a phenomenal glimpse back into the early centuries of the Christian faith. To our tremendous benefit, he tells us of saints and martyrs and popes and characters from the first three centuries of our Church. Now, he sadly doesn’t include St. Cecilia’s story himself (which had just happened, and would not actually set down for 250 more years or so). But, Eusebius was the first to take the honor and love that the Church always had for her saints, which had previously been mainly expressed in hymns, prayers, narrations, and sermons, and wrote down for us these epic accounts of God’s grace in human lives. His work was the concretization of the Church’s faith that the saints live forever, and that you and I can befriend Christians like Aquinas, Joseph, Maximilian, and Cecilia.

Fast-forwarding 1200 years, Caesar Baronius did live amidst the hubbub of the Eternal City. He, a friend of St. Philip Neri and Cardinal of Pope Clement VIII, found that persecution in Rome of the 1500s was no longer from pagan but Christian emperors, who were constantly vying to control the Church and accrue power throughout Europe. Baronius, a great student first of law, then theology, and then Church History would not have been surprised by all of it, but certainly those squabbles purified his heart for the Lord. It seems likely that his vocation as an ordained member of Neri’s Oratorians, as well as a Church Historian, may have been inspired when, as a boy, he would have watched wide-eyed as the pylons and walls of the “new” St. Peter’s rose from the Vatican Hill to look out over Rome. The great colonnade, obelisk, and fountains in front of the Basilica would not be finished until several years after Baronius passed from this life, yet he was still involved in that, and other such, projects of his day. For instance, Pope Clement also worked to move the bodies of the saints into the Eternal City. Thus, on one day in 1599, Baronius, the greatest historian of the Church, stood next to one of the greatest sculptors of that age, Stefano Maderno (not to be confused with Carlo Maderno, possibly his brother, who would craft that first fountain in front of St. Peter’s). They were in Trastevere, the old Jewish Ghetto where St. Peter probably first lived when he got to Rome, and they were opening the tomb of the much beloved ancient martyr, Cecilia.

The Acts of her martyrdom were legendary: her virginity promised to Christ, her husband converted by her ardent love for the Lord, her boldness before the Roman judge, and the distress of her executioner. Legends said her body was still incorrupt. The group reverently approached her place of rest, discovering the bodies of her husband and her fellow martyred converts nearby. Then, opening her tomb, before their eyes lay the beautifully, beatifically, preserved body of the youthful martyr. Lovingly attired, but with her wounds also visible, the historian found history proven true and the sculptor found a sublime image of the beauty of Christian fidelity. And we find a saintly friend.

Fr. Dominic Rankin went far down the rabbit hole trying to translate Baronius’ magnificent Annales Ecclesiastici. His vivid account from the tomb of St. Cecilia can be found in the 9th Tome/Volume if that immense work, in the section indicated by “Christus 821”. But, an even more vivid glimpse is found in Maderno’s sculpture of the scene that met their eyes that day:



Stewardship of Treasure

October 28th & 29th

Envelopes:	\$3,766.00
Loose:	\$2,669.00
Maintenance:	\$106.00
Total:	\$6,535.00

October EFT

\$19,327.80

October Debt Reduction

\$687.00

October Second Collections

World Mission Sunday
\$4,422.00

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 NOVEMBER 6

<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	Grief Share 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Rosary 4:45 PM Church Choir 7:00 PM School Classroom	The Case for Jesus Bible Study 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



BEGINNING NOVEMBER 7
AT THE CATHEDRAL

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.

SEEDS OF THE WORD FILM SERIES

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19
6:15 PM
CATHEDRAL ATRIUM

A Place at the Table – Seeds of the Word Film Series

There are no African-American Saints formally recognized within the Catholic Church, but that could soon change. There are six incredible black men and women who are on the path to Canonization. The Catholic Church is starting to recognize their impact and may soon name any or all of them Saints. It's time to hear their stories. Family friendly – all are welcome! We'll provide the popcorn!
Sunday, November 19 @ 6:15pm, Cathedral Atrium

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Donations Needed

As the weather gets cooler, please consider donating any gently used cold weather items such as coats, sweaters, or blankets that are no longer needed or used. Catholic Charities, St. Martin de Porres, Contact Ministries, and Washington Street Missions are just a few of our local charities who accept cold weather item donations. Thank you for your generosity.

Mission Magazine, Autumn Edition

Thank you for your generosity last week on World Mission Sunday. See the good you do by reading "Mission" a magazine of the Pontifical Mission Societies which has stories about the remote regions, communities, and families you serve with donations to the Pope's Missions. Check out the autumn edition of Mission at <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/68460908/mission-magazine-autum-2023>. Walk alongside a priest pursuing his doctorate, come to better understand the continued hardships plaguing Syria, watch as a religious sister offers comforting hugs to those with leprosy, and so much more.

Happy National Vocation Awareness Week!

Please join the Dominican Sisters of Springfield for a virtual event, 7:00 p.m. Monday, November 6. Enjoy a premier video, then join the conversation with Sister Beth Murphy, OP, and Father Joe Molloy, pastor of St. Joseph the Worker in Chatham, as they share stories about their call to religious life and diocesan priesthood. Register here today: <https://springfieldop.org/meetoursisterstour/>. This event is one of many happening across the state for the 5th annual Meet Our Sisters Tour, brought to you by CWR, the professional communicators for religious congregations of women. Visit c4wr.org/most2023 to find more inspiring in-person and virtual events, discernment resources, and moving stories and videos about the impact of Catholic Sisters on education, healthcare, and the social and spiritual lives of individuals and communities in Illinois and around the world. Questions? Call Sister Denise Glazik, OP, 217-787-0481 x.6021.

Free Online Course: Isaiah in the Light of Christ

Join us this Advent season as Dr. Peter Williamson, Adam Cardinal Maida Chair in Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, explores the writings of the prophet Isaiah in the Light of Christ. The Old Testament is full of prophecies foreshadowing the coming of Christ Jesus, which is arguably most evident in the prophet Isaiah, read by the Church during the high points of the liturgical year. As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the coming of Christ this Advent, we invite you to join us for this FREE online Equip course. Completed at your own pace, you can use this course as an Advent study to grow deeper in your personal relationship with Jesus. Sunday, November 19 - Saturday, December 16. Learn more at shms.edu/advent.

St. Patrick's School Winter Clothing Drive

St. Patrick's Catholic School is hosting a winter clothing drive for donations of new or gently used clothing. Donation drop-off will be at St. Patrick Catholic School (1800 S. Grand Ave. E.) from 9 AM-Noon on Saturday, November 18, with distribution to the community following from Noon-2 PM. Volunteers are welcome! Please contact Principal Michael Carlson with any questions at mcarlson@st-patrick.org.

Holy Family Food Pantry Thanksgiving Baskets

Please consider donating to the Holy Family Food Pantry Thanksgiving baskets. Below is a list of items still needed in the pantry:

Boxed Stuffing mix; Instant mashed potatoes; Gravy packets; Boxed Macaroni & cheese; Boxed Cake mix & Icing; Cane sugar; Boxes of Cereal; Crackers; Pancake Mix & syrup; Pasta & Pasta Sauce; Peanut Butter & Jelly; Canned Vegetables & Fruits; Canned soup, chili or baked beans; Toilet Paper; Body wash & Misc. Personal care items

Please place donations in the blue bin in the atrium. To volunteer to pack baskets, please call Catholic Charities at 217-523-4551. Thank you for your generosity!

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, November 6 @ 7:00pm, Christ the King Parish Center

Butler Funeral Home Open Door Session

The Butler Family of Organizations extends an invitation to all who are interested in learning more about planning for their final wishes to help their families celebrate their lives to join us for a lunch and learn program. The details are as follows:

Open Door Session
Wednesday, November 8th
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
American Legion - Post 32, Mess Hall
1120 E. Sangamon Ave.
Springfield, IL 62702

Complimentary lunch will be provided. This event is free: no cost or obligation. Please call 217-544-4646 to reserve your space no later than Monday, November 6th.

Mark Your Calendars!

Join us for the second annual parish Epiphany party, Saturday, January 6, 2024. More information to come!

A Heavy Burden, Hard to Carry

"Mommy, you haven't been making any sacrifices."

My daughter was peering through the little opening in the plastic cover of the "sacrifice jar" we made for Lent this year. The repurposed oatmeal container, jazzed up with glitter glue and pictures of St. Therese of Lisieux, was more than half-filled with little slips of paper bearing descriptions of the various sacrifices family members had made for one another.

But she was right: every piece of paper bore the childlike scrawl of herself and her brother. I had not added anything to the sacrifice jar.

"If I wrote down every sacrifice I made for you in just a single day, the jar would explode," I retorted, and even though my daughter giggled, I instantly regretted the comment, sighing as I realized I did it again. I let a snide, self-pitying thought form on my lips and make its way into the world because for a brief moment I thought someone didn't appreciate my (imagine me sniffing injuredly here) hard work.

We sneer at the scribes and the Pharisees as Jesus describes them in the Gospel, lengthening their phylacteries and coveting the places of honor. But then I remember: nobody starts out meaning to be a jerk.

We want to do good things. We try to be holy. But it's hard, that burden weighs heavy on our back.

So, we murmur about it here and there. We stop to catch our breath. We glimpse other people looking at our burden with approval and admiration, and we breathe a little harder, groan a little deeper. And somewhere along the way the burden becomes an idol and our labor a performance. We dare not ask for help bearing it, for we prize too greatly the sweat of our own brow.

"The greatest among you must be your servant." — Matthew 23:11

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!
- **St. Joseph the Worker Mostaccioli & Sausage Dinner and Bake Sale,** Sunday, November 5, 11:30a-5p, St. Joseph the Worker, 700 East Spruce, Chatham, IL. Adults are \$8, children are \$4. Menu includes mostaccioli, sausage, salad, bread, and drink. Carry-outs will be available.
- **Little Flower Holiday Craft Bazaar,** Saturday, Nov. 11, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Over 40 vendors with handmade crafts. Please bring a canned good in lieu of entry fee. For more information visit www.facebook.com/LFSCraftBazaar
- **Encounter the Psalms,** 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays: 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.