

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 12, 2023 | THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 46

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!



The Offertory

The first part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist is generally referred to as the Offertory. There are several things that take place during this relatively short part of the Mass, but they are significant.

Let us start by considering the Preparation of the Gifts. First and foremost, the gifts that are prepared are the bread and wine which will be transformed into Christ's Body and Blood. At many Sunday masses, it is the custom to have some of the faithful bring these gifts forward to the priest or deacon who will be preparing the altar. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal describes this action in the following way:

The offerings are then brought forward. It is a praiseworthy practice for the bread and wine to be presented by the faithful. They are then accepted at an appropriate place by the Priest or the Deacon to be carried to the altar. Even though the faithful no longer bring from their own possessions the bread and wine intended for the liturgy as was once the case, nevertheless the rite of carrying up the offerings still keeps its spiritual efficacy and significance. (GIRM, 73)

Note that there was a time when the faithful would bring their own bread and wine to be used for the celebration of the Mass. No doubt that helped foster a sense that they were actively contributing to what was about to take place on the altar. And even though this is no longer the case, we should see the presentation of these gifts as something we join in offering. The action is not insignificant.

To help deepen our understanding of our participating actively in the offering of the gifts, it is also a common practice, especially on Sundays, to take up a collection of money, which gives the people in attendance an opportunity to offer something physical. Though they are not directly at the service of bringing about the Body and Blood of Christ in the liturgy, they are at the service of providing for the Body of Christ, which is the Church. With those offerings made from the abundance of God's generosity to us, the Church makes use of these funds to continue the mission of the church on a parish level, on the diocesan level, and on a universal level. Even if you are making your contribution by electronic means, why not also consider placing something in the basket as the collection is taken? The physical offering, while important for the mission of the Church, is also important for our understanding of our identity at Mass. We are all asked to offer ourselves at Mass. To be sure, we can and should offer our hearts to the Lord, asking the Lord to accept them and transform them, but our offering is not spiritual alone. We are human beings, made up of body and soul, so if all we are offering is just a spiritual sacrifice, are we not in some way only offering a partial sacrifice?

Let me pause there, lest you think I am trying to guilt you in to offering more money at the collection! That is not my goal and least not in this article! I just want to invite us to consider our role in participating in the offering. As Jesus offered Himself in sacrifice, He offered His entire self, body and soul. He is asking nothing less from us, and so we can prayerfully examine whether, at this point in the Mass, we are willing to offer our entire selves to Him, body and soul? Can this be done without putting money in the basket, absolutely! But does it help us to better understand our offering when we offer something tangible and physical at this point, to go along with the offering of our spiritual selves? Absolutely!

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 13

7am - Mary Conway
(Julie & Steve Shields)
5:15pm - Raymundo Figueroa
(Bev & Larry Smith)

Tuesday, November 14

7am - Rev. Msgr David S. Lantz
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)
5:15pm - Bishop William O'Connor
(Fr. Zach Edgar)

Wednesday, November 15

7am - John W. Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Diane Kruzick
(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)

Thursday, November 16

7am - Betty Schuett
(Carol West)
5:15pm - Katie B.
(D.A. Drago)

Friday, November 17

7am - Rita Greenwald
(Mary Cartwright)
5:15pm - Cathy Furkin
(Family)

Saturday, November 18

8am - Brother Francis Skube
(Friends)
4pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Sunday, November 19

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)
10am - John Brunk & Deceased
Members (Estate)
5pm - For the People



St. Clement of Rome

Feast Day: November 23rd | Patronage: Mariners, Stone-Cutters | Iconography: Wearing Papal Vestments, Mariner's Cross, Tied to Anchor, Palm of Martyrdom

So, I'm sitting in Caribou Coffee perusing Pope St. Clement letter to the Corinthians. "Photograph" by Ed Sheeran continues the mellow-pop playlist that has been filling the 72 degree air for the last hour. Off to my left I can see an inordinate variety of packaged snacks stretching out of sight, with the certainty that the Hy-Vee next door has an even more incredible quantity of food for the buying. A fall breeze whips leaves around as cars continue to refill with gas. Almost nothing that now surrounds me existed when Pope Clement led the church in its first century. The only physical commonality that I can find is the cement that makes up the parking lot in front of me. Cement was invented some

thousands of years ago, but many consider the Romans to have perfected, with no greater example being the Pantheon which still stands in Rome having had its walls and dome poured into their forms almost 2000 years ago. (I doubt this Hy-Vee will be here in 200 years, much less 2000.)

Just knowing two words about Clement: "pope" and "martyr" tell you most of what we know of his life. A few more descriptors tell you almost everything else: he is an apostolic father (knew the apostles), wrote a Letter to the Corinthians (he called them to repentance), and died under Diocletian (so, around 99 or 101 A.D.). But if he lived in a world so different from ours, what can we learn from him? More provocatively, is the story – the Gospel – that transformed his life and death still applicable to us? Does His Lord still reign? Does His Savior still save? Of course Christianity claims to have application to every era, political-climate, architecture-style, human culture, or culinary surroundings. Our faith stakes itself on the reality that the human heart faces the same chains that it always has, and needs (and desires) the same redemption that it always has. Fundamentally, Jesus still claims to be "the way, and the truth, and the life".

Yet plenty of people have stopped believing it.

25 years ago, only 5% of Americans would claim to have no religion. Now that number is around 25%. Said differently: when I was a kid and went to the grocery store, one in twenty people would have said they were not religious, now one in four would say that. But, here's a further eye-opening fact: in the entire Roman Empire in the year 100 A.D., as Clement went to his martyrdom there were probably about 25,000 Christians (thus, using the reasonable estimate that the empire had a population around 60 million, that means 0.04% were Christian). 100 years later those that believed in Christ were up to about 218,000 (0.36%), and a further century on we had boomed up to 6.3 million (still only 10.5%).

It would be several more decades before Christians became a majority of the empire, and though we've gotten used to a relatively Christian surroundings in our Western European-American culture, the fact is that the Church has spent a lot of her time as a small community within the larger world. This has been the case from Golgotha on through the early centuries, but also in every mission territory ever since. Rome wasn't Christian when Clement got there. Ireland wasn't when St. Patrick arrived. India wasn't when St. Francis Xavier landed, nor when Mother Teresa came. We shouldn't be shocked, nor discouraged, either when the Gospel can no longer be assumed as the common operating principle of our neighbors and coworkers. Only rarely has the Church ever been able to presume that, even if until recently we have gotten used to it.

Strangely though, I think that all of this means that as we look out on a world, spiritually (if not physically) it is more similar to the Rome of Clement's day than we are to Paris of 1221, the Philadelphia of 1776, or even the New York of 2001. Our world today, like Clement's, offers lots of idols, and demands that we place them above Christ. Our world today, like his, disposes of children and the elderly, and expects us to do the same. Our world today, like his, doesn't know Jesus, and it's up to all of us to worship, act, and speak in such a way that they might. When Pope Clement wrote to the Corinthians, he not only assumed to have spiritual authority over them (as the Bishop of Rome always has), but he also speaks to every Christian there to call them to repentance and to live a life directed by Jesus' words through and through. The Church then, and our Church now, has no professional evangelizers, that's all of our responsibility.

Fr. Dominic Rankin has to mention another fascinating fact from Clement's letter. He writes about the Apostle Paul: "Owing to envy, Paul also obtained the reward of patient endurance, after being seven times thrown into captivity, compelled to flee, and stoned. After preaching both in the east and west, he gained the illustrious reputation due to his faith, having taught righteousness to the whole world, and come to the extreme limit of the west, and suffered martyrdom under the prefects." ("Letter to Corinthians", Chapter 5). Now, it's only a single reference, but from a man who knew Paul personally, that perhaps between the Apostle to the Gentiles, between his imprisonment and martyrdom in Rome, actually finally preached the Gospel to Spain. We'll have to get the whole story from them when we are called before Christ ourselves!

Stewardship of Treasure

November 4th & 5th

Envelopes:	\$6,505.00
Loose:	\$2,730.00
Maintenance:	\$2,014.00
Total:	\$11,249.00

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 13

<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 Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary 7:00 PM Atrium	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Rosary 4:45 PM Church Cathedral Bible Study 6:00 PM Parish Library 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 CCCW Meeting 6:00 PM School Hall	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		Family Movie Night 6:15 PM Atrium

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



**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.

Day of Healing Prayer Service

Join us on Sunday, November 19th from 3pm-5pm at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Springfield for a healing prayer service. As Christians, we often offer prayers for one another at a distance, but there is a power when we gather together and pray for healing. The Day of Healing is a healing service that provides a much more powerful and intentional way to pray for healing. If you or anyone needs prayers for healing, please feel free to come. There is no official end time, as prayer teams will stay as long as needed for individuals to receive prayer. Any questions can be emailed to Fr. Christopher Trummer: ctrummer@dio.org.

Polish the Pews at Cathedral

The ladies of the CCCW will meet at 6:00 pm on Monday, November 13th, to wash & polish our beautiful Cathedral pews in preparation for Thanksgiving, the annual Novena in Honor of the Immaculate Conception, Advent and Christmas seasons. We welcome any and all who would like to participate in this service opportunity, including students in need of service hours. All cleaning supplies will be provided.

Second Collection - Diocesan Collection for Justice and Hope (DCJH)

With a population of over 1.1 million inhabitants, the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois has tens of thousands of people in our midst living in poverty. These men, women and children seldom make the headlines. However, their needs are real and deserve our prayer, action, and financial support. Our annual Diocesan Collection for Justice and Hope (DCJH) will be taken the weekend of November 18-19, 2023. This collection gives Catholics an opportunity to reach out in solidarity to those who suffer and lack basic human necessities. All funds donated during the DCJH collection are granted to organizations that give realistic hope to the poor to break out of the cycle of poverty. Like all Catholic ministries, the DCJH grant program reaches out to the broader community, without regard to race, ethnicity or religion. This campaign seeks to address the Gospel command to care for "the least of these" (Matthew 25), and also address the systemic injustices that contribute to poverty. Please give generously to this DCJH collection and, when possible, reach out in service and solidarity to those organizations that help the poor among us.

St. John Vianney Cookie Walk, Raffle and Christmas Gift Gala

The 23rd Annual will be on December 9, 2023, at the St. John Vianney Activity Center, 902 St. John Drive in Sherman, IL. Hundreds of beautifully decorated homemade cookies, candies and breads will be available for purchase. A raffle with top notch prizes from local merchants will be going on throughout the morning. Direct Sale Vendors will be available to help you finish your holiday shopping with cash and carry purchases. The jolly ole man himself, Santa, will be on hand from 8:30 -11 for photo ops with free will offerings being donated to the Holy Family Food Pantry. And for all our shoppers – complimentary refreshments will be served. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. For more information, contact Cindy Trainor (217) 414-4279 or visit <https://sjvsherman.org/womens-society>.

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!

Advent Busy Person's Retreat @ St. Agnes

A Busy Person's Retreat is a way to take some intentional time with God even during our regular, busy days. This is how it works: We all gather on Friday, December 1 @ 6pm for a meal, to pray and begin our time. You will meet your spiritual companion for the week. Then, on Saturday through Monday, you spend some extra time in prayer, spiritual reading, etc. Just 30 minutes and also MEET WITH YOUR SPIRITUAL COMPANION for at least 30 minutes. The conversation with your companion can be in person, at St. Agnes, via Zoom or even phone if needed. You and your companion will make your own schedule. There is a guide for the retreat time but companion and retreatants can go in any direction they wish! Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4FA5AF2FAAFB6-advent>

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.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who came out and prayed at the 40 Days for Life campaign!

Seeking Wisdom

I think if any of us were asked the question, “Do you love wisdom? Do you seek wisdom?” we would, at first, be a little taken aback. And then we would answer quickly “Of course!” with absolutely no doubt in our minds.

But a different way of asking the question is this: “Are you making wise choices?” That’s a question that would put a fair few of us on the back foot.

The virgins who went out to meet the bridegroom were all the same. They had the exact same intentions. They had the exact same stamina, or lack of it. They had the exact same knowledge of the night being dark and lamps being necessary.

What made five foolish, and five wise?

It was their choices. Only their choices set them apart.

We may rely upon the wisdom of another — the parent who reminds us to go to confession, the friend who demurs when we start speaking gossip, the priest who preaches boldly from the pulpit against an injustice we lack the courage to denounce ourselves. But even if we feel safeguarded by their good influence, their wisdom won’t save us.

We may possess a little wisdom ourselves — we may know well that a dark night is hard to navigate, and that we need the assistance of a lamp. We may go to Mass once in a while, read the Bible when we have time and serve others when it’s convenient.

But a lamp needs oil to burn in the darkness, just as wisdom requires action to be brought forth into the world.

We may love God just as much as we should — our flesh may pine, our soul may thirst. But a parched field never brought rain on itself just by being dry.

We must make the choice.

“Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.” — Psalm 63:4

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
©LPi

Around the Diocese

- **Springfield Deanery Council of Catholic Women Gathering**, Thursday, Nov. 30, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM at Our Savior Parish, Jacksonville, IL. The day will include Mass to be celebrated by Father Joe Ring, our Springfield Deanery Spiritual Advisor, the recitation of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, and an Advent talk with discussion. Please R.S.V.P. to Janet Zimmerman: janetzim14@yahoo.com or 217-494-4743 by Friday, Nov. 24.
- **Encounter the Psalms**, 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday 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.