

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 19, 2023 | THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342  
[WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG](http://WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG)

FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

# *Cathedral Weekly*

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 47

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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!



## My Sacrifice and Yours

In 2011, when the new English translation of the Roman Missal, 3rd Edition, was introduced, there were several changes to which the priests and people had to adjust. Of all of the changes that I had to learn as a priest, one of my favorite changes came at the conclusion of the Presentation of the Gifts, just before the Prayer Over the Gifts. The new words (which are now not so new) said by the priest are as follows: "Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father."

The previous translation only mentioned "our sacrifice." There is clearly a difference in the sacrifice that I, as a priest, offer, and the sacrifice that you, as member of the congregation, offer. But those two sacrifices are joined together into the one sacrifice that the priest offers on behalf of the congregation. So the question that I pose to you is this: what is your sacrifice? To be sure, the physical offering that you offered at the collection is not insignificant, but in some ways, that sacrifice is ordered to the mission of the Church, which is generally done outside of the liturgy in providing for the needs of the poor and other activities at the service of the building of the Kingdom. The sacrifice that I am accepting and offering on your behalf is for the here and now of the Mass. So what should that sacrifice look like? One of our priests recently offered a beautiful explanation of the sacrifice offered in union with the sacrifice of the priest:

*Just as bread is formed from many grains of wheat and the wine is formed from many crushed grapes, the various aspects of our lives – our joys and sorrows, hopes and dreams, frustrations and contentment – can all be offered to God as the one offering of our lives. In the quiet of our hearts we can offer these various aspects of our lives together with the bread and wine in such a way that they truly become our sacrifice. We can, in a certain sense, place ourselves on the paten and in the chalice and offer ourselves to the Father, just as Christ Jesus offered himself to the Father.*

I find this idea of consciously making a sacrifice of ourselves at Mass one of the keys to unlocking a deeper meaning to our participation in Mass. So much of the Liturgy of the Word can feel passive, in that we are receiving nourishment from the Word of God. At this point, we are invited to be active in making an offering of our sacrifice. But so often, we tend to stay in that passive mode of participating. Sure, we may make the responses to the various prayers, sitting, standing, and kneeling at the proper times, but if we are not consciously choosing to unite our hearts and indeed our very lives, our participation in the Mass can become superficial.

In a previous article in this series, I had reflected on the comment that is sometimes made by people about the Mass, namely that they do not feel like they get anything out of the Mass, to which I often respond: "What are you putting into the Mass?" Consider carefully again the words of the priest at this point: "Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father." So I ask the question I raised earlier – what is your sacrifice? Do not let another Mass go by without consciously offering that acceptable sacrifice of your entire self to the Lord.

*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 20

7am - Pamela & Fred Tucker  
(John Busciacco)  
5:15pm - Linda O'Brien  
(John O'Brien)

#### Tuesday, November 21

7am - Christina Maher  
(Chris Sommer)  
5:15pm - William F. Logan  
(Lisa Logan & Lori Motyka)

#### Wednesday, November 22

7am - McDonald Family  
(Janine McDonald)  
5:15pm - Linda O'Brien  
(John O'Brien)

#### Thursday, November 23

9am - For the People

#### Friday, November 24

7am - The Benner Family  
(Kathleen Benner)  
5:15pm - NO MASS

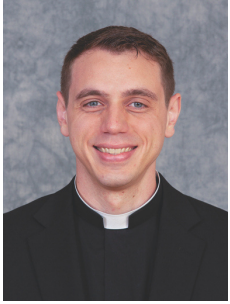
#### Saturday, November 25

8am - James Bock Jr.  
(Chris Sommer)  
4pm - Bernice Lauduskie  
(Sandy & Jim Bloom)

#### Sunday, November 26

7am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt  
(Kathy Frank)  
10am - For the People  
5pm - Brother Francis Skube  
(Community)





## Ask Father

**Since the State of Illinois officially promotes abortion, transgenderism, LGBT Pride and other immoral practices as a matter of policy, should Catholics avoid State employment or seek other employment if they currently work for the state?**

Your question is one that is very timely, and one that will become more pressing as more government agencies and corporations officially promote practices that are contrary to our faith. Bear with me as I give a brief summary of moral theology. As the Catechism teaches, "Sin is a personal act. Moreover, we have a responsibility for the sins committed by others when we cooperate in them" (CCC 1868). Sounds simple, right? However,

cooperating in sin can be quite a complicated process. There are different levels of cooperation in evil, some of which are unavoidable.

The first kind of cooperation in evil is called formal cooperation, and this is always immoral. Formal cooperation means that a person approves of an action, advises others to do an action, or praises an evil action. Even if the person is not involved in the action, this approval is an offense against God and our faith. The second category of cooperation is called material cooperation – when a person contributes something to a process, whether or not he intends the evil to happen. Material cooperation is sometimes sinful and sometimes allowable, based on how close this cooperation is to the event itself. To the extent that it is possible, we should do our best to contribute to good actions and not bad actions. However, society is a tangled web of cause and effect, and it is impossible to completely free ourselves from material cooperation in evil.

We pay taxes to federal, state, and local governments. As you said in your question, our government officially endorses and practices many things that are contrary to our faith. Thus, our tax dollars are sometimes being used for evil. However, that is something that is (mostly) out of our control. We can't control when our government unjustly wastes billions of dollars or buys condoms or guns for groups around the world. Similarly, the workers at the local power plant can't control the fact that the abortion facility runs on power that they produce. This is all material cooperation, but a cooperation that is unavoidable and not sinful for us as taxpayers, although it certainly is sinful for those with the authority make these spending decisions.

Now, there are also times when our cooperation in evil is avoidable and should be avoided, even at great personal cost. It can be helpful to ask the question, "How closely associated am I with this evil action?" and "how essential is my cooperation to this evil which is happening?" The closer one is (morally, not just geographically) to evil, the higher the chance that such participation becomes sinful.

Based on these principles, it is morally permissible for Catholics to be employed by the state in good conscience. In fact, the Church encourages her members to be involved with their governments as much as possible to help contribute to a just society. There are certain things that Catholics certainly cannot partake in. If a Catholic works for the state as an accountant, and they are assigned the task of processing all of the state-funded abortions, I would advise them to ask for another position and explain to their superior why they cannot do that job for the state. In this situation, the participation is closely tied to the evil action itself. A similar scenario could be imagined in a hospital that performs abortions or sterilizations. Good Catholics could work at that hospital and contribute to the common good, but they should not be involved in the immoral procedures themselves, and do their best to express their beliefs as to why they cannot partake in these operations. It would be better to lose one's job than be a willing participant in an abortion or sterilization procedure.

In short, we need good Catholics to be a part of our government to help turn the tide. Some government actions are immoral, and Catholics cannot willingly participate in those actions. A well-formed conscience helps us to make these judgments based on the principles of our faith. Some situations are a grey area and require research and direction from the Church. Don't be afraid to ask for guidance if you find yourself unable to determine what is right. Jesus said that we are the light of the world. If we do not stand up for what is right, then who will?

*Fr. Dominic Vahling serves as a teacher and chaplain at Sacred Heart-Griffin High School in Springfield.*

## Stewardship of Treasure

### November 11th & 12th

Envelopes:	\$4,730.00
Loose:	\$
3,937.00	
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$65.00</u>
Total:	\$8,732.00

### 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 20

<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	Thanksgiving - Parish Office Closed  NO 7AM or 5:15 PM MASSES  9AM MASS ONLY	Rosary 4:45 PM Church  NO 5:15 PM MASS		

## What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



### NOVENA IN HONOR OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

**NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 7  
7:00PM**

**LAST NIGHT AND CLOSING MASS  
DECEMBER 8  
5:15PM**

#### **Novena in Honor of the Immaculate Conception**

Beginning November 30 thru December 8th, the Cathedral will host the annual diocesan novena in honor of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States, our diocese, and the Cathedral Parish. The novena will be celebrated each evening at 7PM in the Cathedral. Each night will be a Holy Hour consisting of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a Liturgy of the Word, Homily, Rosary, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, with the Novena Prayer and the recitation of the Litany of Loreto after Reposition.

### *Advent Lessons & Carols*

MARK E. GIFFORD, DIRECTOR

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 AT 7:00 PM**

**CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
524 E LAWRENCE AVE  
SPRINGFIELD, IL**

#### **Advent Lessons and Carols**

On the evening of Gaudete Sunday, in the holy season of Advent, join Mark Gifford and the Cathedral Choir for an evening of Scripture, music, and prayer as we reflect on the two promised comings of Christ.

Sunday, December 10th - 7:00PM @ Cathedral

# 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.

## 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](https://shms.edu/advent).

## Christ Child Shower

The CCCW encourages Cathedral parishioners to participate in the annual Christ Child Shower from November 18th through December 17th. Place unwrapped items in the blue boxes located in the Atrium for distribution to the Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery and the Pregnancy Care Center. These two agencies will then provide needed items to mothers and babies in need in the Springfield area. Thank you for your generosity!

## 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>.

## Pastoral Care for Cathedral's Sick & Elderly

If you, or someone you know from the Cathedral parish are homebound, hospitalized, or in a nursing care facility, please let the Cathedral Office know (217-522-3342). You may request to be put on the Cathedral Prayer Line or request a Pastoral Visit from Sr. Francella and her Cathedral volunteers.

## 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>

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to April Tabares of Cathedral parish who was Confirmed on Tuesday, 11/07!



## What Remains

When my grandfather died, my parents, siblings, and I were left with the question: what's to become of the house?

Anyone who has inherited property knows that it's not simply a matter of assuming ownership of a plot of land upon which sits four walls and a roof. Those four walls and a roof usually contain memories and objects — an enormous volume of both, in the case of my grandfather. When they're left to you, you have to sift through them, the memories and the objects, and with each one you have to think: Is it worth it? Do I keep it? Will I need it?

And slowly, painfully, you disassemble the physical existence of the person who lived here. You accept, with a pang, that most of it must be given away or discarded. You cry when you bag up the clothes to take to Goodwill. You can't even bear to look when they break the piano into a hundred pieces and throw it in a dumpster, realizing that no one wants or has a use for something that was once so precious.

But when you come upon a rosary that was used so many times it has begun to fall apart, you don't even think twice before keeping it, and not because you need the rosary. You need what it means. You need what it reminds you of.

When all is said and done, each of us will be called before our master to settle accounts, just as my grandfather was.

"Where are the gifts I gave you? What remains of the fortune to which I entrusted you?" he will ask us. "What have you done with the peace? What have you done with the love? What have you done with the mercy?"

*"You yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night." 1 Thessalonians 5:2*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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## 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](mailto:janetzim14@yahoo.com) or 217-494-4743 by Friday, Nov. 24.
- **Nativity Festival 2023**, St. Cabrini Parish Hall, 1020 N. Milton Ave., Springfield; Saturday & Sunday, December 2 & 3, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Over 125 Sets Displayed and Free Admission. Everyone is welcome!
- **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](http://springfieldop.org/corunum) or by calling or texting Sister Beth Murphy, OP, at 312-780-9553.