

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 26, 2023 | THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



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 48

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!

Diocesan Victim Assistance is available. For the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, please call 217-321-1155.
Please remember that if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a nursing home or homebound, to contact the Parish Office at 217-522-3342



Entering the Eucharistic Prayer

After preparing the altar with the gifts to be presented to the Lord, it is now time for us to enter into the Eucharistic Prayer, which the General Instruction of the Roman Missal describes as “the center and high point of the entire celebration.” (GIRM, 78) The GIRM goes on to summarize the Eucharistic Prayer in this way:

The Priest calls upon the people to lift up their hearts towards the Lord in prayer and thanksgiving; he associates the people with himself in the Prayer that he addresses in the name of the entire community to God the Father through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, the meaning of this Prayer is that the whole congregation of the faithful joins with Christ in confessing the great deeds of God and in the offering of Sacrifice. The Eucharistic Prayer requires that everybody listens to it with reverence and in silence. (GIRM, 78)

The Eucharistic Prayer, though said by the celebrant of the Mass, involves the entire congregation. Even though we are called to “listen to it with reverence in silence”, our hearts must be active in uniting ourselves to the prayer. While the priest is exercising his ministerial priesthood, the rest of the faithful are exercising their common, baptismal priesthood at this point. As a priest who celebrates Mass, I know that the Eucharist is a necessary gift for me to grow in holiness, but I also know that my worthy celebration of these sacred mysteries is at the service of the congregation present, and the entire Church, both on earth and in Purgatory. When the faithful approach their participation at Mass with an understanding that they too are priests, the same dynamic is at play. Though we each benefit individually from the Eucharist, the exercise of our priesthood in the Mass benefits the entire Church. This is expressed beautifully in the faithful’s response to the invitation to prayer just before the Eucharistic Prayer begins: “May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of all His holy Church.” No pressure, but the Church is depending on you to fulfill your priesthood well, so let us not let her down!

Perhaps I can touch on a somewhat sensitive topic as I conclude this article. You will notice, at certain masses, the priest is facing a different direction. This is called *ad orientem* which translated means: “to the East.” The east here is not necessarily true East, but what we would call liturgical East. The directionality of this posture expresses in a visible way what is happening during the Eucharistic Prayer. The priest along with the congregation are directing our prayers in the same direction – to God. As a priest, during the Eucharistic Prayer, I am not addressing the people in the pews, nor are you simply watching and listening to me pray. We are ALL praying to God, and when we are facing the same direction, that is what is being expressed. Even when I am celebrating Mass facing the people, you may notice that I never really look at the congregation except when the prayer is directed that way. Even though I may have many of the words memorized, I still keep my eyes focused on the Missal, on the crucifix on the altar, or the Eucharist in front of me, reminding me as the celebrant to whom I am directing my prayer. Regardless of which way I am facing, my focus (and yours) should always be on God.

I have heard it said that people do not like when the priest “turns his back on the people.” Might I suggest that if that bothers you, perhaps you are focusing too much on the priest and not enough on God? I do not mean to be insensitive with that comment, but I humbly ask you to consider what I have been trying to explain in this article and how it informs the option when a priest celebrates *ad orientem*. Regardless of how you feel about it, let us all receive these words as an invitation to put our priesthood into practice more intentionally by uniting ourselves with the priest in offering all of our attention and our prayers to God.

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 27

7am - Michael Christie
(Chris Sommer)
5:15pm - John S. & Mary Beltramea
Family (John & Debra Beltramea)

Tuesday, November 28

7am - Patricia Klockenkemper
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)
5:15pm - Emily Vincent
(Dr. Stephen & Teena Vincent)

Wednesday, November 29

7am - Carl & Mary Katharine Anderson
(Family)
5:15pm - Cathy
(D.A. Drago)

Thursday, November 30

7am - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)
5:15pm - James Hughes
(The Hughes Family)

Friday, December 1

7am - Harold & Alice Rauscher
(K. Howard)
5:15pm - Special Intention - Candy
Viloshevich (Richard & Kay King)

Saturday, December 2

8am - Donna & Dave Berte
(The Berte's)
4pm - Andrew McGee
(Tom McGee)

Sunday, December 3

7am - For the People
10am - Catholic War Veterans Post
1916 (Catholic War Vets 1916)
5pm - Joyce Ray
(Brian Heatherton)



St. Chrysogonus

Feast Day: November 24th | Patronage: City of Zadar, Croatia | Iconography: Bearded, Arrayed as Roman Military Officer, Carrying emblems of Martyrdom

I want to take you on a tour today. If you walked up to the church of St. Chrysogonus in Rome, you'd see the stout, noble, façade jutting up behind the older 12th century belltower. Stepping through the vestibule and atrium, you'll see a classic example of a Baroque (16th century) Roman Basilica. Ancient columns sedately separate the long nave from narrower aisles down each side of the Church and a coffered ceiling draws the eye upward while your feet are firmly planted on the exquisite comatose floor. Bl. Anna Maria Taigi's tomb (and incorrupt body) is off to your left along with other monuments, and to the right are frescoes depicting saints and angels. If you walked forward, the ambo is perched on one of the ancient columns above a smattering of pews while the 900 year old altar is canopied by a 500 year old baldachino.

But, if you stepped into the sacristy, you'd find a staircase going down, and if you really want to see Rome, and really see this Church, you should continue down the dim and musty stairwell. As your eyes adjust, you find that you have taken several steps back in time. The City has somehow been built on top of itself over the centuries, so if you go 20 feet down, you also go 20 centuries back in time. You immediately see remnants of an earlier church which sits not quite directly under the current one. Built during the reign of Constantine, you are now standing in the first Christian Church in Rome! Before that Emperor constructed the first Cathedral on the Lateran hill, or the first Basilica over St. Peter's bones, Christians had already built one here in this bustling section of Trestevere near to the Tiber River. It only had one big nave – no side aisles – but they did build a beautiful apse to arch over the sanctuary and decorated the walls with vivid frescoes (some still visible) over the five centuries they came to this Church. Off to the right side of this church were rooms where the priests would have vested and other things readied for the Sacred Liturgy, a sacristy in our terminology (they would have called it a "secretarium" in Latin or "pastophoria" in Greek). On the other side of the Church, we find a number of basins or pools that would have been adjacent to the body of the church. There, as the Church exploded in numbers during those first centuries, countless people would have received baptism and began to join the Christians in worship.

Two of the basins are, however, are older, even than this 3rd century Church. They, along with two ancient sarcophagi and some of the crumbled walls, date to before Constantine, perhaps to the days when Rome was a Republic and certainly these were here when persecution raged outside. The extra basins were probably part of a fullonica, where cloth was dyed and cleaned, and the walls are those of a home standing here before the Church was built. Inside that home, Christians would have come to spend the Lord's day together, celebrating the liturgy, eating and praying and reverencing those martyred. Probably someone would have shared the story of St. Chrysogonus, the Roman military officer who prized his service to Christ over his service to Diocletian, and was killed for it. Most of our stories about him indicate he lived up in northern Italy, though his being so celebrated here in Rome may indicate that he, or a similar martyr, actually lived nearby. Certainly, his story inspired many, because when this group decided to risk building the first Christian Church in a city where Christianity wasn't yet legal, they entrusted it, and themselves, to his patronage.

He's also a perfect patron for the Trinitarians who care for the Church today, a religious order that offered themselves in ransom for Christians captured by the Moors.

Fr. Dominic Rankin went to visit this Church every year while he studied in Rome on Monday of the 5th Week of Lent. Each day of Lent is dedicated to a different ancient Roman Church and people will go there for Mass on that day, so the Basilica of St. Chrysogonus was always our destination this last week before Holy Week. Though we don't have 40 such Churches to do the same all throughout Lent, our practice of traveling to 7 different churches here in Springfield on the Evening of Holy Thursday to visit the altars of repose is a miniature version of this idea of practicing pilgrimage during the season of Lent (this "7 Church Walk" was an idea revived and made popular by St. Philip Neri.)

Stewardship of Treasure

November 18th & 19th

Collection numbers for last weekend were unavailable at the time of publication. Please check back next weekend for these collection numbers.

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 27

<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 Immaculate Conception Novena 7:00 PM Church	The Quest Bible Study 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church Immaculate Conception Novena 7:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church Immaculate Conception Novena 7:00 PM Church	Immaculate Conception Novena 7:00 PM Church	Family Lectio 6:00 PM Atrium Immaculate Conception Novena 7:00 PM Church

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



NOVENA IN HONOR OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

**NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 7
7:00PM
CATHEDRAL CHURCH**

Novena in Honor of the Immaculate Conception

Beginning November 29th thru December 7th, 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. Below are the themes with the accompanying readings:

Wednesday, November 29 – St. Joseph and Mary at Nazareth
Very Reverend Brian C. Alford
Rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Thursday, November 30 – St. Elizabeth and Mary at the Visitation
Reverend Paul Lesupati
Parochial Vicar of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Friday, December 1 – The Disciples and Mary at Pentecost
Reverend Peter Harman
Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Effingham

Saturday, December 2 – St. John the Apostle and Mary at Ephesus
Deacon Rob Sgambelluri
Deacon of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Sunday, December 3 – St. James and Mary at the Pillar
Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Monday, December 4 – St. Juan Diego and Mary at Guadalupe
Reverend Dominic Vahling
Chaplain at Sacred-Heart Griffin High School

Tuesday, December 5 – St. Catherine Laboure and Mary at Paris
Reverend Dominic Rankin
Promoter of Vocations and Episcopal Master of Ceremonies

Wednesday, December 6 – St. Bernadette and Mary at Lourdes
Deacon Larry Smith
Deacon of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Thursday, December 7 – St. Jacinta and Mary at Fatima
Reverend Augustine Puchner, O.Praem.
Prior of Corpus Christi Priory (Norbertines) in Springfield

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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.signuggenius.com/go/9040A4FA5AF2FAAFB6-advent>

Keep Christ in Christmas Contest

Do you have a young artist in your family? Cathedral's Father Augustine Tolton Knights of Columbus Council would love to have them show their skills in the KofC's annual Keep Christ in Christmas poster challenge! Children between five and fourteen will have until December 17th to design their own poster celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. Winners in each of three age groups will receive a \$25 gift card and their entry will advance to the next level in this national contest. All entries will be displayed in the Atrium. The Knights have materials, information, and entry forms available in the Atrium and posters can be returned to the box that will be placed in the Atrium closer to the end date. For more information email or questions email info.kofc16126@gmail.com.

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.

Springfield Right to Life's "LIFE" calendars are HERE!

These unique calendars feature beautiful art work from 8th grade students who embarked on a pro-life art project translating their thoughts into visual art using various media. It is a testament to the beauty of youth advocating for the sanctity of life in their own unique way. This beautiful calendar can be yours with a \$20 donation to SRTL. Call, email or stop by SRTL for your copy today...or contact SRTL to help get one delivered to you! You are making a difference in the lives of many children. God Bless you! Springfield Right to Life/519 North Bruns Lane/Springfield, IL 62702 - 217-523-2700 /springfieldrtl.org.

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." Wednesday, December 13 @ 7:00pm, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

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!

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.

The King Comes Holding a Mirror

Of all the many wonderful, thorough examinations of conscience I have come across, the one I normally utilize is very simple, and perfectly suited to someone like me who is not capable of profound thought at the end of the day.

It's just one very short question: Which Christs did I not recognize today?

The King always comes in disguise, and I know I miss him in so many ways every single day. I miss him in people ignored or dismissed. I miss him in opportunities avoided and in moments that could have turned into prayer but instead turned into phone-scrolling. I miss him when he is right in front of me, holding up a mirror and calling my name, begging for my conversion of heart.

The Christian life calls us to constant self-scrutiny. It's not a comfortable life, always thinking about what you could do better, but the Lord shepherds us rightly. His pastures have nothing to offer those who are perfect and strong.

He has gone in search of the lost. He has reclaimed those who have strayed, healed those who were injured, given rest to those who were weary.

We can't be followers of Christ if we are not willing to own our sins. God's mercy does not dismiss our sins, as if they never existed and were not important.

No, it does something far, far better — God's mercy absolves our sins. It sets us free from them. But to be truly free, you have to understand the tyranny of what once enslaved you.

"And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats." — Matthew 25:32

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.
- **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 or by calling or texting Sister Beth Murphy, OP, at 312-780-9553.