

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

DECEMBER 3, 2023 | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 49

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!



Let Us Give Thanks to the Lord our God

Last week, I introduced the Eucharistic Prayer and quoted that important line in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal that this part of the Mass is “the center and high point of the entire celebration.” (GIRM, 78)

The GIRM explains that there are seven main elements of the Eucharistic Prayer, beginning fittingly with thanksgiving. We read the following:

The thanksgiving (expressed especially in the Preface), in which the Priest, in the name of the whole of the holy people, glorifies God the Father and gives thanks to him for the whole work of salvation or for some particular aspect of it, according to the varying day, festivity, or time of year. (GIRM, 79)

The invitation to thanksgiving begins with that powerful exchange between celebrant and congregation which begins every Preface:

Extending his hands, he says: **The Lord be with you.**

The people reply: **And with your spirit.**

The Priest, raising his hands, continues: **Lift up your hearts.**

The people: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

The Priest, with hands extended, adds: **Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

The people: **It is right and just.**

Most prefaces then continue to emphasize thanksgiving with these or similar words:

*It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.*

Since this dialog and the first words of the Preface are almost always identical, we know that this is another one of those places in the Mass where we can easily fall into our routine responses, given more out of muscle memory than out of true devotion and thanksgiving.

Think about how radical these words are, though. In our hearts, we let the priest celebrant speak on our behalf that it is “right and just” for us to give thanks “always and everywhere.” This echoes the sentiment of St. Paul who wrote: “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

When we truly enter into this prayer, we acknowledge that all that we have is a gift, and for that we thank God for His abundant generosity. But we also thank Him for those things in our lives which we do not consider blessings – such as sufferings, disappointments, and discouragements. But we believe what St. Paul also tells us, “that all things work for the good for those who love God.” (Rom 8:28) We may not always feel like giving thanks to God for these things, but as we pray, so we must believe, that it is “truly right and just” for us to do so. And if we are having trouble reconciling that tension of saying something we do not yet fully believe, we take comfort in trusting that the gifts offered on the altar are about to be transformed into the Body and Blood, soul and divinity of Jesus, so too may our half-hearted offering of thanks be transformed into a pleasing sacrifice of thanks to the Lord for everything. This includes all that He has given, and all that He has allowed in His Providence for us to experience. For nothing is outside of the Lord’s awareness, and there is nothing He does not desire to heal and bless through His abundant generosity. For that, we give thanks!

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, December 4

7am - Ryan McCarty

(Chris Sommer)

5:15pm - Puring Garde
(Family)

Tuesday, December 5

7am - John Brunk & Deceased
Members (Family)

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

Wednesday, December 6

7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Community)

5:15pm - Ana Celia Miranda
(Iris Miranda Kirschner)

Thursday, December 7

7am - Kenneth Stetyick
(Fr. Zach Edgar)

5:15pm - William F. Logan
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

Friday, December 8

7am - Charles & Helen Jane Baker
(K. Howard)

12:05pm - For the People
5:15pm - Intention for Bianca
(D.A. Drago)

Saturday, December 9

8am - Betty & Gene Barish
(Family)

4pm - For the People

Sunday, December 10

7am - John W. Montgomery
(John Busciacco)

10am - Cathryn Moore Smith
(Bev & Larry Smith)

5pm - Mary Celine Sestak
(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)



St. Andrew, Apostle

Feast Day: November 30th | Patronage: of Scotland, Barbados, Georgia, Ukraine, Russia, Greece, Cyprus, Romania, Patras, and Burgundy; for Fishermen, Fishmongers, Rope & Textile Makers, Singers, Butchers, Farm-Workers; Protects against Fever, Cough, Convulsions, Sore throats, and for Pregnant women | Iconography: Holding Book or Scroll (as Apostle), Leaning on Saltire (X/Diagonal Cross; from his martyrdom), With Fishing Net (as Fisherman), With Crazy White Hair (Because Making Disciples does that to you).

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. – Matthew 4:18-20

If you will, put yourself in this scene, in the sandals of Simon and Andrew. They were fishermen, living in Capernaum, going out on the Sea of Galilee to catch fish and sell them to make ends meet. Not a particularly prominent industry, but important. Simon has an Aramaic name, but his younger brother Andrew has a Greek name, which immediately brings to mind the mix of Jews and Greeks that lived up here, as well as the Roman governors who kept an eye on things, and levied a tax on the brothers every time they caught a fish.

Then they encountered John the Baptist and these were the kind of men who took the prophetic character seriously. Something about this man from the desert – calling out sin, calling for repentance, claiming the messiah was on his way – captured their solid, hardworking, but faithful hearts. Later in the Gospels Andrew's being practical, pragmatic, and hardy is reinforced. He's the guy who pointed out the kid with five loaves and two fish before the multiplication in Galilee (John 6:8-9). He is also the one when Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple to push aside his horror and ask "when will this be?" (Mark 13:4)

But it is also Andrew (with Philip, the two apostles with Greek names) who bring some Greeks who were in Jerusalem for the Passover to meet Jesus. Now, this is right before His passion, so it displays that same pragmatic bent: "well, I don't know what to say to them ... and I know Jesus has things on His mind ... but I'm just going to bring them to Him." BUT, this little scene brings out something else about Andrew: He invited people to meet Jesus. Here he does it with the Greeks, earlier he did it with Simon his own brother.

And this is where I hope he can inspire and help all of us this week. He was just a fisherman, nothing special there. He had a certain practical, blue-collar, realistic approach to just about anything. Yet this does not slow him down from making disciples of those around him. He doesn't give some glorious, convincing, engaging pitch. He doesn't have the mind to win arguments or write epistles. He isn't, at this beginning, working miracles or convicting sinners. He doesn't even seem to have the closest relationship to Jesus (compared to Peter, James, or John) or have some sort of leg-up on the spiritual life. He just knows something about who Jesus is, how Jesus has called him, and he just extends the invitation to concrete people around him.

Our challenge this week: I want all of us to consider how we have come to follow Jesus, and then tell that story to one other person. Four steps (these are all from Acts 26, when St. Paul gives his testimony to Agrippa!):

1. My life before knowing Jesus intimately – What was I like socially, spiritually, emotionally before Christ impacted me? (Paul speaks about his devotion to Judaism, how it prepared, but also closed him off to Jesus.)
2. How I came to know Jesus, and His Church – What happened when I encountered Jesus (perhaps in a new, or gradual way)? Who or what brought me into deeper relationship with Jesus? (Paul talks about the road to Damascus.)
3. Life in Christ – How do I live now? What has changed inside my heart, in my actions, in my plans or dreams? (Paul tells of the dramatic conversion that happened in him and how he has now gone to preach the Gospel).
4. What next? – Speak on where Jesus continues to work in you – none of us are finished yet! But, also ask the other person for their response. What if Jesus entered their life? What if they said "yes" to Him? Where might He be inviting them?

Fr. Dominic Rankin hasn't got this figured out either! And neither did Andrew! But he went from just fishing, to following the messiah, to proclaiming that message to the whole world. But the key was just telling others the story of how he met the Lord.

Stewardship of Treasure

November 18th & 19th

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Envelopes: | \$5,965.00 |
| Loose: | \$4,354.00 |
| Maintenance: | \$303.00 |
| Total: | \$10,622.00 |

November 25th & 26th

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Envelopes: | \$5,361.00 |
| Loose: | \$3,355.00 |
| Maintenance: | \$335.00 |
| Total: | \$9,051.00 |

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 DECEMBER 4

| <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 | Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library | The Quest Bible Study 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library | Rosary 4:45 PM Church | Messiah Concert 7:30 PM Church | Advent Lessons and Carols 7:00 PM Church |
| Immaculate Conception Novena 7:00 PM Church | Adoration 4:00 PM Church | Rosary 4:45 PM Church | Adoration 4:00 PM Church | | | |
| | Immaculate Conception Novena 7:00 PM Church | Cathedral Bible Study 6:00 PM Parish Library | Immaculate Conception Novena 7:00 PM Church | | | |
| | | Choir 7:00 PM School Classroom | | | | |
| | | 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

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 until December 7. 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:

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

Seeds of the Word Film Series - Joyeux Noel

Our December film is Joyeux Noel, a 2005 Academy Award winning war drama based on the Christmas truce of December 1914, depicted through the eyes of French, British, and German soldiers. As war and conflict rages around the globe, let us watch together a powerful and must see film about the futility of war. This film series is for adults only so you may bring a bottle of wine, or other beverage of your choice, and we'll provide the popcorn! Friday, December 15, 7:00pm, Cathedral Atrium

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.

Extended Confessions

The Cathedral will be hosting extended confession hours on Friday, December 22nd from 12pm to 6:30pm, and Saturday, December 23rd from 7am to 5:30pm. Please consider joining us so as to prepare well for the celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas.

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



CCCW Bake Sale

Calling Holiday Bakers! The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women's Bake Sale is returning this year. Mark your calendars for the CCCW Bake Sale after Masses December 16 - 17. Donations of holiday cookies, candies, 8" x 8" cakes, breads, brownies and any other treats may be dropped off in the atrium on Friday, December 15 from 8:30 AM until 6:00 PM. Please package in disposable containers. Contact Kathy Cutler at 217-494-3686 with any questions. Thank you for your continued support.

Rorate Caeli Mass

Join us for Cathedral's Rorate Caeli candlelit Mass in honor of Our Lady during Advent. The Rorate Mass is lit only by candlelight. In the dimly lit setting, priests and faithful prepare to honor the light of the world who is soon to be born and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illuminated by the sun as our Faith is illuminated by Christ. All are welcome to join us for this special Mass! Saturday, December 23rd - 6:00AM @ Cathedral

FORMED Advent Resources

Explore great content on FORMED during the seasons of Advent and Christmas! FORMED is featuring two new Advent programs: Rooted: Rediscovering the Jesse Tree for adults and Drawing Closer to God: A Catholic Art Show for Kids. Visit signup.formed.org and enter our parish name or zip code, 62703 to gain access to more Advent resources!

A Big Screen TV for Christmas!

The CCCW is selling raffle tickets for a 65" TCL ROKU SMART TV, model #65S41. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5, and will be sold after all weekend Masses through December 17th. The winning ticket will be drawn at our December 21st meeting. The perfect gift for you or someone on your Christmas list!

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 - Retirement Fund for Religious

We are called to recognize that many of our senior vowed religious have dedicated their lives to service, usually receiving little pay in return. Consequently, their religious communities face a shortage of retirement savings. Compounding this challenge are rising health-care costs and decreased income. Religious communities find it increasingly difficult to meet the day-to-day needs of aging members, including their medical expenses, nursing assistance and other necessities.

Your generous donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide vital financial support, enabling religious communities to care for their aging members. We invite you to contribute whatever you can toward this year's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. In addition to your financial contribution, please keep all our women and men religious in your prayers. May God's abundant blessings be upon you and your loved ones.

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>.

Butler Funeral Home Peace of Mind Seminar

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:

Peace of Mind Seminar
Wednesday, December 13th
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Bella Milano
4525 Wabash Ave.
Springfield, IL 62711

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, December 11th.

- **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!
- **Advent Taize Prayer**, Sunday, December 3 @ 6pm at St. Francis Cabrini Church. Join us for an ecumenical contemplative and meditative prayer of healing and reconciliation with Scripture, sung prayer, music, and silence celebrated in candlelight. Please bring a gift of food for the poor.
- **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.
- **Young Adult Advent Retreat Day**, Dec 9th 9am-5pm co-hosted by the Norbertines. The topic is "Advent and Our Lady." No registration fee, but a collection will be taken up to support the work of the Norbertines. Bring your own lunch. Contact theforgespringfield@gmail.com with any questions. Registration link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfd6iVY340Eh2AlbQ2h1EtNEIDvwqhEXRVIFGFeg!BOsYBxuw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>