

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

DECEMBER 10, 2023 | SECOND 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 50

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!



Holy, Holy, Holy!

In my previous article, I noted that the General Instruction of the Roman Missal identifies seven main elements of the Eucharistic Prayer. We reflected last week on the first element of thanksgiving, which leads into the second element: acclamation. Here is what we read in the GIRM:

The acclamation, by which the whole congregation, joining with the heavenly powers, sings the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy). This acclamation, which constitutes part of the Eucharistic Prayer itself, is pronounced by all the people with the Priest. (GIRM, 79)

It has been a few articles since I referenced Venerable Bruno Lanteri's beautiful reflections on praying the Mass by seeking the sentiments and the heart of some biblical figure who helps us to better pray those different moments in the liturgy. So let us return to his thoughts as we begin the Eucharistic Prayer. As the Preface is prayed and the Sanctus is sung, Lanteri proposes the following image: "At the Preface, I will seek the sentiments and the heart of the Heavenly Court." Father Timothy Gallagher, the author of the book from which these reflections come, writes:

When we pray, "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory," we say this together with the Heavenly Court...when the priest prays the Preface, you join your heart to his words as you listen, and when you say or sing the Holy, Holy, Holy, you are praying with the angels, archangels, and all the heavenly host. (A Biblical Way of Praying the Mass, p. 58 of Kindle version of book)

At this point of the Mass, I sometimes just close my eyes and picture the scene of being surrounded by saints and angels who are all gathered around the throne of the lamb to worship Him. I find this especially helpful if the number of people at Mass might not be that many. What we see with our human eyes may be somewhat disappointing, but what we see with our eyes of faith is extremely encouraging and consoling. Though the angels are not taking up space, I imagine them standing in every place where there is a gap in the pews, lining all of the aisles, and filling up the sanctuary.

I go back to the reflection I wrote a few weeks ago of my experience of the closing Mass for our Eucharistic Congress. Looking around the arena, the space was filled with people who were praising God together, a foretaste of what we await in the heavenly liturgy. But even there, with nearly 5000 people in attendance, think of how much more impressive the sight was from Heaven, where that multitude beyond counting was present with us, singing Holy, Holy, Holy to the Lord of Hosts.

To the skeptic who lives only in this world and for this world, such a vision may seem ridiculous or childish, but for us who are called to be childlike when we approach the Lord, it makes perfect sense and we are filled with joy to be joining in this amazing prayer with the entire Church – those in Heaven and on earth, from every time – past present and future. What a gift the Mass is for us who believe!

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 11

7am - Mathias Bates
(Bates Family)
5:15pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)

Tuesday, December 12

7am - Brother Frances Skube
(Friends)
5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway
(Robert Gasaway)

Wednesday, December 13

7am - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)
5:15pm - Ann Gustafson
(Jeannette Giannone)

Thursday, December 14

7am - Herbert Priester
(Priester Family)
5:15pm - Shirley Logan
(Lisa Logan & Lisa Logan Motyka)

Friday, December 15

7am - Ben Garde
(Family)
5:15pm - Kristen King & Family
(Richard & Kay King)

Saturday, December 16

8am - Emma Shafer
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)
4pm - Pamela Harmon
(Archie Harmon)

Sunday, December 17

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(William Midden)
10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)
5pm - For the People



SSs. Polydore Plasden, Eustace White, Edmund Gennings, Swithun Wells, John Mason, Sydney Hodson, & Bryan Lacey

Feast Day: December 10th

The date was November 2nd, 1591. William Shakespeare was at that time putting the finishing touches on his play, Henry VI, Part 1. Uncannily anticipating the Marvel Cinematic Universe by centuries, this play would eventually stand alongside seven further plays of the next several years, prequels and sequels enthralling thousands with their interconnected depiction of the heroes, heroines, and villains involved in the rise of the English Kings and War of the Roses.

Mr. Swithun Wells – a poet, schoolmaster, European traveler, country gentleman, and revert to Catholicism – was the owner of a comfortable country home near Gray's Inn, on the (then) outskirts of London, just across the Thames from where Shakespeare's play would debut 6 months later. Swithun was, on that chilly morning, regretting that he wasn't home because his wife, Margaret (or Alice) and three gentlemen, John Mason, Sidney Hodgson, and Brian Lacey, were participating in a Mass celebrated at the Wells home by Fr. Edmund Gennings. Two other priests, Fr. Eustace White (31) and Fr. Polydore Plasden (27) were also present, but must have offered the younger priest the privilege of celebrating Mass on the feast of All Souls.

Perhaps Fr. Edmund asked if he could. He had been ordained one year before and was only 24 years old. His nickname from seminary, turned his codename in the underground Catholic Church under Elizabethan England, was "Ironmonger." (Hilariously, this is the name of a Marvel comic-book character who tries to takeover Tony Stark's company and gain control of his Ironman technology). Fr. Edmund had lost all of his immediate family except for a brother while in seminary in France (a loss made all the more tragic by their previous rejection of him for his choice to remain Catholic, and become a Catholic priest). No doubt he offered some of those sorrows to God, and entrusted the souls of his estranged and fallen-away parents to the Lord, while celebrating Mass on that solemn feast.

As the Consecration was concluding, heavy fists beat upon the door. Richard Topcliffe, the remorseless and vicious priest-hunter of Queen Elizabeth I had arrived. He was renowned for his tenacity in hunting down Catholics, especially priests, and torturing them to death in all sorts of horrible ways. Certainly, his reputation was known to those in the room as they held the door against Her Majesty's forces while Fr. Edmund finished offering Mass. Swithun, hurrying back, having been arrested before, knew what to expect too, when he joined his wife, the three priests, and the other men as they were captured.

Topcliffe would torture each man over the coming weeks (Alice was pardoned for the moment) killing them all on December 10th 1591. He hung Fr. White for eight hours in iron manacles. The priest's only reply: "Lord, more pain if Thou pleases and more patience." Also martyred at Tyburn, Fr. Polydore's proclamation before being hung as a traitor was to acknowledge and pray for Elizabeth, but that he could not deny His Savior for her: "I am a Catholic priest, therefore I would never fight, nor counsel others to fight against my religion, for that were to deny my faith." Looking up to heaven and kissing the rope on which he would hang, he continued, "O Christ, I will never deny Thee for a thousand lives." The three laymen were likewise killed at Tyburn.

On the same day Swithun watched the gibbet rise near his home for his own execution. Fr. Gennings was hung (and drawn and quartered) first and, amid his tortures, only said "Saint Gregory, pray for me." In a turn of phrase that could have just as easily been spoken by a comic-book villain, his executioner was said to have exclaimed "Zounds! See, his heart is in my hand, and yet Gregory is in his mouth. O egregious Papist." The priest's words, though, gave courage to Mr. Wells, who jested with Topcliffe's insults as he mounted the scaffold, but then asked his torturer's pardon for he needed to turn his mind to more important matters. Genning's words would, unbeknownst to him, also bring about the conversion of his scornful brother, John, who would go on to be ordained a Franciscan priest:

[John, writing this himself in the third-person] made long discourses concerning his religion and his brother's, comparing the Catholic manner of living with his, and finding the one to embrace pain and mortification, and the other to seek pleasure. the one to live strictly, and the other licentiously; the one to fear sin, the other to run into all kinds of sin. Upon this, being struck with exceeding terror and remorse, he wept bitterly, desiring God, after his fashion, to illuminate his understanding that he might see and perceive the truth. Oh! what great joy and consolation did he feel at that instant; what reverence on the sudden did he begin to bear to the Blessed Virgin and to the Saints of God, which before he had never scarce heard tell of; what strange motions, as it were inspirations, with exceeding readiness of will to change his religion, took possession of his soul; and what a heavenly conceit had he now of his dear brother's felicity! He imagined he saw him; he thought he heard him. In this ecstasy of mind, he made a vow upon the spot, as he lay prostrate on the ground, To forsake kindred and country to find out the true knowledge of his brother's faith; which vow he soon after performed, and departed England without advertising any one of his friends, and went beyond the seas to execute his promise.

Fr. Dominic Rankin invites you this week to join him in imagining yourself at that last Mass of Fr. Gennings. What would their thoughts be while receiving Holy Communion as Topcliffe battered the door? What are yours, and mine, as we receive Jesus ourselves?

Stewardship of Treasure

December 2nd & 3rd

Envelopes:	\$4,348.00
Loose:	\$2,544.00
Maintenance:	\$855.00
Total:	\$7,747.00

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!

Sacraments Weddings

Connor Brewer & Amethyst Sidener
Married on December 2, 2023

WEEK OF DECEMBER 11

MONDAY

Rosary
4:45 PM
Church

TUESDAY

Grief Share
1:00 PM
School Library

Adoration
4:00 PM
Church

WEDNESDAY

Men's Bible Study
6:00 AM
School Library

Rosary
4:45 PM
Church

Choir
7:00 PM
School Classroom

St. Monica Ministry
7:00 PM
School Library

THURSDAY

The Quest Bible
Study
10:00 AM & 1:00 PM
School Library

Adoration
4:00 PM
Church

FRIDAY

Rosary
4:45 PM
Church

Seeds of the
Word Film
Series
7:00 PM
Atrium

SATURDAY

CCCW Bake
Sale

SUNDAY

CCCW Bake
Sale

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



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



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.

EXTENDED CONFESSIONS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22
12:00PM – 6:30PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23
7:00AM – 5:30PM

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.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Signs!

You may have noticed that we have new electronic signs on the Cathedral campus. We are grateful to the generous benefactor who contributed significantly to pay for these new and improved signs. For the sign at 5th and Lawrence, we also have a new concrete barrier to hopefully prevent cars from running into the sign, which unfortunately happened on more than once with the old sign.

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!

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.

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!

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

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

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

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.

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!

Blood Pressure Checks - December 16th & 17th

Our parish nurse will be available for blood pressure checks before and after masses next weekend. Please stop by!

The World Is Pregnant

There is a character, Rose of Sharon, in John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* who is pregnant with her first child. As her impoverished family migrates from their native Oklahoma to California, Rose of Sharon's all-consuming preoccupation is her unborn child. Everything she eats, every drink she lets pass her lips, every action she takes — none of it is done without thought for the child that is still so small as to make his mother's expectancy barely discernible to the naked eye.

"For Rose of Sharon was pregnant," wrote Steinbeck. "And the world was pregnant to her."

It is the same for us Christians in the Advent season. We can feel a change coming, and the hope of this change consumes us. It shapes our actions and our plans, we feel it in our hearts and in our souls and in our limbs. From the food we eat to the clothing we wear to the words we use, the unseen Child lives and breathes and works in every small part of this blessed season.

Even the commercial clamor that is the secular "Christmas holiday" cannot fully distract us from the holy sense of anticipation we have. We are baptized, and so it is inside of us, this voice that cries out in the desert. When we hear it, we cannot help but listen.

The Virgin is pregnant, and the world is pregnant to us.

"We await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." — 2 Peter 3:13

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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Around the Diocese

- **Christ the King Parish Bible Study**, "What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith", from Ascension Press; 10 sessions, with 30-minute videos, a workbook, chart, paperback and online access to the videos for one year; cost of the set is \$30 + shipping. Sessions start on January 16, 2024, on Tuesdays from 9:30a-11a in the Christ the King Parish Center. Due to shipping difficulties, the deadline to sign up is Sunday, December 17. Please contact Mary Kay Hinkle at mbhinkle75@comcast.net or leave a message at 217-787-9750.
- **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/1FAIpQLSfd6iVY340Eh2AlbQ2h1EtNEIDvwqhEXRVIFGFegIBOsYBxuw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>