

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**DECEMBER 17, 2023 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



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

# *Cathedral Weekly*

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 51

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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  
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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!



## Eucharistic Prayers

After joining the angels and saints in Heaven in joyfully singing the “Holy, Holy, Holy”, the faithful kneel down and the church falls silent as the lone voice of the priest continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.

At this point, for those who may be following along with the priest at Mass with some sort of worship aid, a question arises. Which Eucharistic Prayer will the celebrant use? Before the revision of the Roman Missal following the Second Vatican Council, this was never a question. There was only one Eucharistic Prayer that was ever used, known as the Roman Canon. The word “canon” means “fixed rule”, indicating that for this part of the Mass, the prayers are

always the same, no matter the day of the year, with some slight inclusions on special occasions.

With the new Roman Missal that was promulgated after the Council, the celebrant was given some flexibility in choosing which Eucharistic Prayer to use. There are four main Eucharistic Prayers from which to choose, though there are some additional ones provided for different occasions, but I will just focus on the main four for the sake of our reflections.

The Roman Canon, mentioned above, continues to be an option, and it is also known as Eucharistic Prayer I. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal describes this prayer in the following way:

*Eucharistic Prayer I, or the Roman Canon, which may always be used, is especially suited for use on days to which a proper text for the Communicantes (In communion with those whose memory we venerate) is assigned or in Masses endowed with a proper form of the Hanc igitur (Therefore, Lord, we pray) and also in the celebrations of the Apostles and of the Saints mentioned in the Prayer itself; likewise it is especially suited for use on Sundays, unless for pastoral reasons Eucharistic Prayer III is preferred. (GIRM, 365a)*

Here at the Cathedral, you will hear us using this Eucharistic Prayer on more solemn Sundays and Solemnities, though there is no reason it cannot be used at any time. A beautiful aspect of this prayer is that it helps to show the continuity in the liturgy of the Church throughout the ages. Those who may not have a strong affinity for the Mass celebrated according to the Roman Missal of 1962 (which people sometimes call the Latin Mass) may think that using this prayer is going backward to a previous time when this was used. And since it is longer, people might not like it as much. But get used to hearing it as we approach Christmas, and listen well to how beautiful the words are.

Eucharistic Prayer II is another option, and according to the GIRM, is more appropriate for weekdays. The GIRM states that for Eucharistic Prayer III, “[i]ts use should be preferred on Sundays and festive days.” (GIRM, 365c) And finally, Eucharistic Prayer IV, used less frequently, is described as follows:

*Eucharistic Prayer IV has an invariable Preface and gives a fuller summary of salvation history. It may be used when a Mass has no Preface of its own and on Sundays in Ordinary Time. (GIRM, 365d)*

You will therefore never hear Eucharistic Prayer IV during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter, or on any day in which a solemnity, feast day, or memorial is observed.

Those are the general principles that a celebrant follows when choosing a Eucharistic Prayer, though note that there is a lot of freedom in the choice made. Hopefully this clears up some of the questions that arises on why a certain Eucharistic Prayer is used and when it is used.

*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 18

7am - Barbara Conkrite  
(Litina Carnes)

5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway  
(Robert Gasaway)

### Tuesday, December 19

7am - Emily Vincent  
(Dr. Stephen & Teena Vincent)  
5:15pm - Frank Coffey  
(Family)

### Wednesday, December 20

7am - Presca F. Simbajon  
(Lolita F. Klicker)  
5:15pm - John Brunk & Deceased  
Members (Estate)

### Thursday, December 21

7am - Mary Kay Butler Harrelson  
(Mary Kay Butler Harrelson)  
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube  
(Community)

### Friday, December 22

7am - Cathy  
(D.A. Drago)  
5:15pm - Margaret Graham  
(Tom McGee)

### Saturday, December 23

6am - Mark Kessler  
(Joe & Betty Kessler)  
8am - NO MASS  
4pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl  
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

### Sunday, December 24

7am - John & Edith Bakalar  
(John Busciacco)  
10am - Patrick Ketchum  
(Chris Sommer)  
4pm - Barbara McGee  
(Tom McGee)  
7pm - Geny Severino  
(Fr. Paul Lesupati)





## **Ss. Florian, Calinicus & Companions; St. Lazarus; St. John de Matha; St. Sturmius; St. Vivana; St. Olymbiades; and St. Andenne**

**Feast Day: December 17th**

This week, our story begins with the day's page from the Roman Martyrology. On the one hand, this is simply an extensive (though not exhaustive) list of the Church's saints, giving a miniature summation of their lives, depicting in short form why each is a saint we should emulate. Yet this simple document, as it lists the saints who have entered heaven on day after day after day sparkles with lives lived out of God's grace. On the nondescript day of December 17th, we discover countless men and women who have gone ahead of us into the Eternal Life offered to us as well.

*At Eleutheropolis, in Palestine, the holy martyrs Florian, Calanicus and their fifty-eight companions, who were massacred by the Saracens for the faith of Christ, in the time of the emperor Heraclius.*

*At Marseilles, in France, blessed Lazarus, bishop, who was raised from the dead by our Lord, as we read in the Gospel.*

*At Rome, St. John de Matha, founder of the Order of the Most Holy Trinity for the Redemption of Captives. His festival is observed on the 8th of February, according to the decree of Innocent XI.*

*In the monastery of Fulda, the holy abbot Sturmius, abbot and apostle of Saxony, who was ranked among the saints by Innocent II., in the second Council of Lateran.*

*At Bigarden, near Brussels, St. Vivina, virgin, whose eminent sanctity is attested by frequent miracles.*

*At Constantinople, St. Olympiades, widow.*

*At Andenne, at the Seven Churches, St. Begga, widow, sister of St. Gertrude.*

...

*And elsewhere many other holy martyrs, confessors and holy virgins.*

*Thanks be to God.*

Please spend a few moments contemplating these holy men and women. Perhaps you look up Eleutheropolis and discover that the city where those 60 Christians were martyred is now in the West Bank. Can those holy men and women offer hope to those killed, and suffering, on that same soil today? Can they pray for us to see, as they did, that eternal life is a far greater good than earthly life, yet both are gifts from God that we must protect?

Or, you notice Lazarus, and realize that this beloved friend of Jesus, raised from his grave, made his way carrying the Gospel all the way to Marseilles and there shepherded a fledgling community of Christians. When has God marvelously given you a new chance at life? And, have you used it to similarly proclaim His Salvation?

Can St. John de Matha, who founded the Trinitarian Order which we recalled a few weeks ago on the feast of St. Chrysogonus (they care for his relics), stir our hearts – as Our Lord asks – to consider where people around us remain captive, and work to free them from their shackles? Do we see them as Christ to such an extent that we would risk our own lives to bring them Christ's Freedom?

St. Sturmianus reminds us of the sanctity, and power, of remaining faithful to whatever responsibility God has given to us. Synods still debate, heresies still rage, Popes still reign, and pagans still need Jesus, but what if you and I today just took care of our inner monastery, our domestic Church, our little parcel of God's vineyard?

Sweeping across continents, and across centuries, now we consider St. Vivina's simplicity. Surely she had great hopes and dreams and plans and prayers, but the miracles and wonders we marvel at only happened after her death. Can we be content with being little saints? Can we be committed to being little saints? Can we be saints in little things?

Finally, looking at the double example of St. Olymbiades and St. Begga, known solely for their being widowed, and becoming saints. Do you mourn the loss, or expect to lose, someone near to you? Could St. Olymbiades, a humble saint from a big city, show you how to let Christ consecrate your grief? Can St. Begga, a sister and friend, show you how to keep loving through that pain?

*Fr. Dominic Rankin is struck not only by the fact that these saints show us holiness across all locations, and ages, of the Church, and not only in every different situation and walk of life, but that they also sanctify even the time that they occupied, especially the day on which they left this world for heaven. One of the days of the year will be my, and your, feast-day as well. What if ours was December 17th too? Are we ready? Are we preparing? Are we looking forward to that day?*

## **Stewardship of Treasure**

### **December 9th & 10th**

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

### **November EFT**

\$18,748.80

### **November Debt Reduction**

\$1,760.00

### **November Second Collections**

Campaign for Justice & Hope  
\$3,050.00

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 18

<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  Cathedral Bible Study 6:00pm Parish Library  Choir 7:00 PM School Classroom	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Advent Extended Confessions 12:00 PM - 6:30 PM Church  Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Rorate Caeli Mass 6:00 AM Church  Advent Extended Confessions 7:00 AM - 5:30 PM Church	Christmas Eve Masses 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM Church

## What's Going on Around the 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.

### RORATE CAELI MASS

**CATHEDRAL CHURCH**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23**  
**6:00AM**

#### 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

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## 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](mailto: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!

## Carols at Noon

Join us at the Cathedral as Mark Gifford plays an hour of Christmas Carols on the Cathedral Pipe Organ!  
Tuesday, December 26th - 12:00PM @ 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](https://signup.formed.org) and enter our parish name or zip code, 62703 to gain access to more Advent resources! Our parish subscription to Formed was funded in part through a grant from the Harvest of Thanks, Springtime of Hope Capital Campaign.

## 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!

## CCCW Potluck Christmas Gathering

All Cathedral ladies are invited to the CCCW Christmas potluck and White Elephant gift exchange on Thursday, December 21st. We will gather at 6:00 pm in the school hall. The winning ticket for the 65" TV will also be drawn. Please join us for an evening of fun, food and fellowship!

## 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.



## Testimony

When my grandmother heard the news that my cousin had fallen from a second-story window, she immediately went and washed her hair.

Grandma had been sitting alone in her house, listening to the morning radio when the announcer shared a news bulletin stating that the previous night, a little boy with the same name as her grandson, living in the same community and of the same age, had fallen onto the pavement from a window on the second floor of his house. He had been rushed to the hospital but miraculously survived his injuries.

She thought she was hallucinating and wanted to look pretty when the “men in white coats” came to take her away. Thus, the hair-washing.

As it happens, the whole story was true — it was her grandson, but this was before the age of mobile phones and had happened so late at night that his parents had been unable to notify any family members before the whole thing showed up on the news.

It wasn't until my grandmother received a phone call from another relative corroborating the story that she realized it hadn't been a figment of her imagination. What a waste of styled hair, no hospital committal for her that day.

There are certain truths that we cannot accept unless they are supported by the testimony of others. We find them to be unbelievable without the reassurance of another person whispering, “It's okay. I see it, too.”

This is the value of testimony, and the purpose of John the Baptist and every saint who ever died with the name of Jesus Christ on their lips. And this is the sacred duty of all the baptized, to give testimony with our words and our actions.

How will you testify today?

*“He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.” — John 1:8*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman  
©LPi

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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](mailto:mbhinkle75@comcast.net) or leave a message at 217-787-9750.
- **Springfield Right to Life "Peace in the Womb"**, Sunday- December 17th from 4-5p.m. at the Springfield Right to Life office at 519 N. Bruns Lane, Springfield, IL; Join us for Christmas Caroling in front of Planned Parenthood and a Christmas open house.