

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JANUARY 7, 2024 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



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 6 ISSUE 1

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



Stepping Outside of Time

During the past couple of years, as we have been journeying through this time of Eucharistic Revival, it is not uncommon to see pictures on the Internet, in magazines, and on social media of a priest elevating the Sacred Host or Chalice at the Consecration during Mass. These are indeed inspiring pictures, especially as you see the eyes of the priest gazing in loving adoration at the Word become flesh in the Eucharist. In that regard, one of my favorite pictures from the Eucharistic Congress is a picture that was taken as Bishop Paprocki elevated the Host during the Consecration at the Mass.

Although always inspiring, there are times when I see a picture of that sacred moment of the Mass when I become a little distracted, and that is when I notice a priest wearing a watch on his wrist! This is not meant to be a criticism on any of those priests, but it is something on which I have often reflected. When we enter into the Mass, we step outside of time, to some extent. Personally, I find having a watch on distracts me from being aware of entering this aspect of this mystery. Of course, time does not physically stop, but through our participation in the Sacred Mysteries, we are brought into a mystery that transcends time. This is brought to our attention in the Eucharistic Prayer immediately after the sacred species are consecrated in what is known as the anamnesis. This is a Greek word which basically means "remembrance" and it comes from Jesus's command at the Last Supper: "do this in memory (*anamnesis*) of me." (Lk 22:19)

What we are remembering is not just the Last Supper, but the entire Paschal Mystery, which includes His Passion, Resurrection and Ascension. The anamnesis is the fifth element of the Eucharistic Prayer as described in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal:

The anamnesis, by which the Church, fulfilling the command that she received from Christ the Lord through the Apostles, celebrates the memorial of Christ, recalling especially his blessed Passion, glorious Resurrection, and Ascension into heaven. (GIRM, 80e)

This remembrance is more than just remembering something in the past, but it is our being brought into the very events themselves, stepping outside of space and time to some extent. This is the same way that the Jewish people understood their yearly participation in the Passover. It was not just a remembering a past event, but a calling to mind their actual participation in that saving mystery through their observance of the Passover.

This is not the easiest concept to grasp, but it is absolutely necessary to our appreciating the power of the celebration of each and every Mass. For the Jewish people, the Passover happens once a year and it is observed with great attention and solemnity. The Church celebrates the New Passover every day and perhaps because of how familiar we are with it, we can become a little lax in the attention we give to our participating in this great mystery. If we took some time to prayerfully ponder the remarkable gift of entering into the very mystery of the Lord's Passion, Resurrection and Ascension at each Mass, how much more fruit will we draw from our experience of going to Mass!

So, the next time you are at Mass, you might want to think about taking your watch off and to avoid looking at any clock. Although we know that time continues to advance around us, we also believe that for those brief moments, we are being drawn into a mystery outside of space and time, something we should not want to rush through, for this is a foretaste of what we shall experience in Heaven.

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, January 8

7am - Robert Furtwengler
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)
5:15pm - A. George Hovanec
(Bev & Larry Smith)

Tuesday, January 9

7am - Berni Burk
(Berni Ely)
5:15pm - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)

Wednesday, January 10

7am - Mary Eleanor Maloy
(Madonna Fluckiger)
5:15pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)

Thursday, January 11

7am - John Brunk & Deceased
Members (Estate)
5:15pm - Intention for Bianca
(D.A. Drago)

Friday, January 12

7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Community)
5:15pm - Deborah Sacramo
(Kati Pultro)

Saturday, January 13

8am - Doris Drago
(D.A. Drago)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, January 14

7am - Pamela Harmon
(Archie Harmon)
10am - Deceased Members of the
CCCW (CCCW)
5pm - Russell Carriere
(Rebecca Logerquist)



St. Aldric of Le Mans

Feast Day: January 7th

Fr. Aldric when ordained at the youthful age of 21 was at first assigned as a canon at the Cathedral of St. Stephen's in Metz, France, a grand and historic location given that it had been first established at least 400 years before and, according to the historian St. Gregory of Tours, been the only building to survive a sack of the city by Attila and his Huns in 451 (that being one year before Attila turned back from sacking Rome after meeting Pope St. Leo I.) However, a few years into his priesthood, Aldric was named chaplain to King Louis the Pious and came to live at the royal residence at Aix-la-Chapelle, in Germany. Aldric, in fact, had grown up with Louis there, the son and heir of Charlamagne, but had left behind the grandeur of courtly life to become a priest, now, surprisingly, he was back.

The priest already had a reputation for holiness and prudence, characteristics appreciated by the devout young king who had inherited the vast Carolingian empire from his father. But, before the priest, or emperor, had much of a chance to resume their friendship, Aldric was named a bishop and sent hundreds of miles Southwest to the diocese of Le Mans. 200 years from then this city would be known for being the launching point of William the Conqueror's successful invasion of England (though soon thereafter the region would revolt and expel the rest of the Normans). And, 1200 years after Aldric, that city would become known for its 24-hour automobile race held every summer.

But when Bp. Aldric arrived, just a few days before Christmas in 830, he was instead coming to a little city with a population of a few thousand on the banks of the Sarthe river. Fishing, hunting, lumber, and a bit of agriculture probably kept the place fed and busy, and at that time it would have been still known by its Roman name of Cenomanus with substantial Roman walls and even some of its ancient amphitheater still visible then (and now). The current name, "Le Mans" descends from that Latin one, with "Cenomanus" eventually shortening to "Celmans", and then the French "Le" ["the"] replacing the (Vulgar) Latin "Cel" ["this"].

Now, we have a lengthy document written by one of the canons of Bp. Aleric's Cathedral, Actus Pontificum Cenomannis in Urbe Degentium, which chronicles most of the bishops and major happenings from St. Julian to St. Aldric, but much of it is at best an embellishment of the facts, and quite possibly good chunks of it were entirely fabricated. It seems that the purpose of the document was less to give us a record of the history of things as it was to defend the right of a bishop to control the monasteries in his diocese, and the squabbles between various bishops and abbots and property and power. Sadly, if you were to go deep down an internet rabbit-hole and start analyzing the acts of the Synod of Paris of 846, which Bp. Aleric was present at (to give another bit of context, the synod was relocated to another city because the Vikings sailed down the Seine and besieged Paris!), you'd probably find yourself similarly disappointed by the infighting and disheartened by the immorality all around. Not too different than Church happenings in our own day I'm afraid.

BUT, if we step back from the documents and synods and violence ... all the headlines of that era (and ours) we find a more hopeful, Godly, picture. Cenomanus/Le Mans was enormously proud of its Basilica, built or at least established by St. Julian some 400 years before and dedicated to Our Lady and St. Peter. Unfortunately, though it may have been splendid when first constructed, it was now in a sorry state and Aldric found it his responsibility to rebuild it. He must have worked fast, or perhaps inherited a project already begun, because in 834 he consecrated the new cathedral. And there, in that little town, for the first time in the history of the world, out from apse at the back of the Church radiated smaller side-chapels.

The apse, the semi-circular recess topped by a dome and arching over the main altar of so many Christian churches, had been the result of combining the architecture of Roman Temples (circular/domed, for worship) with Basilicas (rectangular, for meeting with the King), an appropriate floor-plan for Christian Churches where Jesus was adored, but also people could talk with Him. Bp. Aldric though was the first to add chapels busting out of the sides of that apse. What he did here, hundreds of years later, would be termed "chavet-style", and you can find it in the pointed arches and ribbed-vaulting of a glorious Gothic Cathedrals like Chartres, but also in the countless side altars in a Renaissance Basilica like St. Peter's in Rome, and even in the subline windows and intertwined pillars the Sagrada Família in Barcelona, still being built today!

And, Bp. Aleric didn't just give the Church beautiful architectural patrimony, he also gave us, in stone, a symbol of what happens after we adore, and converse, with Our Savior: the love exchanged explodes outward, busting out of the walls of our churches, and our hearts, to overflow into our world (that happens to be just as messy as Bp. Aleric's).

Fr. Dominic Rankin couldn't fit in all of Bp. Alderic's story. There are always so many pieces and poverties and politics of any of our lives. Only God, in the end, can make all of it beautiful and holy.

Stewardship of Treasure

December 30th & 31st

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 JANUARY 8

<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 Rehearsal 7:00 PM School Classroom	The Quest Bible Study 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM School Hall	Rosary 4:45 PM Church Millikin Choir Concert 7:30 PM Church		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



**SEEDS OF THE WORD
FILM SERIES**

GRAN TORINO

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 19
7:00 PM
CATHEDRAL ATRIUM**

Seeds of the Word Film Series – Gran Torino

Our January film is Gran Torino, a 2008 drama with themes of sin and redemption and with clear and unmistakable Christological symbolism. This film is for adults only (strong language!) so you may bring a bottle of wine, or other beverage of your choice, and we'll provide the popcorn!

Friday, January 19, 7:00pm, Cathedral Atrium

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Thank You!

Thanks to all who contributed Mom and Baby items for the Pregnancy Care Center and Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery during Cathedral's Christ Child Shower in December. A carload of gifts was delivered to each agency before Christmas. What a beautiful act of Christmas giving!

Culture of Life Essay Contest

National Right to Life is having an essay contest for middle and high school students. For essay prompts and information to submit essays go to:

<https://www.nrlc.org/wp-content/uploads/nrlc-essay-contest-2024-updated.pdf>. Essays are being accepted from December 20, 2023 to January 21, 2024. Essays must be postmarked by January 21, 2024.

St. Monica Ministry

Are you heartbroken because your loved ones have left the Church? You are invited to the Springfield-area St. Monica Ministry monthly gathering. 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, January 10 @ 7:00pm, Christ the King Parish Center

Game Night

Join our Cathedral families for a night of fun playing board games. We have games you can play or bring your own. Everyone invited, including your friends! We'll supply the snacks.

Sunday, January 21 @ 6:15, Cathedral Atrium

Second Collection - Catholic Times

Catholic Times has always been a key communication tool for our diocese. Whether it is important announcements, teaching the faith, or inspirational stories, the magazine provides tremendous value to readers. That was apparent this past year with a special edition highlighting the rich history of our diocese when we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the transfer of the See city from Alton to Springfield and a special edition that captured the historical Eucharistic Congress in Springfield.

Catholic Times remains dedicated to helping Catholics better understand the Catholic faith through their Hey, Father! series, addressing complex issues in bioethics, and explaining the significance of sacraments. Feature reporting stands as a cornerstone of the magazine, spotlighting narratives of individuals, parishes, and schools actively contributing to the growth of the Kingdom of God within our diocese. The magazine's steadfast commitment to local coverage ensures that each edition brings forth stories relevant to readers' lives, showcasing contributions from familiar faces, including both laity and clergy.

Please consider supporting this communication tool, so we can ensure *Catholic Times* remains an inexpensive source of Catholic information, education, and inspiration.

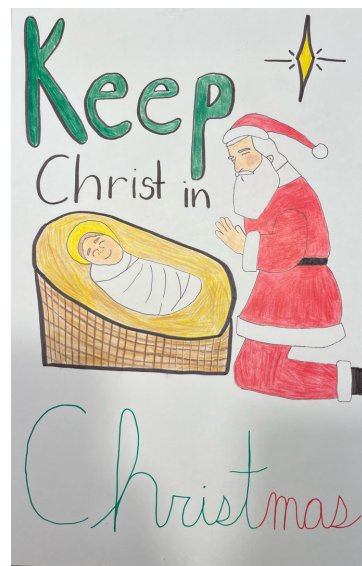
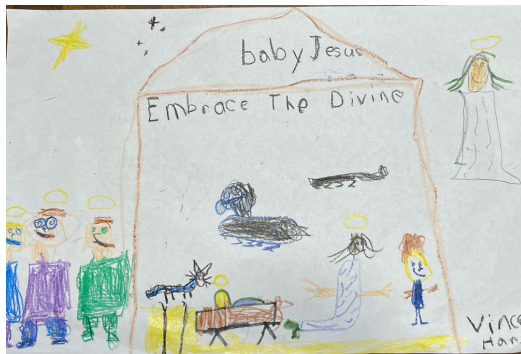
Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest Winners

Fr. Augustine Tolton Council #16126 would like to congratulate the winners of the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster competition! Thank you to all the children that submitted posters to help remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. The winning participants have won a \$25 gift card and their posters will move on to the District level competition for the Knights of Columbus.

Ages 5-7: Vincent Hansen

Ages 8-10: Evelyn Havey

Ages 11-14: Sarah Simpson



Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist

I can still remember the moment I experienced Jesus's palpable presence in the Blessed Sacrament for the first time. I was maybe 14 or 15 years old and I had been invited to go on a retreat that focused on death to sin, new life in Christ, and going forth to share the message of Christ's love. It wasn't the first time I was on the retreat; it was the second. The first time I was hesitant about everything happening because I hate surprises and most of the retreat's format was kept a secret leaving us to DAP it ("Don't Anticipate, Participate") Well all I did was anticipate so I couldn't be present to what was happening. The first time I was in adoration I just kept thinking "What's happening next? When will this end? What did they talk about before we came in here?"

The second time on the retreat, I was able to be present in the moment ("Let Go, Let God"). The fruitfulness of being available to God's grace working became tangible when I stepped into the room for adoration and was overcome with peace. God's presence spoke to my heart and I was overcome with a thought - "If this is really God, always present in the Eucharist and Mass, my life needs to look different." The Son of God became flesh, died, rose from the dead, and He gives us Himself in a way we can be united with him fully! That's wild! God lived a human life so we could live a life with Him.

Now at 32, reflecting on that moment in adoration I can see how it became the hinge pin of the rest of my life's big decisions. Nowadays I hope to let that moment, and all the subsequent exposures to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, be the driving factor in my every day decisions. How is Jesus active in my life today? Who can I invite into relationship with Jesus? Jesus gave us the Eucharist as our daily bread, the fortification we need to live our Christian life. Do we act like it?

Teresa Gray, Parishioner and Donut Committee Co-Chair

Around the Diocese

- **Pray to Protect Human Life**, 9 Days for Life annual novena, January 16-24, 2024; the novena is for the protection of human life; each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life; sign up at: www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup
- **Gospel Mass and Soul Food Luncheon SAVE THE DATE**, Sunday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m., Church of the Little Flower, Springfield; in recognition of Black History Month, all are invited to a Gospel Mass and Soul Food Luncheon, hosted by the Black Catholic Commission