

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JANUARY 14, 2024 | SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 6 ISSUE 2

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!



Oblation

As I have written in a previous article, the new English translation of the Roman Missal, 3rd Edition, introduced the First Sunday of Advent in 2011, brought to our ears new words that we had previously not heard in the prayers of the Mass. One such word is "oblation." Simply translated, oblation means offering, but in terms of the Mass, the offering is connected with the notion of sacrifice.

We offer bread and wine as the offerings (or oblations) to be used in the Consecration. The Consecration at the Mass unites us to the sacrificial offering of Christ on the Cross for our salvation. But there is more to the oblation than just the bread and wine

we offer. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal explains it this way as it addresses the next of the main elements of the Eucharistic Prayer:

The oblation, by which, in this very memorial, the Church, in particular that gathered here and now, offers the unblemished sacrificial Victim in the Holy Spirit to the Father. The Church's intention, indeed, is that the faithful not only offer this unblemished sacrificial Victim but also learn to offer their very selves, and so day by day to be brought, through the mediation of Christ, into unity with God and with each other, so that God may at last be all in all. (GIRM, 79f)

This is how we can participate most fully and fruitfully in the Mass, when we learn to offer our very selves to the Lord, which is at the service of deepening our communion with the Lord and with one another. I addressed this point in a previous article, but it is worth revisiting it again in the context of the Eucharistic Prayer.

As an interesting piece of trivia, Bishop Paprocki has shared with me that when the translation process was being undertaken, Cardinal Francis George was insistent that they use this word "oblation" in the Eucharistic Prayers instead of the more generic "offering". Cardinal George belonged to the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (O.M.I.), so that notion of oblation was central to his identity. It was also expressed by the way he lived his life. Archbishop J. Peter Sartain, who preached the funeral homily for Cardinal George, drew upon this theme of oblation, concluding with the following words about the late Cardinal:

From his heart's abundance flowed not only his words, but also his very life's oblation. What did Cardinal George offer to the Lord? What did he give away? He offered a life joined to the cross of Christ; a life of faith, hope, conviction and courage; a soul devoted to prayer; a brilliant mind in love with God; a vision of the New Jerusalem. Because he gave these things — and more — away, he took them with him to meet the Lord.

This is the type of oblation we are invited to offer when we come to Mass, and we are grateful for many who have gone before us leaving us examples of what that total offering can look like. In that regard, we can also turn to the example of those figures in the Scriptures who help us in praying the Mass better. We have heard several times throughout these reflections from *A Biblical Way of Praying the Mass: The Eucharistic Wisdom of Venerable Bruno Lanteri*, by Father Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V., and on this topic of oblation, we have another helpful suggestion. Lanteri invites us to take on the heart and sentiments of not just any biblical figure, but the central figure of the Scriptures, Jesus Christ Himself. Father Gallagher writes:

Venerable Bruno writes: "At the Consecration, I will seek the sentiments of the heart of Christ." Let your heart be stilled. Let it reach the deep point. Let an awareness of Jesus's self-offering arise in your heart. United your heart with Jesus's, offering him your life, yourself, to the Father. (Kindle edition, p. 62)

One of the ways I have tried to foster this sense of oblation to the Lord during the Eucharistic Prayer happens as I raise the newly consecrated host. In silent prayer, I repeat the words of St. Thomas the Apostle: "My Lord, and my God", and I sometimes add the concluding petition of the Litany of the Sacred Heart: "Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto thine." I know that what I offer with my heart at Mass is far from perfect, but by uniting my heart to His Sacred Heart, I have faith that the burning love of His heart will purify my heart so as to make it a more acceptable offering to Him, not just in this intimate moment of the Mass, but with my whole life.

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 15

7am - John A. Sestak
(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)
5:15pm - NO MASS

Tuesday, January 16

7am - Special Intention for Cathy
(D.A. Drago)
5:15pm - Anthony Beltramea Family
(John & Debra Beltramea)

Wednesday, January 17

7am - John Brunk & Deceased Family
(Estate)
5:15pm - Judith Staab
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

Thursday, January 18

7am - Wilbur "Bill" West Family
(Carol West)
5:15pm - Katie B.
(D.A. Drago)

Friday, January 19

7am - Ed & Marguerite Wisniewski
(Don Wisniewski)
5:15pm - Mary Kuettel
(St. Louise de Marrillac Guild)

Saturday, January 20

8am - Ann West
(Carol West)
4pm - Fran Weitekamp
(Vicki Compton)

Sunday, January 21

7am - Dan Sexson
(Bev Hoffman)
10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)
5pm - For the People

Gospel Meditation - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

As a priest, I'm amazed how happily married couples remember the tiniest details of their earliest encounters. They effortlessly report things like: "he wore a blue shirt," "we ordered brussels sprouts," "her hair was up in a bun," and "he spilled shrimp cocktail sauce at my family's open front door when it was ten degrees below zero," (that one's courtesy of my mom). We delight in remembering and speaking of when our new life of love began. The little details are glorious reminders that it's all real.

It's similar for John the Apostle. He tells us of the two disciples who followed Jesus into his house, "...they stayed with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon." Why does that tiny detail matter? Because that's the time of day when they encountered the love of Jesus the Messiah in their lives. Our religion is not primarily about abstract truths about God, no matter how true or sublime. It is about God meeting and saving us in our human nature. It's about a human relationship.

What was the time of day when you first recall encountering Christ and his Church? Who was there? What did you feel? How did things look and smell? What happened? Take some time to recall it in detail. For me, it was inside an old, rickety church on a hillside in Jerome, Arizona. It was about 9 p. m. on a Saturday evening. I was with my friends Jenny, Brad, and Laura. We were praying, singing, and laughing. When was it for you? Remembering the details isn't empty nostalgia. It reminds us now that God's love for us in our humanity is real.

Father John Muir

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Stewardship of Treasure

December 30th & 31st

Envelopes:	\$6,570.00
Loose:	
	\$6,327.00
Maintenance:	\$205.00
Total:	\$13,102.00

January 6th & 7th

Envelopes:	\$4,799.00
Loose:	\$2,346.00
Maintenance:	\$1,000.00
Total:	\$8,145.00

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!

December EFT

\$18,908.80

December Debt Reduction

\$484.00

December Second Collections

Retirement Fund for Religious
\$4,657.11

Catholic Children's Home
\$6,059.00

Miscellaneous December Collections

Immaculate Conception
\$3,099.10

Christmas Flowers
\$1,774.00

Christmas Collection
\$8,030.00

Sacraments

Baptisms

Vivian Rehn Kisling
Child of Nick & Molly Kisling
Baptized on January 6, 2024

Weddings

William Pressey & Kimberly Alewelt
Married on December 30, 2023

Deaths

Thomas Raymond McGee
Date of Death: December 12, 2023

WEEK OF JANUARY 15

<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		Family Game Night 6:15 PM Atrium
NO 5:15 PM MASS	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Seeds of the Word Film Series 7:00 PM Atrium		
		Cathedral Bible Study 6:15 PM Parish Library	Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM School Hall			
		Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM School Classroom				

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



Knights of Columbus
DO MORE. BE MORE.

To join the Fr. Tolton Council, scan the QR code and complete the online form. Be sure to enter **16126** in the "Preferred Local Council" field.

KOFC.ORG/JOINUS
join us online today

Lead with Faith
Protect Your Family

Serve Others
Defend Your Values

Join the Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others and defend Catholic values in a busy changing world. The Fr. Tolton Council 16126 at the Cathedral parish is looking for new members to help us continue this mission, to grow in our faith, and to serve the parish and the wider community. Members will be at church entrances handing out materials and we invite you to an open house and new member ceremonial after the 10 AM Mass on Sunday, January 21. Families are welcome! If you would like to join today, simply go to www.KofC.org/joinus and enter our council #16126 for local information. Questions? Contact Rob Bentel, Membership Director, at 217-652-2210, or Grand Knight Dave Haley at 217-836-9258.



**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.

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.

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:

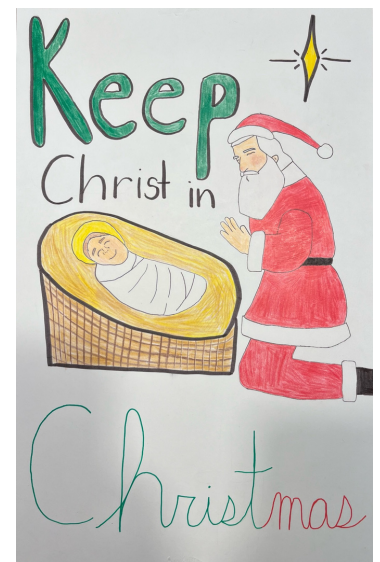
Peace of Mind Seminar
Thursday, January 18th
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Bella Milano
4525 Wabash Ave.
Springfield, IL 62711

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, January 15th.

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



Those Who Seek the Truth

In my work as a freelance writer, I have a regular column in the archdiocesan paper writing profiles of ordinary people in the local church. Laity, religious, and clergy alike — I hound them all to give me an interview, and when I do, the answer is almost always this: “You don’t want to talk to me. There’s nothing special about me.”

I always try to convince them that there is something remarkable about everyone who is searching for the truth. It is easy to think we are not made for holiness because we are ordinary people with ordinary habits, ordinary abilities, and ordinary sins. It is easy (and very convenient) to designate holiness as something belonging to Better People. People like the saints. People like the Disciples.

The Bible gives us next to no personal information about the disciples. There is no archdiocesan newspaper profile on Andrew and Simon that can give us insight into who they were before they became St. Andrew, Inaugural Disciple and Announcer of the Messiah, and St. Peter, First Pope and the Rock-Upon-Which-Christ-Built-His-Church.

Yet I find myself insatiably curious about it. What was their childhood like? What games did they play with each other as the sun set, before their mother called them into bed? What did they think of as they fell asleep at night? What secret jokes did they share to make each other laugh? What were they afraid of? What did they hope for? Who did they want to be?

Before they were towering figures of salvation history, Simon and Andrew were just two men searching for the truth. When they looked at Christ, there was something that made it click. Perhaps they themselves could not identify what it was, but their hearts whispered it nonetheless: There it is. We finally found it.

Isn’t that the best we can all hope for?

“Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’” — John 1:38

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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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