

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**JANUARY 21, 2024 | THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



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

# *Cathedral Weekly*

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3

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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  
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!



## Prayer of the Body of Christ

When we hear the phrase: "The Body of Christ", we immediately think of the words that are said to us by the priest or other minister just before receiving Holy Communion at Mass. But the term "Body of Christ" is more than just the Eucharist. In fact, this past Sunday we heard the following words in our Second Reading from St. Paul: "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with Him." (1 Cor 15a, 17)

From this and other passages comes our understanding that the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ, and that because of our being united with Him through Baptism, we are united with all who share in that relationship with Him, both the living and the dead. When we come to Mass, we pray as the Body of Christ across space and time, and we pray for the Body of Christ across space and time. The seventh of the main elements of the Eucharistic Prayer detailed in the GRIM articulates this reality of our praying for the entire Church in each Eucharistic Prayer:

*The intercessions, by which expression is given to the fact that the Eucharist is celebrated in communion with the whole Church, of both heaven and of earth, and that the oblation is made for her and for all her members, living and dead, who are called to participate in the redemption and salvation purchased by the Body and Blood of Christ. (GIRM, 79g)*

In this regard, I recall a line that I read very early on in my priesthood that has stuck with me. It comes from a book titled Dignity and Duties of the Priest by St. Alphonsus Ligouri. He reminds priests of the grave importance of celebrating Mass each day:

*A priest who without an important reason omits to say Mass robs the Blessed Trinity of glory, the angels of joy, sinners of pardon, the just of divine assistance, the souls in purgatory of refreshment, the Church of a benefit, and himself of a medicine.*

Thanks be to God, I can count on a single hand the very few occasions when I was not able to celebrate Mass when I could have in my nearly thirteen years as a priest (twice due to illness and once due to an unforeseen travel complication). Even when I am on vacation or have a day off without a scheduled Mass and the temptation might be to take a day off from celebrating Mass, this passage comes to mind and I am motivated by charity to celebrate Mass, believing with a firm faith that that Mass will have a positive impact on the Body of Christ, and my not celebrating Mass would deprive the Church of these benefits.

I think this can extend to all of us when it comes to our praying at Mass. We can sometimes think that skipping Mass may only affect one person. But our failing to go to Mass and actively participate in praying for and with the Body of Christ deprives her of what we alone can offer. We may reason that one person cannot make that much of a difference. But remember the words of the Lord in the Prophet Isaiah, words which we apply to that view of ourselves and how much greater God's view is of us and the impact our prayers at Mass: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, my thoughts higher than your thoughts." (Is 55:8-9)

Only in Heaven will we come to fully realize how God has used our prayers at Mass to benefit the Body of Christ. Perhaps on a day when we struggled to come to Mass was the day when a soul in Purgatory was finally released and brought into the presence of God in Heaven. Perhaps our prayer at Mass one day, even though we were distracted, prompted somebody who had given up on life to turn to God and find new hope in life. This is what is on the line when we come to pray at Mass. How can we ever deprive the Body of Christ of this assistance?

*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 22

7am - Dorothy Huber  
(Huber Family)  
5:15pm - Veronica Brown  
(St. Louise de Marillac)

### Tuesday, January 23

7am - Mary Conway  
(Kevin & Earlene Keen)  
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the  
Chiaradonna Family (Geny  
Chiaradonna)

### Wednesday, January 24

7am - Mary Jane Kerns  
(Estate)  
5:15pm - Deborah Sacramo  
(Kathryn Pultro)

### Thursday, January 25

7am - Richard Stalcup  
(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)  
5:15pm - Special Intention for Bianca  
(D.A. Drago)

### Friday, January 26

7am - Jack Ely  
(Berni Ely)  
5:15pm - Mary Louise Craig  
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

### Saturday, January 27

8am - Delbert Fairweather  
(Andrew & Cheryl Klein)  
4pm - Rick Thrasher  
(Regina Rusciolli)

### Sunday, January 28

7am - Mary Ann Midden  
(Bill Midden)  
10am - For the People  
5pm - Fred Anderson Minatra  
(Bev & Larry Smith)





## St. Meinrad

**Feast Day: January 21st**

St. Benedict gives four different kinds of monks in his famous Rule. The first, and most familiar, are the cenobites, the monks who live in community, obedient to their abbot as well as the rule of their order. The second class or kind of monk are the anchorites, or hermits, those who have lived in a monastery, faithful to its life as described above, having grown to a preeminent love of God and virtue towards their brothers, to such an extent that now they depart from that community to live alone, relying only on God in their continued fight against vices of mind and body. The third kind, the sarabaites, live in a monastery, but don't abide its rules or superior, they still live according to the world, doing what they like, untested, unpurified, in the sturdy language of St. Benedict: lying to God by their tonsure. And finally, the gyrovagues, who drift from place to place, receiving the hospitality of monasteries for a few days, but always thinking the grass is greener elsewhere, slaves still to their appetites and whims.

St. Meinrad entered the world in Germany, around 800 A.D., born into the family of the Counts of Hohenzollern, though that family would not really enter the annals of history for another two or three hundred years (eventually becoming one of the most important dynasties in Europe, later descendants becoming electors to the Holy Roman Empire, then Kings of Prussia, and eventually Emperors of Germany itself, with the empire only ending after WWI). Meinrad, of course, came almost a thousand years before all that, and he just wanted to be a monk. Some relatives of his were Abbots of the monastery of Reichenau, on an island in Lake Constance, where Meinrad received his education, and eventually joined that monastery. Spending time in that Abbey, as well as a Priory dependent upon it at Bollingen, on Lake Zurich, he was finally ready, and willing, to enter the eremitical life and settled into his simple hermitage on the slopes of Mt. Etzel.

All he had with him was a statue of Our Lady, from which miracles had happened, and the simple requisites of his life as a hermit. And, a heart formed by those years under the benedictine rule, wise, prayerful, quiet, generous, and gentle. So many people came to know of his holiness that they came in droves to receive his advice and intercession, so several years later (it is now about 835), he retreated further into the forest, to what would later become the grand Abbey of Einsiedeln (from which, in 1854, monks would be sent to Indiana, establishing the Archabbey of St. Meinrad, and eventually a seminary where many of the priests of our diocese received their formation to the priesthood).

But Meinrad didn't himself found Einsiedeln because in 861 two men came to his hermitage seeking to rob him of the many gifts that he received from those who were still visiting him. He didn't have what they wanted: every gift, no matter how precious, was immediately given away to the poor, and though he knew their intentions, the hermit would not let mere murderous intentions impede his extending them hospitality, so he sat the two men down, cooked them a good dinner, and was then murdered by them when he was unable to give them the riches they sought. And so, the Church now has a "Martyr of Hospitality", perhaps an inspiration and intercessor for all of us as we sacrifice ourselves to welcome, care for, invite, and provide for those who come to us. As with all the martyrs, their losing their life actually inspires many to follow in their footsteps, and so hermit after hermit returned to that same hermitage, eventually founding their the splendid abbey that stands there to this day.

*Fr. Dominic Rankin got to visit the Abbey of Einsiedeln in 2017, several months before he was ordained a deacon and a year before being ordained a priest. The Monks, after St. Meinrad's example, were immensely hospitable, allowing us to join them for meals and prayer, showing us around the splendid place where they have prayed and worked for all the centuries since (with a brief hiatus only during World War II if I remember correctly), as well as the wonderful library they care for with 230,000 books, thousands of manuscripts, some of them from over a thousand years ago when it was founded.*



## Stewardship of Treasure

### January 13th & 14th

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

### 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

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 22

<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  CCCW Meeting 6:00 PM School Hall  K of C Meeting 6:00 PM Classroom	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		

## 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](http://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.



**HOLY HOUR**  
FOR MARRIED COUPLES  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 AT 2:00 PM  
IN THE CATHEDRAL

### Holy Hour for Married Couples

Spend an hour with your spouse praying in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament as the Church prepares to celebrate National Marriage Week. This year's theme, "Marriage...one flesh, given and received" highlights the one-flesh union of husband and wife that is willed by God. It also indicates the personal self-gift of each spouse, one to the other. These concepts point to Christ who gives Himself under the appearance of bread and wine—as real flesh and blood. Your children, your friends and family are invited to join you.

**Sunday, February 4 @ 2:00pm, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception**

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## 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.

## 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.

## TV Raffle Winners

Thanks to all who purchased tickets for the 65" TV in December. The TV was donated to the CCCW by a generous, anonymous parishioner with proceeds used to fund various charitable projects. Congratulations to the lucky winners, LuAnn & Dave Haley!

## 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 @ 6:15p, Cathedral Atrium

## Bulletin Reflections - Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist

Calling all Catholics! Have you experienced Jesus in the Eucharist and it touched your heart? Maybe a homily was particularly moving and renewed your belief in our Eucharistic Lord so that when you received Him that Mass, you felt His presence. Maybe you frequent Eucharistic Adoration and Jesus is moving in you, encouraging you to share Him with others. Maybe a Eucharistic miracle story or a procession of the Blessed Sacrament left you in wonder and awe at the profound goodness of God. Maybe it was something totally different. Why not share it? We're inviting you to write a brief reflection on "Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist" to be featured in our bulletin! Leading up to the National Eucharistic Congress held in Indianapolis, Indiana in July, we want to share our own stories of Jesus in the Eucharist. Please submit your reflection with a title and short bio about yourself to [hutton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:hutton@cathedral.dio.org).

## CCCW Meeting - 01/25

The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women will meet in the School Hall on Thursday, January 25th. All Cathedral ladies are invited to join us for Service, Spiritual and Social activities. We begin with a complimentary, light meal and convene a meeting at 6:30. Please join us!

## 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."

Monday, February 12 @ 7:00pm, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

## A Good Time for Fulfillment

There are some things that always come at the worst time. I've never gotten a telemarketing call and thought, "This is a really convenient moment for me to listen to a sales pitch." I've never seen the compulsory software update notice flash on my computer screen when I didn't have a deadline I was struggling to meet. My kids never come down with the flu unless it's the weekend and the line at Urgent Care is stretching out the door.

And I never, ever feel the calm, persistent shoulder-tap of the Holy Spirit without thinking, "Now? Now is not a good time. Can you try again when I'm..."

But then I stop and think: when I am what? When I am stronger? When I am happier? When I am smarter? When I am a different person?

When God calls us, He calls the person He sees in front of Him. "Come on," He says, and He doesn't mean "When you're finished" or "When it's convenient" or "Think about it." He means now. This moment.

This is what Paul is saying when he writes that "the world in its present form is passing away." He is saying that your plans mean nothing, the kingdom of God is at hand. Abandon your nets, let your catch escape into the sea. You're not who you thought you were, and you don't need what you thought you needed.

Your sins do not define you. Your fears are not fate. Your inclinations do not govern you. Your life can be changed. We live in the time of fulfillment, and fulfillment is coming for you — ready or not.

*"Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: 'This is the time of fulfillment.'" — Mark 1:14*

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](http://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup)
- **Presentation of Season 3 of "The Chosen"**, St. Frances Cabrini Parish, Sunday February 4, 2024 - Sunday March 24, 2024 in the conference room of the parish hall beginning at 2pm with the exception of February 11th (Super Bowl Sunday) which will start at 12:30pm. For more information, please contact Anne Powers via phone or text at 217-381-3847.
- **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
- **The Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's Scholarship Application is now open!** This scholarship program recognizes outstanding Catholic female high school seniors who exemplify SDCCW's mission, values of leadership, faith and service. Four \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded. Applications have been sent to each parish and are due March 30th. Please reach out to the Parish Office for an application.