

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JANUARY 28, 2024 | FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 4

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!



The Great Amen

Last May, we lost a long-time parishioner who we affectionately considered one of our parish saints. She tried to attend Mass every day, even though the weather might be bad, which was made all the more difficult by her being over 90 years old and needing the assistance of a walker to move around. On many of the Sundays, she would come to Mass with her husband who was also slowed down by age as much as she was, if not more. Whenever he would come forward for Holy Communion, the minister would say "The Body of Christ" to which he would respond, as we all do: "Amen." However, his Amen could be heard throughout the entire

Church, even up in the choir loft! I always found it somewhat inspiring to hear him proclaim what I have considered the Great Amen.

I share that story to introduce the final of the eight main elements of the Eucharistic Prayer outlined by the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. We read the following about the conclusion of this central moment of the Mass:

The concluding doxology, by which the glorification of God is expressed and which is affirmed and concluded by the people's acclamation Amen. (GIRM, 79h)

The people's acclamation after the concluding Doxology is sometimes referred to as the Great Amen. Although I affectionately called the response of the elderly man above the Great Amen, this point of the Mass is properly called by this name. But I think his example can still be a point of reflection for us. No doubt this man's Amen, which is sometimes translated as "I believe", or "So bet it", was a profession of faith that the Eucharist is indeed the Body of Christ (and His Blood, soul, and divinity). It is no mere symbol that we received, but Jesus Himself. So too at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, we are giving assent to all that has happened during this key section of the celebration of the Mass. We affirm that we have just encountered the most important part of the Mass, and that all that has been done in the Eucharistic Prayer is for God's glory.

As we know, throughout the Eucharistic Prayer, it is the celebrant who is doing all of the verbal praying. The rest of the faithful actively participate through listening and uniting your hearts to the sacrifice taking place. It is really only at this point of the Eucharistic Prayer where everybody (except the priest, of course) is called to respond. The Great Amen belongs to the congregation – it is your part of the Eucharistic Prayer! We want to make our response count. We want it to be a proclamation of faith and praise. Sure, maybe we are not confident with our signing voice, but we should try to do our best to be intentional about our response here. It is one single word, but how powerful that word can be when it is backed up by a deep faith in the person making that proclamation.

As we come to the conclusion on our reflections on the Eucharistic Prayer (though I may do a few more follow-up topics related to this part of the Mass), I invite us all to consider how intentionally we have been approaching this most important part of the celebration of the liturgy. The entire Mass is important, to be sure, but the Eucharistic Prayer is the pinnacle of the Mass. We stand to gain so much more from the Mass by our full, active, and conscious participation in the Eucharistic Prayer. To the extent that we do this from the beginning of the prayer, we will be eager as it comes to a close to offer our part with a joyful and faithful expression of the Great Amen.

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 29

7am - Tom McGee Sr.

(Berni Ely)

5:15pm - Judy Anne Menge

(Sharene Jeffers)

Tuesday, January 30

7am - Barbara McGee

(McGee Family)

5:15pm - John J (Jack) McCarthy

(Family)

Wednesday, January 31

7am - Michael Berte

(Family)

5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway

(Robert Gasaway)

Thursday, February 1

7am - Thomas R. McGee

(Richard & Cindi Allender)

5:15pm - Cesare Chiaradonna

(Geny Chiaradonna)

Friday, February 2

7am - Michael & Mike

(Slawek)

5:15pm - Ron Borre & Family

(Richard & Kay King)

Saturday, February 3

8am - Mark Beagles

(Berni Ely)

4pm - For the People

Sunday, February 4

7am - John Quinn

(Bill Midden)

10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt

(Kathy Frank)

5pm - Tom McGee Sr.

(Berni Ely)



St. Joseph Freinademetz

Feast Day: January 28th

He was a simple diocesan priest. 23 years old, in his first assignment in a small town not far from his home, speaking the beloved Ladin language of his region of Tyrol, then part of the Austrian Empire, now in the north-eastern tip of Italy.

But there was a tug on his heart to become a missionary. On one of the Good Friday's during his time in seminary, a single line from one of the chanted offices had begun to echo in his mind: "The babes cry for food, but there is no one to give it to them." [Lamentations 4:4] Of course he gave his heart to the people of St. Martin, collecting quotations from the saints to give out to penitents in Confession, and from all accounts he was happy there ... but that unavoidable Voice within kept nudging him. It

wasn't the voice of vanity or self-seeking; it wasn't a voice of fear or inadequacy; it was a voice that was asking him to choose love, to risk love in a faraway land where children went without the Eucharist.

He obediently contacted his bishop asking for permission to enter the fledgling Society of the Divine Word. Begun just a few years before by Fr. Arnold Janssen in the Netherlands, Fr. Joseph and another priest, Fr. Johann Baptist von Anzer (from Bavaria), would be the first two missionaries of this order to go to China. On what would you lean if the Lord asked you to leave behind home, family, nation, language, food, climate ... everything! ... to preach the Gospel? Fr. Joseph recalled years later that they turned to the only One who would never leave their side: ""Kneeling before the tabernacle, we offered ourselves wholly to God...Then the hidden God in the tabernacle called out his parting words: 'I have chosen you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain.'" Hong Kong was their first stop after 5 weeks on a steamer (it could be that they went through the recently opened Suez Canal) and became their home base from 1879 until 1881. During that time Fr. Joseph learned the language and culture as best he could, living and dressing like those he served. From there they were sent south, taking an iconic Chinese junk up the Yellow River to the Province of Shandong. Population in 1881: 12,000,000. Catholic population: 158.

Now, here's your crazy historical detail: this route would have been impossible for them just 30 years before. The 1852 flood of the Yellow River not only instigated the Nien and Taiping Rebellions, but shifted that river so far to the north that it actually took over the bed of the Ji River. So, the city that the two priests got to, the capital of Shandong, "Jinan", though named "South of the Ji" was in fact now south of the Yellow River, a happy help for the weary travelers. (This was also the See city for the bishop of that region, though it was not then a diocese but a Vicariate Apostolic). Adding to your and my confusion: sometimes "Jinan" is romanized as "Tsinan" or "Chi-nan" because before the 1970s the first syllable was pronounced with the fourth tone instead of the third tone... In any case, Fr. Freinademetz and Fr. Von Anzer got permission to continue onto Puoli, where they knew a few Catholics already lived, and having purchased everything they would need to celebrate Mass and catechize the locals, they began the long walk there with everything piled in wheelbarrows.

Fr. Joseph would spend the next 26 years traveling around China, directing seminaries and training catechists, enduring attacks and beatings, rebellions and pursuits, laryngitis and tuberculosis (eventually dying from his incessant caring for those suffering a Typhoid Epidemic), but I want to leave us with that image of him walking up to Puoli with all his Mass stuff piled on a wheelbarrow. The locals greeted them warily so the good priest turned to the children who were more than curious enough to investigate the man from the other side of the world. He pulled out his pocket watch, allowing the wide-eyed youngsters to check it out, enthralled by its intricacies and his ability to know the time down to the minute. Then he carefully explained that someone had made the watch, and so also someone had made all things, and each of them. So he went from village to village, often traveling more than a week on an oxcart, and only getting back to another priest to whom he could make his confession every several months. Just when he had made progress in one place the bishop would uproot him and send him elsewhere. But that Word that propelled him into this mission also sustained him. He held as his personal motto "The language that all people understand is that of love."

Fr. Dominic Rankin once left his breviary behind when transferring from one plane to another in Minneapolis St. Paul. Fr. Freinademetz also once thought he had lost his when he, his catechist, and his horse, fell into a water-filled cavern during one of his many travels. I was not allowed back on the plane ... and mine was lost. He held onto a branch until locals could come and rescue him ... and his breviary was not lost, happily having (somehow?!) lodged in his sleeve.

Stewardship of Treasure

January 13th & 14th

Envelopes:	\$5,587.00
Loose:	\$5,246.57
Maintenance:	\$219.01
Total:	\$11,052.58

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 29

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 Rehearsal
7:00 PM
School Classroom

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

Rosary
4:45 PM
Church

First Friday
Concert
7:00 PM
Church

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

Holy Hour for
Married
Couples
2:00 PM
Church

Family Lectio
6:15 PM
Atrium

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

Cathedral First Friday Concert

**FEBRUARY 2, 2024
7 PM - 8 PM**

*Featuring
The Land of Lincoln Chorus*

First Friday Concert Series

Join us for a First Friday Concert! February's concert will feature The Land of Lincoln Chorus. The First Friday Concert Series is sponsored by the Staab Family, and is free and open to the public. All are welcome!

Friday, February 2 @ 7:00pm, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

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.

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 hdutton@cathedral.dio.org.

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!

Discover the Story of Salvation: Lenten Bible Study

This Lent, rediscover the one story that really matters, revealed through Scripture—and your place in it! FOCUS' Lenten Bible Study will guide you through the big picture of salvation history. With seven sessions beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing through Holy Week, reencounter God's love for his people, reclaim the story of salvation as your story, and learn to share God's story with others. February 14 – March 27, 2024 (Free Registration Required) Visit www.focusequip.org/lent24/ for more information or to register.

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

Free Online Self-Paced Course: The Seven Deadly Sins And Their Remedies with Dr. Kevin Clarke

Learn how the capital vices can be important considerations for self-diagnosis in examining your conscience and how the virtues can provide healing for our spiritual ailments. Our 6-module course is your gateway to understanding how these capital vices affect your life and, more importantly, how to harness the virtues for personal growth. In this FREE, online self-paced course you will learn to diagnose your inner struggles and examine your conscience with newfound clarity; uncover the ancient wisdom of luminaries such as Gregory the Great, Augustine, Maximus the Confessor, and many more; and discover how to turn your 'evil thoughts' into virtuous living, taking strides towards holiness. Don't miss out on this opportunity to strengthen your spiritual well-being this Lent. Completing at your own pace, you can use this course as a Lenten study to grow spiritually. Sunday, Feb. 11 — Saturday, March 23, 2024. To register or learn more, visit shms.edu/lent.

What Have You to Do with Me, Jesus of Nazareth?

Inevitably, when we read the story of the Garden of Eden, my children try to imagine what life would be like if Adam and Eve had not sinned against God.

"Would we have to go to school?" they ask me. "Would we get sick? Could we eat whatever we want? Would we get older?"

I tell them the only thing I know for sure about a world without sin is that we would be happier. I can see confusion in their faces — Why? How? — but I have none of the concrete answers they want. I don't know how to describe a happiness untouched by sin.

The moment sin entered the world, a chasm erupted between God and mankind. There is now a space between humanity and the divine, a cavernous and seemingly impassable void into which God calls for us, unendingly. And because we are lost in the dark, and miserable, instead of following his voice when we hear it, instead we reply: "What do you want?"

"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?"

Did the unclean spirit know, when he cried out all those thousands of years ago in Capernaum, that he was giving voice to a question which defined the human condition? They are the words of a demon, yes, but they are also my words. Far, far more often than I care to admit, when God is reaching for me, I look upon His hand with contempt and confusion. When I am grappling with a problem or a sin which overwhelms me, again and again I forget that I already know the solution.

The tragedy of original sin is not that we live in a world where we cannot eat what we want, where we age, and where we become sick and die. The tragedy of sin is that we have forgotten how to be happy. We look at happiness and we think: "What do you want with me?"

"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." — Psalm 95:7

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
©LPi

Around the Diocese

- **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 Lenten Retreat "Gathered in Worship"** at the Villa Maria in Springfield beginning at 9:00 am on Tuesday Feb 27th and ending at noon on Wed. Feb 28th, with Fr. Richard Chiola, retired priest of our diocese, as retreat master. Spiritual presentations, reflection, prayer, Holy Mass, Confession, fellowship and much more. All are welcome! Registration forms with cost are available in the Atrium. Registration deadline: Feb 17th. Contact: Mary Ann Sullivan 217-822-1928.
- **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. Applications are available in the Atrium, or you can reach out to the Parish Office.