

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

FEBRUARY 4, 2024 | FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 5

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!



Do the Red and Say the Black

The first time I travelled outside of the United States was in 2006. Up to that point, I had only ever attended masses that were celebrated in English. While in Rome during that trip, I attended Mass one Sunday afternoon in St. Peter's Basilica that was celebrated in German. Having taken three years of German, I thought I might be safe, but I soon found out that I struggled to understand pretty much anything, likely because I had not done anything with my German language skills in almost a decade. Although I found it difficult to understand the words being said, I had absolutely no problem following along with the actions

that were taking place. The flow of the liturgy, and in particular, the actions of the Eucharistic Prayer, were all familiar to me, and there was a great sense of comfort. Though I was far away from home, listening to words I could not quite understand, I still very much felt at home in the liturgy that I had come to know so well.

I have had many people over the years report similar experiences of attending Mass in an unfamiliar language. Although it is always nice to understand the words, we know there is more to the Mass than just the words that are spoken. In the Roman Missal, the book that the presider uses when celebrating Mass, the words that the priest are to say are printed in black, but there are also words in the book that he does not say, and these are printed in red. These words in red are known as the rubrics. Speaking of words we might not understand, this is one worth defining. The entry for 'rubrics' the Modern Catholic Dictionary reads as follows:

Originally red titles of law announcements. They are the directive precepts or liturgical provisions found in the Missal, including the Sacramentary and lectionary, and in the ritual, to guide bishops, priests, or deacons in the Eucharistic liturgy, the administration of sacraments and sacramentals, and the preaching of the Word of God. Rubrics are printed in red and are either obligatory or merely directive, as the context makes amply clear. (Etym. Latin rubrica, red earth; title of law written in red; hence law instruction.)

In our formation, priests have been taught the simple, though important liturgical principle: "Do the red and say the black." When a priest is faithful to following the rubrics of the Mass, the faithful will be able to follow along much more easily, not so much because they understand what is being said, but because of what is being done. To be sure, it would be ideal if we understood the words as well, but not understanding the words does not mean that we cannot fully participate in the Mass. If, therefore, you find yourself in a different country or in a situation where the only Mass available is in a different language, you are not dispensed from attending Mass just because you do not understand the language. You will always understand the "language" of the actions of the Mass and you will always be able to unite your heart to the sacrifice that is being offered to God on your behalf by the celebrant.

I share this reflection as an invitation to pay closer attention to the actions that accompany the words at Mass, especially during the Eucharistic Prayer. Perhaps they may seem random, but they are carefully defined and given to us by the Church to be followed faithfully, for they, in addition to the words spoken, are significant to the meaning of the liturgy.

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, February 5

7am - John Brunk & Deceased Family
(John Brunk Estate)
5:15pm - Kara Leigh Smith
(Bev & Larry Smith)

Tuesday, February 6

7am - Richard Martinez Sr.
(John Holtkamp)
5:15pm - Thomas McGee
(Fr. Tolton Council 16126)

Wednesday, February 7

7am - Russell Steill Sr.
(Steil Family)
5:15pm - Nancy Curtin
(David Curtin)

Thursday, February 8

7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Friends)
5:15pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)

Friday, February 9

7am - Betty Rogers
(Family)
5:15pm - Special Intention for Bianca
(D.A. Drago)

Saturday, February 10

8am - Donna & Dave Berte
(Berte Family)
4pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Sunday, February 11

7am - Pamela Harmon
(Archie Harmon)
10am - John Teter
(D.A. Drago)
5pm - For the People



St. Joseph of Leonessa

Feast Day: February 4th

The year was 1572, the place, Viterbo, Italy.

Eufranio Desiderio was 16 years old, and sick with a fever.

In our day fevers are more often a nuisance than a critical illness, and usually pass after a few days of rest or after a standard round of antibiotics, but in Eufranio's day they were ominous. 50% of all deaths, of all humans, until about 150 years ago were because of infections before the age of 15.

Eufranio was, by all accounts, a prayerful, cheerful boy (his name, originally stemming from the Greek word "eúphrôn", literally meant "good heart/mind", fitting for such a kindly young man). He would play Mass with his siblings (he was one of 8), and would fast and practice penances every Friday as part of the Confraternity of the Holy Savior. However, at the age of 12 he lost both of his parents and moved from his hometown of Lionessa to live with his uncle in Viterbo. His uncle, a teacher, reared the boy as best he could and managed to arrange a marriage between him and the daughter of a local noble family.

Eufranio, however, was torn. He wanted to be grateful for all his uncle had done for him, but he was attracted to the ardent and wholehearted life of a religious vocation. Somewhere in the midst of his discernment he fell sick. It is uncertain whether his consternation over his future and the Lord's call was so profound that it caused his illness, or perhaps his recovery was the sign he needed from the Lord to indicate which way to go, but in any case when the fever abated he had come to his decision: he would return to Leonessa and join the Capuchins.

I want to stay with him, at the age of 16 or 17, as he was wrestling about this decision. He, like so many young people, had different options before him, and chose the admittedly daunting task of actually engaging them, discerning them, trying to find God's will in them. It is so much easier to just keep ourselves distracted and not take an open-eyed look at what is happening inside of our hearts, at what options are truly open to us, and to dig deep into prayer and see what the Lord keeps bringing up before us. And, on top of all of that it is often not easy to choose the path God has prepared for us. Fear and uncertainty buffet us from side to side. Our own weaknesses and sins cause us to doubt whether we're capable of it. And, wherever the Lord calls us it will always cost us everything – of course it's worth everything too; it's a path of joy and love and peace and leads us to heaven – but it will also entail the cross!

As Christians, we believe that God's love extends to the big and little things of our life, that He has a plan for our holiness and happiness, and if we stay in relationship with the Lord, and ask for Him to guide us, He will. But, that knowledge does not take away the angst that comes as we glance into an uncertain future, or the tension between various good paths, or the reality of the impact our decision has on others around us. Eufranio found sanctity, inner peace, a zeal and liveliness in the capuchins that cast every doubt out of his mind ... but what about his uncle? What about the young lady who was preparing to marry him? What about his siblings back in Lionessa? We don't know their stories, but his decision would have impacted them too. Somehow the Lord's will was there for them of course, but it is undeniable that Eufranio's conviction that he must become a friar could have caused them suffering or uncertainty themselves.

One thing learned from the rest of St. Joseph's life (his religious name): As a friar, he was known for his remarkable self-denial: of small pleasures, choosing little penances, fasting and offering other sacrifices to God. This was amplified when he was sent to Turkey (Constantinople) to minister to Christians held captive there as slaves for the Turks. He, and his fellow friars, lived in absolutely impoverished conditions themselves, and he would go day after day to minister to the captives and preach against their captivity, getting himself thrown into prison again and again, even marvelously surviving a death sentence. Notice a theme: he was constantly finding his sanctity in embracing poverty. Embracing the loss of his parents, the rigors of illness, the poverty of the capuchins, the situation of Christians slaves... He found an anchor for his discernment in the discovery that leaning into poverty was, for him, a path to sanctity.

If you discover a similar place where God is making your holier, or more loving, or more like Him, stay with that! Stay with God in that place where He is so obviously leading you home to Him and everything else will work out.

Fr. Dominic Rankin was studying in Rome when the 2016 earthquakes struck the town of Amatrice, where Fr. Joseph ended his days. Pray for that city and all those who lost their lives. Certainly Fr. Joseph would have ran into their poverty if he wasn't already doing more for them in heaven!

Stewardship of Treasure

January 20th & 21st

Envelopes:	\$5,706.00
Loose:	\$3,793.00
Maintenance:	\$278.00
Total:	\$9,777.00

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 FEBRUARY 5

<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 6:00 PM Parish Library 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		

What's Going on Around 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



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.

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

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.

K of C Soup-er Bowl of Caring Food Drive

Knights of Columbus 16126 is sponsoring a Soup-er Bowl of Caring food drive on Super Bowl weekend (February 10 & 11). You are asked to bring a can of soup or other non-perishable food items or a cash donation. In exchange, you will receive a sweet treat to enjoy during the Big game.

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.

Health and Wellness Survey

The Cathedral Parish Nurses are here to serve you, whether it be by offering regular blood pressure screenings, providing health and wellness information, or hosting events. In order to help shape our health and wellness ministry and identify how our Parish Nurses can better serve our parishioners, please consider filling out a short survey on our website: <https://spicathedral.org/health-and-wellness/>. A paper copy of the survey is available in the atrium and can be sent to the Parish Office, or dropped in the collection basket. All information submitted in this survey is confidential.

Purpose and Pride

Father, forgive me. Today's Gospel made me want to fight somebody.

If you want to make me really, really angry, you are sure of doing so if you tell me about an old woman who was sick, but felt a little better, and then her son-in-law and all his buddies showed up, so she cooked them a bunch of food and cleaned up after them.

We all project our own feelings, fears, insecurities, and desires onto the word of God. I certainly do. And most of my feelings, fears, insecurities, and desires spring from my current role as a tired mom of little kids.

I think there is a fear inside many of us of God's purpose for our lives. What if it's not aligned perfectly with what we think we need, or what we imagine we want? Most of the time, I think I need a nap, and I imagine that I want absolutely no one asking me for any kind of help. And here I am, perpetually napless and always being called on to render assistance.

The actions of Peter's mother-in-law were the only actions we would expect of a woman who had just received a miracle. She jumped up, and with bravery and boldness she served the Lord.

But couldn't she rest? Couldn't she serve him later? Couldn't she thank him with a smile and take a nap? Well, I suppose. But is that how you react to a miracle?

I have received my miracle — my family. My purpose. So why am I still lying down?

"He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them." — Mark 1:31

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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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.