

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

FEBRUARY 11, 2024 | SIXTH 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 6

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

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

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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

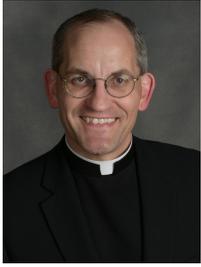
Tuesday & Thursday - 4:00pm to 5:00pm

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!



United in Communion

A few years ago, I heard a story of a priest in another diocese who got in some trouble with his bishop because of he was improvising the prayers of the Mass. There was a lot of pushback from the faithful who felt that the bishop's treatment of the priest was unfair. What was the big deal if he was making some adaptations to the Mass? While I do not pretend to know all of the details of the case, it does bring up an important point, one that I mentioned in last week's bulletin article. The prayers of the Mass have been given to us by the Church and all of us – priests and laity, have a responsibility to be faithful to what has been handed down to us. We are not masters of the liturgy, we are its servants. It has been passed down to us by Christ Himself through the authority of the Church which He Himself has conferred.

In that regard, it is important to acknowledge that it is ultimately the responsibility of the bishop of a diocese to ensure that the worship of the Eucharist is observed faithfully, and if there is any abuse of which he is made aware, he has the duty to address it. The faithful deserve to have the Mass celebrated for them as the Church intends. And while there may be different elements of the liturgy that may vary, such as music, tone of voice, directionality in prayer, the prayers of the Mass, particularly the Eucharistic Prayer, are to be followed, both as an expression of obedience to the Church and in giving proper glory to God.

At every celebration of the Mass, the celebrant will mention the names of the Pope and the local bishop. This is a significant point of the Eucharistic Prayer for both the celebrant and the laity. For the celebrant, as mentioned above, it is a reminder of the communion he should have with the Church, expressed in a visible way through his relationship with his bishop, on whose behalf he collaborates in ministry in the diocese, and with the Pope, the visible sign of unity of Catholics throughout the world. It is an opportunity for him to be praying for these two key individuals who are essential to his identity as a priest, as one who is not a lone ranger, but who is united with his brother priests in the diocese and throughout the world. For the faithful at Mass, the mention of the Pope and local bishop is a similar reminder, that as Catholics, our identity is much broader than the parish to which we belong. To be sure, we should have a great love and commitment to our local parish, but a parish is never an isolated entity. It exists in communion with the other parishes of the diocese and throughout the world. The Pope and the bishops serve as visible reminders of the unity that must always exist.

A key aspect of our being Catholic is having this understanding of being in communion with other Catholics throughout our diocese and throughout our world. This is an area where I believe we are in need of continual conversion. Even if we do not always agree with something that Pope or the bishop has said or done, let us not let that be a reason for us to weaken our communion with them, and as a result, with one another. Jesus says in the Gospel that "a house divided against itself will stand." (Mt. 12:25) If we are not praying for unity in the Church on a regular basis, both locally and universally, now is a time to start. And there is no better way to do so than when the Pope and local bishop are mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer at every Mass.

Father Alford is the Rector of the Cathedral and serves in the diocesan curia as the Vicar for Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations.

A Fond Farewell

This past Wednesday, Jan Sgambelluri, our parish Bookkeeper, had her last day at the parish. Jan and her husband, Deacon Rob, are moving to be closer to two of their children and their three grandchildren who live in Edwardsville. We are grateful for the many years Jan has served our parish, first working in the school, and for the past several years, managing our finances. Under her watchful care, our debt had gone down significantly. Deacon Rob has begun a new assignment at St. Boniface Parish in Edwardsville. We are pleased that he was able to share his first few years of ministry as a deacon with us as the Cathedral. Please join me in thanking God for all that the Sgambelluris have done as a part of our parish family and praying for them in this next chapter of their lives!

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 12

7am - Rita Greenwald

(Carol West)

5:15pm - Debra Michelle Beltramea

(John & Debra Beltramea)

Tuesday, February 13

7am - Mary Jane Kerns

(Estate)

5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway

(Robert Gasaway)

Wednesday, February 14

7am - Amelia Rose Zimmerman

(LouAnn Mack & Carl Corrigan)

12:05pm - Mary Eleanor Maloy

(Madonna Fluckiger)

5:15pm - Doris Drago

(D.A. Drago)

Thursday, February 15

7am - Jacklyn Steubke

(Bridgit)

12:05pm - Thomas R. McGee

(Tom & Diane English)

5:15pm - Deceased Members of the

Kruzick/Tobin Family (Steve & Vicki Stalcup)

Friday, February 16

7am - Wilbur West

(Carol West)

12:05pm - Dominic Aiello

(Rex Bangert)

5:15pm - Lenn Family

(Rose Lenn)

Saturday, February 17

8am - Barbara Contrite (Litina Carnes)

4pm - Deceased Members of the CCCW

(CCCW)

Sunday, February 18

7am - Otis Hubert

(Hubert Family)

10am - For the People

5pm - Betty Rogers

(Family)



St. Jonas, of Muchon, of Demeskenyanos or just “the Gardener”

Feast Day: February 11th

So I went deep down a Wikipedia rabbit hole researching “Jones” this week. One of my cousins had her first baby about two weeks ago, the baptism being last Sunday down on Maxwell Air Force Base (she and her husband are in the Air Force), and they named him Jones. I had certainly heard the name before, but almost exclusively as a last-name/surname. So, off I went on a deep-dive into human language, names, and etymology. To save you from a similar investigation: Jones itself originally comes from the Welsh version of “Johnson”, which, as you may be able to tell without perusing many articles on the subject, is a last-name for somebody who was the son of John. (Many surnames are like this, the father’s name with something added indicating “son-of”, like “Wil-son”, “Fitz-Gerald”, “O-Connor”, or “Rodríguez”. Another common way to derive a surname is from occupation [e.g. “Miller”, “Eisenhower”] or location [e.g. “Hamilton”, “Stone”]).

Of course, our rabbit hole now turns to the name “John”, which originally comes from the Hebrew name “Y’hohanan”, a name summarizing the phrase “YHWH is Merciful”. It shows up throughout the Old Testament though it grew greatly in popularity after one of the five Maccabean brothers had that name. Two of the most famous New Testament figures, John the Baptist and John the Apostle, indicate the name’s popularity in Our Lord’s day, and it only grew more widespread as Christian parents chose those saints as patrons for their baby boys. And now you can find versions of this name all over the world: Arabic: يوحنا / Yūḥannā, Chinese: 約翰 / Yuēhàn, Danish: Hans or Johannes, French: Jean, Georgian: იოანე / Ioane, ... I think you get the picture!

But ... this leads us to that enigmatic name of God, technically called the “tetragrammaton” (Greek meaning “four letters”), the four Hebrew letters: Yod [י], He [ה], Waw [ו], and He [ה], rendered in our Latin alphabet as “YHWH”. This is the name that God gives for Himself while speaking to Moses at the burning bush.

13 Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” 14 God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I am has sent me to you.’” 15 God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. [Exodus 3:13-15]

Whenever you see God referred to as the “Lord” (all capitals) in the Bible, that is an indication that originally the text had this four-letter Divine Name (יהוה / YHWH). To respect and keep holy God’s name, Jews will never articulate it, speaking instead another word such as “Adonai” (Lord) or “Elohim” (God), a practice maintained when one of our bible translations uses “LORD”. (With the same respect, notice that the name “Y’hohanan” itself abridges God’s name to just its first two letters.) As God Himself describes, His name means “He Who is.” Scholars debate endlessly on the topic, but we’re going to trust the LORD on the right interpretation of His name. “H-Y-H” in Ancient Hebrew is the basic infinitive “to be”, and by adding the prefix “Y-”, you make it third-person: “He [Who] is.”

You might think this has little to do with St. Jonas ... and you’d be right. St. Jonas was a little-known monk who became a saint by praying the psalms while making rope for one of St. Pochomius’ monasteries in the Egyptian desert (St. Pochomius an emulator of the famous St. Anthony of the Desert). Sadly, hilariously for me, “Jonas”, derives from the Hebrew name “Jonah” (like the prophet), and probably has no connection to the name “John”. Most scholars think that it simply means “dove”, perhaps linking it to other related words which add a character of flightiness or instability.

Fr. Dominic Rankin can only laugh at having followed the wrong trail for so long in investigating today’s saint. Happily, Jonah – both the prophet and the monk – in the end still chose to follow the LORD. Happily for us, we also can always choose Christ no matter which path we’ve gotten ourselves onto thus far.

Stewardship of Treasure

February 3rd & 4th

Envelopes:	\$8,393.00
Loose:	\$3,149.00
Maintenance:	\$3,185.00
Total:	\$14,727.00

January EFT

\$19,343.80

January Debt Reduction

\$710.00

January Second Collections

Catholic Times
\$1,815.00

Church in Latin America
\$3,180.00

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!

Sacraments

Baptisms

Piper Joann & Georgia Jean Groff
Child of Thomas & Morgan Groff
Baptized on January 27, 2024

Zurich David Sylvester
Child of Trevon & Jacklynn Sylvester
Baptized on January 27, 2024

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 12

<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		
St. Monica Ministry 7:00 PM School Library	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Seeds of the Word Film Series 6:30 PM Atrium		
		Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM School Classroom	Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM School Hall			

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



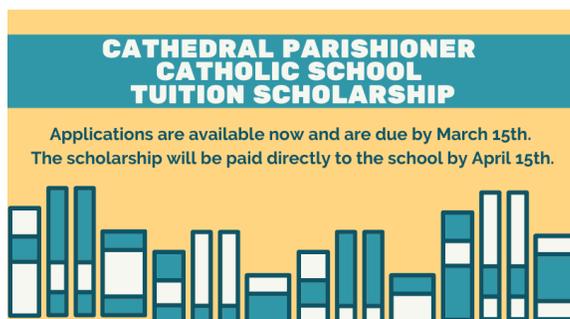
Health and Wellness Survey

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.



Cathedral Meal Train

We as Cathedral parishioners would like to start ministering to the Bishop and our priests of the parish by providing them with dinners a couple times a week. Just as they provide us with spiritual nourishment at Mass, we strive to provide them with physical nourishment, in order to give them the strength they need to continue to serve our parish family day in and day out. We are looking at needing dinners two evenings each week for the Bishop & our parish priests. Volunteers can utilize our Meal Train website to sign up for the dates that work best for them throughout the year. We also ask that our volunteers deliver the dinner they prepare to the rectory by 3:30-4:00 pm on the chosen dates. We would need enough of an entrée to feed 5-6 people. Sides are welcome, but not necessary. Please visit www.https://spicathedral.org/cathedral-meal-train/ if you are interested in volunteering in this ministry.



Cathedral Parishioner Catholic School Tuition Scholarship

The Cathedral Parish believes in the value of Catholic education and is committed to assisting parishioners who choose a Catholic education for their children by providing tuition assistance. Parishioners will receive a \$500 tuition scholarship for each child enrolled in a Springfield Catholic Grade School (Grades K-8), and a \$750 tuition scholarship for each child enrolled at Sacred Heart-Griffin High School. The Scholarship is eligible to any parishioner household who is registered and active in the Cathedral parish. For more information or to apply, please visit our website (www.spicathedral.org/cathedral-parishioner-catholic-school-tuition-scholarship-form/). Applications are DUE by March 15th, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact the Cathedral Parish Office at 217-522-3342.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Lent with CRS Rice Bowl

Lent is just a few days away and once again our parish will be participating in CRS Rice Bowl. CRS Rice Bowl is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program and it's an opportunity for us to come together as a community and support our sisters and brothers around the world—especially people experiencing poverty, hunger and the effects of climate change. This year, through CRS Rice Bowl, we will encounter communities in Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia. We'll learn about the principles of Catholic social teaching—and ways we can put them into action. Furthermore, participating in CRS Rice Bowl will help us engage daily with the spiritual pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. When you pick up your Rice Bowl, you'll also receive a Lenten calendar that offers short reflections for each day of Lent. Make sure to put together this cardboard box and use it to collect your family's alms. And visit crsricebowl.org for stories, meatless recipes, prayers and more to enrich your Lenten journey. Rice Bowls will be available the Sunday before Ash Wednesday and all through Lent. May God bless you for your generosity.

Blood Pressure Checks – February 17th & 18th

Our parish nurse will be available for blood pressure checks before and after masses next weekend. Please stop by!

Second Collection: Church in Central and Eastern Europe

On Ash Wednesday our special collection will support the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. When you participate in this collection, you help the Church in Slovakia, Albania, and more than 25 other countries accompany people who still experience the hardships and wounds caused by communism. Your support for and promotion of the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe is crucial to the success of ministries that affirm the dignity of children, youth, and other vulnerable people and show them the love and mercy of Jesus. For more information about the collection and who it supports, visit www.usccb.org/ccee. Thank you for your help to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

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.

CCCW Trivia Night

The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women invites you to test your knowledge! Come enjoy a night of trivia, fun, food and drink and cash prizes on Saturday, March 9th, 7:00pm to 10:00pm in the Cathedral Atrium. Doors open 6:00 pm, and trivia begins 7:00pm. \$10 per person or \$100 per table. Raffle tickets will be on sale after Masses and during the night of the event. Proceeds benefit the CCCW scholarship fund. For reservations and payment information, contact Judith Carstens 217-381-4501 after 5pm please or email jnjarcarstens5@sbcglobal.net.

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.

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
Tuesday, February 13th
1pm – 2:30pm
MCL Restaurant & Bakery
2151 Wabash Ave.
Springfield, IL 62704

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, February 12th.

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

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.

Ask Father! What do we do with old blessed palms? Why do you collect them at the Cathedral?

In the weeks leading up to Ash Wednesday, it is not uncommon to see old, dried palms show up in the Atrium. These palms are typically from the previous year's Palm Sunday masses.

Let's address the first question. What do we do with old palms? The answer to this can apply to a whole host of blessed items. When something is blessed, it is to be used for devotional purposes. If the item breaks, wears out, or it no longer usable, then the question arises as to how best to dispose of those items? The tradition response is that these items should either be burned or buried. An article I read on this topic offers a nice explanation as to why this practice is observed: "The tradition of returning blessed items to the Earth stems from the idea that an object sanctified in God's name should be returned to God, much like the way a person is buried and returned to the earth."

So when it comes to palms, what should we do with them? In the late 1800's, the Church issues a few different decisions on how to dispose of blessed items. Among them was a directive on what to do with blessed palms. It directed that **palms are to be burned, and the ashes then used for distribution on Ash Wednesday or returned to the ground.**

Here is where the second question comes in. What do we do with all of those palms that people drop off at the Church? First of all, we are not asking anybody to drop old, blessed palms off, people just do it, likely for the reason I mentioned above regarding Ash Wednesday. Now, I hope this does not disappoint or scandalize you, but we do not burn those blessed palms in order to make ashes to be distributed on Ash Wednesday. We have a bucket full of ash, from which we extract a small amount each year. Based on its current capacity, I would guess we have ashes for a decade or two! So, when we get these palms, we usually just burn them in the fire at the Easter Vigil, then those ashes are placed in the ground.

So, if you still have palms, and are wondering what to do with them, I would encourage you to consider burning them outside at your home and then burying the ashes in the ground. If you bring them to us, we will eventually burn them, but we certainly do not require any of those palms for making ashes for Ash Wednesday. So if you do not absolutely need to bring them to us, then please take care of them in the way mentioned above.

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.