

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

FEBRUARY 18, 2024 | FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



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 7

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
NINTH BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

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THE REVEREND PAUL LESUPATI
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
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 Lord's Prayer

Having spent a couple of months focusing on the Eucharistic Prayer, the highpoint of the Mass, we now move to the Communion Rite, which begins with the praying of the Lord's Prayer, also referred to as the Our Father.

As I wrote early on in this series, our goal is to pray the Mass better, avoiding falling into autopilot with both our words and our gestures. The Lord's Prayer is one place in the Mass where we can easily fall into this trap, considering how many times we have prayed this prayer in our lives. As children, we were taught to memorize prayers so that we could get the words right. From there, we can reflect more deeply on what we are praying, such that the words

are an expression of a trusting child to their Father. But sadly, we sometimes never get past the memorization phase with these prayers and we miss out on the richness of this beautiful prayer that has come to us directly from the Lord Himself.

One of the ways to avoid just reciting the words of the Our Father is to take time outside of Mass to pray the Lord's Prayer with greater intentionality. If we get used to praying this prayer, as opposed to just saying the words, we will find that when this part of the Mass arrives, we will more naturally have this moment be an expression of our close union with the Lord as His beloved sons and daughters. When we pray the Lord's Prayer at Mass, in addition to our being conscious of being His children by calling Him "Father", we also have the opportunity to be conscious of being brothers and sisters to those around us, for we call upon Him as our Father.

This awareness of being united with others who have God as Father when praying the Lord's Prayer has really helped me to pray this prayer better. More often than not, I tend to think of the Lord's Prayer in terms of praying for my needs, for His will to be done in my life, for His daily bread to nourish me. But when I consider that I am not just praying for myself, but for others, it makes the prayer even more powerful. I sometimes call to mind those who have drifted away from their faith. For whatever reason, they may no longer come to Mass, they may not even pray. Since they are not praying for themselves, my prayer to the Father includes praying for their needs and intentions. I sometimes call to mind people who find themselves in desperate situations, such as one who may be suffering physically or mentally, or a woman who is facing a difficult decision about her pregnancy. When I pray the Lord's Prayer, I am asking the Lord to show them His fatherly compassion and encouragement, so as not to feel alone.

We have no idea the struggles of those who surround us at each Mass. Perhaps somebody in the next pew was just diagnosed with cancer. Perhaps somebody across the aisle has just lost a loved one. Perhaps somebody in the church has just lost a job. We may never know, but Father knows, and by praying together this beautiful prayer, we are experiencing a profound unity with Him and with one another, which is preparing us well for us to soon receive the Sacrament of Unity in the Eucharist which will only strengthen that bond.

I had a question last Sunday if I would resume my Lenten challenges this year. I had honestly not thought about it, but as I write this column, I think I have found my first challenge. I invite you to take time this week outside of Mass to pray the Lord's Prayer with greater attention. I would invite you to pray the Lord's Prayer three times, nice and slow. The first is for yourself, focusing on your relationship to the Father, asking Him for your daily needs. The second is for one person who is on your heart. It might be somebody who is struggling at this point in their life. It might be somebody who has a birthday that day. Just trust the Lord to put somebody on your heart, and pray this prayer slowly and intentionally for them. The third is for our parish. Again, we are largely clueless as to the many needs of our brothers and sisters in this parish, but as I said, the Lord knows. So offer this third prayer with trust in the Father's goodness to our parish family, that He will give us all what we are most in need of that day according to His holy will.

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 19

7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Community)
12:05pm - Gorman Mulcahy
(Helen Guernsey)
5:15pm - NO MASS

Tuesday, February 20

7am - St. Annette Embrich ASC
(Brother)
12:05pm - The Rogers Family
(Dennis Rogers)
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the
Chiaradonna Family (Geny
Chiaradonna)

Wednesday, February 21

7am - Cathedral Parishioners
(Carol West)
12:05pm - The Smith Family
(Kenneth Smith)
5:15pm - Douglas Kurz
(Cathy Furkin Family)

Thursday, February 22

7am - Joseph Klein
(Andrew & Cheryl Klein)
12:05pm - Julie Kennedy-Padgett
(Chris Willis)
5:15pm - Pamela Harmon
(Archie Harmon)

Friday, February 23

7am - Thomas R. McGee
(Bruce Betzold)
12:05pm - The Hoch Family
(Janet Hoch)
5:15pm - Frank Albanese
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

Saturday, February 24

8am - The Westendorf Family
(Mark Westendorf)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, February 25

7am - Dan Sexson
(Bev Hoffman)
10am - John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)
5pm - The Sosman Family
(Frederic Sosman)



St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara

Feast Day: February 18th

I would like to describe the life and holiness of Fr. Kuriakose Elias Chavara in three things that he loved all his life.

1. Words

As in human language. From a young age in his village school, Kuriakose loved to study language and dialects. Perhaps he was first intrigued by the twists and turns of history that led that Greek name Kyriakos ("of the Lord") to find its way into Syriac Aramaic, which had become the language of his Christian community in Kerala, India. Probably the Persian missionaries who brought the Eastern Syriac Rite (and Syriac language, descended from the Aramaic spoken by Jesus!) to India in the 400s and

500s brought the story of the early martyr Quriakos, a boy killed with his mother in Turkey around AD 304 for being Christian who was now little Kuriakose's patron.

In any case, as his life unfolds, we see this linguistic interest come back again and again. When a priest for well over a decade, in 1846, Fr. Kuriakose founded an institute for the study of Sanskrit. Now it seems clear enough that his early studies under the Hindu teacher, Asan, may have introduced him to this venerable and sacred language of the Hindu religion, the language of its religious vedas, epics, and hymns. But the priest's interest in studying this old language was not merely historic or linguistic, rather his goal was to teach it to children, to every child in Kerala. He ordered every church under his leadership (as superior of the third order Carmelites) to build a school alongside their church (even just a simple lean-to, a "pallikoodam") and convinced the bishop to require all churches to do the same. Thus, and on a massive scale, he was the first person in India to dare to educate the so called untouchables, and he was teaching them the highest and holiest language of India.

This not being enough, he snuck into a government facility to see their printing press, memorized its mechanism, then used a banana stem to make a model of it for a carpenter to replicate (!), and spent 6000 Rupees (probably tens of thousands of dollars today) to build it. And so was able to publish books, prayers, poems, and other tracts of his own composition and also provide free books to the children in his schools. He was the first to print prayer books in East Syrian as well as Malayalam, also being one of the first to write significant works in Malayalam.

Later, that same press would publish of the first newspapers in India, a Christian publication to teach and unite the various Christian communities.

2. The Mass

Now, he wouldn't have referred to the Mass as "the Mass". Our English word "Mass" comes from the Latin phrase said at the conclusion of Mass, "ite missa est." Originally, this simply, and literally, just means "go, it is the dismissal." But notice the similarity between "dismissal" and "mission" or "commission." This is the Church's way to remind everyone that goes to Mass, that we are – every time – sent by Christ to carry His Love to the world. Only later in the Church's history did the liturgy come to be called "the Mass", and the book that contains its prayers "the Missal.") Fr. Chavara though would have called the Mass "Qurbānā Qandišā", "Holy Sacrifice" in his Eastern Syriac language.

We actually know the details of his very first Mass, celebrated at St. Andrew's Basilica in Arthunkal, during which his intention for that Holy Sacrifice was the realization of a religious institute that he and a few other priests were contemplating establishing. That prayer would grow into his founding a branch of the Carmelite order with a few other priests which he would lead for many years of his later life (and also a female branch as well). His love for the liturgy was also evident in his publishing liturgical texts for families, for priests and religious (the divine office, various blessings, the first liturgical calendar, and orders for the Holy Sacrifice itself), and also in establishing the forty-hours Adoration around his area, retreats for priests, seminaries and formation houses... The common denominator to all these efforts: bring everyone to Christ in the Eucharist.

3. Mangoes

Once again, something that St. Chavara must have loved as a child became a means for him to spread the Gospel. In this case, while he was prior of the Carmelites, he took time to cultivate a certain mango tree and went on to send seedlings to his various monasteries and convents. "Please plant the sapling of this sweet mango, which I name it as 'Dukran' (orma = memory) ... this is to make you realize that myself and all men are weak and faltering and don't have long life even as these mango trees which give sweet fruits." His flock didn't keep the name he gave it. As these trees popped up all over Kerala, they just called it "priormavu", "Prior-Mango", named after their beloved first prior who gave it to them. Probably his schoolkids learned to love it too because among many other firsts, Fr. Chavara was also the first one to provide lunches to the children in his schools.

Fr. Dominic Rankin if pressed to think of three childhood loves, would match Fr. Chavara in delighting in the Mass, but would have to probably choose sports and construction-toys as two other lifelong interests, now to just find ways to use that to manifests Christ's love!

Stewardship of Treasure

February 10th & 11th

Envelopes:	\$5,228.00
Loose:	\$3,988.00
Maintenance:	\$112.00
Total:	\$9,328.00

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

Deaths

Marguerite "Micki" Culton
Date of Death: February 2, 2024

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19

<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 NO 5:15 PM MASS	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 CCCW Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 PM Atrium Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM School Classroom	Adoration 4:00 PM Church CCCW Meeting 6:00 PM School Hall Knights of Columbus Meeting 6:00 PM School Classroom Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM School Hall	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



CCCW Lenten Soup Suppers

Looking for dinner options during Lent? Join the women of CCCW for Lenten Soup Suppers throughout this season of Lent! The first Lenten Soup Supper will be this Wednesday, February 21, beginning at 6pm in the Atrium. Seven homemade soups with bread & crackers will be served, with a presentation from Executive Director of Mission Outreach at HSHS, Erica Smith. All are welcome!



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/](https://spicathedral.org/cathedral-meal-train/) if you are interested in volunteering in this ministry.

CATHEDRAL PARISHIONER CATHOLIC SCHOOL TUITION SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are available now and are due by March 15th.
The scholarship will be paid directly to the school by April 15th.



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/](https://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



PARISH health and wellness SURVEY

March First Friday Concert Series

Join us on Friday, March 1, 2024 at 7pm in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! March's concert will feature Justin Johnson, Baritone. The First Friday Concert Series is sponsored by the Staab Family, directed by Mark Gifford, and is free and open to the public. All are welcome!

CCCW Meeting - February 22

All Cathedral ladies are invited to join the Cathedral Council of Catholic Women for Service, Spiritual and Social activities each month. Our next meeting is on Thursday, February 22nd in the School Hall. We begin with a complimentary, light meal at 6:00pm and convene the meeting at 6:30pm. Please join us!

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 hdupton@cathedral.dio.org.

A Season for Reflection

During this holy time, we are called to pause and pay closer attention to our relationship with God and our neighbors. Reflect on how the Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving can guide your journey and how the Eucharist helps us to live in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world. Visit csrcicebowl.org to learn more and read this week's Story of Hope.

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 jnrcarstens5@sbcglobal.net.

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 First Friday Concert

**MARCH 1, 2024
7 PM - 8 PM**

*Featuring
Justin Johnson, Baritone*

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.focusquip.org/lent24/ for more information or to register.

Blood Pressure Checks - February 17th & 18th

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

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.

Traveling the Landscape of Lent

A pilgrimage is an invitation to seek God, not only in the final destination but in the many people and places encountered along the way. The Sunday Gospels of Lent give us rich imagery and landscapes across which to traverse as we journey toward the Risen Christ at Easter. In each place, we are invited to encounter Christ already at work. In this series of retreat modules, our community of writers will invite you deeper into the Gospel scene, pulling from their own faith journey while accompanying you on yours. Sign up at <https://www.jesuits.org/traveling-the-landscapes-of-lent-a-digital-pilgrimage-with-christ-to-the-cross/> to receive these meditations every Monday of Lent.

Eucharistic Testimony

Introducing our kids to Jesus in the Eucharist has been a simple, yet confusing aspect of the faith for us to share. We start them young and point to Jesus at the moment of Consecration. We tell them, "Look at Jesus!", sometimes having to clarify, "No, not Father, Jesus, the circle!" While we never want to lessen the magnificence of the miracle occurring, sometimes the simplest of terms make things a lot easier for them to grasp.

Lately our little Maggie has been asking, "Is Father going to give me the bread?". I explained to her that she would need to wait until she was older until she could receive Jesus, but it made me realize that I could introduce her to another aspect of our faith, namely spiritual communion.

After I had received communion, Maggie and I knelt side by side and I explained to her that she couldn't eat Jesus but He could still come into her. I asked her if she wanted that, and she replied, "Yes!". I asked her to repeat after me. "Jesus, I cannot eat you right now, but I want you inside of me. Please come into me right now." She repeated my words, getting more excited after each statement and then looked at me, "Did He come in?" "Yes!", I replied.

I found it humbling to speak those words to Maggie because while it was easy to answer her question, it poked a finger into the part of my heart that still struggles. Of course Jesus would enter easily into the heart of an innocent four year old who is endlessly forgiving, relentlessly loving, and spends the majority of her time laughing and playing. Yet, is it truly the case that Jesus enters into me as eagerly amidst my imperfections? I knelt in prayer, pondering and then I heard His reply, "The answer isn't just yes for Maggie, but yes for you too."

I still sit with this and let Jesus open my heart to the truth that He doesn't just enter me because I say "Amen", but because that is where He wants to be.

Elena Tejeda has been married to Carlos for 16 years. They have 2 babies in heaven and 4 on earth with 1 more due in April. The Tejeda family serves through their non-profit Mercy Tree Adventures, a ministry with a focus on bringing Sacred Scripture to life.

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.
- **Men's Evening of Recollection**, Thursday, February 22nd at St John's Hospital Chapel (800 E. Carpenter St., Springfield), from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. & **Women's Day of Recollection**, Thursday, February 22 at Sacred Heart Church (730 S. 12th St., Springfield), from 12:45pm to 2:45pm. The recollections will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, meditations, time for silent prayer and reflection, an opportunity for confession, and more. All throughout the diocese are invited to attend. The spiritual guidance at the Recollection is entrusted to a priest of the Prelature of Opus Dei. Check out: www.opusdei.org
- **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.
- **St. Patrick Catholic School Blarney Bash Party and Live Auction**, Friday, March 15, 2024 at the LRS Hangar at Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport from 5:30p-8:00p. Tickets are \$40/person, \$60/couple and \$400 for a reserved table of 8. Reservations can be made online at www.st-patrick.org or by calling (217) 523-7670.
- **Mark your calendars! Springfield Right to Life and Two Hearts- Springfield Spring Fundraiser Brunch**, March 16th, 2024. You can be a Table Host and form a group of 8 people at your own table, or join a table with a host. Please call the SRTL office at 217-523-2700 to get more details or check out our website at springfieldrtl.org.
- **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.
- **"Mass Confusion"**, Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 6:30pm at St. Agnes Parish; nationally-known Catholic presenters, Doug Brummel and Dave Wilson, will bring the Mass alive through rich sketches, quirky characterizations, and Holy-Spirit-filled music.