

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

FEBRUARY 25, 2024 | SECOND 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 8

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!

Diocesan Victim Assistance is available. For the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, please call 217-321-1155.
Please remember that if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a nursing home or homebound, to contact the Parish Office at 217-522-3342



In Memory of a Friend

When opening our bulletin each week, I think it is safe to say that most people first focus on the page that begins with the Rector's Column. I say that not in a prideful way, as I am certain people skip right over that page as well, perhaps maybe pausing to look at the Mass intentions for the week, before looking at the rest of the bulletin. The page to the left, which lists the clergy, staff, and service times at the Cathedral, is often passed over, as this page will remain the same week in and week out, so why even give it a look? This week, though, there is a significant change that I want to make sure does not go unnoticed. A name that has been a part of the bulletins for more than three decades is sadly missing. Bill Vogt, who had the official title of "Office and Plant Manager" passed away on

Saturday, February 17. That title hardly does justice to all that Bill has done over the years here at the Cathedral. He was the institutional knowledge of this place, having worked under three bishops, five rectors, and many other clergy and staff who have been a part of this place he loved. Bill was the thread that maintained continuity over all of those years. Anytime there was a question about where something was, he would pause and say: "Let me think about it", and before long, he would have an answer.

I am usually the first to get up every morning and I will normally head down to the church around 5 AM to pray. There were many mornings when, as I was descending the steps, looking out on the parking lot, I would see Bill rolling in to start the day. When he would prepare dinner for the house, there were times when he wouldn't leave until close to 7 PM. To say that Bill was dedicated to this parish would be an understatement, to say the least. As much as he was dedicated to the operations of the parish, he was especially dedicated to the bishops and priests who have lived here over the years. When I first came to the Cathedral as Bishop's Priest Secretary and Master of Ceremonies in 2013, Bill and I quickly became friends. While I was praying in the church each morning, he would come in with his cart to work on replacing the candles in the votive shrines. As he walked down the aisle, I would look up at him, and he would give me his familiar two-finger wave. Over the past year or more, as he has slowed down, he's not been doing those candles, even though he was still coming in early each morning. And as I recall now that greeting we would share each morning, even though it's been a while since it last happened, my heart is heavy. This is just one of the many memories I will forever cherish about my relationship with Bill.

There is so much that can be said about Bill and all that he meant to me personally and to so many of us, but I am at a loss for words to write much more. Bill was truly a friend to many and our hearts are broken at our loss. But as Christians, we always have hope in the Resurrection, for ourselves and for our loved ones who have passed away. Since I have been reflecting on the Eucharistic Prayer recently in these articles, I would like to conclude with the prayers added to the Third Eucharistic Prayer for Masses for the Dead, words which I always find powerful and comforting. May they be a source of comfort and hope for us who have known and loved Bill and now commend him to God's mercy.

Remember your servant William whom you have called from this world to yourself. Grant that he who was united with your Son in a death like his, may also be one with him in his Resurrection, when from the earth he will raise up in the flesh those who have died, and transform our lowly body after the pattern of his own glorious body. To our departed brothers and sisters, too, and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory, when you will wipe away every tear from our eyes. For seeing you, our God, as you are, we shall be like you for all the ages and praise you without end, through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

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 26

7am - Ben Gaston
(Greg & Marie Fleck)
12:05pm - Bill Vogt
(Bev & Larry Smith)
5:15pm - John Brunk & Deceased Family Members (Estate)

Tuesday, February 27

7am - Sarah McGee
(McGee Family)
12:05pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Friends)
5:15pm - Roman Averbeck
(Regina Rusciolelli)

Wednesday, February 28

7am - Mary Conway
(Tom Conway)
12:05pm - The Ansell Family
(Judith Ansell)
5:15pm - Rose Marie Johnson
(D.A. Drago)

Thursday, February 29

7am - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)
12:05pm - The Everson Family
(Chris Everson)
5:15pm - Denis Beal
(Sue & Drew)

Friday, March 1

7am - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
12:05pm - Thomas R. McGee
(Mike & Kathy Harth)
5:15pm - Ron & Jean Borre & Family
(Richard & Kay King)

Saturday, March 2

8am - Fr. Francis Benham
(Berte Family)
4pm - Bill Vogt
(John Busciacco)

Sunday, March 3

7am - Pamela Harmon
(Archie Harmon)
10am - Frank Albanese
(Mike & Lily Layden)
5pm - For the People



Bl. Domenico Lentini

Feast Day: February 25th

Fr. Dominic Vahling made the happy connection between last week's St. Kuriakose, who's name (derived from the Greek word "Kyrie") means "of the Lord" and the name "Dominic", which means the same thing (derived from the Latin word "Dominus"). So, I figured we should keep up that "Lordly" theme, and get to know Blessed Domenico Lentini this week.

Domenico was born on November 20th, 1770, in the Kingdom of Naples Italy, the youngest of five siblings, the son of a cordwainer (I must clarify that in researching his life I discovered that his father, a shoemaker, would not, technically, be called a cobbler. Cobblers "cobbled" things together, as in they only worked with old shoes: repairing, replacing broken bits, reinforcing, etc. Cordwainers, instead, fashioned new shoes out of leather, the term derived from "cordovan", a leather from Cordoba, Spain. Needless to say, cordwainers don't take kindly to being called mere cobblers, though hopefully Macario, Domenico's dad, wouldn't take too much affront to it.)

In any case, Domenico, along with his older siblings Dominique, Rosa, Nicholas, and Antoinette, grew up with few material comforts other than good shoes. Famines struck Italy throughout the 1760s, stretching and breaking previous political arrangements, all further upended as revolutions swept through America, then France, and Napoleon began his rampage around Europe. Still, this family lived a simple and faithful life as that hectic 18th century drew to its close. Dominic's mother, before she died, consecrated the little Dominic to the Lord, a grace that was evident in his childlike piety, though he was also a very ordinary boy, taking delight in climbing trees, often in pursuit of terrified birds (he did repent of the harm caused them later on). At the age of 14 he received the call to be a priest. Perhaps inspired by an uncle who was already a priest, and a classmate who had entered the seminary just before him, the young man discovered a deeper delight than his boyhood shenanigans in studying to be a priest. That said, his path through seminary was also not without hurdles. The cost of the seminary which he started at was far too high for his family to pay, so he actually did much of his formation in his hometown where he received formation from his local priests. His father the shoemaker actually pawned off their home in order to pay for his schooling, a debt that Dominic would repay after his ordination, but also an indication of how much he was willing to help his son follow God's call.

In 1793, Domenico was ordained deacon in Mormanno, and on the feast of Pentecost, June 8, 1794, was ordained a priest in the Cathedral of Marsiconuovo. He held fast to priestly holiness in the simplest manner: hearing confessions with generosity, offering the Mass with as much devotion as he could muster, teaching his flock theology and philosophy, preaching with integrity and humility (his parishioners especially recall his moving homilies during Lent), living a frugal and charitable life. He was said to have the gift of prophecy – not so much in predicting the future as helping his hurting or fearful parishioners hold fast to God's healing Love. And so Fr. Dominic Lentini passed 36 years of priestly ministry, receiving the last sacraments three days before he died from that same priest-friend who had preceded him into seminary, Fr. Joseph Ielpo, one of his closest friends through all those years.

Fr. Dominic Rankin can't help but notice that Fr. Domenico became a saint by simply doing what a priest is supposed to do. Nothing fancy, no spectacular homilies, no amazing foundations or ministries, no surge of conversions or incredible miracles. He just offered the sacraments as best he could and kept the Love of God alive in his, and others' souls. THIS ISN'T EASY! One cannot passively "do little things with great love": our love wanes, our desire for God gets distracted, our zeal gets hijacked by worldly things ... we must constantly recommit ourselves to loving the first things first, to prioritizing the pearl of great price, to being faithful to our duties (and not our distractions). Bl. Domenico Lentini challenges all of us to persevere in this, and perhaps Lent is a gift insofar as it always invites us back to receiving and giving God's Love in the simple ways He asks us to.

Stewardship of Treasure

February 17th & 18th

Envelopes:	\$3,966.00
Loose:	\$4,386.00
Maintenance:	\$60.00
Total:	\$8,412.00

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!

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26

<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	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Rosary 4:45 PM Church CCCW Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 PM Atrium Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM School Classroom	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church First Friday Concert 7:00 PM Church		Family Lectio 6:00 PM Atrium

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



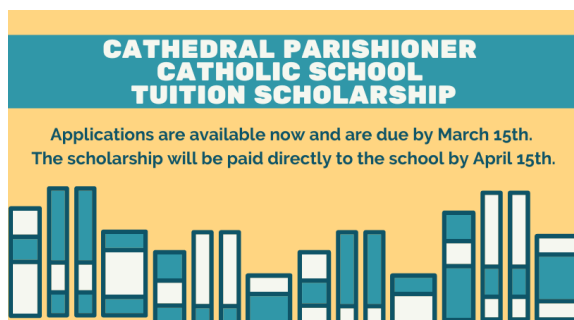
CCCW Lenten Soup Suppers

Looking for dinner options during Lent? Join the women of CCCW for Lenten Soup Suppers throughout this season of Lent! The next Lenten Soup Supper will be this Wednesday, February 28, beginning at 6pm in the Atrium. Seven homemade soups with bread & crackers will be served, with a presentation on Bishop Griffin. 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

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.https://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

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*

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!

LENTEN SECOND COLLECTIONS

FEBRUARY 25	CATHOLIC CHARITIES
MARCH 3	HELPING HANDS
MARCH 10	CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION
MARCH 17	CATHEDRAL PARISH STUDENT ASSISTANCE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION
MARCH 24	ST. MARTIN DE PORRES CENTER
MARCH 29	HOLY LAND
MARCH 31	SEMINARIANS

Lenten Almsgiving Second Collections

You are invited to contribute to any of the above Lenten collections. Donations can be made in any of the following ways:

Online: Make a one-time donation on the Cathedral's website at www.spicathedral.org/give-online, and specify which second collection you would like your donation to go towards.

Envelopes: Include a separate check in your regular envelope and specify which second collection you would like your donation to go towards.

Mail: Send your donation to the Parish Office. (524 E. Lawrence Ave, Springfield, IL 62703)

Thank you for your continued support of all of these organizations.

Overcoming Hunger

In Akwangagwel, Uganda, the climate is very hot and dry. Farmers in this region depend heavily on the rainy season for a successful harvest. But lately—due to the changing climate—the rain has been coming later than it used to and is more inconsistent. Sometimes, when it does rain, it causes flooding and ruins the crops. Learn how Adolf and Florence have taken the matter into their own hands, implementing new farming techniques they learned from a Catholic Relief Services program to improve their farm and fight against hunger in their community. Visit csrcebowl.org to read this week's Story of Hope.

Mass Intention Requests

Having masses offered for the deceased is one of greatest gifts we can offer souls who have died. The Church's presumption is that when people die, they need purification in Purgatory before being admitted to Heaven. These souls rely on our prayers to assist them in their final steps toward Heaven, and the Mass is the greatest means to help achieve that end. However, masses can also be offered for the living as well.

We are always happy to accept Mass intentions for Masses celebrated at the Cathedral, and ask that a \$10 donation per Mass Intention be sent to the Parish Office. Although we are open to you requesting a specific date, we can not guarantee it will be available due to the large number of requests. We do ask that you try to limit your mass requests to 2 per month so that we are able to accommodate all our parishioners. You can submit Mass Intention requests by calling the Parish Office at 217-522-3342, emailing our Parish Secretary directly at kgunter@cathedral.dio.org, or submitting your requests on our website at <https://spicathedral.org/mass-intention-submission/>.

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.

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.

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 jnjcarstens5@sbcglobal.net.

On the Mountain

Why climb a mountain? "Because it's there," George Mallory famously said, before perishing in an attempt to scale Mount Everest.

God is an event planner; every detail matters, and the location is most crucial of all. On the mountain, God demanded the sacrifice of Isaac. On the mountain, he restored Isaac to his father. On the mountain, Jesus was transfigured, revealed in all his mystifying glory as the beloved Son of God, the sacrifice which would finally balance the scale.

These things happened on a mountain because they could only happen on a mountain. The mountain is where the reckoning happens. It is where God takes, where He gives back, where He hands down.

In Lent, we encounter the mountain. We are removed from the distractions of ordinary life and placed outside the confines of our everyday habits. We find silence and mystery, pain and truth. We struggle and we become tired, and there is always a moment when we wonder if, perhaps, it would have been easier not to climb. There is always a moment when others look at us and think: "Why climb a mountain?"

I confess, I am not much of an outdoorswoman. Hiking, in my family, is any walking you do on a trail that is not paved, so I am far from qualified to comment on whether or not the view from the summit was worth George Mallory's life. But I do know a thing or two about struggling through a difficult experience. I know the strange peace that exists in the moment after it's all over and you catch your breath and realize you are a better, stronger, wiser person for the pain.

The mountain is there. Let's climb it.

"God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, 'Abraham!' 'Here I am!' he replied." — Genesis 22:1

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.
- **Biking for Babies National Ride Formation Program Applications** are due March 1, 2024. For questions or more information, visit www.bikingforbabies.com or contact aubrie.faust@bikingforbabies.com.
- **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.