

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MARCH 3, 2024 | THIRD 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 9

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



Deliver Us, Lord

The final petition of the Lord's Prayer asks the Father to "deliver us from evil." It is interesting how the next line that the celebrant prays is: "Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil." The work of the evil one is to try to divide us from the Lord and from one another, and so it is indeed fitting that we are praying to be delivered from evil at this point of the Mass. We have just prayed together to our Father, asking Him to give us our daily bread, to forgive us our trespasses, to not allow us to be led into temptation, and to deliver us from evil. In just a few moments, we will be receiving Holy Communion, a word which signifies union with the Lord and one another, strengthened by the Sacrament of Unity, the Eucharist.

On the night after the Last Supper, when Jesus was praying to the Father, He stressed His deepest desire for unity in His Church:

"I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory which you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (Jn 17:20-23)

The Church often refers to this passage when reflecting on the divisions that exist within Christianity, with the various denominations believing a worshipping in a variety of ways. And while in a general sense we can say that this division has the fingerprints of the evil one, I think for the purposes of our reflection, we want to consider how we within the Church are divided through the influence of the evil one and our own weaknesses. In my article three weeks ago, I referenced Matthew's Gospel, where Jesus says that "a house divided against itself will not stand." (Mt. 12:25) Unfortunately, when I typed out that line a few weeks ago I forgot a very important word – NOT. Thanks to the careful attention of one of the readers of the column, I was made aware of my mistake, for which I apologize. Back to the point – it would be helpful for us at this point of the Mass to pray with earnestness to the Lord to deliver us from the evils within ourselves and among the members of our congregation that seek to keep us divided.

In particular, I think it can be good to be attentive to anything within us that may be causing us distress (which we also pray to be kept free from in this prayer) as it relates to our experience at this Mass. Perhaps you notice somebody who you do not think is dressed all that appropriately. We can stew on the thought of how disrespectful they are being, and we can find ourselves getting agitated as the Mass goes on. There may be cause for concern, and I am not doing to poke that hornet's nest now, but notice how quickly we can allow something that offends us to be turned into something not from God. We start making judgments about the other person, thinking what we would tell them if we had the chance, or what we are going to tell the pastor so that he can tell them. We get caught in that cycle and our hearts are far from the unity Christ desires for us. Other examples abound, such as somebody who is always a half sentence behind or ahead in the prayers, somebody whose singing is not the best, the homily we heard that we did not agree with, the unacceptable temperature of the church, etc. It might even be a situation not present at Mass, but which is weighing heavily on us as we try to pray at Mass.

Let us be mindful of those things and ask the Lord for His grace to deliver us from the evil of judgment and lack of charity that we sometimes are stuck in during Mass. This is not to dismiss the need for conversion that might be present in ourselves or in others, but it does mean asking the Lord to free us from any of the shackles that are clearly not from the Lord so that we can better realize His desire for us to all be one.

My challenge for this week is a brief one: spend some time thinking about someone that really gets under your skin. Instead of gossiping about them to family, friends, or co-workers, talk about them to the Lord. Tell Him what bothers you about them, pray for their conversion, but just as importantly, pray for your conversion, that you might not be handcuffed by the division in your heart that exists toward them. Then bring that person to prayer by once again praying the Lord's Prayer.

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 4

7am - For the People
(Carol West)
12:05pm - Bill Vogt
(Edward & Lori Drea)
5:15pm - Jaqueline Galassi
(Lou Ann Mack & Carl Corrigan)

Tuesday, March 5

7am - Dan Sexson
(Sharon Sexson)
12:05pm - Mary Forsting
(Sharene Jeffers)
5:15pm - Nilda Rosa – Sanchez
(Iris Miranda Kirschner)

Wednesday, March 6

7am - Mary Celine Sestak
(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)
12:05pm - Bill Vogt
(The Bentel & Dutton Families)
5:15pm - NO MASS

Thursday, March 7

7am - Mary Conway
(Tom Conway)
12:05pm - John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)

Friday, March 8

7am - Flora Aiello
(Rex Bangert)
12:05pm - Joseph Cadigan
(Susan Cadigan)
5:15pm - Special Intention for Bianca
(D.A. Drago)

Saturday, March 9

8am - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)
4pm - Jim Maher
(Judy Maher O'Shea)

Sunday, March 10

7am - Mary Ann Midden
(Bill Midden)
10am - For the People
5pm - Thomas McGee
(Fr. Tolton Council 16126)

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



St. Katherine Drexel

Feast Day: March 3rd

I recently came across an article that included several pictures of saints when they were kids. It had the famous pictures of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, curly hair and impish grin smiling back at us, and the shepherd children of Fatima, Jacinta scowling at the camera with her hand on hip. You will find it well worth your while to check out the other less famous but just as delightful photos at <https://www.churchpop.com/photos-12-saints-children/> (or hit the qr code).



But I would like to focus on one particular photo this week, of St. Katherine Drexel at the age of 7. It was probably taken in the summer of 1866, with Catherine's older sister, Elizabeth, being a few years older than her and her younger (half) sister Louise being only 3. Catherine (her birth name, it would change to Katherine when she took her religious name), was the second girl of her parents Francis and Hannah, but her mother would pass away just 5 weeks after she was born. Her father remarried Emma Bouvier, a Catholic, in 1860, and they lived a pious, if privileged life. Kittie, as she was called, enjoyed the best schools and countless trips around America and Europe and was widely thought to be the prettiest of the girls, each of them set to inherit the millions that their father, a Philadelphia banker, had amassed (equivalent to hundreds of millions of dollars today, the fortune begun when Catherine's grandfather had entered into a partnership with John Pierpoint [J.P.] Morgan).

But their family would also give tremendous amounts of money to the poor, Emma being widely known around Philadelphia as "lady bountiful", taking her girls out on walks around the city to find those who were too timid to come asking for help. Francis was of the same mind – helping his wife distribute food, clothing, and rent-assistance to all who needed it – and would leave a tenth of his fortune to charities upon his death in 1885, with the rest of it going to provide for his daughters and their children, and reverting to charitable institutions if they did not use it. He would pray for 30 minutes every evening, leaving an indelible mark of prayerfulness and godliness on his daughters.

But those were the remote influences on Catherine's vocation. It was one of those family-trips, this time out west, that was the occasion for an utterly unexpected call from God. It was one year before her father would die, and the 20-something year old Catherine was moved by the plight of the Native Americans she saw there. All those moments aiding the poor around Philadelphia, and the poverty of so many different minorities she had seen in their travels all came back to her mind. The Lord was calling her to do something for them. After the death of her father, Catherine and her sisters gave a large donation to the St. Francis Mission of South Dakota's Rosebud Reservation, but the nagging thought that she should do more for them remained in her heart. Again, the extraordinary prosperity of her family ended up opening another door on the path God had in mind for her: the girls went on a trip to Europe in 1887 and met with Pope St. Leo XIII, author of the magnificent encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*, in which he lambasted the conditions in factories of the industrial revolution, calling Christians everywhere to uphold the dignity of their workers and grant a wage sufficient for their families.

Now, our wealthy Catherine approaches him, and asks the wizened Pope to send missionaries to these suffering poor in America. Presumably she could finance the entire operation, and possibly it was this idea that she proposed to the Holy Father, but instead he looked at her and said "Why not, my child, yourself become a missionary?" Why not, indeed!? Katherine tried to entertain the idea, but wrote in her journal "I do not know how I could bear the privations of poverty of the religious life. I have never been deprived of luxuries." It was not necessarily a selfish thought, but a practical one. Could she commit to such a hard life, living it with joy, despite having never experienced anything of the sort? Could she give up not just the fortune, but all the comforts that she had always had to follow this call? Would she?



Fr. Dominic Rankin will return to Katherine's story, her discernment to come, and the glories accomplished through her, next week. In the meantime, perhaps all of us would find it a powerful prayer to look back on a picture of ourselves as a child of 7, recalling the graces that God has given to us in the years since. Think of the ways you have followed His plan, but also ways that you haven't followed Him fully. Consider how much love God had for you as a kid, and has for you now, and has given to you every single year between then and now. God has never been annoyed with you, no matter where on life's journey you were at. He only ever showers us with love and affection, though always calls us to more faithfully follow after Him.

Stewardship of Treasure

February 24th & 25th

Envelopes:	\$6,271.00
Loose:	\$3,015.00
Maintenance:	\$120.00
Total:	\$9,406.00

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 MARCH 4

<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 Cathedral Bible Study 6:00 PM Parish Library Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM School Classroom	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	CCCW Trivia Night 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, March 6, beginning at 6pm in the Atrium. Seven homemade soups with bread & crackers will be served, with a presentation by Suzanne Moss, Director of Two Hearts Springfield and Springfield Right to Life. All are welcome!



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.



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.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Lectio: Mary: The Bible and the Mother of God - Women's Bible Study

Why is Mary so important to Catholics, and why have so many people been devoted to her over the centuries? In this 8-part series, Dr. Brant Pitre examines what the Old and New Testaments, the life of Christ, and the early Church fathers reveal about the life and identity of Mary. Join us on Thursdays beginning March 14th, at 10 am & 1 pm in the Cathedral School Library. Our parish subscription to Formed was funded in part through a grant from the Harvest of Thanks, Springtime of Hope Capital Campaign. To sign up for Formed, visit signup.formed.org and enter our parish name or zip code, 62703.

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.

Mass Intention Requests

Having masses offered for the deceased is one of the 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/>.

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 jnjarstens5@sbcglobal.net.

Searching for an Opportunity to Serve in Local and Global Mission Work?

Midwest Missions, located just south of Springfield, is looking for volunteers to help with providing tangible resources to people in need. Included are personal kits for hygiene, disaster clean-up, school/medical supplies and more. Kit assembly requires standing/sitting, and the facility is wheelchair accessible. There are also projects you can complete off site or at home. If interested, please contact the Reservation Coordinator at 217-483-7911. For a complete list of other opportunities, visit our website at www.midwestmission.org.

Raising Chickens to Support Her Family

Nowadays, in Morazán, El Salvador, it is very difficult to know when the rainy or dry seasons will be. The unpredictable weather puts the livelihood of Sandra's family in jeopardy. Despite the challenges, Sandra and her husband, Santos, remain dedicated to ensuring their children grow healthy and succeed in school. Learn how their strong family dynamic enabled Sandra to participate in a Catholic Relief Services' project on raising chickens and how her determination has helped her family and community. Visit crsricebowl.org to read this week's Story of Hope.

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.

Eucharistic Testimony

God the Father, Jesus, and Mary have always been present with me when I am at Mass or if I am at home by myself. I believe there is a God, and Jesus and Mary, and I feel sad that there are some people who cannot believe that. If it was not for God putting people in my life – Catholics, non-Catholics, Republicans, Democrats, black, white, young, old, male, female, and people with a great amount of faith and people who have very little faith – I thank God for each and everyone of them. I am especially grateful for my faith. Without this I know I would not be alive. I feel God constantly... I used to see Mary and Jesus but I always know they are close by watching over me. I have made many mistakes in my life some that I will regret until I die but I know I am forgiven by God and he loves me along with Mary and Jesus. When I did not feel like I had anyone – no family, friends, co-workers, or even fellow parishioners – I always knew I had God, Jesus, and Mary. I do not know a lot of things and sometimes I have a hard time comprehending things but I do know that I will always have God by my side and that I am loved. When I am at adoration, I like it there. It is quiet; I feel sometimes that God is wrapping his arms around me and when I am going through something tough, he is saying, "It is going to be okay. I got you, my child."

Carol West is a parishioner of the Cathedral, volunteers as an Usher and Greeter, and is a member of the CCCW.

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.
- **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.
- **Young Adult Lenten Day of Prayer with the Norbertine Fathers**, Saturday, March 23, 9am-12pm, Corpus Christi Priory, 4867 Laverna Road, Springfield, IL; all young adults (20s-30s) are welcome to join the members of the Forge for a meditative morning of prayer.
- **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.