

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MARCH 10, 2024 | FOURTH 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 10

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!



My Peace I Give You

After praying to be delivered from all evil, we now pray more specifically for the grace of peace and unity to be granted to the Church as the celebrant says:

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will.

The beginning of this prayer is taken directly from Jesus's Last Supper Discourse, as He speaks about the coming of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit. There is an important line that Jesus says immediately after the promise of His peace, where He says: "Not as the world gives do I give it to you." (Jn 14:27)

What do we do when our peace is disturbed? When we feel the burden of our sins, the consequences of things that we have done or have had done to us, or the unease of feeling out of sorts, where do we turn? We often start with the many worldly outlets in order to try to reclaim peace. We might get up and step outside for a walk or get some exercise of some sort. We might call a friend to take our mind off of our current troubles. More dangerously, we may turn to things that work to distract us, such as food or drink. These days, more often than not, we pull out our phone and start scrolling mindlessly. We do anything to avoid that uncomfortable feeling of a lack of peace. Only after we have run out of options do we turn to God as though He is a last resort.

But the Lord is inviting us to turn to Him first for peace, and His peace is wholly different from what all of these worldly things promise. Sure, they may give us some relief and produce calm, but simply feeling peace is not the peace that the Lord wants to give to us. His peace is much deeper than just a feeling. The peace He gives is the assurance that He is indeed with us, that despite the chaos that surrounds us, He is there with His loving presence to strengthen us and guide us.

One of the greatest ways in which the Lord restores our peace is through the Sacrament of Penance. I was struck a few years ago with the words that the priest says in the words of absolution, just before the essential words. He prays that the Lord will grant the penitent "pardon and peace." When people come to confession, they feel a lack of peace due to their sins, and it can be difficult to confess their faults. But after their sins have been wiped away, a remarkable change takes place. Peace is restored, and the peace is often very tangible as they leave the confessional. Sure they may feel more peaceful, but the Lord has given them an even more profound peace by drawing them into deeper intimacy with the Trinity, where the love of God guards the peace of His presence.

As we prepare for our reception of Holy Communion in just a few moments, Jesus is promising to give us this same gift of peace. He comes to dwell in us through the Eucharist and He brings His peace, a peace that reminds us that whatever burdens we may be feeling in our lives at that moment, the Lord is there. He wants to strengthen us with His grace to face those challenges with the peace of knowing we do not have to solve those problems alone. We might say that with the Eucharist, the Lord is granting us "nourishment and peace." Just because we may not feel that peace in the same way as after going to confession does not mean that that same peace is not there, and for that, we should be most grateful.

Here is a challenge that I would like offer to you this week. Try to notice how often you turn to worldly things to try to combat the lack of peace in your daily life. Instead of turning first to your phone or some other distraction, turn to the Lord. Let yourself hear Jesus making the same promise He made to His Apostles at the Last Supper: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." (Jn 14:27)

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, March 11

7am - John Ansell
(Judy Ansell & Family)
12:05pm - John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Mary Eleanor Maloy
(Madonna Fluckiger)

Tuesday, March 12

7am - Barbara Contrite
(Litina Carnes)
12:05pm - Thomas Murphy
(Denny Murphy)
5:15pm - Robert & Dorothy Steinberg
Family (John & Debra Beltramea)

Wednesday, March 13

7am - Deceased Members of the Gaston
& Gries Family (Greg & Marie Fleck)
12:05pm - Thomas Murphy
(Denny Doerfler)
5:15pm - Doris Drago
(D.A. Drago)

Thursday, March 14

7am - Brother Francis Skube
(Friends)
12:05pm - Bill Vogt
(Wednesday Night Bible Study)
5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway
(Robert Gasaway)

Friday, March 15

7am - Bill Vogt
(John Busciacco)
12:05pm - Coleman Hession
(Joanna Thompson)
5:15pm - Irvin Larry Smith
(Bev & Larry Smith)

Saturday, March 16

8am - Thomas McGee Family
(McGee Family)
4pm - Stephanie Sandidge
(Sue Sandidge)

Sunday, March 17

7am - For the People
10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)
5pm - Mary Dwyer
(Barbara Bitschenauer)



St. Katherine Drexel (Part 2)

Feast Day: March 3rd

Last week we accompanied Katherine Drexel up to the point when in a dramatic conversation with Pope Leo XIII, she found her desire to help the poor in America utterly redirected from philanthropic proposals, to a radical giving up of her fortune and dedicating her own life to loving them.

She conversed with a long-time family friend, Fr. James O'Connor (by this time Bp. O'Connor, a wonderful priest, now given the spectacular title "Vicar Apostolic of Nebraska"), thinking perhaps to become a contemplative nun, uncertain with this idea of becoming a missionary. "I know the privations, the trials, the temptations, and I ask myself, could I go through all these things in a manner suitable for edifying the religious of my order?" His response was unequivocal, "I was never so sure of any vocation, not even my own, as I am of yours. If you do not establish the order in question, you will allow to pass an opportunity of doing immense service to the Church which may not occur again. ... Even as a foundress, you will have your faults, but God not you will do the work. He often makes use of very weak instruments. The question is not will you be all you should be, but does God will you to be his instrument...."

Bp. O'Connor, perhaps unbeknownst to Catherine, had actually traveled to Chicago to speak about the matter with another leading churchman of the day, Archbishop John Ireland (he, fittingly, had been born in the Emerald Isle, making the arduous journey to America with his 8 siblings and mother after the Irish potato famine. From there he would become a priest in the Midwest, chaplain during the Civil war, and by the time of this conversation, a leading and patriotic Archbishop in Minneapolis). Ireland's thoughts were just as emphatic: "Miss Drexel is just the person to do it, and if she does not undertake it, it will remain undone." Miss Drexel, meanwhile, decided to go on a retreat, and on March 19, 1889, finally received the grace of docility to the Lord's plans. She wrote Bp. O'Connor with joy and peace "that I could promise Our Lord to please Him by entering fully into your plan of founding an order. As long as I look on self, I cannot. Our Lord gives and will give me the grace always to look at Him." For the rest of her life, she would always recount that "The feast of St. Joseph brought me the grace to give the remainder of my life to the Indians and the Colored."

And so, in 1889, one of the richest women in the world, gave it all away to become a nun. She first begun her postulancy with the Sisters of Mercy in 1889, then made her first vows on February 12, 1891, thereby establishing under her leadership the religious congregation of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored.

I, Katherine Drexel, called in religion Sister Mary Katharine . . . do vow and promise to God . . . Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience, and to be the Mother and Servant of the Indian and Negro Races . . . nor shall I undertake any work which may lead to the neglect and abandonment of the Indian and Colored Races.

She would lead that congregation for decades, only slowing down when a massive heart attack in the 1930s left her bedridden for the final twenty years of her life. She would devote immense funds and energy to educate, clothe, feed, and fight for the innate dignity of all oppressed throughout the United States. She traveled all over the country, establishing schools and homes for minorities and oppressed of all sorts, suffering not just the troubles of traveling and accepting the same poverty of those she loved, but also threats and violence from incredible vitriol that her charity stirred up. A bombing was threatened as she opened one convent, St. Elizabeth's House, thankfully not carried out as she undoubtedly laid the cornerstone. Various of her schools and other buildings were burned down from the backlash her work received. The Ku Klux Klan nailed this notice to one of her schools in Texas: "We give you one week to suppress [services at the parish] or a flogging and tar and feathering will follow." The week slowly passed, her sisters and their school children living under that horrible threat, but Sr. Katherine did not flinch, and before the week concluded a tornado ripped through the area, demolishing two of the Klan's strongholds outside of the town. The school remained open.

Mother Katherine faced down ridicule from all sides, and stood against bigotry of every kind, but hers was never a staunch or stoic sanctity. Joy radiated from her, especially amidst the hardships of her call. Even during the last two decades of her life, bedridden, an utterly different cross from the ones she had carried for so many years, but it allowed her to spend her last years with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, simply praying for her sisters and the poor they sought to love and protect.

Fr. Dominic Rankin finds in some of St. Katherine's words, a timely word of encouragement: "If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to Him and them. Let us open wide our hearts. It is joy which invites us. Press forward and fear nothing."

Stewardship of Treasure

March 2nd & 3rd

Envelopes:	\$5,584.00
Loose:	\$2,508.00
Maintenance:	\$845.00
Total:	\$8,937.00

February EFT

\$19,608.80

February Debt Reduction

\$1,184.00

February Second Collections

Church in Central and Eastern Europe
\$1,250.00

Pregnancy Care Center
\$3,033.00

Catholic Charities
\$4,411.00

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 11

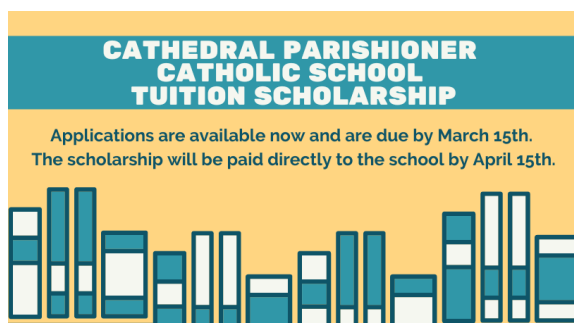
<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Rosary 4:45 PM Church CCCW Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 PM Atrium Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM School Classroom	Bible Study - The Bible and the Mother of God 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Extended Confessions and Adoration 12:30 PM- 6:30 PM Church Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Extended Confessions and Adoration 9:00 AM- 5:30 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 next Lenten Soup Supper will be this Wednesday, March 13, beginning at 6pm in the Atrium. Seven homemade soups with bread & crackers will be served. 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.



Extended Confessions - March 15 & 16

The Cathedral will be hosting extended confession hours on Friday, March 15 from 12:30pm to 6:30pm, and Saturday, March 16th from 9am to 5:30pm. Please consider joining us so as to prepare well for the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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.

Covenant Network Spring 2024 Radiothon

Fr. Brian Alford will be on air Tuesday, March 19, at 12pm for the Covenant Network Spring Radiothon! Please support FM 88.9 WTTT Catholic Radio by calling (314) 752-7000 or (877) 305-1234 or by visiting OurCatholicRadio.org.

Cabrini Movie - Showing in Springfield on 03/19

Come and join our parish priests and other parishioners on Tuesday March 19 at AMC Showplace 12 to see the new movie Cabrini. Showtime is at 6:40pm. A limited number of tickets are available in the Parish Office at a discounted price. Please call 217-522-3342 or email kgunter@cathedral.dio.org to purchase tickets.

From the award-winning director of *Sound of Freedom*, Alejandro Monteverde, comes the powerful epic life of Francesca Cabrini, an Italian immigrant who arrives in New York City in 1889 and is greeted by disease, crime, and impoverished children. Cabrini sets off on a daring mission to convince the hostile mayor to secure housing and healthcare for society's most vulnerable. With broken English and poor health, Cabrini uses her entrepreneurial mind to build an empire of hope unlike anything the world had ever seen.

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.

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.

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 hutton@cathedral.dio.org.

Increasing Disasters, Increasing Resilience

Located in Southeast Asia between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, Indonesia has beautiful beaches, diverse cultures and the world's fourth largest population. Many of the country's more than 17,000 islands are in the Ring of Fire, where volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are common. Climate-related disasters such as cyclones are also becoming more frequent and destructive. Find out how—with the support of Catholic Relief Services and generous communities like yours—Evita and her disaster preparedness group are working to keep their community safe. Visit crsricebowl.org to read this week's Story of Hope.

The Uncomfortable Life in The Light

If you have ever been a woman over the age of 30 who stayed in a budget motel, you know the horror of awakening in a dark room, switching on the bathroom lights and screaming at the shriveled-up she-witch you find hiding there.

And you know the feeling of disappointment that blooms in the pit of your stomach as you realize the shriveled-up she-witch is your own reflection staring back at you beneath the merciless glare of overhead fluorescent lighting.

You may also know the relief of visiting a nice restaurant after dark and catching sight of yourself in the mirror. You lean forward, mesmerized by how different — how matte! How smooth! — the contours of your face look in what we call “forgiving light.” But this turn of phrase is simply not correct. It is not light, and it does not forgive. It is darkness, and it merely conceals.

But it feels so much better, doesn't it? Salvation can feel like condemnation, when being lost is all you know. Sometimes it is so much more comfortable to live lost in the shadows.

It is possible to yearn for darkness. Darkness gives cover to so many things. The light has a harshness that can almost seem demanding, exposing. Light can bleach. Light can burn.

“Is this really me?” you think in that budget hotel bathroom, examining acne scars you never saw before and crow's feet that seem to have developed overnight. The answer is yes. Yes, that is really you, all of it, every inch. There's nothing to be afraid of, just step into the light and own it.

“And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.” — John 3:19

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.
- **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.