

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**MARCH 24, 2024 | PALM SUNDAY**



**524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703**  
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**FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009**

# Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 12

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THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI  
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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!



## Contemplating the Gaze of Jesus

As the Church begins our annual observance of Holy Week, permit me to take a short break from our ongoing series of praying with the Mass. To turn our attention to these most important days of the liturgical year is actually not really a diversion from our reflections on the Mass, for the Mass itself was instituted during this sacred week on Holy Thursday. Christ's offering of Himself on the Cross for our sins on Good Friday is the very mystery that we enter into every time we are present at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Therefore the events of Holy Week are intimately connected with the celebration of the Mass, regardless of when we attend these Sacred Mysteries. For our reflection as we enter this Holy Week, I would invite us to reflect on how this

week was experienced by two of Jesus's Apostles, Judas and Peter.

Let us start with Judas. In the Church's readings for Mass on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Holy Thursday, and at Good Friday Liturgy, Judas is mentioned in all of them – the only Apostle to claim that distinction. By keeping Judas before our eyes, the Church is inviting us to see in him the example of what can happen if we fail to keep Jesus at the center of our lives. Judas was called to be a follower of Christ. Jesus said to him, as well as the others: "I have called you friends." (Jn 15:15) Before the Last Supper, Jesus says to these closest friends: "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." (Lk 22:15). Judas had his feet washed, like the rest. But sadly, he was so blinded in his own greed that he continued with his plan to betray Jesus. In the Garden, Judas identifies Jesus to His captors by giving Him a kiss, to which Jesus responds: "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" (Lk 22:48) Judas eventually went away saddened at his choice to reject Christ's love. But his sadness was not true contrition, for had he been contrite, he would have let that gaze of Jesus penetrate his heart and chose the path of repentance, a path that would have led to a much different ending for him.

The story of Peter is not terribly different. This head of the Apostles was so firm in his commitment to the Lord. He promised to never deny Him, that He would even die for Him: "Lord, I am prepared to go to prison and to die with you." (Lk 22:33) But when the time for witnessing to Jesus came, Peter three times denied knowing Jesus, just as the Lord had predicted. Right after his third denial, Luke's Gospel recounts the following reaction of Jesus: "the Lord turned and looked at Peter." (Lk 22:61). Peter remembered

what Jesus had said about his denying Him three times, and Luke writes: "He went out and began to weep bitterly." (Lk 22:62). Unlike with Judas, the look of Jesus at Peter after his denial did not lead to despair. Rather, Peter's contrition was authentic, sorrowful for having denied the Messiah. This sorrow would not be the end of his story, for he would be reconciled on the shore of the sea after the Resurrection, when Jesus asks Peter three times: "Do you love me." Three times, Peter affirms his love for Jesus, to make up for his three-fold denial. And we know the rest of his story.

Two friends of Jesus, called to be with Him, called to share in His life, called to receive His Body and Blood at the Last Supper. Both ended up falling out of their weakness. Both were looked up with love by Jesus. One despaired, and one repented. This Holy Week, I invite us to meditate on that gaze of Jesus as He looks upon us. No matter how many times we may have denied Him or rejected Him through sin, His gaze is one of love, not one of disappointment. His gaze is an invitation to not flee and hide out of shame or despair, but to run to Him, to be embraced by Him. He invites us to stand at the foot of the Cross as He gazes down on you with His arms extended in a gesture as if to say: "This is how much I love you." May His gaze fill us with sorrow for our sins, but may we find in Him that gift of mercy that He freely offers to us, a gift that can transform our lives this week if we let Him. For with His mercy, our sins and failures are not the end of our story, they become the places of His victory in us when we surrender those sins to Him. If you have not yet let Him win that victory over your sins lately, He will be waiting for you in the confessional to welcome you with His merciful love.

*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 25

7am - Monique Gaston  
12:05pm - Patrick Doyle  
5:15pm - Thomas R. McGee

#### Tuesday, March 26

7am - Bill Vogt  
12:05pm - Mary T. Schenkel  
6:30pm - CHRISM MASS

#### Wednesday, March 27

7am - Mickie Culton  
12:05pm - Robert & Alice Steinberg  
5:15pm - Richard Alcorn

#### Thursday, March 28

6:30pm - Bill Vogt

#### Friday, March 29

3pm - GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY

#### Saturday, March 30

8pm - For the People

#### Sunday, March 31

7am - Betty Rogers  
10am - Mary Priester  
5pm - NO MASS



## St. Aldemar

Feast Day: March 24th

If you're anything like me, you have never heard of St. Aldemar.

He was a monk at the famous Abbey of Monte Casino in Italy. That abbey, one of the first established by St. Benedict, around 529 AD, was where the Rule of Benedict was first lived-out and Benedict's vision of monastic life first seen for everything it could be. When that monastery was sacked by the Lombards in 580, forcing the monks to evacuate to Rome, that way of life began to spread throughout the Latin Church (Pope St. Gregory the Great spoke highly of it just a few years later) and within a few centuries it was the standard for Western Monasticism).

Probably you do know the Benedictine motto "ora et labora" / "pray and work". These certainly are the pillars of the life and structure of Benedictine Monasteries. The monks begin their day well before the sunrise singing the first period of psalms and readings (called "matins" from the latin word for morning, probably at 3 or 4am), then, perhaps after a brief break, "lauds" (this is what we would now simply call "morning prayer", but it took this traditional name from the repetition of the theme of praise, "laudate", that resounds through the psalms sung at sunrise, Psalms 148-150. At 6am.) Then the monks would go off to various labors around the monastery and surrounding territory – farming, building, writing, teaching ... – but always ready to pause their efforts and return to the monastery for another time of prayer. Throughout the middle of the day you would have terce (third hour of the day, 9am), sext (sixth hour, noon), and none (ninth hour, 3pm). The day would also include time for meals, except for feast-days it would be simple fare, a Mass attended by the entire community and individual Masses offered by any of the monks who were priests (concelebration was only done on specific occasions, usually with a bishop), and the day would conclude with the final hours of prayer, vespers (6pm) and compline (9pm or so).

You can see the discipline and intensity of this life, but also the amazing spiritual and cultural fruit that could come from a place of such stability, sanctity, and seriousness. It is no wonder that monasteries became hubs for medieval towns, precursors to schools and hospitals, and engines of evangelization as they moved hearts towards Christ by their prayer and example.

But we need to get back to St. Aldemar. He wasn't born a monk of Monte Cassino. Actually, he didn't even begin his monastic life there. He was born in Capua, Italy (not far from Monte Cassino, but a bit closer to Naples) and happily became a monk in his hometown. A princess of the region came to like the wise and faithful monk and tapped him to be in charge of a new religious house she was building. Exciting, right?! You're living your best monastic life and then get noticed by a princess and given a brand-new monastery! ... but it wasn't God's plan.

Aldemar was reassigned by his Benedictine superiors to move to Monte Cassino, a request he obediently followed. The princess threw a fit, Aldemar had to flee to Boiana still narrowly escaping with his life, and eventually winding up all the way North of Rome in the Abruzzi region, where he founded several other monasteries.

Here's what I want us to focus on: deep prayer and dutiful work were important, and they must be the backbone of our life too but they didn't make Aldemar a saint. What got him to heaven was obedience. Here's what St. Benedict said about that in chapter 5 of his rule:

*The first step of humility is unhesitating obedience, which comes naturally to those who cherish Christ above all. Because of the holy service they have professed, or because of dread of hell and for the glory of everlasting life, they carry out the superior's order as promptly as if the command came from God himself. The Lord says of men like this: "No sooner did he hear than he obeyed me" (Ps 17[18]:45); again, he tells teachers: "Whoever listens to you, listens to me" (Luke 10:16).*

*Fr. Dominic Rankin made several different promises at his ordination, so do any of you who are married or in any religious vocation, but the most important thing that we offer to the Lord, whether through our spouse, or through our religious superior is our obedience.*

*Jesus was obedient unto death. His obedience saved the world! Our emulation of that obedience will be how He saves us.*

## Stewardship of Treasure

### March 9th & 10th

Envelopes:	\$10,347.00
Loose:	\$2,804.93
Maintenance:	\$32.00
Total:	\$13,183.93

### 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!

## Sacraments

### Deaths

Betty Adams

Date of Death: March 1, 2024

## WEEK OF MARCH 25

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church  Chrism Mass 6:30 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library  Rosary 4:45 PM Church  Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM School Classroom	Mary, the Bible and the Mother of God 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library  Adoration 4:00 PM Church  Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper 6:30 PM Church	The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday 3:00 PM Church	Blessing of the Easter Baskets 11:00 AM Church  Easter Vigil 8:00 PM Church	Easter Sunday Masses 7:00 AM & 10:00 AM Church

## What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

**EASTER TRIDUUM SCHEDULE**

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper  
6:30pm

The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday  
3:00pm

Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday  
8:00pm



**EASTER SUNDAY MASSES**

7:00 AM  
10:00 AM




**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATION:  
APRIL 30, 2024

### CCCW & Knight's of Columbus Council #16126 Scholarship

Applications for the Cathedral Council of Catholic Women (CCCW) & Knight's of Columbus Council #16126 Scholarship are now available. All students (Kindergarten through High School) are invited to apply.

K-6 Grade Students are invited to submit a drawing of "Jesus Teaching the Children" and must be received by Tuesday, April 30, 2024. There will be a labeled basket in the Atrium for submissions. Please make sure the student's name, grade, and school is listed on the drawing. Drawings will be removed from the basket when submitted, and the basket will be removed on Tuesday, April 30th after the 5:15pm Mass.

7-8 Grade and High School Students must submit a completed scholarship application to include service hours, a one-page essay, and one teacher evaluation on the Cathedral website by midnight on Tuesday, April 30, 2024. Late submissions will not be considered.

For more information or to apply, please visit [www.spicathedral.org/cccw-knights-of-columbus-council-16126-scholarship-application/](http://www.spicathedral.org/cccw-knights-of-columbus-council-16126-scholarship-application/)

*Cathedral First Friday Concert*

**APRIL 5, 2024  
7:30 PM**

*Featuring  
Durufle's Requiem  
Millikin University Choir*

### First Friday Concert Series

Join us for a First Friday Concert! April's concert will feature Requiem: Maurice Durufle, Millikin University Choir. 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!

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Looking for Spring/Summer Work?

Calvary Cemetery in Springfield is hiring seasonal trimmers for the spring and summer. These are part-time, temporary positions (mornings and early afternoons). \$14/hour. Must be 18 to apply. Call (217) 523-3726 or email [director@calvary.dio.org](mailto:director@calvary.dio.org) for information.

## Blessing of the Easter Baskets

Please join us at the Cathedral for the Blessings of Easter Baskets and Food on Holy Saturday, March 30th at 11:00am. All are welcome!

## Second Collections - Holy Land and the Seminarian Fund

As we look forward to this year's liturgical celebrations of Holy Week, through which the Lord draws us more fully into the mystery of His death and resurrection, two collections will be taken in all parishes during these coming days - the Holy Land Collection and the Seminarian Collection. These collections will be taken up correspondingly during the Good Friday service, and then the Easter Vigil Liturgy and Easter Sunday Masses.

Each year, the Holy Father asks every Catholic parish around the world to take up a collection on Good Friday to keep a Christian presence in the Holy Land. This year, help is needed more than ever due to the disastrous consequences when war broke out in the region starting on October 7, 2023. The Holy Land Collection supports the work of the Franciscans as they maintain the sacred shrines, minister to the parishes, provide formation and education in communities and schools, and care for the basic needs of people in the Holy Land. People need support for everything, including medicine, surgeries, food, and school tuition. With your help the Franciscans can continue to be a light of hope to those living in darkness.

The Seminarian Collection will help our diocese to educate and form future priests. Our diocese has been blessed with an increasing number of young men who have generously said yes to God's call. We now have 15 seminarians. You can take a personal role in their formation with a generous gift in the special Easter collection.

## 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](mailto:hutton@cathedral.dio.org)

## Pregnancy Care Center Annual Spring Luncheon

The Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield, Inc. is excited to be hosting its 40th Annual Spring Luncheon on Sunday, April 14th at the Northfield Inn and Suites. This fundraising event helps the Center continue to provide many free services for pregnant women and their families in Springfield and surrounding areas. Doors open for the silent auction and bake sale at 10:45 a.m. An Italian lunch buffet will be served at noon followed by musical entertainment. Raffle tickets are also being sold for a \$250 cash drawing. Lunch reservations are \$30 per adult and \$18 per child under 12. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the office at (217) 525-5630 or through a link online at [Springfieldpregnancycare.org](http://Springfieldpregnancycare.org) Reservations are due by April 5th. We look forward to seeing you at this fun event!

## Modern Day Simon of Cyrene

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. As we walk with Jesus this week, we remember the countless women, children and men who carry heavy crosses even today: crosses of hunger, of vulnerability to climate change, or of a lack of resources. How—like Simon of Cyrene—can you help to carry the crosses of our sisters and brothers in your local community and around the world? Visit [crsricebowl.org/holy-week](http://crsricebowl.org/holy-week) to learn more.

## Chrism Mass

The annual Chrism Mass is a privileged Liturgy in the life of every diocese. Please join us at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday of Holy Week, March 26, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. for the celebration of the Chrism Mass.



## Healing Adoration

When I was substitute teaching at schools in Riverton in the early 2010s, I would often stop by on my way home at the Cathedral on Wednesdays, when they were having Eucharistic Adoration. As I am a night owl, I would often be going to bed after 2 a.m. and then getting the call to report for my teaching assignment around 6 a.m., so that by the end of the school day I was usually pretty tired. However, I made the effort to stop in the church to spend an hour with Our Lord. I remember one particular day I was exceptionally tired, but I stopped in anyway. At first, I was barely able to keep awake, just sitting there in the presence of my savior. After about a quarter of an hour had passed, I found myself getting more energized. By the end of the hour, I was completely refreshed and relaxed. This called to mind the scripture which says "For those of you who fear My Name, the Sun of Righteousness will arise with healing in its wings." I learned that day what a value it is to spend time with Jesus in the Real Presence.

*Darius Depa moved to Springfield in the summer of 1989 to work for the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, and has been a member of the Cathedral parish since that time. Even though he moved to the west side in 1993, he remained at the Cathedral, and continues to serve as an usher at the 5 p.m. Sunday Mass.*

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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. Aloysius Boy Scout Troop 53 Annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast**. Sunday, March 24th at St. Aloysius Parish Hall, 2000 Sangamon Ave., Springfield. Serving will be from 7:30am-11:00am, tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children. Dine in or carry out available, cash only please.
- **Webinar about Assisted Suicide** – Learn more about why legalization of assisted suicide is not good for Illinois. Join a weekly, 30-minute, informational webinar every Thursday, 12:30 p.m. starting March 14. Email [dmoore@dio.org](mailto:dmoore@dio.org) to get a link to join the webinar.
- **The Good Friday Way of the Cross for Peace and Justice**, March 29, 2024 beginning at noon at the Supreme Court Building, 2nd & Capitol. The two hour prayerful walk remembers Jesus' passion and its connection with the sufferings of injustice experienced in God's people in our world today. The walk is sponsored by Sponsored by: Douglas Avenue United Methodist Church, First Church of the Brethren, First Presbyterian Church, Grace Lutheran Church, and Springfield Dominican Sisters. For more information, call/text 217-652-8086 or contact [smkoch@spdom.org](mailto:smkoch@spdom.org). Alternate location if raining, First Presbyterian Church.
- **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. Teens in grades 7 and up are also invited a special youth retreat night with Doug and Dave on Friday, April 19 @ 6:30pm.
- **St. Sebastian Athlete's Retreat** for student athletes grades 7-12, coaches, and parents, May 5, 2024 @ St. Agnes Springfield, IL. Includes a prayer, music, breakout sessions for specific groups and ages. Donation of \$5 per person collected at the door. Visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4FA5AF2FAAFB6-46964349-athletes#/> to register.
- **Springfield Catholic Charities Annual Fundraiser**, Saturday, May 4 from 6 - 9 p.m. at the Knight of Columbus Hall, 2200 Meadowbrook Rd. in Springfield. Event tickets are \$50 per person and include hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Tickets may be purchased on our website at: [cc.dio.org/events/springfield-annual-2024-fundraiser](http://cc.dio.org/events/springfield-annual-2024-fundraiser) or by calling 217.523.4551, ext. 114.