

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MARCH 31, 2024 | EASTER SUNDAY



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 13

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!



Overcome with Paschal Joy

Alleluia! He is Risen! After completing our 40-day journey through the desert of Lent, and having once again entered into Christ's Passion during Holy Week, we now rejoice anew in the victory of Christ risen from the dead!

There is a phrase in the liturgy that has caught my attention in a particular way over the past few years that serve as a sort of reference point for the entire Easter Season for me. The phrase comes from the Easter Prefaces, which you will recall happens after the Offertory and before the Holy, Holy, Holy, leading

us into the Eucharistic Prayer. All of the Easter Prefaces begin their conclusion with the same phrase: "Therefore, overcome with Paschal joy."

I think it is important to highlight that this joy is not just any joy, but it is Paschal joy. How is Paschal joy different? According to a quick search on an online dictionary, joy is generally defined as an emotion of happiness and delight. Feeling joy is a great thing, and our faith can elicit very positive emotions. But in the theological sense, joy is more than just an emotion. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, according to St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians. Monsignor Charles Pope, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, explains Christian joy in this way:

The joy referred to here is more than a passing worldly joy. It is deeper than an emotional experience. It is rooted in God and comes from him. Since it does not have the world for its origin but, rather, comes from God, it is more serene and stable than worldly joy, which is merely emotional and lasts only for a time.
[\(https://blog.adw.org/2013/01/a-brief-treatise-on-the-fruits-of-the-holy-spirit/\)](https://blog.adw.org/2013/01/a-brief-treatise-on-the-fruits-of-the-holy-spirit/)

So, this helps us understand what joy is, but the Church is pointing out a specific kind of joy, Paschal joy. Paschal joy comes from the glorious truth that Christ has risen from the dead! Life is victorious, sin has been defeated! On the day of our Baptism, we became partakers in this victory, and because of that, we have great

hope that will share in the Resurrection at the end of our earthly journey. This means that even if we are suffering, even if we are discouraged with how our life here on earth may be going, even if we feel sad at the circumstances of our lives or the world around us, we raise our eyes to God and see the victory that has already been won, and the hope we have for what lies ahead for us. Therefore, despite how we might feel, we can and should be overcome with Paschal joy as we celebrate this greatest of all feast days.

In 50 days, we will celebrate Pentecost, the day on which the Holy Spirit descended upon the Church, but we do not need to wait until then to enjoy the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Remaining in the state of grace, receiving the Eucharist regularly, and keeping up our daily prayer with the Lord will fan the flame of the Holy Spirit within us and we will experience the abundance of those fruits in our lives, including joy. If we begin to feel down and discouraged with what is happening in us or around us, we can simply cry out: "Come, Holy Spirit", who will remind us of the victory Christ won for us through His death and Resurrection, and meditating on that, how can we not be overcome with Paschal joy?

On behalf of Bishop Paprocki, Fathers Paul Lesupati, Dominic Rankin, Dominic Vahling, Deacon Larry Smith, and the entire Cathedral Parish staff, we wish you all a very blessed Easter!

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, April 1

7am - Mary K. Conway
 5:15pm - NO MASS

Tuesday, April 2

7am - John Montgomery
 5:15pm - Mickie Culton

Wednesday, April 3

7am - Mary Conway
 5:15pm - Doris Drago

Thursday, April 4

7am - Paul Crowley
 5:15pm - Mallory Post

Friday, April 5

7am - Elizabeth Mulcahy
 5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube

Saturday, April 6

8am - Bill Vogt
 4pm - Marguerite "Mickie" Culton

Sunday, April 7

7am - Betty & Gene Barish
 10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
 5pm - Bill Vogt



St. Balbina

Feast Day: March 31st

The Gospels tell us that an entire cohort of Roman Soldiers participated in mocking Jesus before His crucifixion, something like 600 soldiers abusing and jeering at Him. Just the night before, Jesus had reassured His apostles, "Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?" [Matthew 26:53] A legion is ten times the size of a cohort, and Jesus has more than a dozen of them, of angels, thousands upon thousands upon thousands of angels. But Our Lord said that while calling Peter back from his sword wielding, and as the soldiers sneered and struck the King of Kings no angels ever appeared.

Jesus instead chose death, self-sacrifice, giving His life in my place, loving us till the end.

Now, this kind of love is amazing, and we must pause and let it sink in that Our Lord would have embraced all that suffering for JUST me or JUST you. But I think His choice to NOT defend Himself challenges us on a deeper level. If you or I were faced with a tortuous death, an unfair trial, the absurdity of senseless and unjustified suffering, wouldn't we look for a way out?

Jesus could have called upon angels, obliterating those trying to kill Him.

Jesus could have refuted the charges, casting on us the consequences of our sin.

Jesus could have accepted the gall, numbing the excruciating pain of the cross.

Jesus could have asked God for comfort, at least feeling the consolation of His Father's presence.

But at every turn Jesus instead chose love, the kind of love that hurts, that costs, that accepts suffering and scorn from the one being loved. Jesus did not just suffer, He chose suffering, He accepted it for you and me.

And He asks us if we'd be willing to accept it with Him.

"So the soldiers did these things, but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene." [John 19:24-25] How easy it is to brush past this poignant line: The soldiers doing their thing ... Do we allow our minds and hearts to consider the full horror of crucifixion?... and then the brief mention of those standing by the cross. Do we know how hard it was for Mary and John and the other Marys to stand there, to watch Jesus die so horribly?! Do we realize how hard it was for Jesus to see His friends suffering with Him?

I gave up many little things for Lent – probably all of us did – and I failed in every one of my sacrifices. I chose YouTube to distract myself from a long to-do list. I succumbed to dessert at the end of hard day. I took a hot shower when feeling drained or under the weather. Now none of these things are intrinsically evil, but they are all ways that I avoided suffering, said "no" to the cross, told Jesus I would rather find my own comfort somewhere else than stay with Him on Golgotha. I chose the golden calf. I denied Jesus. I embraced Him, and then abandoned Him, because His way wasn't the one I signed up for.

And then He rose from the dead.

And when Jesus steps forth alive and glorious after that horrible death, He does not just show us that eternal life is possible, and the cross is not the end, but He comes back to me, and you, and Peter and the rest, and gives us another chance to choose Him, cross and all.

Balbina was the daughter of a Roman Tribune named Quirinus. He would have commanded one of those Roman legions, and was currently holding Pope Alexander I and another Christian named Hermes in prison, pressing both to renounce their faith in Christ. Hermes did not know how to answer Quirinus's interrogations, and so points the tribune towards Pope Alexander, telling him that the Holy Father had raised Hermes's son from the dead. Quirinus breaks down. His own daughter Balbina has a crippling and disfiguring goiter. Can the Holy Father heal her? Pope Alexander points Balbina away from his own chains to reverence those that held St. Peter just a few decades before. She finds and kisses the shackles of the first pope and is healed, and she and her father are baptized at the hands of Pope Alexander, eventually themselves becoming saints.

The story is beautiful, but the most amazing thing that happened was not the conversion of Quirinus, or the healing of Balbina, but what happened when they were baptized. Quirinus, baptized, no longer needs to scramble to uphold his position. He is a son of God, His identity is secure. Balbina, baptized, is cured of the far worse crippling and disfiguring of original sin. She is pure and free and beautiful as God always wanted her to be. But baptism also plunged them, and us, into Christ's death. Of course, our being baptized asks us to continue to fight sin in our lives. And to continue to choose to live from a spirit of adoption (rather than that of an orphan). BUT, we must also continue to embrace the cross with Jesus, and receive the gift of His new life in God's good time.

Fr. Dominic Rankin always loves to be wished "Happy Easter", and nothing is happier than Easter, but Easter is no less real when happiness is harder to find.

Stewardship of Treasure

March 9th & 10th

Envelopes:	\$9,354.00
Loose:	\$5,276.73
Maintenance:	\$409.00
Total:	\$15,039.73

March 16th & 17th

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!



WEEK OF APRIL 1

<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	Mary, the Bible and the Mother of God 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library	First Friday Concert Series 7:30 PM Church		Divine Mercy Prayer Service 2:00 PM Church
NO 5:15 PM MASS		Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church			Family Lectio 6:15 PM Atrium
		Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM School Classroom				

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



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!



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/



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 for information.

Science and Christ: A Dialogue

Science and Christ: A Dialogue was written by Fr. Richard Chiola with Sr. Sharon Zayac, O.P. The book roots the traditional teachings about Jesus the Christ in the empirical data of science, specifically the evolution of the Cosmos and of life on Earth. Readers will understand that the breadth of scientific, historical, and theological content in the book requires focusing on group discussion. For that purpose, a public discussion of Science and Christ will be led by the authors at St Joseph the Worker from 6-7:30pm over three Thursdays: April 10th, April 17th and April 24th. Paperback copies will be available for sale at \$18. It is recommended, however, that anyone who wants to attend the discussions should have already read the book which is available on Amazon in Kindle, paperback, and hard cover versions. If you are interested in attending, or have any questions about this discussion, please contact Geoff Davis—geoffreydavis6212@comcast.net or 217-638-5671.

Happy Easter!

As our CRS Rice Bowl journey comes to an end, may the Eucharist continue to transform our lives and help us respond to God's call to serve our global family. Let us commit to sharing the joy of the Resurrection with people in our local community and around the world. Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl or donate online at crsricebowl.org/donate.

Pastoral Care for Cathedral's Sick & Elderly

If you, or someone you know from the Cathedral parish are homebound, hospitalized, or in a nursing care facility, please let the Cathedral Office know (217-522-3342). You may request to be put on the Cathedral Prayer Line or request a Pastoral Visit from Sr. Francella and her Cathedral volunteers.

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.

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 Springfieldpregnancycenter.org Reservations are due by April 5th. We look forward to seeing you at this fun event!

What Would Mary Do?

This Easter morning, I am thinking of Mary Magdalene.

I want to know her state of mind as she approached the tomb in the darkness. Was she afraid? Was she thinking clearly? Was she tired? Had grief and trauma robbed her of her sleep the last two nights? What did she intend to do? Anoint Christ's body, yes — but what else? Kiss his hands, trace the markings where the lash had fallen upon his skin? Say goodbye? Weep? Despair?

What were the words she planned to whisper into the cold, empty darkness that morning, as she wept over God's body?

I don't know anything about her state of mind that Easter morning, except that I know she wanted to be with Christ. Perhaps that was all she knew, too. Perhaps she had no other thought, no other desire, than nearness to him. She didn't need to understand everything, and she didn't expect answers — she didn't dare hope for that.

But everything and everyone had fallen apart around her, and in Jesus' presence she knew her heart would be able to rest.

If you have ever been in the midst of a crisis in your life and found yourself pacing the floors of your house when no one else is awake, muttering the words to a prayer you know by heart, you know what Mary Magdalene felt. In those moments, we do not always feel God's presence. Sometimes, when we look for Him, we only see an empty tomb.

When these dark moments come, I pray you will remember the faithfulness of this great saint. Be like Mary Magdalene. Look for Jesus, always. You may not always find him, but he will always find you.

"She ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, 'They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him.'" — John 20:2

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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Around the Diocese

- **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 to get a link to join the webinar.
- **"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 or by calling 217.523.4551, ext. 114.
- **National Eucharistic Congress**, July 17-21 in Indianapolis, IN. Participate in beautiful liturgies, lift your voice in prayer alongside world-class musicians, hear from the most influential Catholic speakers of our day, and make history as part of the first National Eucharistic Congress in nearly 100 years. This is the beginning of a new chapter of faith in America. Register at eucharisticcongress.org.