

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

APRIL 7, 2024 | SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)



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 14

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!



Lamb of God

On Easter Sunday, a parishioner asked me if I had ever heard an explanation why people often eat ham on Easter Sunday? I am sure there may be a reason, but instead of making something up as I am sometimes tempted to do when I am stumped on a theological question, I simply admitted that I did not know. This interaction was in my mind as I sat down to write this article on the Lamb of God that takes place at Mass just before receiving Holy Communion.

I am aware that lamb is a dish that often finds its way onto the dinner table on Easter Sunday. In fact, the lamb is a symbol that you will often see associated with Easter. The lamb is a symbol of Christ Himself, who was sacrificed for our sins on Good Friday. He is referred to by St. John the Baptist as the Lamb of God. In the Eucharist, we consume the Lamb of God who has taken away the sins of the world through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Therefore, eating lamb on Easter can serve as a fitting reminder of the gift of the Eucharist that Jesus left us on Holy Thursday before offering Himself in sacrifice on the altar of the Cross the following day.

It is therefore providential for us to be reflecting on the Lamb of God on this Octave Day of Easter as we continue to rejoice in the glory of the Resurrection. To help us with our consideration of this prayer, let us return to Venerable Bruno Lanteri and his reflections on praying the Mass, through Father Timothy Gallagher's book: *A Biblical Way of Praying the Mass: The Eucharistic Wisdom of Venerable Bruno Lanteri*:

Venerable Bruno writes: "At the Lamb of God, I will seek the sentiments and the heart of one who is guilty and in need of forgiveness." Transferred to the spiritual realm, [this] is one who knows that he or she has acted contrary to Jesus's teaching – through self-centeredness, impatience, lack of charity, anger, or through any of the seven capital sins and their unhappy expressions in act – and brings this awareness to Jesus, the Lamb of God, seeing that wonderful gift of mercy. (p. 75 of Kindle version of book)

Historically, the triple request for mercy at this point was accompanied by the striking of the breast, as during the during the Confiteor at the beginning of the Mass. Although the Church no longer calls for this outward gesture of striking the breast, the inner disposition remains the same – humility and contrition before the Lord, whose love and mercy is about to come into our souls. Let us be particularly mindful of our need for mercy at this point in the Mass, increasing our gratitude for the healing grace the Eucharist is about to bring to us.

Speaking of mercy, the timing for our reflecting on this prayer is doubly providential as it coincides with Divine Mercy Sunday, always celebrated on the 2nd Sunday of Easter. Last Sunday, on Easter, we were invited to renew our Baptismal Promises, reminding us of that greatest day of our lives when Christ's victory was applied to our souls. On this Octave Day of Easter, we are reminded that, though we may fall out of our weakness after Baptism, God's mercy is always available to welcome us back and restore us to that place of right relationship with Him. This grace comes about in a most significant way through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, referred to at times as our "second baptism." The ocean of God's mercy is infinite, and no matter how far we have wandered from the Lord, His Divine Mercy is always available to us to renew and restore us. Having our sins washed away in the blood of the Lamb (in Baptism and Confession) makes it possible for us to share in the Lamb's High Feast of the Eucharist where we are nourished and given a foretaste of the glory that awaits us in Heaven.

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 8

7am - John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Thomas R. McGee
(Mike & Jessica McGee)

Tuesday, April 9

7am - Ferdinand J. Schenkel
(Ann Johnson)
5:15pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)

Wednesday, April 10

7am - Don Guernsey
(Helen Guernsey)
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the
Kruzick & Tobin Family (Steve & Vicki
Stalcup)

Thursday, April 11

7am - Bill Vogt
(Wednesday Night Bible study)
5:15pm - Sara Tucker Cox
(Bev & Larry Smith)

Friday, April 12

7am - The O'Laughlin Family
(Mary O'Laughlin)
5:15pm - Special Intention for Bianca
(D.A. Drago)

Saturday, April 13

8am - Mickie Culton
(Jim & Sandy Bloom)
4pm - Raymond & Eulalia Ohl
(Angela Ohl - Marsters)

Sunday, April 14

7am - Pamela Harmon
(Archie Harmon)
10am - Thomas McGee
(Fr. Tolton Council 16126)
5pm - For the People



St. Jean-Baptiste de la Salle

Feast Day: April 7th

Born in Reims, France, around 1651, he enters the world the eldest son of wealthy parents. As the firstborn, he is set on the path of becoming a priest, and at the age of 11 is named a canon of the Reims Cathedral. Both his parents die when he was about 20, so he left seminary for a time to turn his attention to managing the family estate while his 6 younger siblings grow up, returning to seminary studies to be ordained a priest at 26. Gets his doctorate in theology, spends his first years as a priest serving as chaplain and confessor of a girls school, eventually getting involved in fundraising to build a new school and personally helping to train the new teachers.

So far, a pretty ordinary track for a young priest in 1650s France. But God had plans to make him a saint (turns out, the Lord has those same plans for all of us!)

Amid that oh so ordinary work trying to educate children, Jean-Baptiste is slowly moved by the plight of so many poor families who cannot afford schooling for their children. He has tried natural responses to the problem – fundraising, training, building, teaching – but God’s plans are so much bigger. He considers starting a religious community devoted to teaching and catechizing and after praying and considering and wrestling with the consequences of doing so he finally just goes all in. He leaves his comfortable position as a canon, moves in with a small group of similar-minded teachers, and forms them into the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

As with any time we take a plunge into God’s plan, the world immediately pushes back. The secular schooling system lambasted his tuition-free schooling model – how impractical, wrong-headed, unworkable; it would throw into havoc the rest of the education system where honest people paid an honest price ... Meanwhile the Church could not see a place for an order merely dedicated to teaching and educating; this ramshackle group of half-trained teachers cannot become a religious congregation; there’s not even any priests in the order!... This his family got involved – How dare you use the family fortune to start this personal project (Jean-Baptiste gave his inheritance to the poor). How dare you bring this gaggle of people into the family home! (Which then got sold, so Jean-Baptiste rented a little place for his fledgling order.)

At every turn, resistance reared its head, but like so many other saints, Jean-Baptiste wasn’t on a personal mission, and he wasn’t there to prove something, and he didn’t try to look too far down the path. He was simply following God’s will, and even if you don’t know where you’re going, if everything is against you, but God is for you, you just keep going forward.

I had imagined that the care which I assumed of the schools and the masters would amount only to a marginal involvement committing me to no more than providing for the subsistence of the masters and assuring that they acquitted themselves of their tasks with piety and devotion ...[3] Indeed, if I had ever thought that the care I was taking of the schoolmasters out of pure charity would ever have made it my duty to live with them, I would have dropped the whole project. ... God, who guides all things with wisdom and serenity, whose way it is not to force the inclinations of persons, willed to commit me entirely to the development of the schools. He did this in an imperceptible way and over a long period of time so that one commitment led to another in a way that I did not foresee in the beginning.

Perhaps a final stamp of the Lord’s approval – besides the eternal fruit born by his efforts – came when La Salle died in 1719, on Good Friday.

Fr. Dominic Rankin when applying for seminary felt entirely uncertain about the path ahead, afraid of the unknowns, overwhelmed by the commitment, the uncertain cost, and the turmoil within ... and he received some of the best advice he ever received: just stay on the path that God had you on before the storm struck. He entered seminary, found God was behind Him all that time, and discovered the truth that St. Jean-Baptiste de la Salle exemplifies for us, and a famous fish once said: just keep swimming. At least, if Jesus pointed you that direction.

Stewardship of Treasure

March 23rd & 24th

Envelopes:	\$5,796.00
Loose:	\$4,610.00
Maintenance:	\$320.00
Total:	\$10,726.00

March 30th & 31st

Envelopes:	\$7,774.00
Loose:	\$4,360.00
Maintenance:	\$65.00
Total:	\$12,199.00

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!

Sacraments

Deaths

Clara Sue Warner
Date of Death: March 12, 2024



WEEK OF APRIL 8

<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 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	Diaconate Ordination 6:30 PM Church		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?




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/

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 for information.

Thank You!

Together, we changed lives this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl. THANK YOU for being a part of this effort! Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl or donate online at csrricebowl.org/donate.

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.

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.

Job Opportunities - Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is hiring! The Diocese is looking for dynamic individuals to fill these open positions: Internal Auditor, Director, Office for Safe Environment, and Safe Environment Assistant. For more information, please visit dio.org/hr/employment-listings.

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

SHG Glow Bingo Night

Let's Glow Cyclones! SHG GLOW BINGO NIGHT: Saturday, April 27th. Doors open at 6pm, Bingo begins at 7pm. Individual tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Reserved tables are \$250 for a maximum of eight players and must be reserved in advance. Price includes six bingo cards for ten games, a glow dauber, and glow accessories. BYOB and snacks! Purchase your tickets/table at weareshg.org/LetsGlowCyclones2024! All proceeds go to benefit SHG's Day of Gratitude and Giving. We hope to see you all there!

Written in the Wounds

For all the condemnation Thomas the Doubter has received in 2000 years of homilies, I think there's something to admire in him.

Thomas is not unique. We all waver at some point, overcome by hesitation, distracted by the clamor of the world which seeks at every turn to shout above the whisper of the divine.

Thomas knows what he saw on Good Friday: his friend nailed to a cross, a sword driven through his body. He saw the blood and the water. He saw these things with his own eyes, eyes given to him by God, eyes which have never failed him before. And God doesn't ask us to suspend reality to believe in Him. He only asks us to be discerning about how that reality is interpreted in our hearts.

Thomas knows the man before him is either a fraud, preying on the hopes and anxieties of the traumatized disciples, or he is the Christ, the Savior of the world, accomplisher of impossible things. But where to look, to tell the difference?

Satan once appeared to the great mystic saint, Teresa of Avila, disguised as Jesus. She knew instantly that he was a fraud. Enraged, he demanded to know where his deception had failed. "You have no wounds," she told him simply.

Could we have accepted a savior who did not bleed? I don't think we could, because sooner or later, we would all stand before him and say, "Here is where the world hurt me. Here, and here, and here. What about you?" Christ can point to his hands, his feet, his side. "Here, and here, and here," he can say. "And I overcame them all."

It's the wounds, you see. The truth is in the wounds.

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" — John 20:28

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.
- **Save the Date for the SDCCW 95th Annual Convention**, August 28, 2024 at the Lake Williamson Retreat Center in Carlinville, IL. More details will follow!
- **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.