

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

APRIL 21, 2024 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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 16

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

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

VICKI DHABALT COMPTON
COORDINATOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND MISSION
VCOMPTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

HALEY DUTTON
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
HDUTTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

MARK GIFFORD
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MGIFFORD@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

KIM GUNTER
PARISH SECRETARY
KGUNTER@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

STEVEN KEHOE
BOOKKEEPER
SKEHOE@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

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!



Lord, I Am Not Worthy

I was recently confronted by a gentleman who held strong beliefs against the Catholic Church. At one point, he criticized the Catholic Mass as something unbiblical. I simply asked him: "Have you ever been to Catholic Mass?" To which he quickly responded with a firm "No!" As we parted ways, I could not help but think of the story of Dr. Scott Hahn's journey to the Catholic faith. I recall him sharing how he would slip into the back of the chapel for Mass. Being so familiar with the Scriptures, he saw unfolding before him a liturgy filled with biblical connections. The Mass is not mere human invention, but it is firmly rooted in the Scriptures.

One of the many places where this is seen in the Mass is as the celebrant, before receiving Holy Communion himself, says: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb." The first sentence is directly from John 1:29, where St. John the Baptist points out Jesus to his followers. The second sentence is taken from the Book of Revelation, which reads: "Then the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.'" (Rev. 19:9)

The response from the faithful is as follows: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed." Anybody who has even a casual familiarity with the Scriptures knows that this also comes from the Bible. It is almost a direct quote from the Gospel of Matthew where the Centurion appeals to Jesus for Him to heal his servant, saying: "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed." (Mt. 8:8) In a resource that I have referred to in this series one other time, I came across a beautiful explanation of how this brief exchange both demonstrates the Church's use of the Scriptures in the Mass, as well as how this passage in particular is a helpful final preparation for us as we are about to approach Our Lord in Holy Communion:

These were the words addressed by the Centurion to our Lord, who was coming to heal his servant. Once again let us repeat, Holy Church is ever showing how she possesses the happy secret of choosing the loveliest passages of Sacred Scripture, to place in the Holy Mass; as it were enchasing them there, like priceless diamonds! We likewise say Domine non sum dignus [Lord, I am not worthy]. ... In our case, it is not for our servant that we beg a cure; it is our own poor soul craving help for herself, and making use of these words as a last appeal to God. We sorely need to be cured; and the nearer we approach the Lord who alone can cure us, the greater should be our confidence in asking. Assuredly nothing can be so certain and manifest, as our unworthiness; but, on the other hand, who is so powerful as the Lord. There is nothing for us, but to appeal to Him, and crave with true humility: sed tantum dic verbo, et sanabitur anima mea. Yea, say but one word, and my soul shall be healed! (Dom Prosper Guéranger, Explanation of Prayers and Ceremonies of Holy Mass, 64)

What a gift the Mass is to us! The Word of God is spoken directly to us in the Liturgy of the Word, and it continues to speak to us in a variety of ways throughout the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Even if we are not familiar with all of the passages and references scattered throughout the Mass, their power is evident, for "the Word of God is living and effective." (Heb 4:12) It is that effectiveness of the Word of God that prepares our hearts throughout that Mass, so that at this moment, in which we are about to receive the Word made Flesh in the Eucharist, our hunger for Him prompts us to cry out with all humility that we are not worthy of this gift, while at the same time being moved to gratitude that despite that unworthiness, He desires to come to us to feed us and heal us.

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 22

7am - Betty Rogers
(Family)

5:15pm - Deceased Members of the Chiaradonna Family (Geny Chiaradonna)

Tuesday, April 23

7am - Jack Ely
(Berni Ely)

5:15pm - Diana Schumacher
(Daniel Schumacher)

Wednesday, April 24

7am - Michael Poggi
(Family)

5:15pm - Rose Marie Johnson
(D.A. Drago)

Thursday, April 25

7am - Mary Conway
(Tom Conway)

5:15pm - Grace Forlano
(John Busciacco)

Friday, April 26

7am - Bill Vogt
(Kathy Howard)

5:15pm - Betty J. Fleck
(Greg & Marie Fleck)

Saturday, April 27

8am - Sue Warner
(Jim & Sandy Bloom)

4pm - Cathy Furkin
(Family)

Sunday, April 28

7am - For the People

10am - James Shaner Sr.
(Schreck Family)

5pm - Thomas R. McGee
(Richard & Cindy Allender)



St. Conrad of Parzham

Feast Day: April 21st

Automatic doors are the worst.

I mean that somewhat facetiously, though we have had a decisive down-turn in the number of saintly doormen ever since powered-doors started their climb towards ubiquity in the 1950s. It has been 3 years since I wrote about a saint-porter, that is a saint who achieved his holiness from opening the door for people coming to Church, but there are many such remarkable individuals now canonized saints (or blessed): Paschal Baylon, Charles of Sezze, Didacus of Alcalá, Felix of

Cantalice, Alphonsus Rodriguez, André Bessette, John Macias, Benito Solana Ruiz, Bonaventure of Barcelona, Solanus Casey, and today's saint, Conrad of Parzham.

He was baptized with the name John and the patronage of John the Evangelist, the second to last of 12 children (though only 7 survived past infancy). He was known for his devotion and prayerfulness as a child, visiting the church some distance from his home even during inclement weather and walking all the way to a shrine of the Blessed Mother on feast days. He grew up helping on his family's farm, though when he was still a teenager lost both of his parents a few years apart. A few years later, following a parish mission, he began to seriously consider religious life and entered the OFM-C (Order of Friars Minor, Capuchins) in 1842.

And then he spent 41 years opening the friary door. He was widely known for his charity, patience, and generosity towards all who came knocking, and that he would step into an alcove of their chapel for brief moments of prayer whenever he wasn't engaged with visitors. One line about him that particularly caught my attention says that he was "eager and ready to receive and help strangers." He died in 1894, a few days after giving the role of porter to another friar.

Now, back to powered-doors. The problem isn't the motors and electronics that make the things operate ... but neither was it the physical act of opening and closing the door that made Br. Conrad a saint. The thing that made him a saint was loving individuals, and loving the Lord, every time he encountered someone. And power-doors are one of the many places in our lives where we have avoided encountering others ... avoided them needing our love ... or us giving them our love.

Think of all the places where our modern world allows us to avoid interacting with others: self-checkout, 2 day shipping, movie streaming, google maps, earbuds. I don't want to be entirely down on technology, but in making our lives "easier", in many ways our lives are less human, less dependent on others, less open to others. When I go for a jog and smile and wave at a stranger they often look up from their own little world, shocked that someone would speak to them, care about them. And, to be honest, I often find myself in my own zone too, wanting to do my thing, keep to my own plans, not really wanting to be bothered, not really wanting to be noticed, not really wanting to need someone else, or them needing me.

But to live "my own" life, is not really to live a fully human life at all. We are made for community, for communion, for interaction, for self-gift, and when we risk ourselves and open up to someone else, we discover we are far more who we want to be. Our Lord knew this when He said "whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." [Matthew 16:25] Unfortunately, we live in an age where our lives are not always asked of us, or when they are we are quick to begrudge the request. As Christians we have to look for ways around this buffered, isolated, narrowed way of life and look for ways to push back against the things that keep us disconnected, solitary, "going alone".

Fr. Dominic Rankin is not the best at this! Asked before the Boston Marathon "Why do you run?"; I said some things about offering up miles for people, about praying and soaking in the grace and strength that God gives me, but I completely forgot that running is absolutely an opportunity to sacrifice for others, to cheer them on, to get to know them as you share miles of road together. But these are some of the best moments of those races! The kid you high-five on the sidelines, the person who gives you a cup of water at the aid station, the unexpected person who celebrates with you at the finish line, and the guy you cheered on who says it got him through some tough miles. Those, and so many others, are opportunities to love each other. Those are the places where saints are made.

Stewardship of Treasure

April 13th & 14th

Envelopes:	\$4,797.90
Loose:	\$4,302.50
Maintenance:	\$140.00
Total:	\$9,240.40

March EFT

\$20,575.10

March Debt Reduction

\$440.00

March Second Collections

Helping Hands
\$2,634.75

Catholic Relief Services
\$4,903.00

Parishioner Student Assistance
\$4,127.00

St Martin De Porres Center
\$4,539.00

Holy Land
\$1,818.00

Seminarians
\$4,187.67

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 22

<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 K of C Meeting 6:00 PM Classroom CCCW Meeting 6:00 PM School Hall	CCCW Garage Sale 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM School Hall	CCCW Garage Sale 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM School Hall	

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



CCCW GARAGE SALE

Accessories, furniture, household/kitchen items, outdoor, sports, toys, books, movies, and more!

FRIDAY, APRIL 26
7AM TO 6PM

SATURDAY APRIL 27
8AM TO 12PM

CATHEDRAL SCHOOL HALL

FACILITIES ARE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

CCCW Garage Sale

The CCCW is hosting their annual Garage Sale on Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27! All proceeds benefit their Scholarship fund, our parish and other local charitable organizations.

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. Any students who are Cathedral parishioners (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/



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATION:
APRIL 30, 2024

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Memorial Mass for Bill Vogt

Please join us at the Cathedral on Wednesday, May 1st at 12pm for a Memorial Mass for Bill Vogt. Bill served as the "Office and Plant Manager" for the Cathedral for more than three decades, and passed away on Saturday, February 17, 2024. Not only was Bill a dedicated and faithful servant of the Cathedral Parish, but he was also especially dedicated to the bishops and priests who have lived here over the years. As such, all parishioners are invited to join us for this Mass to pray for the repose of Bill's soul.



First Friday Concert Series

Join us in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! May's concert will feature the University of Illinois-Springfield and Lincoln Land Community College Choirs. 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!

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.

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!

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.

SHG Job Posting - Theology Teacher

SHG is currently looking for a Theology teacher. The position description and requirements can be found at www.shg.org/about-shg/employment-opportunities/. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to Susan Favre, Theology Department Chair, at favre@shg.org.

The Good Shepherd and the Wolf

I remember very clearly the first movie I watched during my pregnancy with my eldest child. In this film, there is a scene where a young boy is kidnapped and shoved into the back of a van guarded by vicious dogs. His mother persists in trying to free him, even as the dogs snap at her. Their bared teeth and full-throated snarls don't slow her efforts in the slightest.

It wasn't a great movie or even a particularly great scene, but I'll never forget this scene. I'll never forget those dogs.

I had just learned that I was a mother a few days ago. The life growing deep within seemed to me as frail as a whispered secret, but I loved it powerfully. I worried constantly if the baby was safe and healthy. I agonized over signs — real or imagined — that could tell me if the poppyseed-sized child was thriving or failing.

I understood, for the first time in my life, why a woman would charge a pack of attack dogs without hesitation — not because she should, but because she has to.

She could choose not to fight, certainly. She could walk away. But why would she? A future without her son is so much more painful than any physical wound. She may fear for her life, but she fears a life without her child so much more.

The Good Shepherd discourse reveals to us the motivation behind God's actions throughout all of salvation history. From Adam to Noah to Abraham, all the way down to the time of the Messiah and beyond, He keeps trying to get us back. He keeps braving the attack dogs, time after time. He never stops. He never grows weary. And it baffles us: what's in it for Him? we wonder, because we are quicker to give up on ourselves than He is. Why does He keep trying?

He could choose not to fight, sure. But why would He? He doesn't want a future without us.

"I will lay down my life for the sheep." — John 10:11

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

©LPI

Around the Diocese

- **Women's Day of Recollection**, Thursday, April 25, at Sacred Heart Church (730 S. 12th St., Springfield), from 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. There will be a meditation given by a priest, time for silent prayer and reflection, a doctrinal talk, and Benediction. Confession and spiritual direction with the priest will be available. All women throughout the diocese are invited to attend.
- **Men's Evening of Recollection**, Thursday, April 25 at St John's Hospital Chapel (800 E. Carpenter St., Springfield), from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The recollection will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a meditation given by a priest, time for silent prayer and reflection, an opportunity for confession, a doctrinal talk and Benediction. All men throughout the diocese are invited to attend.
- **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.
- **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.
- **The Liturgical Arts Festival of Springfield**, May 4-11, 2024. The Liturgical Arts Festival of Springfield's theme for 2024 is "Creation: Revelation of the Divine," - which is at once the Divine Act, the artistic process, and our imperiled planet; we look for our events to harness that artistic process to celebrate that Divine Act and advocate for that planet. For more information, please visit <http://www.lafspringfield.org/>.
- 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.
- **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!