

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

APRIL 28, 2024 | FIFTH 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 17

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!



Safe for Eternal Life

The celebrant of the Mass is always the first person to receive Holy Communion, which is received slightly differently from how the rest of the faithful receive. There is no minister to say to the priest: "The Body of Christ." If you pay close attention, you may see the priest whispering some words before he communicates. Here is what he says: "May the Body of Christ keep me safe for eternal life." He says the same thing when receiving from the Chalice, with the exception of replacing the word "Body" with "Blood."

In the resource that I mentioned last week, Explanation of Prayers and Ceremonies of Holy Mass, there is a beautiful reflection that helps us in understanding this prayer, not just as it applies to the priest, but as it applies to all who receive Our Lord in the Eucharist:

The Priest speaks as if he were to communicate but once only in his life. One communion would of itself be sufficient to preserve our soul unto Life Eternal, for such is the intrinsic efficacy of this Divine Sacrament, provided for our wants by God. (Dom Prosper Guéranger, Explanation of Prayers and Ceremonies of Holy Mass, 64)

Although it may be a bit of a sobering thought, this reflection invites us to consider the final time we will receive Holy Communion. At every Mass, it is quite possible that this may be the very last time we receive Holy Communion. If we actually knew that to be the case, how differently would we prepare our hearts to receive Jesus in the Eucharist? Again, this might be a bit of a sobering thought, and I do not mean to strike panic in our hearts by thinking of it, but we also have the rather ominous words that Jesus Himself left us: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Mt 25:13) So why wouldn't we want to make every reception of Holy Communion as devout as possible, for it has the power to grant us eternal life!

The Church desires to feed her children with the Bread of Life at the very end of their earthly journey. One of the so-called "Last Rites" is to receive Holy Communion as viaticum. Here is what the Catechism of the Catholic Church says: "As the sacrament of Christ's Passover the Eucharist should always be the last sacrament of the earthly journey, the 'viaticum' for 'passing over' to eternal life." (CCC 1517) There are people who receive viaticum at home or in their hospital beds as they are about to die, and there are those who, unknowingly, receive viaticum at the last Mass they ever attended. There is actually something very consoling about this, for if the thought of not knowing when the Lord will come to call us home fills us with anxiety, we are given the peace of knowing that the last Eucharist we received is a powerful grace to help us in passing over into the promise of Eternal Life in Heaven. All the more reason to make sure we are going to Mass every Sunday, if not more frequently, for doing so in the state of grace will be the best means we have of being prepared for that unknown day and unknown hour.

The fact that we do not know when it will be the last time we receive Holy Communion should make every time we receive Holy Communion special. It reminds me of the words that St. Teresa of Calcutta asked to be printed in the sacristy of every chapel of the Missionaries of Charity for the priests to reflect on: "Priest of Jesus Christ celebrate this Holy Mass as if it were your first Mass, your last Mass, your only Mass." We can easily adapt that to our reception of Holy Communion, priest or not: "Son/Daughter of Jesus Christ, receive this Eucharist as if it were your first Eucharist, your last Eucharist, your only Eucharist."

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 29

7am - Darryl Knauer
(Lou Ann Mack)
5:15pm - Bud & Mary Boehm Family
(John & Debra Beltramea)

Tuesday, April 30

7am - Gorgianna Kirback
(Vicki Compton)
5:15pm - Bill Vogt
(Bev & Larry Smith)

Wednesday, May 1

7am - Emily Ramsey
(Berte Family)
5:15pm - NO MASS - Jubilee

Thursday, May 2

7am - Raymond Vahling
(Vicki Compton)
5:15pm - Brother Frances Skube
(Community)

Friday, May 3

7am - Grover Gaston
(Greg & Mike Fleck)
5:15pm - Doris Drago
(D.A. Drago)

Saturday, May 4

8am - Maria Martinez
(John Busciacco)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, May 5

7am - Deceased Members of the Fleck & Patrick Family (Greg & Marie Fleck)
10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)
5pm - Wilma Lewis
(Lou Ann Mack)



St. Luchesio

Feast Day: April 28th

Luchesio Modestini was far from living up to his surname.

He grew up in the lovely and abundant region of Tuscany, in Italy (so, around the time, and not far from St. Francis). He had begun life, not unlike the poverello of Assisi, with dreams of being a soldier but had discovered the wealth and privilege that came from outfitting pilgrims on their way to Rome and had thus turned his dreams towards the life of a merchant and moneylender. His name meant “modest”, but he quickly outstripped that adjective, growing prosperous from his sales, marrying a woman we only know as “Buonadonna” [literally “lovely-woman”], and gaining a reputation as unfeeling and greedy.

But around the age of 30 God’s grace broke into his comfortable life.

We don’t know exactly what happened. Did he encounter the newly converted St. Francis (they had known each other before both being merchants)? Did the pilgrims he was fleecing finally show him a joy that he didn’t find in money? Did a fellow merchant question why he was so fixated on wealth and success? We just know that he had the grace to realize the foolishness of striving merely for worldly goods, none of which would matter much in just a few more decades. He discovered that he had a soul. He discovered that eternal joy was more important than the passing delights he had given much of his early life to stockpiling.

Now, it is always interesting to see how conversions actually play out because often the Lord’s converting our hearts does not happen instantaneously, and so was the case with Luchesio. He began simply, but concretely, but practicing the works of mercy – feeding the poor, going out of his way to help the sick or lonely, learning to love people again. And, alongside of this he resumed the life of a faithful Catholic – going to Mass, repenting of his sins, praying each day. It would not have seemed much to a time when most people lived that kind of life, but for Luchesio these were the small steps that allowed the tremendous gift of God’s joy and freedom to break back into his life.

Buonadonna discovered a different, much better, person in her husband as he began this journey. Her own heart was moved away from the comforts and avarice that had been her highest goods to that point, and she discovered, like Luchesio, that what she really wanted – what really made her happy – was the life of a disciple, of generosity, piety, hope, and prayer. Together the couple decided to take a much more decisive step after the Lord: they gave away most of their property, retaining only enough land to provide for their daily needs, and leaving their hearts open to whatever God asked of them next.

Many people in that region were being moved at this time by the example and words of St. Francis, though his only formal followers were the brothers who were forming the fledgling Order of Friars Minor (the First Order Franciscans) and the nuns beginning to collect around St. Clare (Second Order Franciscans). But then Luchesio and Buonadonna hosted the saintly deacon at their home in Poggibonzi, moving him by their story of conversion and penitence, and asking him for instructions on how to continue forward as a couple seeking radical holiness.

St. Francis’s dream of developing a way of life for lay people to follow the call into simplicity and humility that God had given to him was inspired and concretized by this couple. Out of their friendship came what would become the Third Order of St. Francis, originally called simply the Order of Penance, but honed and expanded over the years to include not only lay people affiliated with the Franciscan Order but also the groups of active religious sisters who also live lives of poverty in the world, examples to all of us of Christ’s own freedom and utter dependency on God.

Now, it wasn’t as if this couple lived their life as the first Franciscan Tertiaries perfectly for the rest of their days. There were times when Luchesio’s radical generosity was inconsiderate of Buonadonna; though then again, when once she frustratingly exploded when he gave away the last of their food, he gently asked her to look in the pantry again only to find it filled with the best of bread. Would we would see similar miracles if we chose similar confidence in God? They took plague victims into their home, risking their health, and the ridicule of others because they really saw Jesus in each invalid.

Eventually Luchesio grew sick, and his distraught wife begged that she could die with him. “Implore God, who gave us to each other as companions in life, to permit us also to die together” she asked Luchesio. So they prayed, and so it happened. She died shortly before him, both having received the last sacraments before they passed.

Fr. Dominic Rankin recently ran the Boston Marathon. He successfully discovered his own poverty at mile 24 when he found himself walking instead of setting a new (personal) record for the 26.2 mile race. Sometimes the Lord knows He needs to slow us down to a walk to help us discover what is really important in life, and maybe the path to radical holiness that you couldn’t see till then.

Stewardship of Treasure

April 20th & 21st

Envelopes:	\$5,017.00
Loose:	\$2,565.00
Maintenance:	\$30.00
Total:	\$7,612.00

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 29

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Memorial Mass for Bill Vogt 12:00 PM Church 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	First Friday Concert Series 7:00 PM Church	UIS Solo Recital 7:00 PM Atrium	UIS Chamber Orchestra 2:00 PM Atrium Family Lectio 6:15 PM Atrium

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. 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/



MEMORIAL MASS FOR BILL VOGT

MAY 1, 2024
12:00 PM

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.

Cathedral First Friday Concert

**MAY 3, 2024
7 PM - 8 PM**

*Featuring
University of Illinois - Springfield and
Lincoln Land Community College Choirs*

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!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



St. Monica Ministry

Are you heartbroken because your loved ones have left the Church? You are invited to the Springfield-area St. Monica Ministry monthly gathering. This ministry is a dedicated prayer network offering hope and support to families and friends of Catholics who have walked away from the practice of the Faith. Please join us for prayer, conversation and solidarity. Animated by hope and grounded in faith, we rest secure in the knowledge that, in the words of St. Monica, "Nothing is far from God."

Wednesday, May 8th @ 7:00pm, Christ the King Parish Center

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.

Memorial Day Field Mass

You are invited to the Memorial Day Field Mass at Calvary Cemetery in Springfield on May 27 at 9 a.m. The Mass will be at the Father Howard Altar. Bishop Thomas John Paprocki is the celebrant. Accompanying Bishop Paprocki in procession will be priests and members of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus. Limited seating will be available under the tent. Lawn chairs are welcome. Transportation will be available to assist visitors from the main gate to the Mass site. Call the Calvary Cemetery office at 523-3726 Monday – Friday from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. with any questions.

Livestreamers Wanted

It is a tremendous service to our housebound parishioners to be able to offer a livestreamed Mass on Sunday mornings at 10:00am. We are in great need of more volunteers who can offer this service. It's fun and easy! We'll train you and you can serve at your convenience. Please contact the parish office at 217-522-3342 if you can serve your parish in this way.

Church Bells and Air Raid Sirens: The Faith Response to Help Ukraine

Join the Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach on Wednesday, May 8th at 3 pm for a presentation by Erica Smith, executive director of Mission Outreach, about her recent visit to Ukraine to visit Catholic and other faith-based service providers in Ukraine.

Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach, an affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System, participates as a partner with the Catholic Response for Ukraine, a group that works on behalf of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development at the Vatican. Thanks to the partnerships created by this group, Mission Outreach shipped a 40-foot container of requested medical supplies and equipment to Ukraine in April 2023. Erica Smith, was invited to travel to Ukraine in April 2024 to learn what other needs are present. During that visit, Erica learned about the Catholic response in Ukraine and collaboration with people of other faiths to meet the educational, health, and social needs of Ukrainians – particularly those who have been internally displaced by war that those seeking to care for them.

In this presentation, Erica will talk about how faith communities are working to address the needs of Ukrainians and how Mission Outreach (in partnership with members of the Catholic Response for Ukraine) will continue to be involved in short- and long-term recovery efforts, even as the conflict continues. Erica will also share photos and stories about meeting with Latin Catholic leaders in Ukraine, including the Archbishop of Lviv and the Archbishop of Kyiv (who also serves as the Papal Nuncio).

This event will be held at 4930 Laverna Rd, Springfield, IL. For a Zoom link, please email erica.smith@mission-outreach.org.

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.

Love in Deed

It's a Wonderful Life is one of my favorite Christmas movies. It only occurred to me recently, though, that this film, for all its yuletide aesthetic, is actually more of an Easter story.

I love this movie because it's a very Catholic film — not overtly, although we do see the main character, George Bailey, going to Mass. No, it's the themes that are Catholic, not the set dressing. It's a story about the choices we make — to love, or not to love? To sacrifice, or not to sacrifice? To put oneself first, or to put oneself last? It's a story about what the consequences of those choices look like here in the world, and what they look like in heaven.

In the film, we meet a young George Bailey who dreams of growing up to do amazing, impressive things. Over the years, he makes a choice here and he makes a choice there ... and when all is said and done, the adult George Bailey is a tired, overworked husband and father with no worldly attributes that anyone would envy.

But he's a man who has loved in deed, not just in word, and who has reaped the spiritual rewards of those choices.

The season of Easter is about rejoicing in true redemption, not in worldly triumph. The Word of God is not a bedtime story. It's a pruning shear. To hear it is to be changed, to be shaped. To live it is to lose some things, so that you might bloom in unexpected ways. To welcome the Word is to be willing to look different, to feel different.

Anyone can say, "I love you, I accept you, I want to help you." But what does it actually look like, to love in deed and not just in word? It looks like giving something up: free time, wealth, comfort, worldly approval. It looks, to the casual observer, like pain.

To someone who has no concept of how plants grow and thrive, a gardener's pruning shears look like an executioner's sword. To someone who has no concept of how souls grow and thrive, a tomb barred by a stone looks like the end of a story, when in fact it's just the beginning.

"Children, let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth." — 1 John 3:18

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
©LPI

Around the Diocese

- **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!