

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

AUGUST 4, 2024 | EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 31

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
NINTH BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.
RECTOR

THE REVEREND DANIEL MCGRATH
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND PIUS CHIDOZIE NWIYI
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
IN RESIDENCE

THE REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING
IN RESIDENCE

DEACON DAVID BEACH

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!

The mission of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is to build a fervent community of intentional and dedicated missionary disciples of the Risen Lord and steadfast stewards of God's creation who seek to become saints. Accordingly, the community of Catholic faithful in this Diocese is committed to the discipleship and stewardship way of life as commanded by Christ Our Savior and as revealed by Sacred Scripture and Tradition. (Synod Declaration 1a)

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.

Diocesan Victim Assistance is available. For the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, please call 217-321-1155.
Please remember that if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a nursing home or homebound, to contact the Parish Office at 217-522-3342



Farewell to Father Vahling

The year 2020 was a year that many people would like to forget, given all of the concerns, confusion, and complexity surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic that was impacting almost every aspect of our lives. In the early months of the pandemic, this parish had to experience a pretty major change, the departure of your Rector, Father Christopher House, and your Parochial Vicar, Father Michael Friedel. As public masses were just resuming, you all had to get used to several new faces, with me assuming the role as your new Rector, and welcoming two newly ordained priests, Father Dominic Vahling and Father Peter Chineke.

Over the past four years, we have come a LONG way in our society and in our parish, even as it relates to the priests who have been assigned here. Just over a month ago, we said farewell to Father Paul Lesupati, who had spent two years with us, and we welcomed our two new Parochial Vicars, Father Pius Nwiyi and Father Daniel McGrath. This week, we will bid farewell to Father Dominic Vahling, who concludes his four years here at Cathedral to head off to Ottawa, Canada to complete his studies in Canon Law.

I had mentioned that 2020 was a year that many would like to forget, but for me, it is a year that I will remember fondly, especially because it began a new chapter in my priesthood. Over and over again, I tell people that one of the greatest graces of being here at Cathedral is the household of priests with whom I get to live and minister. As Father Vahling prepares to leave, there is a certain amount of sadness, as my entire time here has been with him. He has been a great priest to live with, and how he has lived his early years of priesthood has been an inspiration to me in many ways, and I have no doubt that I am a better priest for the time I have spent with him. As his first pastor, I pray that I have been helpful to him as he begins what will undoubtedly be a life in which he will bring many people closer to Christ. I have found in Father Vahling a good friend and I will be forever grateful to God for our years together here at Cathedral.

One experience stands out as particularly memorable. In January 2021, we were forced to enter a 2-week quarantine due to close contact with somebody who had tested positive for COVID-19. We were confined to our floor in the Rectory, but we certainly made the best of it. Each morning at 7 am, we would celebrate Mass together. In the evening, we would pray Evening Prayer together, have dinner, then maybe watch something together, concluding the day by praying Night Prayer. Individually, we each made the best use of our time, but those times we spent together helped make the isolation that much more manageable and even, I daresay, enjoyable!

I will also miss having a "birthday buddy" in the house, as we share the same birthday, though I am 15 years older than he is. Being a twin, I am no stranger to sharing a birthday, so I am grateful to have another person with whom to celebrate my birthday, especially since my twin sister lives in Texas and we only see one another once a year or so.

Please join me in wishing Father Vahling well in this next year in Canada. I know that you join me in giving thanks to God for the gift of his presence among us these past four years. Let us entrust him to our Blessed Mother, the patroness of our parish, that she will continue to pray for him, and keep him close to her Son, inspiring him to do likewise for the countless souls he will touch through his ministry in the years to come.

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, August 5

7am - Bishop Thomas John Paprocki
(Carol West)
5:15pm - Special Intention for Dick King
(Richard & Kay King)

Tuesday, August 6

7am - Julie Kemp
(Family)
5:15pm - Kathleen Dhabalt
(Vicki Compton)

Wednesday, August 7

7am - Julie Kemp
(Family)
5:15pm - Bill Vogt
(Susie & Larry Lovekamp)

Thursday, August 8

7am - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Family Spiritual & Physical
Health (John & Debra Beltramea)

Friday, August 9

7am - Mary Conway
(Tom Conway)
5:15pm - Intention for Bianca
(D.A. Drago)

Saturday, August 10

8am - William Vogt
(Leo & Norma Dougherty)
4pm - Thomas R. McGee
(Tom & Diane English)

Sunday, August 11

7am - For the People
10am - Mathias Bates
(Bates Family)
5pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)



St. John Vianney

Feast Day: August 4th

St. John Vianney usually, rightly, calls to mind images of a wizened priest in a violet stole. Something like Mother Teresa mixed with Padre Pio, a kindly character whose intense preaching, fervent fasting, and long hours in the confessional have been softened by the two centuries since.

History gives us our first aid in recovering the actual sanctity of the Cure D'Ars. Take yourself back to 1776 in Philadelphia. 56 men sign the Declaration of Independence, they are the heroes that capture the minds and hearts of 13 colonies, inspiring them to fight

for freedom. A decade later, in a small town in rural France, the 4th child of Matthieu and Marie Vianney was born, and was baptized Jean Marie that same day. Three years later the French Revolution begins, with their Catholic faith and a bloodbath commencing in pursuit of liberty, equality, and fraternity. Hundreds of priests would be killed, and tens of thousands of them would be forced out of the country over the coming decade. His parents, shepherds, would do what they could to care for those impoverished, persecuted, or mourning and their faith impelled them to travel far to find Masses celebrated in secret. At the age of 13, the boy Jean received his first Communion in the kitchen of a farmhouse, receiving into his own body for the first time the Body of His Savior. The windows were covered, because if they had been found, they would have been killed.

Blessedly, the persecutions abated, but the heroism of the priests who had stayed behind and risked their necks indelibly inspired the young man. By the age of 20 he wanted himself to become a priest. Two obstacles presented themselves: he was woefully behind in his studies, only now beginning his formal education. The shortfall would never be fully overcome. Secondly, just a few years into his studies he was drafted into Napoleon's army. No exemption for the ecclesiastical student. While reporting for duty he became sick, fell behind, was incorporated into another group of soldiers only to fall behind again. Following a fellow young man who promised to catch them both up, he instead found himself in a company of deserters hiding in the mountains through winter. Only in 1810 were all the deserters throughout the country granted amnesty and he was able to resume his studies.

The years of seminary slowly flowed by, with Vianney's ignorance constantly calling into question his capacity to be a priest. Still, his home pastor, Fr. Balley, kept interceding on his behalf, pointing out the piety and perseverance of the young man, and on August 12th, 1815 Vianney was ordained a priest and became Fr. Balley's assistant. He continued in that role for 3 years and was then sent to the village (only now famous) of Ars. 230 souls lived there, though none were waiting for him when he arrived. Few came to Mass on Sunday. Work and fun had a bigger place in their hearts than God. It's true that the gates of hell will never prevail against the entire Church, but they had prevailed against the Church in France.

And here's the thing, it wasn't some gallant St. Paul or St. Francis Xavier who marched into the village that day. Vianney's first homilies fell flat. There wasn't an instantaneous turnaround. Multiple times over the coming years the beleaguered pastor walked out of town having given up on converting people back to the faith. But slowly, unperceptively, God's grace was molding the heart of the ignorant, shepherd boy/deserter and transforming the hearts of the inhabitants of Ars. He began preaching without notes, simply expressing in his own simple way the truth of the Gospel. His piety grew into an all-out dedication to Christ. He ate little, endured the attacks of Satan at night, and sat in the unheated and un-airconditioned confessional for hours. And somehow, slowly, his daily martyrdom drew others back to God.

Hit the QR Code inserted in this article for more quotations from St. John Vianney on the Eucharist. They are all beautiful. I will leave you with this simple one: "I throw myself at the foot of the Tabernacle like a dog at the foot of his Master." A dog accomplishes little, knows little, earns little ... yet expects (and receives) everything from its master. A dog takes delight in the simplest gift of attention or play. A dog, without counting the cost, gives itself with abandon to the whims and for the joy of its master.

What if we did the same to Our Lord Jesus in the Tabernacle? What if we didn't consider whether we had anything to give, but simply gave ourselves, and received Him? What if we didn't go looking to find joy anywhere else but just stayed at His feet and listened for His voice? What if every little gift God gave us we received with the utter delight, the frenzy of freedom seen in a happy dog?



Fr. Dominic Rankin just came back from the Eucharistic Congress. One line I keep coming back to is this: "Act like a saint." How would John Vianney pray right now? How would St. Paul preach this Sunday? How would Mother Teresa love this person? What if you, or I, lived like that?

Stewardship of Treasure

July 20th & 21st

Envelopes:	\$4,001.00
Loose:	\$2,845.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>
Total:	\$6,876.00

July 27th & 28th

Envelopes:	\$4,949.00
Loose:	\$3,731.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	<u>\$165.00</u>
Total:	\$8,845.00

June EFT

\$19,004.61

June Debt Reduction

\$468.00

June Second Collections

Peter's Pence
\$2,791.00

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

Weddings

Timothy Brenneisen & Abby Tober
Married on July 20, 2024

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



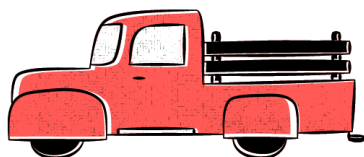
WEEK OF AUGUST 5

<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 Cathedral Bible Study 6:15 PM Parish Library	Summer Bible Study - Living in The Father's Love 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

STUFF A TRUCK FOOD DRIVE

FOR THE HOLY FAMILY FOOD PANTRY



BEFORE & AFTER
ALL MASSES
AUGUST 24 & 25

Stuff a Truck Food Drive

The Knights of Columbus and CCCW are partnering in a "Stuff a Truck" Food Drive for the Holy Family Food Pantry. Look for the Red Trucks before & after all Masses August 24 & 25! Suggested items for donations include (no glass please): Dry pasta, Spaghetti sauce w meat, Canned complete meals, Peanut butter & jelly, Mac-n-cheese box mixes, Fruit & veggies, Box mixes of any kind, Pancake Mix & Syrup, Fruit & Pudding cups, Potatoes, Paper products, Oral Hygiene items, Feminine Hygiene items, Laundry items, Diapers. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

JOIN US AT THE CATHEDRAL FOR A

Ladies Paint Night

AUGUST 30

6:30 PM

CATHEDRAL ATRIUM



Ladies Paint Night at the Cathedral

All ladies are invited to a paint night at the Cathedral on Friday, August 30th at 6:30pm! Grab your favorite snacks and a friend or two and get ready for a night of painting fun! \$30 per person; spots are limited (40 total). To register, visit <https://dio.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/91/responses/new>. Payment will be due at time of registration; if you prefer to not make an online payment, please contact the Parish Office at 217-522-3342 to make arrangements (payment will be due within 3 days of registration, if by phone). Registration closes August 18th so sign up today! Any questions can be directed to Kim Gunter (kgunter@cathedral.dio.org) or Haley Dutton (hdutton@cathedral.dio.org). We hope to see you there!

Cathedral First Friday Concert

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

7 PM - 8 PM

Featuring

Vocal Students of Justin Johnson

September First Friday Concert Series

Join us on Friday, September 6, 2024 at 7pm in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! September's concert will feature Vocal Students of Justin Johnson. 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



Evening Bible Study for Women

In a world where women are measured by their beauty, achievements, and possessions, wouldn't it be nice to find a place where you could just be valued for who you are? Living in the Father's Love will lead you to that safe place where you are unconditionally loved, baggage and all. This brief but powerful Bible study is the ideal way to revive and refresh yourself. Discover just how much God loves us and how the gospels are deeply relevant to our relationship with God and with those we love. 6 weeks, Thursday evenings, Aug 22 – Sept 26 @ 6:15pm \$20 workbook.

Call the Cathedral @ 217/522-3342 or email vcompton@cathedral.dio.org to reserve your spot and order a workbook.

Bishop Barron and Bishop Paprocki and the Number 1 Things

Bishop Robert Barron is one of the Church's leading theologians. Bishop Thomas John Paprocki is one of the Church's leading Canon lawyers. They are both some of the Church's best teachers of the faith. Dive Deep sits down with both of them to get their thoughts on the number one things about their own struggles with God, how to deepen your faith, how to improve your relationships, being a bishop, and more. Go to youtube.com/diospringfield or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe. Dive Deep is the podcast of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

Peoria Chiefs Game

Join Fr. Augustine Tolton Council #16126 and Cathedral parishioners at the final Peoria Chiefs game of the season on Sunday, September 8th at 2:05pm at Dozer Park in Peoria, IL. For \$40 you get a seat in the Batter's Box VIP Concourse Area with a lunch buffet featuring hot dogs, cheeseburgers, baked beans, chips, popcorn, canned soda, and bottled water. Individuals will need to provide their own transportation to and from the game. For questions, please contact Nick Gray at graynicholasjohn@gmail.com. A limited number of seats are available in this VIP area so reserve your tickets today! Spots can be reserved at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/toltonchiefs>

Have You Been Married 50+ Years? Time to Celebrate!

On September 22 at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, all couples married 50 years or more are invited to attend a special Mass honoring their marriage vocation! The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. A reception will follow after Mass. Please register for the Mass by going to dio.org/events. When you register, please upload (not mandatory) a photo from your wedding day and present day, as we'll be showcasing a slide show during the reception.

Butler Funeral Homes Lunch and Learn

Butler Funeral Homes extends an invitation to all who are interested in learning more about planning for their final wishes to help their families celebrate their lives to join us for a lunch and learn program. The details are as follows:

Your Life, Your Legacy
Wednesday, August 14th
11am – 1pm
Knights Of Columbus - Council 364
2200 Meadowbrook Rd.
Springfield, IL 62711

Complimentary lunch will be provided. This event is free: no cost or obligation. Please call 1-800-955-1579 to reserve your space no later than Monday, August 12th.

Don't Forget! Pick Up Your Meal Train Containers

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to bring meals for the Bishop and Cathedral Clergy! Don't forget to pick up the containers you have brought your meals in to the Cathedral. Please call the Parish Office at 217-522-3342 to make pick up arrangements. If you'd like to sign up to bring a meal for the Bishop and Cathedral Clergy, please visit our website (<https://spicathedral.org/cathedral-meal-train/>) to sign up for the dates that work best for your schedule.

AROUND OUR DIOCESE AND BEYOND



Thank You!

When I came to the Cathedral parish in July of 2020, we all had a lot on our mind. We were in the middle of the Covid pandemic and were trying to navigate one day at a time with our own personal safety, community events, and parish liturgies. As I look back with immense gratitude on my four years here at the Cathedral, I admit that those days seem like they happened a long time ago. I had been a priest for less than two weeks and was trying to find my footing in my new vocation, trusting in God but also asking a lot of questions!

My move this summer is a bit delayed compared to the other priests because I will be going back to school. For the past two years, I have been studying canon law part-time online through St. Paul University in Ottawa, Canada. Studying online has allowed me to stay

at the Cathedral and Sacred Heart-Griffin High School for these past two years while beginning my studies. However, I will be going to school in person starting this fall semester, which will allow me to finish my degree by the summer of 2025, when I will return to our Springfield diocese for a new parish assignment. I am excited to be with some really cool classmates as I learn more about the Church and how she puts theology into practice on a daily basis.

The Cathedral is truly a special parish assignment for any priest, and I am so grateful to God to have been here for four years. I have always been happy to talk about and give tours of the Cathedral, because of the unique history present here in our local Church, and because of the spiritual significance of a diocese's Cathedral. I would estimate that I was able to give a tour of the Cathedral to 350 students or so over the past three years. During one of these tours, in which I was describing how beautiful the Cathedral is, one of my students said, "So, no matter where your next church is, it will be a demotion for you?" While we don't consider priest assignments as promotions or demotions, there is a bit of truth in that question! The true beauty of the Cathedral parish is not in its history, windows, or marble, but in its people – the Catholic Church is made up of people, not buildings. I have been so blessed by the generosity of so many parishioners, by remembering us priests in prayer, sharing meals with us, and inviting us to be a part of your life through the Sacraments or through daily interactions. I have heard many confessions and celebrated many Masses, each of which was a time when my faith was built up by God's grace and God's people. I truly believe that there are living saints in each of our parishes, and we are blessed with many of them here at the Cathedral. If you don't feel like a saint yet, (as I don't), that just means that God still has some work to do, and we just need to be faithful one day at a time. I especially cherish the memories of the funerals, weddings, and baptisms that I celebrated in the past four years. Our parish liturgies are beautiful, thanks to Mark Gifford and the choir, and the preparation of the many liturgical ministers. The Triduum celebrations, especially the chanting of the Passion on Good Friday, are some of the most prayerful liturgies I have ever been a part of.

The Cathedral has come to feel like home in these past four years. I have lived here as long as I lived at my two seminaries, and in some ways it felt like another seminary (in a good way), thinking back to how much I have grown as a person and as a priest. I have been blessed to live with Bishop Paprocki, Fr. Alford, Fr. Chineke, Fr. Lesupati, Fr. Rankin, and also Fr. McGrath and Fr. Nwiyi recently. The Cathedral is the spiritual home of every Catholic in our diocese, and I will be returning frequently for diocesan events in the future. I think it will always feel like home when I return.

The best way to keep in touch in the future would be via email: dvahling@dio.org. For this next school year, my mailing address will be 130 Springhurst Av, Ottawa, ON K1S 0E5, Canada (international postage required). I'm always happy to receive mail, but never expect it, either!

I consider myself very blessed to have been called by God to be a priest for our diocese. God has a way of surprising us with his plans, and turning situations for the best in unexpected ways. Let's all stay faithful to Jesus in our hearts, especially by spending time with him at Mass and through daily prayer. And, if you think of it, say a little prayer for me the next time you pray at Mass or with your family!



Fr. Vahling in front of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on the feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul on June 29

Around the Diocese

- **SDCCW 95th Annual Convention**, August 28, 2024 at the Lake Williamson Retreat Center in Carlinville, IL. Kelly Wahlquist, speaker, and Donna Cori, singer, will be sharing their message as women who are "Sent On Mission & Fortified By The Eucharist." There will be the church basket silent auction raffle, the quilt and garden statue raffles, vendors and the 50/50 drawing. Please call the Parish Office at 217-522-3342 for the registration form.
- **Substitute Teachers Needed at Sacred Heart-Griffin High School for the 2024-2025 academic year.** Candidates must hold a Bachelor's degree as well as complete a Diocesan background check and Safe Environment Trainings. For more information and/or to submit your resume, please contact Jennifer Madiar, 217-787-1595 x106 or madiar@shg.org.