

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

OCTOBER 27, 2024 | THIRTIETH 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 43

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

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

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.



Pillar of Service

The fourth pillar of Discipleship and Stewardship is Service. The Synod describes this pillar with the following words:

Service – to **serve** each other, especially those in need, by practicing charity and justice.

I find that one of the most challenging passages in the Gospel is found in Matthew 25:31-46, sometimes called The Judgement of the Nations. In Matthew's Gospel, this is Jesus's final teaching before the Passion Narrative, and it addresses one of the most pressing topics – what is expected of us with regards to our salvation. Jesus first commends those who have served those who were in need, explaining: "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. (Mt 25:40) But, to those who did not serve those who were in need, they are condemned with the following words: "what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me." (Mt 25:45)

The reason this passage is so challenging is that it forces me to humbly acknowledge the many times when I have failed to recognize Christ in others and failed to be of service to them. Sure, I am aware of the many times that I have offered charity to those in need, but there are many times where I fail in this. I suspect this is something with which many, if not most of us, struggle in our lives.

Although the Gospel I just referenced gives some specific ways of serving those in need (known as the corporal works of mercy), there are many ways in which we can serve others. In fact, even among those traditional works of mercy, there can be a wide variety of ways in which they are practiced. A great resource on creative ways of practicing the works of mercy (both corporal and spiritual) is the book *You Did It to Me: A Practical Guide to Mercy in Action* by Father Michel Gaitley, MIC.

The first work of mercy Jesus mentions is feeding the hungry. Here at our parish, there are different opportunities for doing this. A couple of months ago, we hosted a Stuff the Truck event, which provided needed food for Catholic Charities here in town. Some of our parishioners have been involved in preparing meals for the Helping Hands shelter in the past. It is not uncommon for us to encounter unhoused people on and around our campus. Knowing that you might encounter such people, it can be a good practice to bring along some food that you can give to them, as I know some of you have done.

Speaking of our brothers and sisters who may be unhouse or experiencing other challenges in life, I know that it can be difficult to know what to do. Each one of us should use our conscience to discern what might be the right thing to do. Just because somebody is asking for money does not mean that that is the most appropriate thing to give to them. One thing we should not do is simply ignore them. By this I mean that we should not be afraid to greet them, give them a smile, and perhaps even ask their name. So many go out of their way even to avoid eye contact. But acknowledging somebody with a smile, their name, such that they know that they are seen, can go so much farther than we realize. Always remember those words of Jesus, that when we offer even this seemingly small act of charity, not only do we do it out of love for them, but we do it out of love for Him.

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, October 28

7am - Betty Rogers
(Family)
5:15pm - Puring Garde
(Family)

Tuesday, October 29

7am - Matt West
(Carol West)
5:15pm - Karen & Justin Howard
(Richard & Kay King)

Wednesday, October 30

7am - Mary Eleanor Maloy
(Madonna Fluckiger)
5:15pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Thursday, October 31

7am - Esther Antonacci
(Mike & Pam Burge)
5:15pm - Bill Vogt
(Bev & Larry Smith)

Friday, November 1

7am - Doris Drago
(D.A. Drago)
12:05pm - For the People
5:15pm - Joseph Reichle
(Celeste Crowley)

Saturday, November 2

8am - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, November 3

7am - Mary Conway
(Tom Conway)
10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)
5pm - Deceased Members of the
Chiaradonna Family (Geny
Chiaradonna)



St. Frumentius

Feast Day: October 27th

In the year 300s A.D., trade had been happening between Rome and India for four centuries. even before the domination of Rome, trade networks over land had existed between Persia and India, and then Alexander the Great's Hellenic empire and India. But caravans across the mountains and deserts of Afghanistan were slow, difficult, and easy prey for robbers and brigands. By the time of Augustus, with his conquering of Egypt in 30 B.C., a much easier, and more lucrative, trade route had appeared using ships going up the Nile (south through Egypt and Sudan) or down the Red Sea (south along those countries' coasts), and then using the monsoon winds to carry them back and forth across what they called the Erythraean Sea (now called the Arabian Sea).

Silk and spices and animals flowed into Rome at the rate of 120 ships a year, and gold and silver flowed out. Pliny, writing right around the time of Our Lord, recounts:

India, China and the Arabian peninsula take one hundred million sesterces from our empire per annum at a conservative estimate: that is what our luxuries and women cost us. For what fraction of these imports is intended for sacrifices to the gods or the spirits of the dead?

– Pliny, *Historia Naturae* 12.41.84.

Now, a sesterce, literally “two and a half”, was a quarter of a Roman denarius, “ten”, both of them originally referring to donkeys, so a denarius could buy you 10 donkeys, a sesterces only 2 and a half, and one hundred million sesterces could buy you 100,000,000 donkeys ... or an awful lot of silk and spices and interesting Indian animals.

Now, by the 300s and the age of Constantine, they weren't using the Roman Republic's denarius anymore, having adopted different coinage over those intervening centuries. In 324 A.D., Constantine with victories at Adrianople and Chrysopolis, secured his reign over both Western and Eastern Rome, and decided on two major projects to unify his empire. Firstly, he introduced a new coin, the solidus, weighing less than the prior aureus. Secondly, he called for the Christian church to hold a council, coming to agreement around our understanding of Christ, this being the famous Council of Nicaea of 325 A.D (firmly rejecting Arianism, that Jesus was not fully divine). And here's the fascinating thing: both these changes impacted not just Rome, but every other culture they were connected to! Up and down Rome's trade networks we see a change in the weight of their coins, and a prospering of Christian Churches too as persecutions ceased and doctrinal unity spread.

And so we finally meet our saint this week. Frumentius, in the year 324, was an adviser to the King in Axum, Ethiopia, that king named Ezana. This was a rather surprising twist of fate. Frumentius had been born to a mercantile family in Tyre, Phoenecia, around 300 A.D., but it wasn't his family's business that carried him and his brother, Aedesius, down to the famous trading post midway between Rome and India, but rather that they had been captured, and sold there as slaves. Christianity had trickled down to Ethiopia (first of all by the baptized Ethiopian Eunuch of Acts 8!), but had not made many converts. However, Frumentius and Aedesius were the nephews of a Christian philosopher from Tyre, so they knew the Christian faith well, and now they providentially gained the trust of their new master, the King of Axum, who left these two trusted servants as tutors and advisers to his own son, Ezana.

And so it was that by the 320s, Frumentius had the permission of Ezana to encourage the small Christian community around Axum to practice their faith openly, and as they began to build churches and practice works of mercy, the city took notice. They had seen every religion under the sun – eastern Buddhism, Egyptian cults, Roman paganism, Judaism – but Christianity outstripped all of them. And so in 324, when King Ezana reformed his currency to match the new weights instituted by Constantine in Rome, for the first time in the whole world, he stamped not his own visage, or motto, or some other symbol on them, but the cross of Christ.

Four years later, Frumentius traveled up to Alexandria to meet with Bishop Athanasius, the 20th patriarch of Alexandria (Christianity in Africa is ancient!) Athanasius did not send back someone else to evangelize Ethiopia, he consecrated Frumentius himself a bishop and sent him back. Around the same time, Ethiopia became the second country in the world to name Christianity its official religion (25 years after Armenia, 52 years before that would happen in Rome). Just one final page in his story: In 356 A.D., the Roman Emperor Constantius II, wrote to Ezana, telling him to replace Bp. Frumentius with Theophilus the Indian. Constantius was a proponent of Arianism and wanted a bishop who agreed with him. Ezana refused, and the great fight for Christ's divinity that was still raging in Rome and Constantinople and Alexandria continued there in a bustling city in Ethiopia.

Fr. Dominic Rankin will be carrying one particular detail from St. Frumentius through this week. By his beloved flock he was nicknamed “abuna”, “our father” (notice the similarities with “abba”). I also get to be called “father”, not because I have children of my own, but because I have been called by God to “father” His flock, to encourage them, and protect them from heresies and temptations. It's a precious title, and I pray to St. Frumentius that I could live up to it.

Stewardship of Treasure

October 19th & 20th

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Envelopes: | \$4,376.00 |
| Loose: | \$3,122.24 |
| Maintenance: | \$125.00 |
| Total: | \$7,623.24 |

September Online Contributions

\$53,944.79

September Debt Reduction

\$497.00

September Second Collections

Church in Africa
\$1,466.99

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 OCTOBER 28

| <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 | Grief Share 1:00 PM School Library | Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library | Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library | Rosary 4:45 PM Church | | The Chosen 2:00 PM School Library |
| Angels from A to Z 7:00 PM Atrium | Adoration 4:00 PM Church | Rosary 4:45 PM Church | Adoration 4:00 PM Church | First Friday Concert 7:00 PM Church | | Family of Faith 6:15 PM Atrium |

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

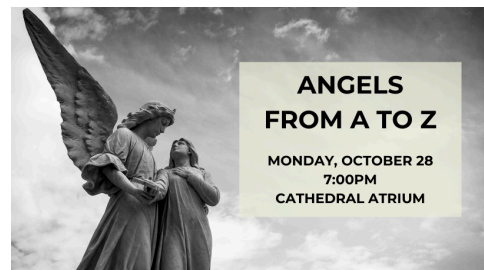


**EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITY**

**BUSINESS
MANAGER**

The Cathedral is Hiring a Business Manager

The Cathedral is looking to hire a Business Manager who will be assisting with the stewardship of the physical, financial, and personnel resources of the parish. The Business Manager values the responsible organization of parish resources, helping the parish to fulfill its mission. This is a full-time position that would work closely with the Rector in helping to coordinate the various efforts of the parish, including overseeing our financial operations, working to coordinate various maintenance activities to ensure a clean and functional campus, and supporting the various HR functions of the staff. Please visit www.spicathedral.org/employment for more information. Interested candidates should provide a cover letter and resume to Fr. Brian Alford, balford@dio.org.



Angels From A to Z

From Archangels to Guardian Angels, come listen to Father Brian Alford share what the Catholic Church teaches about who these mysterious beings are, what they do, and how they help us in our journey in becoming saints.

Monday, October 28 @ 7:00pm in the Cathedral Atrium



November First Friday Concert Series

Join us on Friday, November 1, 2024 at 7pm in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! November's concert will feature Damien Kaplan and Mark Gifford. 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!



Save the Date! Winter Ladies Paint Day at the Cathedral

All ladies are invited to join us for another painting event at the Cathedral on Sunday, December 8th at 12pm! Grab a friend or two and watch the bulletin and eWeekly for more details and registration information! The painting will be winter-themed, and will be announced closer to the day of the event.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Radiating Joy, The Michelle Duppong Story

For one night only Radiating Joy will be in Springfield. This film is a witness to the inspiring life of Michelle Duppong who loved Jesus and wanted to bring others to Him through the work of FOCUS and her heroic suffering and death. This film is perfect for families, OCIA groups, and everyone!

Tuesday, Nov 12, 5:00pm or 7:00pm @ Springfield AMC 12 Theater

All Soul's Day Remembrance

The Church has encouraged prayer for the dead from the earliest times as an act of Christian charity. A special Mass of Remembrance will be offered at 7:00 pm, Monday, November 4, at the Cathedral, devoted to remembering and praying for those who have died during the past year as well as praying for the consolation of the family members who survive and grieve. Please call the parish office at 217-522-3342 if you would like attend and remember a loved one who has died during the past year. We will have a candle prepared and provide you with instructions for lighting the candle during the Mass of Remembrance.

Holy Family Food Pantry Donations Needed

Each year, the Springfield Catholic Charities Holy Family Food Pantry serves hundreds of families in need through their Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. In preparation for the holidays, we are in need of donated food items and volunteers to create these much appreciated Thanksgiving and Christmas blessings. Wish list items for our food pantry include: cereal, boxed macaroni and cheese, baked beans, muffin mix, dessert mix, pasta, pudding mix, pancake mix, sugar, peanut butter, soup, breakfast bars, canned yams, potatoes, canned fruit, egg noodles, Jell-O mix, hot cocoa mix, syrup, brown sugar, jelly, crackers. Other useful/practical items include personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, or paper supplies. More information is available at 217.523.4551. Donations can be dropped off in the Atrium or at 120 S 11th St. in Springfield Illinois. Thank you for making a difference in our community!

Mostaccioli & Sausage Dinner and Bake Sale - Chatham

St. Joseph the Worker Church in Chatham will be hosting a Mostaccioli and Sausage Dinner and Bake Sale on Sunday, November 3 from 11:30am to 5pm. Dine in or carry out – menu includes mostaccioli, sausage, salad, bread, and drink. Adults are \$8, children 4-11 are \$4, and children under 4 are free.

K of C Patriotic Rosary

The Bishop Griffin Knights of Columbus Assembly invites everyone in the parish to join them on Tuesday, November 5 (Election Day) at 12:15pm here at the Cathedral to pray a Patriotic Rosary.

CCCW Dues/Donation Envelopes

All women of the Cathedral parish are encouraged to return their pink CCCW dues/donation envelopes no later than October 31st. This allows the CCCW to have an accurate roster of members, as well as supports the efforts of the CCCW. Thank you!

CCCW Christmas Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale

Please join the CCCW for a Christmas Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale on December 14th from 10am-1pm. Craft booths will be set up in the Atrium and the bake sale will be in the School Hall with coffee and hot chocolate for sale from Betty Parquette's Coffee Ship. There will also be a kids' corner where kids can make a keepsake Christmas ornament for a small fee. Vendor contracts for the bazaar are available in the Atrium, and are due back with payment (cash or check) to the Parish Office by November 20th. All bake sale donations can be delivered on December 13th from 8am-4pm and December 14th from 7:30am-9am. We hope to see you there!

Soctober Collection

It's that time of year ago again - SOCTOBER! The Ladies of the CCCW will once again collect new and gently used (include only those you would accept for your own family) socks, hats, and gloves. These items are shared with agencies serving homeless or at risk families and individuals of all ages who are in need. A special need exists for stocking hats & gloves this year. White baskets will be in the Atrium throughout the month of October for your donations. Thank you for your willingness to serve our most vulnerable brothers & sisters!

The Chosen, Season 4

The Cathedral will once again be showing and discussing the latest season of The Chosen. Everyone is welcome. We'll provide the popcorn! Sundays @ 2:00pm in the Cathedral School Library

Fried Chicken Dinner - Virden

Sacred Heart Church in Virden and the Virden Knights of Columbus will be holding a Fried Chicken Dinner on Sunday, November 3 from 11am to 2pm at the K of C Hall (1320 N Dye St) in Virden. Dine in or carry out – on the menu is fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, slaw, rolls, and a beverage. Desserts available for purchase. Adults and carry outs are \$13, children 5-12 are \$6, and children 4 and under are free. There will be a 50/50 drawing at 2pm. Thank you for your support!



The Safety of Darkness

Leprosy and blindness and deafness — oh, my. The disabilities cured by Jesus in his public ministry really are quite something, aren't they? Vividly symbolic and rich food for reflection. It just wouldn't be the same if Jesus had cured eczema or athlete's foot or compulsive nail-biting.

Blind Bartimaeus, sitting by the side of the road, in particular captures my imagination. Because I have a confession to make, sometimes, I like to sit in the darkness, even though I know it isn't very good for me.

Well, listen: it's just easier, isn't it? You don't have to care about or fix the problems you can't see. No one expects you to rush to someone's aid if you don't see their injuries. The darkness is a good place to be, if you don't feel very brave or very smart or very able.

And when Jesus passes you by, if your whole world is darkness, it's easy enough to pretend you just didn't notice him at all.

But Bartimaeus chose not to stay in his darkness. More than that, he cried out to be released from it, even when everyone around him told him to shut up. He was so persistent that he caught the notice of Jesus, and when he heard those words — "Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you!" — what did he do? He didn't stammer and run away. He had courage. He got up.

It takes courage to ask for what you need to follow Christ. Because if you ask for it, you'll get it. And then begins the terrifying, wonderful journey of discipleship — testifying to what you have seen. Life in the light, no longer sitting by the side of the road but on the road, journeying toward the greatest destination of all.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asks us.

Do we have the courage to answer him?

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
©LPI

Around the Diocese

- **SHG Mega Raffle**, Win \$100,000! Get your ticket today - 217-787-9732 or visit shg.org. Early bird drawing is October 25, final drawing is November 1
- **Learn More about Medicare 2025**. Health & Life Solutions, and Cathedral parishioners Mike & Lily Layden, will host a free seminar, "All you need to know about Medicare 2025". Come and learn about the changes to Medicare this upcoming year. Date: Thursday, November 7, 1:30pm - 2:45pm Location: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, School Hall, Seating is limited. Please call us by October 31 to reserve your seat. 217-290-1768
- **The Pregnancy Care of Springfield, Inc. 20th Annual Comedy in the City Dinner**, Friday, November 8th at the Elks Club. Doors will open at 5:45 p.m. for a cash bar and silent auction. A buffet dinner from Hamilton's Catering will be served at 6:30 p.m. followed by entertainment from FUN PIANOS at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to the event are \$50 per person. Reservations are required for this event by November 1st and can be made by calling (217) 525-5630, or through the website at springfieldpregnancycare.org.
- **Springfield Deanery Holy Hour for Vocations**, 6:30pm on Sunday, November 10 at Christ the King Catholic Church, 1930 Barbary Dr., Springfield, IL. Please join us for an evening of prayer as we pray for an increase in vocations to the Priesthood, Religious Life, and Holy Matrimony in conjunction with National Vocation Awareness Week.
- **Volunteer English Tutors Needed**; the new Springfield Dominican Literacy Center Springfield is looking for volunteers to teach English language learners. Mandatory tutor training is scheduled for 7 p.m. Nov. 14 and 18. To register or for more information contact Sister Katherine O'Connor at 217-415-8377 (voice or text).
- **St. Frances Cabrini Parish Nativity Festival**, Saturday, December 7, 2024 Noon - 4 p.m. & Sunday December 8, 2024 11 am - 4 p.m. Please email (parishoffice@stcabrini.dio.org) or call the parish office at 217-522-8555 with your contact information, number of sets, and your preferred drop off date.