

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 17, 2024 | THIRTY-THIRD 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 46

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

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DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

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PARISH SECRETARY
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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!

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.



The Parish of the Soul

On November 4, the Church celebrated the Memorial of St. Charles Borromeo, who was a cardinal of the Church and Archbishop of Milan. In a letter he wrote toward the end of his life, he addressed his priests with a variety of exhortations. The one that always stands out to me as I read it every year is the following:

Are you in charge of a parish? If so, do not neglect the parish of your own soul, do not give yourself to others so completely that you have nothing left for yourself. You have to be mindful of your people without becoming forgetful of yourself.

This serves as a reminder to me of the importance of my being diligent to taking care of my soul so that I can be of best service to you in my pastoral care of your souls. But I think these words can be extended to all of us, especially as we are preparing for my State of the Parish address at all of the masses next weekend. We will be considering the financial stewardship of the parish, the faith formation opportunities we have had this past year, the sacraments that have been celebrated. But more important than those facts and figures is the state of the soul of the individual members who make up our parish family. This is something that I cannot really speak to, as it touches on something that is hidden from my eyes. It deals with the relationship that each of us has with the Lord.

Perhaps this next week can be a time of personal reflection in which each one of us asks the Lord to shed His light into our souls to help us to see where we are at in our friendship with Him. Over the past year, how have we grown, if indeed we have grown? What is our attitude toward prayer? Are we more or less excited than a year ago about spending time with the Lord in prayer? What about our love for the Mass? Do we approach this greatest of all prayer with greater reverence and eager anticipation? Or, have we let our devotion and dedication slide? When was the last time we brought our sins to the Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? When was the last time we picked up the Bible to read or pray with the Word of God? When did we last pray the Rosary? How well am I doing with loving my neighbor in my heart?

The list of questions can go on and on, but I think you get the point. As I pray and discern about what to share next weekend, it would be great if all of us could bring with us an awareness of the present state of the parish of our souls. No doubt, we will find reasons for giving thanks, as well as identifying areas for growth, similar to our parish community. We bring all of that to the Lord, especially at the Mass, offering ourselves and our parish to Him, that we might be an acceptable offering to Him, one that we want to continue to purify and strengthen, so that the individual cells of the body of our parish family will make for a more united and vibrant community of intentional missionary disciples of Jesus Christ who seek to become saints!

Also, please remember to share what you are thankful for from the Cathedral. Information about submitting these expressions of gratitude can be found later in the bulletin or in our eWeekly communications.

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, November 18

7am - Esther Antonacci
(Mike & Pam Burge)
5:15pm - Kathy Alnory
(Vicki Compton)

Tuesday, November 19

7am - Woody Woodhull
(Fr. Tolton Council 16126)
5:15pm - John B. Clark
(Sheila Little)

Wednesday, November 20

7am - Barbara Conkrte
(Litina Carnes)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Friends)

Thursday, November 21

7am - Alice & Harold Rouscher
(Kathy Howard)
5:15pm - Deceased Members of Fr.
Tolton Council 16126 (Fr. Tolton Council
16126)

Friday, November 22

7am - Bill Blough
(Tom Steil & Sharon Oldfield)
5:15pm - Dan Hancock
(Celeste Crowley)

Saturday, November 23

8am - Don Smargiassi
(Fr. Tolton Council 16126)
4pm - Russell Carriere
(Rebecca Logerquist)

Sunday, November 24

7am - For the People
10am - Wilbur "Bill" West
(Carol West)
5pm - Betty Rogers
(Family)



Ss. Gregory, Hugh, Roque, and Josephat

Feast Day: November 17th

Gregory died at the age of 70, the bishop of the town of Caesarea in modern day Turkey. He was surrounded by a fervent Christian community despite this being the early 200s when Christianity was still far from accepted throughout the Roman empire.

Hugh was a bishop in England in the 1100s, he had been worn out by a recent diplomatic trip through France asked by King John, returning to London for a national council only for his health to spiral and his death to come on November 16th of 1220.

Roque was on a ladder tilted up against the little belltower at the All Saints Mission that he and another Jesuit priest had just founded in Caaro, nowadays the southern tip of Brazil. It was the year 1628, and he was working on hanging a bell above their chapel to call the locals to the prayers and formation they would be given there when suspicious locals attacked the priests, leaving their bodies to be burned as the chapel went up in flames.

And Josephat. His last moments were in 1947, near Kiev, where he was imprisoned by the communists who were pressuring him to renounce his Catholic faith. He just had to become a Russian Orthodox priest, just had to abandon his allegiance to Rome, just had to accept reality and let political expediency trump Christ. He was 71 years old, in the Capaivca labor camp, when he died of a cerebral hemorrhage, faithful to the last.

Now, of course the final moment is the one that counts (for us too!), but the rest of their lives (and ours) matters too! None of these saints would have been where they were, and offered their lives to God as they had without the story and decisions that led up to that final moment.

So back to Gregory. He was a young man growing up in the Roman Empire, gobbling up all that the pagan world could offer when he ran into a unique Christian teacher: Origen. Not himself canonized, Origen is all the same considered one of the great teachers of the 2nd century, and Gregory was floored by this eloquent, profound, and fervent preacher of the Gospel. He gave up everything, because a Christian, a priest, and then a bishop. Was made eventually bishop of Caesarea where he began his efforts in that city with only 17 Christians, and ended on his deathbed with only 17 pagans. What made all these converts? A zeal like Origen, and the gift of working miracles. His full name is St. Gregory Thaumaturgus, "the wonder-worker".

30 years before Hugh's health collapsed in London he was just the new bishop of the See of Lincoln, in England. He was a Carthusian, and had strenuously tried to avoid being named bishop, but having directly confronted the king about keeping such sees vacant, he could not refuse for long. (The king had a say in who was named bishop, and while any see was vacant handily received all their income into the royal coffers so he often procrastinated on filling them). But political meanderings, while they might mark the end of his life, in the middle of his life were just a training for the courage he would need elsewhere. Hugh's most famous moment came when mobs were persecuting Jews throughout the country, on multiple occasions he marched up to the mob and faced them down until they released their victims!

So then, back to Fr. Roque Gonzalez y de Santa-Cruz. He was born in Paraguay in 1576. This was 10 years before St. Rose of Lima, and 13 before St. Martin de Porres, so though they were canonized before him, he is actually the earliest person born in the Americas who is now canonized a saint! He was ordained very young, despite always thinking himself unworthy of the honor. Partly because of this thought he had spent his priesthood seeking out the most remote missionary work he could find – avoiding the limelight – all the while cherishing, protecting, and educating the people he found, quite contrary to the ways of many other Christians who fought and conquered the indigenous tribes.

And lastly, Bp. Josephat. He was just a man from a little village in Poland who joined the military as a young man before entering seminary and being sent to Rome. After being ordained a priest, he spent some time in seminary formation and then discerned into a monastery, receiving the name Josephat. Eventually he was made a bishop in 1917, spent a few decades shepherding his flock, and then was arrested by the communists for the reasons described above. His life was never flashy, no dramatic showdown, he was just a holy man who died unfaltering in the face of those who would trample his flock.

Fr. Dominic Rankin decided to offer multiple summarized saints this week because it is the month of November and always helpful to keep the unknown time of our own death before our eyes. Think about it this way, how many more presidential elections do you expect to see? If I make it to 77 (current average life expectancy), I will only see 11 more elections. Helpful perspective...! BUT, I also flashed back to their earlier life because their saintly deaths were the result of little choices along the way: choices to really listen to the Gospel, to stand up against evil, to choose the littlest assignment, to pray every day... One day will be our last. Did I live today to make that last one what it ought to be?

Stewardship of Treasure

November 9th & 10th

Envelopes:	\$5,630.00
Loose:	\$4,129.11
Maintenance:	\$360.00
Total:	\$10,119.11

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 NOVEMBER 18

<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 & 6:00 PM School Library	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		
St. Monica Ministry 7:00 PM School Library	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church			
		Cathedral Bible Study 6:15 PM Parish Library				

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.

WHAT AT THE CATHEDRAL MAKES YOU THANKFUL?

Share Your Gratitude

As we approach Thanksgiving, we all have so many things for which to be grateful, not the least of which is being a part of the Cathedral Parish family! We are inviting you to share a short thought of what you grateful for from your experience at the Cathedral over the past year. We will be sharing some of your comments (anonymously if you prefer) with the parish so that others can hear about the ways in which God has blessed us in a variety of ways. Visit <https://spicathedral.org/thankful/> to share your gratitude!

Brunch and Brushes at the Cathedral

All are invited to join us for another painting event at the Cathedral on Sunday, December 8th at 12pm! Cost is \$20 per person and a donation for the Holy Family Food Pantry (see bulletin announcement on next page for suggested items). Spots are limited (40 total) and registration closes on December 2nd, so sign up today! To register, visit <https://dio.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/174/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 due within 3 days of registration, if by phone). The painting will be winter-themed, and will be announced closer to the day of the event. Any questions can be directed to Kim Gunter (kgunter@cathedral.dio.org) or Haley Dutton (hutton@cathedral.dio.org). We hope to see you there!



SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Important CCCW Dates

November 20th-21th after the 5pm Mass - We will be cleaning the church. We hope to get it all done on the first day. Cleaning supplies will be provided. Please RSVP to Angelic Thompson (roxyada77@hotmail.com) by the 19th.

November 20th - deadline to turn in vendor contract for the Christmas Bazaar and bake sale. Blank forms are available in the Atrium.

November 21st 10am-2pm - Springfield Deanery Meeting for the Council of Catholic women. There is a minimum of a \$5.00 Lunch donation.

Second Collection: Diocesan Collection for Justice and Hope (DCJH)

With a population of over 1.1 million inhabitants, the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois has tens of thousands of people in our midst living in poverty. These men, women and children seldom make the headlines. However, their needs are real and deserve our prayer, action, and financial support. Our annual Diocesan Collection for Justice and Hope (DCJH) will be taken the weekend of November 23-24, 2024. This collection gives Catholics an opportunity to reach out in solidarity to those who suffer and lack basic human necessities. All funds donated during the DCJH collection are granted to organizations that give realistic hope to the poor to break out of the cycle of poverty. Please give generously to this DCJH collection and, when possible, reach out in service and solidarity to those organizations that help the poor among us.

Praying for Family Away From the Church

As the holidays approach, we want to surround our family interactions with prayer, especially our interactions with those loved ones who have stopped practicing the faith. St. Monica Ministry will be hosting a time of prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament at our next gathering. Please join us.
Monday, November 18, 7:00pm @ Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

Do you have young artists in your family? Cathedral's Father Augustine Tolton Knights of Columbus Council invites them to display their skills in the K of C's annual Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest! Children between the ages of 5 and 14 will have until December 8th to design their own poster celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. Winners in each of 3 age groups will receive a \$25 gift card and their entry will advance to the next level in this national contest. All entries will be displayed in the Atrium. A representative of the Council will be at all Masses the weekend of December 7th and 8th to collect the finished posters. During the Contest, if additional poster paper is needed for your children or there are questions, please reach out to Council Family Director Andy Klein, (217) 720-9773, Klein6006@gmail.com, or info.kofc16126@gmail.com.

Thank You!

A sincere THANK YOU to the many who donated socks, hats, gloves and other winter items for area men, women & children. Sizable deliveries were made to Helping Hands, Washington Street Missions, Sojourn Shelter for Women & Children, and a local nursing home whose patients do not have a lot of resources. All were greatly appreciated and will keep many safe and comfortable this winter.

A Course For Seekers

Did you know that Cathedral has a course for those who are interested in becoming Catholic? We meet on Tuesday evenings, twice a month for instruction on topics critical to understanding the Catholic faith. If you know someone who might be interested in learning more about becoming Catholic, please have them contact the Cathedral for a no pressure conversation about how we can walk with them on their faith journey. Contact Vicki vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or 217/522-3342.

Back By Popular Demand – Cathedral Game Night!

Come with your family or come by yourself to Cathedral Family Game Night. We have some games, including the hilarious Catholic card game, or you can bring your own games. Invite your friends. Everyone is welcome!

Sunday, November 17 @ 6:15pm in the Atrium

Cathedral Meal Train Container Pickup

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to bring in meals for the Bishop and Cathedral Clergy! Don't forget to pick up the containers you have brought your meals in from the Parish Office. Please call the Parish Office at 217-522-3342 to make pick up arrangements.

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!

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!

The End of the World

"It's not the end of the world."

If I had a brick for every time my mother said this to me growing up, I could have built a castle. One that comes complete with a moat whose bridge I could dramatically pull up so I could sulk, in the window of the highest turret, sighing loudly so every passerby would know how I suffered.

Because sometimes we act like it's the end of the world — whether we are a little kid angered by a playground snub, a teenage girl flipping out over an assignment for English class or a college student distraught that she got scheduled for four opening shifts in a row at the coffee house where she works (yes, these are all examples taken straight from my life, why do you ask?).

And sometimes, it really does seem like the end of the world. We lose someone we love to cancer. We miscarry a child before we even get to see his tiny face. The rent is due, and the bank account is overdrawn (also all examples taken straight from my life).

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that when the sun is darkened and the moon no longer gives light, we must look for him, because his time is near.

He's talking about The End of the World. The big one, the apocalypse. But why do I think he's also talking about the end of the world — those sufferings large and small, real and imagined, that make us feel like the sky is caving in?

In both instances, he draws near to us. So let us look for him.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
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Around the Diocese

- **The Catholic Conference of Illinois is hiring a Director of Communications.** This position would be responsible for leading initiatives to promote the Catholic Conference of Illinois (CCI) and mobilize support for its advocacy agenda. To apply, email professional materials to info@ilcatholic.org.
- **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).
- **Men's Ignatian Retreat at White House,** December 5-8, 2024. Limited space available; for more information or to register, call Denny Kirchgesner at 217-629-8260 or the White House office at 314-416-6400.
- **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.
- **The 24th Annual St. John Vianney Cookie Walk, Raffle and Christmas Gift Gala** will be on December 14, 2024, at the St. John Vianney Activity Center, 902 St. John Drive in Sherman, IL. Hundreds of beautifully decorated homemade cookies, candies and breads will be available for purchase. A raffle with top notch prizes from local merchants will be going on throughout the morning. Direct Sale Vendors will be available to help you finish your holiday shopping with cash and carry purchases. The jolly ole man himself, Santa, will be on hand from 8:30 -10:30 for photo ops with free will offerings being donated to the Holy Family Food Pantry. And for all our shoppers – complimentary refreshments will be served. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. For more information, contact Cindy Trainor (217) 414-4279 or visit our Facebook event at <https://www.facebook.com/share/56UKkMgTrPJ9umMg/>
- **Springfield Right to Life "Peace in the Womb" Christmas Caroling,** December 14, 4p-5p, 519 N. Bruns Lane, Springfield, IL. Song sheets provided, refreshments, and open house. Sponsored by Pro-Life Action League, Locally by Civic Committee.