

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

NOVEMBER 24, 2024 | THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342  
[WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG](http://WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG)

FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

# Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 47

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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  
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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.



## In Thanksgiving

Over the past weeks, I have been encouraging all of us to consider ways in which we are grateful for what we have received from being a part of the Cathedral parish family. At the time of this writing, I have received a few responses, and I have no doubt more will have come in. I wanted to share with all of you part of one of the responses that I received. This person, after listing a few things for which they are grateful, concluded: **“All of these have provided me a home where I can continue growing closer to Christ!”**

As I read those words, I was struck how with just a few words, they were able to express what I sincerely hope for all of us, that we see this parish as a home where we can grow deeper in our relationship with Jesus Christ. As the Rector, I know that this is one of the most important things I can do in serving you. When considering the state of a parish, it can be tempting to just focus on numbers. How is the budget doing? How many wedding, baptisms, and funerals have taken place here? How many hours of Bible study, faith formation, etc., have taken place? How many hours of adoration? How many people came to Mass in the month of October? All of those metrics are good to know, and they can say a lot about what is happening in the parish. But they only capture a small piece of the overall picture of where we are as a parish. As I explained in last week's bulletin, the more important indicator of the health of the parish is to be found in the somewhat hidden recesses of the souls of each individual.

Over the years, as I have been in a variety of parish settings, it strikes me that there is one metric that I think is a very good indicator of the state of a parish, and that is the number of confessions that are heard in a parish. This is obviously a number that I never intend to count or actually report, but I believe the use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of best ways of getting a peek into that hidden reality of the inner disposition of the souls of a parish. What do I mean by that? Let me try to explain.

One who goes to confession has come to the realization that they are in need of Jesus, not just in a generic sense, but they realize that they need His mercy. It takes humility to acknowledge that we have sinned, and to bring that sorrow to Him in the sacrament that He instituted to assure us of His forgiveness. By going to confession, we demonstrate that we are striving to grow in holiness, because as Catholics, we cannot authentically grow into a deeper relationship with Him if we never go to confession. I say this not to shame anybody, because I know there are likely some, if not many, reading these words who have not been to confession in quite some time. I have shared myself how there was a period of time in my life when it had been more than 10 years since I had last gone to confession. But to my dying day, I will always say that it was that decision to finally humble myself and go to confession that changed my relationship with Jesus forever. I was met with compassion and love, and His mercy touched me in a profound way as I encounter His deep personal love for me, and my awareness of that love has continued to grow, due in no small part to my continued practice of regular confession.

As I look back on this past year, I am perhaps most grateful to God for the many confessions I have heard here. It is so humbling to be in that place of vulnerability, and I get to see souls come to life again, having been touched by God's loving mercy. I get a glimpse into those souls, and it fills me with such great hope as they are set free from the burden of sin, setting off to begin again in growing into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

*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 25

7am - Bernice Lauduskie  
(Jim & Sandy Bloom)  
5:15pm - Anita Bates  
(Nancy Schrenck)

#### Tuesday, November 26

7am - Kathleen Alnory  
(Celeste Crowley)  
5:15pm - Dennis Fringer  
(Angela Ohi-Marsters)

#### Wednesday, November 27

7am - Woody Woodhull  
(The Coffee Guys)  
5:15pm - Hargan & Sinn Families  
(Pamela Hargan)

#### Thursday, November 28

7am - NO MASS (Thanksgiving)  
9am - John & Edith Bakalar  
(John Busciacco)  
5:15pm - NO MASS (Thanksgiving)

#### Friday, November 29

7am - Carl W. Anderson  
(Family)  
5:15pm - NO MASS

#### Saturday, November 30

8am - Delbert Fairweather  
(Andrew & Cheryl Klein)  
4pm - James Hughes  
(Family)

#### Sunday, December 1

7am - Pamela Harmon  
(Archie Harmon)  
10am - For the People  
5pm - Special Intention for Candy  
Miloshevich (Richard & Kay King)





## St. Columbanus (Part 1)

**Feast Day: November 24th 23rd**

Usually, it takes me some time to decide between all the different saints who are celebrated on any particular day. This week was different. I saw St. Columbanus, had not even read about where he lived or when he died; I just saw "Patron of Motorcyclists", and that was that. As I was researching his life, I discovered two additional things. First, Pope Benedict XVI had given a splendid audience on this heroic Irish saint, one with details and depth that I wanted to pass onto all of you. AND, sadly, that my first research was erroneous, and his feast day was actually November 23rd... So, with that mistake already made, I just decided to give you Pope Benedict's account of this saint, split between this week and the next. I will be back! But perhaps it is fitting as we celebrate Thanksgiving to just turn back in gratitude to a wonderful holy father who taught the faith so beautifully!

*Today I would like to speak about the holy Abbot Columban, the best known Irishman of the early Middle Ages. Since he worked as a monk, missionary and writer in various countries of Western Europe with good reason he can be called a "European" Saint. With the Irish of his time, he had a sense of Europe's cultural unity. The expression "totius Europae - of all Europe", with reference to the Church's presence on the Continent, is found for the first time in one of his letters, written around the year 600, addressed to Pope Gregory the Great (cf. Epistula I, 1).*

*Columban was born c. 543 in the Province of Leinster in southeast Ireland. He was educated at home by excellent tutors who introduced him to the study of liberal arts. He was then entrusted to the guidance of Abbot Sinell of the community of Cleenish in Northern Ireland, where he was able to deepen his study of Sacred Scripture. At the age of about 20 he entered the monastery of Bangor, in the northeast of the island, whose abbot, Comgall, was a monk well known for his virtue and ascetic rigour. In full agreement with his abbot, Columban zealously practiced the severe discipline of the monastery, leading a life of prayer, asceticism and study. While there, he was also ordained a priest. His life at Bangor and the Abbot's example influenced the conception of monasticism that developed in Columban over time and that he subsequently spread in the course of his life.*

*When he was approximately 50 years old, following the characteristically Irish ascetic ideal of the "peregrinatio pro Christo", namely, making oneself a pilgrim for the sake of Christ, Columban left his island with 12 companions to engage in missionary work on the European Continent. We should in fact bear in mind that the migration of people from the North and the East had caused whole areas, previously Christianized, to revert to paganism. Around the year 590, the small group of missionaries landed on the Breton coast. Welcomed kindly by the King of the Franks of Austrasia (present-day France), they asked only for a small piece of uncultivated land. They were given the ancient Roman fortress of Annegray, totally ruined and abandoned and covered by forest. Accustomed to a life of extreme hardship, in the span of a few months the monks managed to build the first hermitage on the ruins. Thus their re-evangelization began, in the first place, through the witness of their lives. With the new cultivation of the land, they also began a new cultivation of souls. The fame of those foreign religious who, living on prayer and in great austerity, built houses and worked the land spread rapidly, attracting pilgrims and penitents. In particular, many young men asked to be accepted by the monastic community in order to live, like them, this exemplary life which was renewing the cultivation of the land and of souls. It was not long before the foundation of a second monastery was required. It was built a few kilometres away on the ruins of an ancient spa, Luxeuil. This monastery was to become the centre of the traditional Irish monastic and missionary outreach on the European Continent. A third monastery was erected at Fontaine, an hour's walk further north.*

*Columban lived at Luxeuil for almost 20 years. Here the Saint wrote for his followers the Regula monachorum - for a while more widespread in Europe than Benedict's Rule - which portrayed the ideal image of the monk. It is the only ancient Irish monastic rule in our possession today. Columban integrated it with the Regula coenobialis, a sort of penal code for the offences committed by monks, with punishments that are somewhat surprising to our modern sensibility and can only be explained by the mentality and environment of that time.*

*Fr. Dominic Rankin was further humbled this week. Last week's collection of saints also included a Blessed! Fr. Josaphat Kocylovskyj, from Poland, is not yet canonized a saint, so perhaps we can all pray for his intercession and if a miracle is granted it could prompt the church to officially give him the title of saint!*

## Stewardship of Treasure

### November 16th & 17th

Collection numbers for last weekend were unavailable at the time of publication. Please check back next weekend for these collection numbers.

### October Online Contributions

\$51,103.80

### October Debt Reduction

\$1,526.00

### October Second Collections

World Mission Sunday  
\$2,929.00

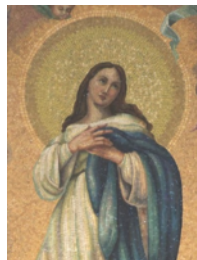
Online Giving: If you would like to extend a special gift to the Cathedral, please visit our website. Our parish is grateful for your continued support.

Thank you!

## WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Grief Share 1:00 PM School Library  Adoration 4:00 PM Church  OCIA 6:00 PM School Library	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library  Rosary 4:45 PM Church  Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM School Classroom	No 7:00 AM or 5:15 PM Mass	No 5:15 PM Mass	Immaculate Conception Novena 7:00 PM Church	Family of Faith 6:15 PM Atrium  Immaculate Conception Novena 7:00 PM Church

## What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



### NOVENA IN HONOR OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 8  
7:00PM  
CATHEDRAL CHURCH

#### Novena in Honor of the Immaculate Conception

Beginning November 30 through December 8th, the Cathedral will host the annual diocesan novena in honor of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States, our diocese, and the Cathedral Parish. The novena will be celebrated each evening at 7PM. Each night will be a holy hour consisting of exposition, a liturgy of the Word, homily, Rosary, and benediction with the novena prayer and the recitation of the Litany of Loreto after reposition. Below are the themes with the accompanying readings.

Saturday, November 30 – Our Lady at the Annunciation

Very Reverend Brian Alford

Collect: The BVM and the Annunciation of the Lord

Is. 7:10-14, 8:10c; Ps. 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11; Lk. 1:26-38

Sunday, December 1 – Our Lady at the Visitation

Reverend Michael Friedel

Collect: The Visitation of the BVM

Zeph. 3:14-18a; Is. 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6; Lk. 1:39-56

Monday, December 2 – Our Lady at the Nativity

Reverend Daniel McGrath

Collect: The BVM, Mother of the Savior

Is. 9:1-3, 5-6; Ps. 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 11-12, 13; Lk. 2:1-14

Tuesday, December 3 – Our Lady at the Presentation of the Lord

Reverend Dominic Rankin

Collect: The BVM and the Presentation of the Lord

Mal. 3:1-4; Ps. 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Lk. 2:27-35

Wednesday, December 4 – Our Lady at the Finding of Jesus in the Temple

Reverend Monsignor David Hoefler, V.G.

Collect: Our Lady of Nazareth I

Gal. 4:4-7; Ps. 131:1, 2, 3; Lk. 2:41-52

Thursday, December 5 – Our Lady at the Wedding Feast of Cana

Deacon Larry Smith

Collect: Our Lady of Cana

Ex. 19:3-8a; Ps. 119:1-2, 10-11, 12 and 14, 15-16; Jn. 2:1-11

Friday, December 6 – Our Lady at the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

Deacon David Beach

Collect: Our Lady of the Cenacle

Acts 1:6-14; Ps. 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7; Lk. 24:44-53

Saturday, December 7 – Our Lady at Her Assumption

Reverend Pius Nwiyi

Collect: The BVM, Cause of our Joy

Is. 61:9-11, Lk. 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; Jn. 15:9-12

Sunday, December 8 – Our Lady at Her Coronation

Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki

Collect: The BVM, Image and Mother of the Church I

Gn. 3:9-15, 20; Jud. 13:18bcde, 19; Jn. 19:25-27

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## 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 below 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](mailto:kgunter@cathedral.dio.org)) or Haley Dutton ([hdutton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:hdutton@cathedral.dio.org)). We hope to see you there!

## 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](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org) or 217/522-3342.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:Klein6006@gmail.com), or [info.kofc16126@gmail.com](mailto:info.kofc16126@gmail.com).

## 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!

## Thank You!

We at the Doggie for a Deacon Benefit Project want to express our sincere gratitude for your overwhelming support. Thanks to your generosity, we've successfully met our goal of providing Deacon Ben Hoefler with his service dog, St. Lucy. Lucy is a blessing, and her arrival would not have been possible without the selfless efforts of so many. From the dedicated team who organized the spaghetti dinner to the generous individuals who donated their time, talents, and resources, and to all who donated in countless other ways, we extend our heartfelt thanks. May God bless you all for your kindness and generosity.

## 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!

## Citizens of Another Country

I read an article, years ago, about an American filmmaker who decided to step away from a wildly successful film franchise that had been requiring him and his family to live abroad.

It stuck in my mind because of the tongue-in-cheek reasoning he gave for the surprising decision, "My kids were starting to speak in British accents."

Sometimes, we just want to go home, don't we?

Returning from a recent family vacation, I burst into tears at the airport, overcome with relief when I saw my sister's van pulling into the pickup lane. It didn't matter that I had had fun on this trip and that I was even looking forward to taking another one. In that moment, I was so tired, and all I wanted was my own bed. The smell of my own house. The feeling of not being "away."

If Jesus is our king, and his kingdom is not of this world, then we live our lives as perpetual aliens. This should reassure us in some ways. The world so often feels cold and cruel and strange to us because it is. We were not made for this world. We were made for heaven. We were made to yearn for the face, the presence, the protection of our King.

But this understanding of ourselves as strangers in a foreign land should also be a caution to us.

We can't get too comfortable here. We cannot become too wrapped up in the world and its temptations, its rewards, its comforts. We cannot start speaking in the language, the accent of our adopted homeland. Not if we ever want to return home and belong there.

Our King looks for our return.

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](mailto:info@ilcatholic.org).
- **Men's Ignatian Retreat at White House**, December 5-8, 2024. Limited space available; for more information or to register, call Denny Kirchgessner 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](mailto: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.