

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

DECEMBER 1, 2024 | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 48

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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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.



Developing the Habit of Prayer

As we begin a new liturgical year, we have a great opportunity to do a sort of examination as it relates to our lives as disciples. January 1 is often a time when people take stock of their lives and set resolutions in all sorts of areas, especially with regards to our physical health. But I would suggest now is a great time for us to look at our spiritual health and with this new season, to see if there might be something the Lord is inviting us to consider doing to help advance that area of our lives.

One of the most essential habits of those committed to living a life of discipleship is daily prayer. Many of us will acknowledge the need for this in our lives, but getting started can be a challenge. Or, perhaps we do have a daily habit of prayer, but are hoping to deepen our commitment. We might make the resolution to start praying every day, or to pray more, only to begin on day one and think: now what? How do I pray? What can I add? There are many ways to pray, to be sure, and I cannot tell you which way is best for you. Therefore, if we are new to prayer, or looking to explore some new possibilities, this season of Advent could be a time during which we try a few different things, liking trying on different outfits to see what fits, what feels good, what we seem to connect with.

In that regard, I am pleased to announce a resource that I think you will find extremely helpful in building or strengthening this daily habit of prayer, the Hallow app. This app has exploded in popularity over the past couple of years and many (myself included) use it as a part of their daily prayer routine. There are MANY different resources to explore on the app, and our parish has secured a special offer for our parishioners to try out the full set of content from Hallow for 120 days at the very low cost of \$1 total! You will find signup instructions later in the bulletin and in the Atrium.

I personally use the Daily Examen prayer to reflect on the previous day, noticing where the Lord was present, where I may have missed Him, and how to follow Him better the next day. I also regularly use the app for praying the Rosary. The daily bible reflections from Jeff Cavins are also extremely insightful. Sometimes, I just poke around the app to see what catches my attention. Father Daniel McGrath, one of our Parochial Vicars, also uses Hallow regularly. Here is what he has to say about using this app:

I have had the Hallow app since the middle of the summer. I didn't use it much at first, but I have begun to enjoy almost daily listening to the music playlists, praying the rosary with it, and especially listening to the scripture readings when going to bed at night. There are so many resources it offers for making the Word of God a more regular part of your life! As St. Paul tells the Colossians, Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.

As we begin this new liturgical year, I pray that all of us will take some time to examine how we are doing with our daily prayer, and ask the Lord what one thing might be that we can add or change. We do not need to overwhelm ourselves by adding too many things, lest we get overwhelmed and discouraged. Start small. Just one thing is something I think we can all manage. And if the Hallow app helps you in identifying what that one thing is, thanks be to God!

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, December 2

7am - Margaret Lemanski
(Family)
5:15pm - Teter & Koch Family
(D.A. Drago)

Tuesday, December 3

7am - Gregory Devane
(Celeste Crowley)
5:15pm - Kathleen Alnory
(D.A. Drago)

Wednesday, December 4

7am - Andrew F. McGee
(McGee Family)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Friends)

Thursday, December 5

7am - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)
5:15pm - Puring Garde
(Family)

Friday, December 6

7am - Fred & Rita Greenwald
(Lou Ann Mack)
5:15pm - Eugenia Halerevicz
(Family)

Saturday, December 7

8am - Joellen & Kent Gardner
(Berte Family)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, December 8

7am - William F. Logan
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)
10am - Deceased Members of the
CCCW (CCCW)
5pm - Mary Celine Sestak
(Steve & Vicki Stalcup)



St. Columbanus (Part 2)

Feast Day: November 24th 23rd

Continuing from last week, we return to Pope Benedict XVI's Audience on St. Columbanus. Recall he had spoken on Columban's early life in Ireland and courageous embarkment on a mission to re-evangelize the European Continent.

With another famous work entitled: De poenitentiarum misura taxanda, also written at Luxeuil, Columban introduced Confession and private and frequent penance on the Continent. It was known as "tariffed" penance because of the proportion established

between the gravity of the sin and the type of penance imposed by the confessor. These innovations roused the suspicion of local Bishops, a suspicion that became hostile when Columban had the courage to rebuke them openly for the practices of some of them. The controversy over the date of Easter was an opportunity to demonstrate their opposition: Ireland, in fact, followed the Eastern rather than the Roman tradition. The Irish monk was convoked in 603 to account to a Synod at Chalon-sur-Saône for his practices regarding penance and Easter. Instead of presenting himself before the Synod, he sent a letter in which he minimized the issue, inviting the Synod Fathers not only to discuss the problem of the date of Easter, in his opinion a negligible problem, "but also all the necessary canonical norms that - something more serious - are disregarded by many" (cf. Epistula II, 1). At the same time he wrote to Pope Boniface IV - just as several years earlier he had turned to Pope Gregory the Great (cf. Epistula I) - asking him to defend the Irish tradition (cf. Epistula III).

Intransigent as he was in every moral matter, Columban then came into conflict with the royal house for having harshly reprimanded King Theuderic for his adulterous relations. This created a whole network of personal, religious and political intrigues and manoeuvres which, in 610, culminated in a Decree of expulsion banishing Columban and all the monks of Irish origin from Luxeuil and condemning them to definitive exile. They were escorted to the sea and, at the expense of the court, boarded a ship bound for Ireland. However, not far from shore the ship ran aground and the captain, who saw this as a sign from Heaven, abandoned the voyage and, for fear of being cursed by God, brought the monks back to dry land. Instead of returning to Luxeuil, they decided to begin a new work of evangelization. Thus, they embarked on a Rhine boat and travelled up the river. After a first stop in Tuggen near Lake Zurich they went to the region of Bregenz, near Lake Constance, to evangelize the Alemanni.

However, soon afterwards, because of political events unfavourable to his work, Columban decided to cross the Alps with the majority of his disciples. Only one monk whose name was Gallus stayed behind; it was from his hermitage that the famous Abbey of St Gall in Switzerland subsequently developed. Having arrived in Italy, Columban met with a warm welcome at the Lombard Royal Court but was immediately faced with considerable difficulties: the life of the Church was torn apart by the Arian heresy, still prevalent among the Lombards, and by a schism which had detached most of the Church in Northern Italy from communion with the Bishop of Rome. Columban entered authoritatively into this context, writing a satirical pamphlet against Arianism and a letter to Boniface IV to convince him to take some decisive steps with a view to re-establishing unity (cf. Epistula V). When, in 612 or 613, the King of the Lombards allocated to him a plot of land in Bobbio, in the Trebbia Valley, Columban founded a new monastery there which was later to become a cultural centre on a par with the famous monastery of Monte Cassino. Here he came to the end of his days: he died on 23 November 615 and to this day is commemorated on this date in the Roman rite.

St Columban's message is concentrated in a firm appeal to conversion and detachment from earthly goods, with a view to the eternal inheritance. With his ascetic life and conduct free from compromises when he faced the corruption of the powerful, he is reminiscent of the severe figure of St John the Baptist. His austerity, however, was never an end in itself but merely the means with which to open himself freely to God's love and to correspond with his whole being to the gifts received from him, thereby restoring in himself the image of God, while at the same time cultivating the earth and renewing human society. I quote from his Instructiones: "If man makes a correct use of those faculties that God has conceded to his soul, he will be likened to God. Let us remember that we must restore to him all those gifts which he deposited in us when we were in our original condition. "He has taught us the way with his Commandments. The first of them tells us to love the Lord with all our heart, because he loved us first, from the beginning of time, even before we came into the light of this world" (cf. Instructiones XI). The Irish Saint truly incarnated these words in his own life. A man of great culture - he also wrote poetry in Latin and a grammar book - he proved rich in gifts of grace. He was a tireless builder of monasteries as well as an intransigent penitential preacher who spent every ounce of his energy on nurturing the Christian roots of Europe which was coming into existence. With his spiritual energy, with his faith, with his love for God and neighbour, he truly became one of the Fathers of Europe. He shows us even today the roots from which our Europe can be reborn.

Fr. Dominic Rankin always enjoys crafting these saint-stories himself, but it is also a gift to just receive them from a great teacher as well. Praise the Lord for those like Pope Benedict with the gift of teaching!

Stewardship of Treasure

November 16th & 17th

Envelopes:	\$4,240.72
Loose:	\$11,109.00
Maintenance:	\$67.00
Total:	\$15,416.72

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!

Sacraments

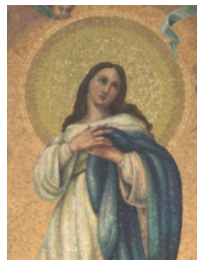
Deaths

Sandra Joan Bloom
Date of Death: October 31, 2024

WEEK OF DECEMBER 2

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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 School Library	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Immaculate Conception Novena 7:00 PM Church	Brunch and Brushes 12:00 PM Atrium
Immaculate Conception Novena 7:00 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Immaculate Conception Novena 7:00 PM Church	Immaculate Conception Novena 7:00 PM Church	
	Immaculate Conception Novena 7:00 PM Church	Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM School Classroom	Immaculate Conception Novena 7:00 PM Church			
		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 Nwiji

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) or Haley Dutton (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 or 217/522-3342.

Cathedral Meal Train

Just as the Bishop and our priests of the parish provide us with spiritual nourishment at Mass, we strive to provide them with physical nourishment, in order to give them the strength they need to continue to serve our parish family. Volunteers can utilize our Meal Train website to sign up for the dates that work best for them throughout the year. If you are interested in volunteering in this ministry, please visit www.spicathedral.org/cathedral-meal-train/.

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.

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!

Second Collection - Retirement Fund for Religious

In the coming weeks, our parishes will take up the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This campaign is crucial, benefiting more than 24,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have been faithful servants within the Church, devoting their lives to service. Your contributions to the Retirement Fund for Religious play a vital role in providing necessary financial support. This support enables religious communities to care for their aging members while ensuring that the younger generation can carry forward the invaluable work of their elders. Together, let us support the many religious women and men who have made enormous contributions to our Church and to the world.

Remembering Advent

It always makes me laugh a little, these apocalyptic Gospel readings that come at the beginning of Advent.

What a funny juxtaposition — all of us stringing twinkle lights and wrapping presents, with Jesus thundering on about the end of the world. It's Christmas! Don't be a downer. Pour me some more eggnog and turn up the Nat King Cole.

Well, except it's not Christmas. It's Advent.

There's nothing wrong with the cultural accessories that have developed alongside this religious holiday. There's nothing wrong with the twinkle lights and the eggnog. But here's the thing: when Satan knows we're watching the front gate, he slips in the back door. And something I've found is that one back door he likes to use in my life is Cultural Christmas.

I love Cultural Christmas. I tend to overdo Cultural Christmas. I overschedule, I overdecorate, I overgift. All this "over" leads to — you guessed it! — overwhelm. "The anxieties of daily life," as Jesus describes in today's Gospel, make my heart drowsy. My spiritual Christmas joy, time and time again, is diminished — all because I embrace Cultural Christmas and ignore Advent. Satan sneaks in with the twinkle lights and the Christmas carols and he snatches The Present like the nasty little Grinch he is. He photobombs my experience of the religious holidays with the anxieties I so willingly embrace because of the production that is Cultural Christmas.

So, remember to rest this Advent, folks. Rest your heart. Rest your hands. Watch the back door and the front. Remember that this is the perfect time to be thinking about the state of your soul and not just the state of your house.

(Even though, yes, I know, the guests are coming any minute.)

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
©LPi

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.
- **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) 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.