

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

DECEMBER 8, 2024 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 49

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.



Our Patronal Feast Day

For several decades, when the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) fell on a Sunday, the feast was transferred to the following day, Monday, December 9. While the Solemnity was still observed, the obligation to attend Mass on that day was abrogated, or removed. As it turns out, that practice was actually incorrect. The Holy See recently clarified that in a case like this, even though the feast day is moved, the obligation still remains, thus having this coming Monday, December 9, be a Holy Day of Obligation.

Before I comment on the importance of this feast day, especially for us here at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, let me give you some specifics on how you might approach fulfilling two Mass obligations – one for the Second Sunday of Advent, and one for the Immaculate Conception:

- Attending any Mass from 4:00 pm on Saturday, December 7, through midnight on Sunday, December 8, fulfills the obligation for the Second Sunday of Advent.
- Attending any Mass from 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 8, through midnight on Monday, December 9, fulfills the obligation for the Immaculate Conception.
- Attending ONLY the 5:00 PM Mass on Sunday, December 8 does NOT fulfill both obligations, it would only fulfill the Sunday obligation, so you would need to attend one of the three Masses on Monday, December 9 (7:00 am, 12:05 pm, or 5:15 pm)

Admittedly, this can be a little confusing, but the main point is we are to go to Mass two times between Saturday evening and Monday evening. The interesting thing is that at the Sunday 5:00 pm Mass, the prayers and readings will all be for the Second Sunday of Advent, but if you already went to Mass on Saturday evening or on Sunday morning, that 5:00 pm Mass would still count for your Immaculate Conception obligation. And to anticipate a possible question, it is permissible to receive Holy Communion twice on the same day, so long as the second time is in the context of attending Mass (which this would be).

Since our Cathedral is under the patronage of Mary as the Immaculate Conception, we have an additional blessing available to us. The Handbook of Indulgences states that a “A plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who visit, and there devoutly recite and Our Father and the Creed, the cathedral church on the solemnity of its Titular.” (no. 33, pg. 101) Titular is a fancy name for the patronal feast day. What an opportunity we have! Not only do we get to receive Our Lord in the Eucharist twice in two days, but we can also gain a plenary indulgence, either for ourselves or for the faithful departed. The other normal conditions apply for gaining a plenary indulgence, namely, praying for the intentions of the Holy Father (one Our Father and one Hail Mary can suffice), going to confessions within 20 days before or after, and a detachment from sin.

Let us see this not so much with the somewhat negative view that is carried with the word “obligation”, but see it through the positive lens of being an amazing “opportunity” for us to celebrate this feast in honor of Our Blessed Mother who has a special care for us here in the church under her patronage. Let us ask her to intercede for us that the remainder of our Advent journey will be filled with an eager longing for the celebration of her Son’s birth at Christmas.

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 9

7am - Betty & Gene Barish (Family)
12:05pm - Esther Antonacci (Mike & Pam Burge)
5:15pm - Cathryn Moore Smith (Dcn. Larry & Bev Smith)

Tuesday, December 10

7am - Mathias Bates (Bates Family)
5:15pm - Karen Bucari (Alan Bucari)

Wednesday, December 11

7am - John Montgomery (John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the Chiaradonna Family (Geny Chiaradonna)

Thursday, December 12

7am - Thomas R. McGee (McGee Family)
5:15pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway (Robert Gasaway)

Friday, December 13

7am - Sr. Annette Embrich ASC (Brother)
5:15pm - Intention for Bianca (D.A. Drago)

Saturday, December 14

8am - Jim Meyer (Sharon Sexson)
4pm - Eulalia & Raymond Ohl (Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Sunday, December 15

7am - Katie Teter Koch (D.A. Drago)
10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt (Kathy Frank)
5pm - For the People



The Immaculate Conception

Feast Day: December 8th

I bring you this week not a story of a saint, but words placed in the mouth of St. Bernard by Dante in his Paradiso (here given in Allen Mandelbaum's 1980 translation). There, at the end of his long journey through Inferno and Purgatorio, Dante finds himself at the heights of heaven, introduced to our mother Mary by none other than the mystical, mellifluous, and Marian doctor of the Church, and then Mary directs his gaze past her into God, "the Love that moves the sun and the other stars."

Virgin mother, daughter of your Son, more humble and sublime than any creature, fixed goal decreed from all eternity, you are the one who gave to human nature so much nobility that its Creator did not disdain His being made its creature. That love whose warmth allowed this flower to bloom within the everlasting peace—was love rekindled in your womb; for us above, you are the noonday torch of charity, and there below, on earth, among the mortals, you are a living spring of hope.

Lady, you are so high, you can so intercede, that he who would have grace but does not seek your aid, may long to fly but has no wings. Your loving-kindness does not only answer the one who asks, but it is often ready to answer freely long before the asking. In you compassion is, in you is pity, in you is generosity, in you is every goodness found in any creature. This man—who from the deepest hollow in the universe, up to this height, has seen the lives of spirits, one by one—now pleads with you, through grace, to grant him so much virtue that he may lift his vision higher still—may lift it toward the ultimate salvation. And I, who never burned for my own vision more than I burn for his, do offer you all of my prayers—and pray that they may not fall short—that, with your prayers, you may disperse all of the clouds of his mortality so that the Highest Joy be his to see.

This, too, O Queen, who can do what you would, I ask of you: that after such a vision, his sentiments preserve their perseverance. May your protection curb his mortal passions. See Beatrice—how many saints with her! They join my prayers! They clasp their hands to you!" The eyes that are revered and loved by God, now fixed upon the supplicant, showed us how welcome such devotions are to her; then her eyes turned to the Eternal Light— there, do not think that any creature's eye can find its way as clearly as her sight.

And I, who now was nearing Him who is the end of all desires, as I ought, lifted my longing to its ardent limit. Bernard was signaling—he smiled—to me to turn my eyes on high; but I, already was doing what he wanted me to do, because my sight, becoming pure, was able to penetrate the ray of Light more deeply— that Light, sublime, which in Itself is true. From that point on, what I could see was greater than speech can show: at such a sight, it fails—and memory fails when faced with such excess. As one who sees within a dream, and, later, the passion that had been imprinted stays, but nothing of the rest returns to mind, such am I, for my vision almost fades completely, yet it still distills within my heart the sweetness that was born of it. So is the snow, beneath the sun, unsealed; and so, on the light leaves, beneath the wind, the oracles the Sibyl wrote were lost.

O Highest Light, You, raised so far above the minds of mortals, to my memory give back something of Your epiphany, and make my tongue so powerful that I may leave to people of the future one gleam of the glory that is Yours, for by returning somewhat to my memory and echoing awhile within these lines, Your victory will be more understood. The living ray that I endured was so acute that I believe I should have gone astray had my eyes turned away from it. I can recall that I, because of this, was bolder in sustaining it until my vision reached the Infinite Goodness. O grace abounding, through which I presumed to set my eyes on the Eternal Light so long that I spent all my sight on it! In its profundity I saw—ingathered and bound by love into one single volume— what, in the universe, seems separate, scattered: substances, accidents, and dispositions as if conjoined—in such a way that what I tell is only rudimentary. I think I saw the universal shape which that knot takes; for, speaking this, I feel a joy that is more ample. That one moment brings more forgetfulness to me than twenty-five centuries have brought to the endeavor that startled Neptune with the Argo's shadow!

So was my mind—completely rapt, intent, steadfast, and motionless—gazing; and it grew ever more enkindled as it watched. Whoever sees that Light is soon made such that it would be impossible for him to set that Light aside for other sight; because the good, the object of the will, is fully gathered in that Light; outside that Light, what there is perfect is defective. What little I recall is to be told, from this point on, in words more weak than those of one whose infant tongue still bathes at the breast. And not because more than one simple semblance was in the Living Light at which I gazed—for It is always what It was before—but through my sight, which as I gazed grew stronger, that sole appearance, even as I altered, seemed to be changing. In the deep and bright essence of that exalted Light, three circles appeared to me; they had three different colors, but all of them were of the same dimension; one circle seemed reflected by the second, as rainbow is by rainbow, and the third seemed fire breathed equally by those two circles.

How incomplete is speech, how weak, when set against my thought! And this, to what I saw is such—to call it little is too much. Eternal Light, You only dwell within Yourself, and only You know You; Self-knowing, Self-known, You love and smile upon Yourself! That circle—which, begotten so, appeared in You as light reflected— when my eyes had watched it with attention for some time, within itself and colored like itself, to me seemed painted with our effigy, so that my sight was set on it completely. As the geometer intently seeks to square the circle, but he cannot reach, through thought on thought, the principle he needs, so I searched that strange sight: I wished to see the way in which our human effigy suited the circle and found place in it—and my own wings were far too weak for that. But then my mind was struck by light that flashed and, with this light, received what it had asked. Here force failed my high fantasy; but my desire and will were moved already—like a wheel revolving uniformly—by the Love that moves the sun and the other stars.

Fr. Dominic Rankin has nothing to add to that.

Stewardship of Treasure

November 23rd & 24th

Envelopes:	\$4,781.00
Loose:	\$2,588.00
Maintenance:	\$1,185.00
Total:	\$8,554.00

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

Marriages

Alec Murphy & Alixandra Mohan
Married on November 23, 2024

WEEK OF DECEMBER 9

<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 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	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	CCCW Bake Sale and Craft Fair 10:00 AM Atrium	Advent Lessons and Carols 7:00 PM Church

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



Advent Lessons and Carols

In the holy season of Advent, join Mark Gifford for an evening of Scripture, music, and prayer as we reflect on the two promised comings of Christ.

Sunday, December 15th - 7:00PM

EXTENDED CONFESSIONS

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20
12:00PM – 6:00PM**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21
7:00AM – 5:00PM**

Extended Confessions

The Cathedral will be hosting extended confession hours this Advent. Please consider joining us to prepare well for the celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas.

Friday, December 20th – 12:00PM – 6:00PM

Saturday, December 21st – 7:00AM – 5:00PM

RORATE CAELI MASS

**CATHEDRAL CHURCH
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21
6:00AM**

Rorate Caeli Mass

Join us for Cathedral's Rorate Caeli candlelit Mass in honor of Our Lady during Advent. The Rorate Mass is lit only by candlelight. In the dimly lit setting, priests and faithful prepare to honor the light of the world who is soon to be born and offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady. As the Mass proceeds and sunrise approaches, the church becomes progressively brighter, illuminated by the sun as our Faith is illuminated by Christ. All are welcome to join us for this special Mass!

Saturday, December 21st – 6:00AM

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Journey through Advent with the Hallow app!

Download the Hallow app from the Apple App Store or the Android Google Play Store, tap the Community Tab, and tap Friends. Then, choose Join a Church, Find a Church, and then search for our parish by name and city.

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!

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.

Keeping in Balance for Women

Come along on a journey throughout Scripture as we discover the relevance of Old and New Testament wisdom to our daily challenges. In this study, we'll explore biblical ideas for managing life's pace and pressure while living with calm and steadiness. Your lifestyle of health and holiness awaits. To register and order your workbook call 217/522-3342 or email vcompton@cathedral.dio.org. Thursdays @ 1:00 at the Cathedral, starting Jan 2, 22 weeks, \$45

Pray with Hallow!

We're excited to announce that Hallow, the #1 Catholic prayer platform in the world, is partnering with the Cathedral to journey through the Advent season through shared prayer within our local community. Our parish has received a unique promo code, granting all parishioners access to the full version of Hallow for 120 days for just \$1. This can be redeemed at hallow.com/parish. This includes the Advent Pray25 Challenge, themed "For God so loved the world." Over the course of four weeks, we will dive deeper into the heart of Christ, unified as a community as we prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus this Christmas. This is a great offer for a great app! The discount code is CATHEDRALICILADVENT24

Lectio: Eucharist: Discovering the Mass in the Bible, for Women

Acclaimed author and teacher Dr. Brant Pitre digs down to the biblical roots of the Eucharist, through its foreshadowing in the miraculous events of the Old Testament, the Gospels, and Apostolic teaching. "The Lamb of God," "The Bread of Life," "The Body and the Blood of Christ"... these are phrases we know from the Mass. But do we understand what they mean in the greater and deeper context of Scripture and Church teaching? We'll discover firsthand how Christ's Body and Blood are an integral and wondrous part of God's plan for our salvation. To register and order your workbook call 217/522-3342 or email vcompton@cathedral.dio.org. Thursdays @ 6:00pm at the Cathedral, starting on Jan 2, 10 weeks, \$20

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!

Springfield Right to Life 2025 Calendars

Don't miss out on the opportunity to support a wonderful cause while enjoying beautiful artwork all year long! The Springfield Right to Life 2025 Children Helping Children Calendar is now available for purchase after Masses the weekend of 12/7/24 and 12/8/24. Calendars are \$20 Cash or Check. Or order online at Springfieldrtl.org. This inspiring calendar features the creative talents of 29 young artists from Central Illinois, ranging from 5th to 12th grade. Each month showcases a unique piece of artwork celebrating the sanctity of life, created by these talented students to support pro-life initiatives.



The Straight Path

Ten to fifteen years ago the Department of Transportation decided that it would be fun to give everyone in my zip code something to complain about and replaced most of our major intersections with roundabouts.

This wouldn't be so irksome, I suppose, if I understood how to navigate a roundabout. In theory I do, I've read all the rules and I've watched those cute little YouTube videos where they show you which car is supposed to go at what time. But theory and practice are rather different. And the bottom line is, I never approach a roundabout without taking a deep, anxious breath and tightening my grip on the steering wheel, not entirely sure what my next move should be.

I think of roundabouts every time I hear today's Gospel reading, where John the Baptist echoes Isaiah in beseeching us to make straight the paths of the Lord. See, I always think I've made a straight path between me and God. I go to Mass. I go to Confession. I say my prayers.

He can get to me if He wants, I tell myself.

But without realizing it, I put up roundabouts. I make rules. You go here, God, and then I go here. I'll do this, God, but first You do this. You stay in your lane, and I stay in mine. Eventually I find myself taking a different route altogether; the road that stretches between me and Him is too daunting. I start avoiding it.

Sometimes I think God wants the path to be straight not for Himself but for us. He can handle a roundabout. But He knows that when we must run to Him, we have to do it without thinking. In the dark. In fear, in anxiety.

So, this Advent, beware the roundabouts. Make straight the path.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
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Around the Diocese

- **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.