

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

DECEMBER 29, 2024 | FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



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 52

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
NINTH BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.
RECTOR

THE REVEREND DANIEL MCGRATH
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND PIUS CHIDOZIE NWIYI
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
IN RESIDENCE

DEACON DAVID BEACH

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

VICKI DHABALT COMPTON
COORDINATOR OF FAITH FORMATION AND MISSION
VCOMPTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

HALEY DUTTON
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
HDUTTON@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

MARK GIFFORD
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
MGIFFORD@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

KIM GUNTER
BUSINESS MANAGER/PARISH SECRETARY
KGUNTER@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

Sunday Masses

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 7:00am, 10:00am, & 5:00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday through Friday - 7:00am & 5:15pm

Saturday - 8:00am

Reconciliation

Monday through Friday - 4:15pm-5:00pm

Saturday - 9:00am-10:00am & 2:30pm-3:30pm

Sunday - 4:00pm-4:45pm

Adoration

Tuesday & Thursday - 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Welcome to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception!

The mission of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is to build a fervent community of intentional and dedicated missionary disciples of the Risen Lord and steadfast stewards of God's creation who seek to become saints. Accordingly, the community of Catholic faithful in this Diocese is committed to the discipleship and stewardship way of life as commanded by Christ Our Savior and as revealed by Sacred Scripture and Tradition. (Synod Declaration 1a)

On behalf of our bishop, the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, our parishioners, deacons, and priests, we welcome you to the mother church of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

The seat of the diocese was moved to Springfield from Alton in 1923. In the same year, "Old St. Mary's" church of Immaculate Conception Parish was named as the pro-cathedral of the new diocese until this cathedral church was built and dedicated in 1928. Currently, our diocese comprises twenty-eight counties in central Illinois, serving over 140,000 members of the Catholic faithful.



Praying for Our Families

Shortly after entering the seminary, I started to keep a list in my breviary (prayer book) which had names of people that I would pray for each day. I remember telling my grandmother one day, in passing, that she was on the list, that I was praying for her each day. Somewhat surprisingly, she brought that up on more than one occasion when I heard her talking with others. I think she felt honored to be prayed for each day. My grandmother did not really practice any form of faith, at least as long as I knew her. I am not even sure that she was ever baptized. At times, she was a little outspoken about her view of Christians, that they tended to be

hypocrites, to which I responded one time to her: "There is always room for one more."

I believe, however, that my daily prayers for her did have an impact. As I was nearing the time for my diaconate ordination, my grandmother was not in very good health. She expressed that she wanted to stay alive long enough to see me be ordained as a deacon, and thanks be to God, she was there. Much to my delight she was also able to be there for my ordination to the priesthood, and it was clear that she was very proud of me. Of course, my grandmother was always going to love me, but I think the prayers I offered for her each day had a way of softening her heart, such that she grew more and more open to Christianity. My grandmother died shortly before I celebrated my first anniversary as a priest, and just one day before her and my grandfather would have celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary. I hold on to the hope that her openness to the faith in her final years would have put her in a much better position to make the decision to accept Jesus at that final moment of her life.

We all likely have people in our lives that are a little like my grandmother. We have family members and friends who are far away from the practice of our Catholic faith in particular, or Christianity in general. Some from our families may have been raised Catholic, even practiced for many years, only to have fallen away. We can become discouraged about this, and it is indeed a point of great suffering for many, especially parents whose children have stopped practicing the Catholic faith in which they were raised.

We are always looking for the perfect plan that will bring these people back into the regular practice of the faith, but it is not so simple as following an equation that will yield the right answer every time. We should be making efforts, to be sure. But we must never forget that the first step, and accompanying every step, is prayer. In the Book of Psalms we read: "Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." (Ps 127:1)

Next weekend, we will have cards in the pews on which you will have the opportunity to write a name of somebody for whom you would like to commit to pray, asking the Lord to soften their hearts, that they might be open at some point to receive the invitation to accept the faith for the first time, or to return to the practice of the faith. If you are comfortable, you can even tell that person that you are praying for them each day. You do not need to tell them that you are praying that the Lord will get them back to church, just that you are praying for them. We can never underestimate the power of our daily, fervent prayers for others. Whether they be a blood relative or simply a brother or sister in Christ, this family that is the Body of Christ will always be strengthened through prayer for one another, and the Lord, who desires their presence with us far more than we do, will be doing His work of tilling the soil of their hearts, so that, in due time, the seed of invitation planted will yield fruit.

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 30

7am - Sara Alblinger
(Jeff & Julie Mitchell)
5:15pm - Evelyn P. Patrick
(Greg & Marie Fleck)

Tuesday, December 31

7am - John Kaufman
(McGee Family)
5:15pm - Joseph Klein
(Andrew & Cheryl Klein)

Wednesday, January 1

7am - NO MASS
9am - Betty Rogers
(Family)
5:15pm - Cathedral Staff
(Friend)

Thursday, January 2

7am - Anthony Forlano Sr.
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Karen Bucari
(Alan Bucari)

Friday, January 3

7am - Margaret Lemanski
(Cour Family)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Friends)

Saturday, January 4

8am - Woody Woodhull
(Karen Johnson)
4pm - Raymond & Eulalia Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Sunday, January 5

7am - For the People
10am - Betty Rogers
(Family)
5pm - Gregory Devane
(Celeste Crowley)



St. Dominic, the Martyr, Part 1

Feast Day: December 29th

On the road up to Bethlehem walked a wizened man. He was leading a heifer and had a horn of oil slung over his shoulder. As he entered the little village in the shadow of the pagan city Jerusalem, he explained that he was there to offer sacrifice. Later that day when the consecrated oil ran down the ruddy hair of the shepherd-boy, it would become evident that he was actually there to consecrate a new king. Fast forward one decade, and then another, and David found himself on the run. Saul pursued this rival king relentlessly, seeing only threat in his charisma, faithfulness, and talented leadership. David finally found respite in one of the many caves where he would often stop and pray, and a promise from his God took shape in his heart:

"Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

God would find a way through. God would establish his throne. God would defeat the darkness and violence and establish a kingdom where He could dwell with His people. If only David would sit next to God, place himself in the shadow of the Lord's throne. Fast forward one decade, and then another one, and the promise seemed fulfilled: David was king of all the tribes, lord in his new capital city Jerusalem, dancing before the Ark of God, preparing to build a Temple to the true God. David being a man of blood, that great project would be the task of his son and heir Solomon. And so God's promise became a psalm, proclaimed and sung by all of Israel:

A Psalm of David

The Lord says to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand,

until I make your enemies your footstool." [Psalm 110:1]

The Ancient Hebrew has more punch to it: "The Lord" stands in for the unpronounceable name of God, YHWH. "My lord" is just the Hebrew word "adonai", a master, leader, commander, or king, in this case David. Fast forward one century, and then another, and Israel – their hopes of victory and peace dashed, the Temple torched and empty – was forced to chant this psalm in exile. Eventually they would return, and rebuild, but the wound would be reopened, not by Philistines, or Babylonians, but by the Greeks of Alexander. It seemed the opposite of the psalm had come to pass: God's people trampled underfoot, and yet it does mean that God's people and His inspired words to them only thus began to spread throughout Alexander's empire.

Fast forward one century, and another, and we find ourselves at another little cave near Bethlehem where an impoverished couple cares for their newborn son. Now it was not the Greeks, but the Romans, under whose heel the Hebrews suffered. We pause on the night when the troops of Herod ride out to seek the child's life, and the angel of God directs Joseph to take his wife and son into exile in Egypt. In God's providence, there is already a Jewish enclave outside of Cairo, from those previous exiles from centuries before. It was a long walk from Alexandria in whose great library the scriptures had been translated but it is close enough for them to hear in that synagogue the ancient promise: "The Lord said to my lord", now rendered in Greek, with "Kyrios" speaking to "kyrios."

If we fast forward a decade, and then another one, the carpenter, his wife, and their little boy had long returned to Nazareth. From there the carpenter's son, as it was supposed, began to preach repentance, and forgiveness of sins, and that the scriptures – all of them! – were actually fulfilled in Him. All was fine as long as it was just the lame leaping and the blind seeing, but then Jesus strode up into God's city Jerusalem and into God's Holy Temple, and there he lays claim to one, final, extraordinary prophecy:

Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, "'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions. [Matthew 22:41-46]

From here, the son of David would leave the city, would prophesy the coming destruction of the Temple (and everything else) because it had rejected the time of its visitation. He will then be anointed in Bethany, and Judas will begin scheming with the leaders in the Temple to betray Him. This claim, this argument, citing this prophecy directly precipitates Our Lord's crucifixion. Why did Jesus do it? What was He claiming?

The full story (and to finally encounter our martyr St. Dominic) we will have to wait until next week. For now, let it suffice to say that Jesus is claiming to not only be a son of David, a lord with a lower-case "l", but the son of God, the Lord, with every letter capitalized.

Fr. Dominic Rankin had way too much fun taking 12 or 14 words from the Roman Martyrology all the way to a two-part saga spiraling up to St. Dominic. Goes to show how long God has been writing this story that we're all part of!

Stewardship of Treasure

December 21st & 22nd

Collection numbers 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 DECEMBER 30

MONDAY

Rosary
4:45 PM
Church

TUESDAY

Adoration
4:00 PM
Church

WEDNESDAY

Men's Bible
Study
6:00 AM
School Library

NO 7:00 AM
Mass

Rosary
4:45 PM
Church

THURSDAY

Women's Bible
Study
10:00 AM &
1:00 PM
School Library

Adoration
4:00 PM
Church

FRIDAY

Rosary
4:45 PM
Church

SATURDAY

Epiphany Party
6:00 PM
Atrium

SUNDAY

Family of Faith
6:15 PM
Atrium

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

WHAT ARE YOU
THANKFUL FOR
AT THE
CATHEDRAL?

Sharing Our Gratitude

What are you thankful for at the Cathedral?

I am very grateful for all the opportunities that Cathedral Parish offers to be closer to God: a beautiful place to worship, pray, and visit Jesus each day, amazing priests that help me and my family live out our faith, an abundance of faith formation opportunities to learn and grow, but perhaps most of all the wonderful fellow parishioners I have known over the years that offer hope no matter what is happening in the world. I can think of no organization or club where one could encounter such authentic, compassionate, inspiring, kind, and interesting people. My life is so much better because of Cathedral.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



K of C "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest Winners

The judges of the 2024 Knights of Columbus Cathedral Council 16126 "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest selected the following as the top posters for the listed grade category. Those posters will continue on to the Knights of Columbus District level competition.

Grade K: William H.
Grade 1-2: Vincent H.
Grade 3-4: Grace W.
Grade 5-6: Evelyn H.
Grade 7-8: Mychael D.

Cathedral Council 16126 wants to congratulate all of this year's participating artists! Their innovative poster creations displayed the richness of their artistic talents with envisioning, designing, sketching and finally creating remarkable images bringing out the importance of Our Lord with the Christmas Season. Their awareness in the grace and hope that Our Lord brought on Christmas is truly inspiring. All of them were winners from the perspective of the great faith they have displayed!

Stewardship Reflection

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God's children, it's in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

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 @ 10:00am or 1:00pm at the Cathedral, starting Jan 2, 22 weeks, \$45

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 @ 6:15pm at the Cathedral, starting on Jan 30, 10 weeks, \$20

Helping Hands Volunteer Meeting

You are invited to be part of a team that provides a meal on the 4th & 5th Saturdays of each month to individuals at the Helping Hands Homeless Shelter. 2025 marks the 20th year that members and friends of Cathedral have provided meals for the homeless! Those who do not cook can help in other ways. If you are interested in participating in this ministry to "feed the hungry", please join us for a 9:00 am breakfast meeting on Saturday, January 4 2025 in the Cathedral School Hall. Teams are formed and menus are developed for the entire year at this planning breakfast. RSVP required by January 1st by calling or texting 217-494-4241

Where is Jesus?

Every mother who has ever lost sight of her child in a crowd, even for a few seconds, knows the panic.

I think of Mary living with that level of anxiety for three straight days. I doubt she slept, but I'm sure Joseph forced her to lie down at night, imploring her to think of her health, to rest while he kept on searching the streets of Jerusalem. I imagine her lying there, eyes open and staring at the ceiling. Mary, full of grace. Mary, spotless of sin. Weeping in the dark, whispering, "Where is he?"

It's an experience that we all have at one point or another. Running through the world, desperate and confused, just trying to find God and failing so miserably that we wonder if He's purposefully eluding us.

If Mary couldn't even find Him, do we stand a chance?

Why didn't Mary think to look in the temple? She had wisdom beyond anyone else who ever lived, at least when it came to Jesus. But I think God purposefully dropped a veil over her reasoning for these three days, so that He could show us it's okay to lose our way.

He isn't eluding us. In fact, He's trying to make it easy. He's staying put, in one place, the very place we should know to look. But the streets of our life are so crowded and loud, so full of distraction.

The Christmas season is about God revealing to us who and what and where He is. He has told us. The question is, have we listened?

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
©LPi

Around the Diocese

- **State lawmakers are expected to vote on physician assisted suicide legislation in early January.** Illinois residents deserve excellent pain management, not assisted suicide. Illinois has excellent, modern, palliative care programs to alleviate suffering - no one's pain should be unmanageable in our state. Hospice care is paid for by Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance. We deserve the best in pain management and quality care, not suicide drugs. Tell your state legislators to VoteNO on SB 3499 - assisted suicide. Visit www.ilcatholic.org for additional information and resources.
- **25 Not Impossible Christmas Trivia Questions** - Dive Deep presents 25 not impossible Catholic Trivia questions about Christmas! Go to youtube.com/diospringfield or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe. Dive Deep is the podcast of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.
- **Fr. Tolton Religious Award** - Our local Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting has created a new patch award for Venerable Fr. Augustine Tolton! The award requirements are patterned after similar programs from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and Scouts of any national program may earn the award. Details are online at dio.org/scouts/.