

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**JANUARY 19, 2025 | SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
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[WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG](http://WWW.SPICATHEDRAL.ORG)

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

# Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 3

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THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI  
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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.



## Faith is Hope

As he begins to unpack the biblical meaning of hope, Pope Benedict notes how the terms “faith” and “hope” seem to be somewhat interchangeable. Though these are in fact two separate theological virtues, they do share much in common. He cites St. Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians in saying that before they came to a life of faith in Christ, they were “without hope and without God in the world.” (Eph 2:12) Faith involves assenting to all that God has revealed as truth, and that opens the door for us to have hope in the promise that what He has revealed is that we are called to be with Him in Heaven, and that He will provide all of the graces necessary for us to get there. Much more can be said to distinguish these two virtues, but I think this brief explanation will suffice to show how interrelated they are, while

remaining distinct.

The line from paragraph 2 of *Spe Salvi* that I would like to focus on comes later in the paragraph after the Holy Father treats on faith and hope together. He references a line from St. Paul’s words to the Church in Thessalonica: “We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.” (1 Thes 4:13) The pope then writes:

*Here too we see as a distinguishing mark of Christians the fact that they have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness. Only when the future is certain as a positive reality does it become possible to live the present as well...The dark door of time, of the future, has been thrown open. The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life. (SS, 2)*

This is a great gift to be able to leave the future in the hands of God, trusting His fidelity, believing in His promises, so that we can attend to where He wants us here and now, and by our saying “yes” to Him each day, we know that the hope we have for the future will not disappoint (cf. Rom 5:5). In that regard, I want to share a part of a meditation from St. John Henry Newman that I think expresses this interplay of faith and hope in a beautiful way:

Therefore I will trust Him.  
 Whatever, wherever I am,  
 I can never be thrown away.  
 If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him;  
 In perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him;  
 If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.  
 My sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be  
 necessary causes of some great end,  
 which is quite beyond us.  
 He does nothing in vain; He may prolong my life,  
 He may shorten it;  
 He knows what He is about.  
 He may take away my friends,  
 He may throw me among strangers,  
 He may make me feel desolate,  
 make my spirits sink, hide the future from me—  
 still He knows what He is about....  
 Let me be Thy blind instrument. I ask not to see—  
 I ask not to know—I ask simply to be used.  
*St. John Henry Newman, Meditation (March 7, 1848)*

*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, January 20

7am - Isabelle Chappus  
 (Dcn. David & Mary Beach)  
 5:15pm - NO MASS

### Tuesday, January 21

7am - Luann Mohr  
 (Rick & Janice Wray)  
 5:15pm - Woody Woodhull  
 (Ted & Linda Lentz)

### Wednesday, January 22

7am - Dorothy Huber  
 (Huber Children)  
 5:15pm - Margaret Lemanski  
 (Ansell Family)

### Thursday, January 23

7am - Bill Vogt  
 (Kathy Howard)  
 5:15pm - Sandy Bloom  
 (Toni Rolando)

### Friday, January 24

7am - Intention for Bianca  
 (DA Drago)  
 5:15pm - Don Smargiassi  
 (Fr. Tolton Council 16126)

### Saturday, January 25

8am - Richard Stalcup  
 (Steve & Vicki Stalcup)  
 4pm - Mary Jane Kerns  
 (Estate)

### Sunday, January 26

7am - John Montgomery  
 (John Busciacco)  
 10am - For the People  
 5pm - Jack Ely  
 (Berni Ely)





## St. Paula

**Feast Day: January 26th**

337 A.D., about two decades after Constantine had allowed Christians to practice their faith throughout the Roman Empire, and a bit more than a decade after the First Council of Nicaea had articulated our belief in the Son's consubstantiality with the Father (and the corresponding Nicaean creed), that great and complicated emperor, baptized at the very end of his life, died. The giant empire, united under him after so many centuries of being split between various emperors, rent by civil wars, and wracked by persecutions, had before it the possibility of unifying under the banner of Christ. Sadly, the coming decades would be more difficult than might have been hoped.

By 340, two of Constantine's sons were at war with each other with Constantine II killed as he attempted to wrest Rome from Constans. Constans himself would be assassinated a decade later by the usurper Magnentius, leaving the third son, Constantius II, to wage his own civil war against that upstart, eventually gaining the entire empire for himself. He, as history had it, was Christian, but an Arian, and so it is he who exiles Athanasius for his staunch defense of Orthodox, Nicaean, Christianity, and around 355 demands Pope Liberius to appear before him and agree to a semi-arian statement (and a repudiation of his friendship with Athanasius). Theodoret records this epic conversation, the emperor of the world confronting the successor of Peter.

*The Emperor: "One question only requires to be made. I wish you to enter into communion with the churches, and to send you back to Rome. Consent therefore to peace, and sign your assent, and then you shall return to Rome."*

*Liberius: "I have already taken leave of the brethren who are in that city. The decrees of the Church are of greater importance than a residence in Rome."*

*The Emperor: "You have three days to consider whether you will sign the document and return to Rome; if not, you must choose the place of your banishment."*

*Liberius: "Neither three days nor three months can change my sentiments. Send me wherever you please."*

As history would have it, even this dramatic show down, and heroic position of Pope Liberius is clouded by the uncertainties of the following years. Constantius exiled the pope and set up his own puppet anti-pope, Felix II, but later he allowed Liberius to return – some say because the pope had finally capitulated to some of his demands – trying to have co-popes with Liberius and Felix both leading the Church... In any case, by 361, things managed to get decisively worse when Julian became the new emperor. He was the one who attempted to un-baptize himself by plunging himself in a vat of bull's blood, and he did resume animal sacrifices, revived some of the persecutions of earlier centuries, and (begrudgingly recognizing something that Christians had done quite well) commands the pagan priests to increase their acts of charity. It is worth remembering his words here!:

*"These impious Galileans not only feed their own poor, but ours also; welcoming them into their agapē, they attract them, as children are attracted, with cakes. Whilst the pagan priests neglect the poor, the hated Galileans devote themselves to works of charity; and by a display of false compassion have established and given effect to their pernicious errors. See their love-feasts and their tables spread for the indigent. Such practice is common among them, and causes a contempt for our gods." - Julian, Letter to Arsacius, High Priest of Galatia (Letter 22)*

But the turmoil outside of the Church was sadly just as evident within its walls (quite literally). In 366, Damasus I and Ursinus were both elected Pope by their respective cohorts of priests and people in Rome (rifts that trace back to the conflict between Felix I and Liberius, and between the Arian and Nicaean disagreements). The gangs around them took up weapons and attacked each other, at one point 137 people were killed inside of the newly built Basilica of Sicinius (now St. Mary Major). Our records of all these events are hopelessly muddled and biased by the acrimony on each side. Those that leaned Arian, of course, side with Ursinus and defame Damasus, and vice versa. That said, the horrible scene stays before our eyes of hatred and bloodshed filling a place dedicated to the worship of Christ. Here is what one young man, baptized by Pope Liberius, and then a protégé of Pope Damasus, writes to his friend:

*"I was at that time in Rome, and I saw the bloodshed and the disturbance; the factions of Ursinus and Damasus were divided by mutual strife, and the churches were polluted with blood." – St. Jerome, Letter to Heliodorus (Letter 15)*

*Fr. Dominic Rankin will bring us back to St. Jerome next week. Crazy twist: the unification of the Christian world, and the conversion of the pagan world, would happen in large part because of Jerome's efforts. And his life's work depended on the humility and sanctity of one amazing woman, St. Paula, who we will finally encounter next week!*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## WEEK OF JANUARY 20

<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
NO 5:15 PM Mass  St. Monica Ministry 7:00 PM School Library	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	Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library  Adoration 4:00 PM Church  CCCW Meeting 6:00 PM School Hall  K of C Meeting 6:00 PM School Classroom	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		

## What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

### Sharing Our Gratitude

#### What are you thankful for at the Cathedral?

We are grateful for the bishop, priests and deacons at the Cathedral. We are eager to hear them share their explanations and interpretations of the Gospels and readings. We are Cradle Catholics, yet we often learn new meanings of particular phrases, or of Jesus' actions that provide a deeper understanding of stories and parables we've heard for decades. In addition to new understandings, many times we are inspired to do or change something in our lives after reflecting on a homily. The words of our bishop, priests and deacons, whether spoken during a homily, or in faith formation class or in written messages in the bulletin or the Catholic Times, nourish us with prayers and ideas that give us comfort and help us grow in our relationship with God and one another. For all of your ideas, insights and prayers, we thank you!

### Stewardship of Treasure

#### November 30th & December 1st

Envelopes:	\$5,456.00
Loose:	\$2,632.35
Maintenance:	\$1,045.00
Total:	\$9,133.35

#### December 7th & 8th

Envelopes:	\$1,960.00
Loose:	\$7,962.00
Maintenance:	\$50.00
Total:	\$9,972.00

#### December 14th & 15th

Envelopes:	\$3,826.00
Loose:	\$9,651.00
Maintenance:	\$10.00
Total:	\$13,487.00

#### December 21st & 22nd

Envelopes:	\$4,522.00
Loose:	\$4,755.00
Maintenance:	\$0.00
Total:	\$9,277.00

#### December 28th & 29th

Envelopes:	\$2,671.00
Loose:	\$3,418.00
Maintenance:	\$0.00
Total:	\$6,089.00

#### December Online Contributions

\$54,689.98

#### December Debt Reduction

\$690.20

#### December Second Collections

Immaculate Conception  
\$3,802.00

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!

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



JOIN US AT THE CATHEDRAL FOR A



## Paintings and Pairings

FEBRUARY 1  
6:30 PM  
CATHEDRAL ATRIUM



### Paintings and Pairings at the Cathedral

Join us on February 1st at 6:30pm for Paintings and Pairings at the Cathedral! Bring your spouse or a friend and enjoy an evening of painting and wine and cheese pairings. Cost is \$20 per person; spots are limited (40 total) and registration closes when all spots are filled. To register, visit <https://dio.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/205/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 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 ([hutton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:hutton@cathedral.dio.org)). We hope to see you there!

### VATICAN II FAITH FORMATION SERIES & JUBILEE INDULGENCE

JANUARY 30, FEBRUARY 20, MARCH 20,  
APRIL 10, MAY 15, AND JUNE 19  
7:00 PM  
CATHEDRAL ATRIUM



### Vatican II Faith Formation Series & Jubilee Indulgence

In the Decree on the Granting of the Indulgence During the Ordinary Year Jubilee Year 2025, one of the ways for the faithful to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence is to "participate in popular missions, spiritual exercises, or formation activities on the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, held in a church or other suitable place, according to the mind of the Holy Father." With that in mind, the Cathedral will be hosting monthly faith formation sessions during which we will delve into the four major Constitutions from the Second Vatican Council. Please join us as we reflect on these important documents, that they might serve to renew our hope during this Jubilee Year, all while being able to also gain an indulgence!

**January 30, February 20, March 20, April 10, May 15, and June 19  
7:00 pm in the Cathedral Atrium**

### Celebrate the Lord's Day with 52 Sundays!

With prayer, activities, recipes, and more, 52 Sundays is a dynamic guide to help you and your family live liturgically and celebrate the Lord's Day — so you can live Sunday all week long. Visit [www.52sundays.com/](http://www.52sundays.com/) today!

### When You Pray: A Clear Path to a Deeper Relationship with God, from Ascension Press

Prayer can be challenging. We get distracted and feel restless. The saints were the same as us, and God met them where they were and transformed them with His grace. We can have that same grace. A bible study will be held at Christ the King starting Wednesday, January 22, 9-11am. The series is filmed in beautiful cathedrals in Italy. There are seven sessions; the books will cost \$27 + shipping. Online series access is a separate cost. Contact Mary Kay Hinkle: 217-787-9750 or [mbhinkle75@comcast.net](mailto:mbhinkle75@comcast.net).

### St. Monica Club

Are you heartbroken because your loved ones have left the Church? You are invited to the Springfield-area St. Monica Club monthly gathering. This ministry is a dedicated prayer network offering hope and support to families and friends of Catholics who have walked away from the practice of the Faith. Please join us for prayer, conversation, and solidarity. Animated by hope and grounded in faith, we rest secure in the knowledge that, in the words of St. Monica, "Nothing is far from God." This month we will be discussing Ch 1 in Return: How to bring your Child Back to the Church by Brandon Vogt. Third Monday of each month @ 7:00pm at the Cathedral. Monday, Jan. 20, 7:00pm @ Cathedral School Library.

### Second Collection - Church in Latin America

Soon our diocese will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. For more than 50 years, this collection has given Catholics in the United States an opportunity to share faith in unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout Latin America and the Caribbean islands. The work of evangelization is carried out by Christians who meet people where they are not only in a geographical sense but also in the context of culture. Though the Gospel is unchanging, we have many ways to make it relevant to people of all cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds. The countries of South America have diverse populations from Indigenous, African, European, and Asian ancestries, all with different cultural experiences. By welcoming and understanding people from so many backgrounds, the Church grows and continues its mission of making disciples of all peoples. Your participation in the collection truly becomes a way to share your faith and support evangelization efforts among all people. Our diocese takes up this collection on the weekend of January 25/26, 2025. Please be generous toward this collection. Consider giving at Mass or through your parish's online giving platform. The #iGiveCatholicTogether website (<https://uscbb.org/give-catholic-together/>) also accepts online funds for the collection. Your support truly makes a difference. For more information on the Church in Latin America and the many projects funded by the collection, please visit [www.usccb.org/latin-america](http://www.usccb.org/latin-america).

### 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](mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org). Thursdays @ 6:15pm at the Cathedral, starting on Jan 30, 10 weeks, \$20

### Christ the King Baked Rigatoni Dinner

Christ the King is hosting a Baked Rigatoni Dinner on Sunday, January 26 from 10:30am-1:30pm at the Christ the King Parish Center. Dine in or Drive Thru, prices are as follows:

Single Baked Rigatoni Dinner: \$12  
Family Baked Rigatoni Dinner (Serves 8): \$90  
Single Meatless Baked Rigatoni Dinner: \$12

Purchase your ticket today at [www.nelsonscatering.com/ctk](http://www.nelsonscatering.com/ctk) (tickets must be purchased in advance). Order deadline is January 20th at noon. Thanks for your support!

## Do Whatever He Tells You

I once ran out of pizza at my kid's birthday party.

Everyone told me it wasn't a big deal but come on. It was a disaster. I had invited all these people over. They showed up with presents and sang "Happy Birthday" and stood around patiently while my kid ripped through his cache of gifts. The very least they were expecting was to be fed sufficiently.

I'll tell you what, I sure could have used the Blessed Mother that night.

I love the story of the wedding at Cana because it's such a silly little miracle. I don't mean to be disrespectful — of course it's an incredibly important moment in Christ's public life. But it's not healing a leper. It's not raising the dead. It's not even walking on water. It's saving a young couple from embarrassment.

I think sometimes we forget, or even refuse, to bring small concerns and inconveniences to God because we think we should be able to handle them on our own. What a ridiculous attitude that is — as if we could handle anything on our own. It's so fitting that Mary, ever the observant Mother, is the one to bring the matter to Jesus' attention. He asks her what this problem has to do with him. She doesn't answer him, because, between you and me, I don't think he's asking her. I think he's asking us. All she does is tell the waiters what I consider to be the best piece of advice in all of Scripture: "Do whatever he tells you."

I'm so quick to throw up my hands and feel sorry for myself when I encounter a barrier in my life. What I should be doing is taking the matter to God, and then doing whatever He tells me.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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## 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](http://www.ilcatholic.org) for additional information and resources.
- **Majestic Germany Pilgrimage with Fr. R. Dean Probst, August 18-28-2025.** Visiting Frankfurt, Cologne, Hanover, Potsdam, Berlin, Nuremberg, Rothenberg, Munich, Oberammergau, Lindau, Lake Titisee, The Black Forest, Heidelberg and Mainz. Cost \$4599 per person from St. Louis, Mo. Call/text Fr. Dean 217-494-6326 or email [rdprobst@gmail.com](mailto:rdprobst@gmail.com).