

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

FEBRUARY 16, 2025 | SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 7 ISSUE 7

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.



Early Christian Depictions of Hope

As he continues to reflect on the concept of hope in the early Church, Pope Benedict now turns to the interesting image of artwork found on early sarcophagi, the often-decorative stone coffins in which the dead were placed. We often associate these with the ancient Egyptians, but they were also prominent among the Romans, both before and after the introduction of Christianity in the Empire. The artwork on the outside of the coffin offered an expression about their belief in what happens after death.

The Holy Father notes the following about prominent imagery often chosen for these sarcophagi: "The figure of Christ is interpreted on ancient sarcophagi principally by two images: the philosopher and the shepherd." (SS 6) Regarding the image of the philosopher, the pope writes: "Philosophy at that time was not generally seen as a difficult academic discipline, as it is today. Rather, the philosopher was someone who knew how to teach the essential art: the art of being authentically human—the art of living and dying." (ibid.) Though there were many philosophers and philosophies that proposed to be worthy of following, only Christ and His Gospel offer the truth that will enable us to live a good and truly human life, but His life and His Gospel can direct us beyond death into the life everlasting of Heaven.

Times are not so different now than they were then! There is a plethora of voices in our culture that promise a philosophy that has all the answers, that promises peace and prosperity in this life. These philosophies often criticize the Gospel and the Church as being out of touch with reality and shackles on our freedom. At long last, our eyes have been open to the truth and what so many people followed in the past is no longer necessary, so they claim. There is a certain level of pride to be found in these philosophies, suggesting that our modern times are more knowledge than the past. And yet, the Gospel and the Church has been around for 2000 years. Christ continues to inform the lives of people, people who often make the most significant contributions to society and who live lives of great freedom and joy despite "limiting themselves" to the so-called narrow way of the Gospel. Another flaw of current philosophies is a lack of a solution to death. If all we have is this world, then our hope is woefully limited. In Christ, we are given a hope that is not limited just to this part of our journey, but one that opens to eternity, and that hope, as we keep coming back to, "does not disappoint." (Rom 5:5)

The other image is that of the shepherd. This one is more familiar to us, for Jesus speaks of Himself as the Good Shepherd in the Gospel (John 10). Pope Benedict notes how in Roman art of the time, "the shepherd was generally an expression of the dream of a tranquil and simple life, for which the people, amid the confusion of the big cities, felt a certain longing." (ibid.) The Holy Father understandably then connects this to the image of the Lord as a shepherd as articulated so beautifully in Psalm 23. This psalm, writing during the time of the Old Testament, was certainly a source of comfort to the Chosen People, but with the coming of Christ, the Good Shepherd, those words take on an even greater significance, for we have great confidence that through His indwelling in our souls through grace, we fear no evil for He is at our side, which fills us with hope as we look to the uncertainties of the future events of our lives. Even more consoling, though, is the promise that, at the end of our journey we have hope of eternal rest, for we "shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." (Ps 23:6)

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, February 17

7am - Bill Vogt
(The Bentel & Dutton Families)
5:15pm - Intention for John Teter
(DA Drago)

Tuesday, February 18

7am - Otis Huber
(Huber Children)
5:15pm - Bill Vogt
(Bev & Larry Smith)

Wednesday, February 19

7am - L. Mae Nicoud
(Family)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube
(Friends)

Thursday, February 20

7am - Sr. Annette Embrich
(Brother)
5:15pm - John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)

Friday, February 21

7am - Mary Jane Kerns
(Estate)
5:15pm - Margaret Lemanski
(Family)

Saturday, February 22

8am - John Geraghty
(Family)
4pm - Julie Kennedy-Padgett
(Chris Willis)

Sunday, February 23

7am - For the People
10am - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)
5pm - Deceased Members of
Chiaradonna Family (Geny
Chiaradonna)



Bl. Giuseppe Allamano

Feast Day: February 16th

It was 9 a.m. on February 7th, 1996, and Sister Felicita Muthonia Nyaga was going about her morning routine in the mission dispensary near the Catrimani river in the Northwestern part of the Amazon rainforest in Brazil. She was a Consolata Missionary Sister, herself originally from Kenya, and that day was working the dispensary alone because the other sisters were 350 kilometers away in the City of Boa Vista. Suddenly a man ran in asking for a rifle or pistol, to which Sister Felicita responded that she was a missionary and did not have one. The man ran off, sister following not knowing what was happening. She made her way to the front of their little mission, at the end of the small airstrip that connected them to the outside world. There, surrounded by a handful of other members of the Yanomami tribe, was Sorino Yanomami, lying in a rapidly spreading pool of blood, his skull horribly torn open.

He, a simple, joyful man with a young wife, a hard worker and good woodsman, had been hunting birds when he was attacked from behind by a jaguar. The animal had mauled Sorino, ripping open his skull, and though he managed to hold off the beast until others could arrive and drive it away, now he was prone on the ground, breathing, barely. Sister recounted later:

I saw Sorino on the ground, in a bloodbath, I remained petrified, frozen and trembling, not knowing what to do. I called his mother and asked for water; then I realized that the scalp was protruding and that Sorino was also bleeding a lot; there was a lot of sand, dirt and part of the brain had spilled out. I pushed the brain in and then took the scalp and put it back, but it kept bleeding; he was alive, but did not speak. Since I hadn't brought anything with me, I took the only thing I had, the t-shirt I was wearing: I took it off and wrapped it around Sorino's head, to compress and somewhat stop the bleeding.

She nursed him with what they had on hand: an iv into his foot because the veins in his hands had disappeared, and then radioed to Boa Vista to request a plane to carry him to the hospital. Sister Rosa Aurea Longo answered the call but said all the planes were already out for other emergencies and they would have to wait. The hours crept by, Sorino barely hanging on, and now the locals, led by over a dozen shamans, decided that there was no way he would survive his injuries, and were pressing on sister to allow them to perform the rituals that would carry him into the afterlife. She begged them to let him be taken to the hospital but they were adamant: "No, he can't go to the city. It is very serious, we saw his brain out of his head, and the jaguar ate part of it. But a person without a piece of brain cannot live". ... 'the spirits are coming for him, he has to say his yes to leave his body and go with them. This cannot happen outside the forest'".

The men grew angry, pointing their bows and arrows at Sister Felicita who only partially understand what they were shouting about and began to cry. Into the din some of the women of the village stepped between their husbands and the distraught sister, protecting her and explaining the shamanic beliefs of the tribe and their anger at the jaguar. Sorino whispered to sister: "Felicita, you are my mom now. They say I have to go with the spirits, but I don't want to, do some things because I want to live." And so she stood her ground, trying to hold off the locals from ushering Sorino into the next life while waiting an agonizing additional two hours for the plane to arrive. When it did, she recounts what she did next: "I was a young sister and so, I carried Sorino on my shoulder and took him to the plane which took off to a hospital in Boa Vista."

The Yonamami dispersed. Sister occupied herself with radioing what she knew to the team waiting at the hospital and comforting the wife and relatives of Sorino. She returned, finally, to the mission, only to find there the shamans and dozens of warriors with them. They remonstrated with her, explaining that if Sorino died outside of their forest he would be left wandering the afterlife forever. Several of the men planted their arrows in front of her house. "Go into your house. We cannot kill you now because Sorino is not dead, but these arrows we leave here ... and if he dies, we will kill you with these."

Such were the words she carried into their empty chapel, beginning a harrowing vigil of prayer for Sorino. It was the first day of the novena to their founder, the Blessed Giuseppe Allamano.

Fr. Dominic Rankin will return to the Amazon rainforest next week (and eventually to Turin, Italy)!

Stewardship of Treasure

February 8th & 9th

Envelopes:	\$3,467.00
Loose:	\$5,086.01
Maintenance:	\$135.00
Total:	\$8,688.01

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!

Sacraments

Baptisms

Sofia Anne Obregon
Child of Michael & Katherine Obregon
Baptized on February 8, 2025

Deaths

James "Jim" Bloom
Date of Death: January 28, 2025

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16

<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	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library	Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM & 6:00 PM School Library	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		
St. Monica Ministry 7:00 PM School Library	OCIA 6:00 PM Atrium	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church			
		Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room	Vatican II Faith Formation Series 7:00 PM Atrium			

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



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!

February 20, 7:00 pm in the Cathedral Atrium



Cathedral First Friday Concert

**MARCH 7, 2025
7 PM - 8 PM**

*Featuring
Kyle Jones
Classical Saxophone*

First Friday Concerts

Join us on Friday, March 7, 2025 at 7pm in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! March's concert will feature Kyle Jones, Classical Saxophone. The First Friday Concert Series is sponsored by the Staab Family, directed by Mark Gifford, and is free and open to the public. All are welcome!

Sharing Our Gratitude

What are you thankful for at the Cathedral?

Week day 5:15 Mass and new programs for painting for women and other programs that helps parishioners meet in fun events or classes

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



CCCW/Knights of Columbus 2025-2026 Scholarships

The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women (CCCW) and the Fr. Augustine Tolton Council 16126, Knights of Columbus, are pleased to announce that the application period for the 2025-2026 academic year scholarships is open, effective February 10, 2025. Scholarships will be awarded and used to offset recipient costs of tuition at a Catholic High School and will be awarded to students who are members of registered active Cathedral parish families. The scholarships are competitive, so not every applicant may receive a scholarship. The application includes three parts: a one-page (250-300 words) essay on the topic listed (topic depends on grade level); documentation of a minimum of 20 service hours (of which a minimum of 15 hours must be in service to the Cathedral parish or parish organizations); and a Teacher Evaluation that will be submitted separately from the rest of the application. Applications will be available as follows: (1) Hard copies will be available at the parish office during parish business hours; (2) A PDF of the application form will be available at the Scholarship Application link on the parish website (spicathedral.org); or (3) The application may be completed completely online at the Scholarship Application link on the parish website. Both essays and documentation of service hours may be uploaded at the link. The final deadline for submission of all applications is 11:59 PM on Monday, March 31, 2025, either online or by hard copy. Hard copies should be placed in a sealed envelope and addressed to CCCW/Knights of Columbus Scholarship Committee and returned to the parish office in the rectory. Thank you for your interest, and good luck!

Patriotic Concert

Join us for a Patriotic Concert, featuring Mark Gifford and sponsored by the Bishop Griffin Assembly Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, to celebrate National Anthem Day on Monday, March 3, 7 p.m. in the Cathedral Atrium. Seating is limited to 150 so arrive early. We welcome any voluntary donations from those who wish to give freely, as we will be accepting free will offerings. All proceeds will go to Land of Lincoln Honor Flight. National Anthem Day commemorates the day the United States adopted "The Star-Spangled Banner" as its National Anthem. Written by Francis Scott Key, the "Star-Spangled Banner" became the National Anthem in 1931.

Holy Family Food Pantry Needs

Catholic Charities is so grateful for the increased donations of food during the holidays. The pantry has seen an increase in the number of families being served and is in need of hygiene items. Items such as toothpaste, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, deodorant will be gratefully accepted. Thank you for your generosity!

Save the Date!

Join Two Hearts Pregnancy Resource Center and Springfield Right to Life for our Annual Fundraising Breakfast featuring keynote speakers Jim and Annette McDermott!
When: March 29, 2025, 8:30 AM
Where: Erin's Pavilion, Southwind Park, Springfield
Attend this free event and help raise funds to support life-affirming work in our community. Table Hosts are needed!
Reserve your table today—call 217-523-2700, email us at springfieldrtl@gmail.com or visit springfieldrtl.org for details.

Pray for Our Catechumens

Please pray for our catechumens who are preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil:

Brian Collins

Brian, a lifelong resident of Springfield, was not raised in a family that practices any faith. All of that changed when he married his wife, Melina and had their daughter, Ariana. Melina was always a practicing Catholic, attending Blessed Sacrament and SHG, and they raised their daughter to be Catholic too. Brian's wife and daughter showed him the importance of having a relationship with God and how that relationship provides peace and tranquility. Brian made his way to the Cathedral through Fr. Dominic Vahling who was chaplain for Ariana at SHG.



Drake Manser

Drake found his way to the Cathedral after visiting several other churches. He walked into the Cathedral one day and asked if he could speak to a priest. Fr. Alford was available and after some conversations, Drake started attending OCIA. He has decided that the Catholic Church is the church for him. Drake stays busy working as a police officer in Auburn and Rochester.

In the End, Does it Matter?

When I was a teenager, the priest I would go to for confession used to tell me, over and over: "In the end, we all get the same dirty hole in the ground."

What he meant was, it doesn't matter how rich or smart or well-liked we are. We're all heading to the same place. This life comes to an end for every man. All the money he earns, all the stuff, all the worldly esteem, will at some point be of no further use. We all get the same dirty hole in the ground.

It was an important message for me to hear, because at the time, it all seemed so important: my after-school job and my FAFSA application and my grades. The admiration of my friends and teachers. I was so consumed with what I was going to become that I wasn't spending a lot of time thinking about who I was going to become. But the who is the only thing that lasts until the next life.

And to be honest, it's all still too important to me. Avoiding sadness and disappointment. Saving money and being liked. Focusing on "the five-year plan" when it comes to career, house plans, and a whole bunch of other things I can't take to my dirty hole in the ground.

Jesus was radical in his teaching that the "stuff" in life wasn't all that important. It was radical for him to say that the worldly signs of success — wealth, popularity, pleasure — did not amount to a whole lot in the grand scheme of things and that suffering could sanctify us. It was radical in the ancient world, and it's radical today.

Are we ready to be radical, too?

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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Around the Diocese

- **Have you wondered why women might choose religious life?** Join the Dominican Sisters of Springfield at 7 p.m., Fri., Feb. 28 to learn more. A 40-minute virtual gathering will showcase various sisters' ministries. A Q&A period is included. Register at: springfieldop.org/events.
- **Christ the King Lenten Bible Study, Into His Likeness: Be Transformed as a Disciple of Christ.** This is a 6-week study produced by the Augustine Institute in which we will explore what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and how to live that out. Meetings are on Thursday mornings from 9:15 AM to 11:00 AM in the Christ the King Parish Center, beginning on Thursday, March 6. Childcare is available for a small donation. All are welcome! Participants will receive a workbook and have light reading with homework. The cost of the materials will be \$20. Each week we will view a 30 minute DVD lecture with discussion following. For more information or to register, contact Kristin Luker at 217-341-8753 or KLuker@LukerDentalCare.com.
- **SDCCW Lenten Retreat "Walking with Jesus through Holy Week"**, at Villa Maria in Springfield, March 25th – 26th with Deacon Jeff Beals of our diocese, as retreat master. Retreat begins with lunch at noon on Tuesday March 25th and concludes at 3:30 pm on Wed. March 26th. We encourage you to begin the retreat with the March for Life Mass at Sangamon Auditorium at UIS at 10:00 am on Tuesday the 25th with required registration for this Mass found at dio.org. All are welcome! Registration deadline: March 15th. Contact: Mary Ann Sullivan: gma.sullivan80@gmail.com
- **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.