

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MARCH 2, 2025 | EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 9

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

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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.



A New Basis for Life

In the next paragraph, the Holy Father returns to the word which he spent time unpacking in the previous paragraph. I noted that the popular English translations for hypostasis from Hebrews 11:1 are 'realization', 'assurance', or 'guarantee.' But Pope Benedict prefers the more technical and philosophical translation of 'substance'. The pope connects his treatment of this passage with one from the previous chapter in the Letter to the Hebrews, which reads: "You even joined in the sufferings of those in

prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, knowing that you had a better and lasting possession." (Heb. 10:34) The Greek word for possession here has the same root as substance from Heb. 11:1, thus offering even more insights into its usage in this letter, especially as it relates to the topic of hope.

When considering the word 'possession', the Holy Father notes that this property "constitutes the means of support, indeed the basis, the 'substance' for life, what we depend upon." (SS 8) As the pope points out, however, "[t]his 'substance', life's normal source of security, has been taken away from Christians in the course of persecution." (ibid) But being deprived of this earthly support, they stood firm because they realized that they had something far more valuable and long lasting than material support. Through their faith, "they had found a better 'basis' for their existence—a basis that abides, that no one can take away." (ibid) Commenting on this new basis for life that faith offers us, the pope writes:

Faith gives life a new basis, a new foundation on which we can stand, one which relativizes the habitual foundation, the reliability of material income. A new freedom is created with regard to this habitual foundation of life, which only appears to be capable of providing support, although this is obviously not to deny its normal meaning. (ibid)

As a way of demonstrating the "proof" for this statement, the Holy Father points out the example of how this has been lived out in a compelling way throughout the life of the Church:

Above all, it is seen in the great acts of renunciation, from the monks of ancient times to Saint Francis of Assisi and those of our contemporaries who enter modern religious Institutes and movements and leave everything for love of Christ, so as to bring to men and women the faith and love of Christ, and to help those who are suffering in body and spirit. In their case, the new "substance" has proved to be a genuine "substance"; (ibid)

The pope explains how "from the hope of these people who have been touched by Christ, hope has arisen for others who were living in darkness and without hope." (ibid) In other words, their example that one can be at peace and joyful despite a lack of worldly possession shows us that the same is possible for us as well.

Most of us are not called to this more radical form of earthly poverty, but all of us are called to the poverty of spirit as seen in the First Beatitude: "blessed are the poor in spirit." (Mt. 5:3) Another word for 'blessed' in the Beatitudes is 'happy', or 'fortunate'. This state of blessedness is something which we already possess through that poverty of spirit, and Jesus adds the promise of how that blessedness is directed toward the fulfillment of hope that that experience brings: "for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (ibid)

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, March 3

7am - Pamela Harmon (Archie Harmon)
5:15pm - Deceased Members of the Chiaradonna Family (Geny Chiaradonna)

Tuesday, March 4

7am - Margaret Lemanski (Cour Family)
5:15pm - Walter Woodhull (The Coffee Guys)

Wednesday, March 5

7am - Lambert Fleck (Gregory & Marie Fleck)
12:05pm - Dan Sexson (Sharon Sexson)
5:15pm - John Morrison (Fr. Tolton Council 16126)

Thursday, March 6

7am - Fred & Rita Greenwald (Michael Fleischli)
12:05pm - Anita Bates (Nancy & Daniel Moore)
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube (Friends)

Friday, March 7

7am - Barbara McGee (McGee Family)
12:05pm - Mary Celine Sestak (Steve & Vicki Stalcup)
5:15pm - Karen Bucari (Alan Bucari)

Saturday, March 8

8am - Jim Maher (Judy Maher O Shea)
4pm - Judith Hubbell (Family)

Sunday, March 9

7am - Mary Ann Midden (Bill Midden)
10am - Don Smargiassi (Family & Friends)
5pm - For the People



ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 5

MASS TIMES:
7:00AM
12:05PM
5:15PM

**ASHES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT
ALL MASSES**



Bl. Giuseppe Allamano

Feast Day: February 16th

(We finally get to the saint behind the miraculous healing of Sorino Yanomami.) Giuseppe Ottavio Allamano was born in Asti, Italy, in 1851. His uncle was actually the wonderful “saint of the gallows”, Fr. Joseph Cafasso, and in his youth Giuseppe attended the oratory under St. John Bosco in Valdocco. These were influences towards his own entry into seminary in 1866, though at that time he was not at all certain that the Lord was calling him to be a priest, “The Lord is calling me today ... I don’t know if he will call me again in two or three years.” So began his lifelong growth in learning to discern God’s will, happily including his ordination as a priest in 1873 for the Diocese of Turin. His first

years of priesthood were as a spiritual director in the seminary, and completing his doctorate in theology. In 1876, he was made the rector of the seminary and a few years later (at the age of 29!) the rector of the Sanctuary della Maria della Consolazione (commonly simply called “La Consolata”). It was an ancient site of worship, and the spiritual heart of Turin, and Fr. Allamano was determined to be part of its renewal. He constructed additional chapels, restored the ceiling, and also worked on spiritual initiatives to build up the faith of the city including starting a monthly Catholic newspaper, La Consolata in 1899.

But it was his own brush with death in 1891 that brought him to discern that God was asking him even further off the standard path of a diocesan priest: to found a religious order dedicated to the missions. He had never been on mission, and would never even travel outside of Italy because of his poor health, but he found it “unnatural that in his Church, fertile with so many charity institutions, one solely dedicated to the missions was lacking”. And so, on January 29th, 1901, the Istituto Missioni Consolata was established. “Not having been able to be a missionary myself, I want those souls who wish to follow that path not to be hindered”. Yet, thinking again it seems, he also said “the vocation to the missions is essentially the vocation of every holy Priest. All it takes is a greater love for our Lord Jesus Christ, which urges one to make him known and loved by those who do not yet know him and love him.”

It had taken 10 years to get the order off the ground – as he would also say, dioceses were willing to give money, but not men, for the missions. It was another decade later, with his brothers and fathers on mission all over the world, that he realized something deeply lacking in their efforts without women also carrying the Gospel to all those places. He needed not just spiritual fathers, but also mothers, to care for the poor and unevangelized around the world. He met, and received the approval of Pope Pius X to found a female branch of the Institute of the Consolata Missionaries in 1910 ... and was not done yet. In 1912 he met the pope again, this time begging him to establish an annual day to proclaim the importance of mission to the whole church. Yes, to encourage those called to be missionaries, but also anticipating by decades the Second Vatican Council’s proclamation of the universal missionary vocation of the whole church.

Then war broke out in the Balkans, and Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in 1914, and World War I engulfed Europe. Pope Pius X was consumed by the horrors of war, and Fr. Allamano spent his time caring for his order abroad, and the many refugees and draftees from the war in the area around Turin. He died in February 1926. BUT, the great missionary zeal which had marked his life was not to be snuffed out! In 1927, Pope Pius XI instituted World Mission Sunday, which continues to our day to be celebrated every year in October. We happily already have Pope Francis’ words for this upcoming one of October 19, 2025 where he speaks to missionaries, like the Consolata fathers and sisters, and then to all of us:

I thank you most heartily! Your lives are a clear response to the command of the risen Christ, who sent his disciples to evangelize all peoples (cf. Mt 28:18-20). In this way, you are signs of the universal vocation of the baptized to become, by the power of the Spirit and daily effort, missionaries among all peoples and witnesses to the great hope given us by the Lord Jesus.

Fr. Dominic Rankin is amazed at how impactful one diocesan priest can be all over the world a century after his death. Not only the many conversions, but now also the miraculous cure of Sorino Yanomami and the radical openness in the local tribes that was only possible after such a divine intervention.

Stewardship of Treasure

February 22nd & 23rd

Envelopes:	\$4,250.00
Loose:	\$2,375.00
Maintenance:	\$77.00
Total:	\$6,702.00

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!

Sacraments

Deaths

James Besjak

Date of Death: January 31, 2025

Allamano, Joseph (1851-1926), founder of the Consolata Missionary Fathers and Consolata Missionary Sisters. Born in Castelnuovo d’Asti, Italy, Allamano wanted to become a missionary from early life. Unable to do so because of poor health, he became a diocesan priest of Turin. He received the D.D. degree from Turin seminary in 1877. For 46 years (1880-1926), he was the counselor of priests at the Convitto Ecclesiastico. Some of them became the first Consolata missionaries in Kenya. He was also rector of the Consolata shrine in Turin. He founded the Consolata Missionary Fathers in 1901 and the Consolata Missionary Sisters in 1910 and was superior general of both institutes until he died. The missionary formation given to Consolata missionaries broke new ground. Evangelization and development were equally important; he also emphasized proper use of local cultural values and customs, and preparation of local leaders and their immediate incorporation in the missionary work. He promoted the involvement of religious women and brothers as full partners in evangelization and development. As a consequence, Consolata missionaries established the first college for catechists in Kenya, the first seminary, and the first local religious institute for women. Allamano was also responsible for persuading the pope to establish a day of prayer and support for all the Catholic missions. He inspired James Alberione, the founder of St. Paul’s Society, and James A. Walsh, co-founder of the Catholic Foreign Missionary Society of America (Maryknoll Missioners). He supported mass media as a means of evangelization and began publishing missionary news in the Consolata bulletin.

WEEK OF MARCH 3

<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		Rite of Election 2:30 PM Church
National Anthem Concert 7:00 PM Atrium	OCIA 6:00 PM School Library	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Stations of the Cross 5:45 PM Church		
		Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room		First Friday Concert 7:00 PM Church		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



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 Aubrey Hawkinson, Mezzo Soprano. 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!



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!

March 20, 7:00 pm in the Cathedral Atrium

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!

Knights of Columbus 16126 Faith Initiative - Cor

Attention Men of the Cathedral Parish! The men of Fr. Tolton Council 16126 of the Knights of Columbus are excited to share the implementation of Cor, a new formation and fraternal opportunity for the all men of the parish. Cor exists to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, and fraternity. Our first Cor activity will be held at 6 PM on Thursday, March 6 for a Holy Hour in the church followed by a gathering in the atrium. Come join your brother parishioners for prayer and fraternity as we start the Lenten season! For more information, contact Kyle Holtgrave at (217) 622-4994, or visit <http://www.kofc16126.org>.

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.

JOIN US FOR CRS RICE BOWL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY!

CRS Rice Bowl is celebrating 50 years of helping Catholic faith communities bring Lent to life and encounter God through our global family. During the 40 days of Lent, let us journey together through CRS Rice Bowl to meet people in Nigeria, Guatemala and Bangladesh who are rising above the challenges of hunger and malnutrition. Pick up your rice bowl, and visit crsricebowl.org/join to share your Lenten prayer intentions.

SDCCW Scholarship Opportunity

The SDCCW (Springfield in IL Diocesan Council of Catholic Women) is pleased to give \$2,000 for education beyond high school to four 2025 female high school graduates from the Springfield Diocese in IL who exemplify the SDCCW's mission. The mission of the SDCCW is to support and empower all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. The SDCCW is affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW). Applications are available in the Cathedral Atrium, and must be mailed to the SDCCW Scholarship Program by April 1.

SDCCW Meeting - March 18

All women parishioners are invited to attend the Springfield in IL Deanery, Council of Catholic Women meeting on Tuesday, March 18th, 10am at St Cabrini in Springfield. Guest speakers Erica Smith and Sr. Ann Pitzenberger will discuss the Hospital Sisters Health System's Mission Outreach Program. Lunch will be served! A \$5 donation to cover food cost is suggested. Come and meet women from many different parishes in our deanery! RSVP to Deb Pilapil at debpi1@yahoo.com or join our Facebook page for more information!

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.

Second Collection - Church in Central and Eastern Europe

For more than 40 years, and in some countries more than 70 years, communism ruled Central and Eastern European countries and the Soviet Union's many republics. The Soviet Union stretched from Eastern Europe across central Asia and beyond to the Pacific Ocean. One of its former republics is Tajikistan, in central Asia. Bordering China to the east and Afghanistan to the south, Tajikistan is today the poorest of the former Soviet republics. The country's economic challenges—along with a population that today is 98% Muslim—make Tajikistan a true mission country for the Church, because Catholics are few and needs are great. In fact, the Church's presence is so small that the Tajikistan Church is not part of a diocese with its own bishop but is an independent mission of the pope, administered by priests from the Institute of the Incarnate Word, a missionary order from Argentina. Along with the institute's order of sisters, the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara, these priests faithfully serve the pastoral needs of the people through education and accompaniment. Despite its small size and relative poverty, this community has fostered the first two priestly vocations and ordinations of two Tajik men, as well as the religious vocation of a Tajik woman who professed perpetual vows with the sisters. With critical support from the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, the sisters continue their mission by educating the children and providing them with instruction, school supplies, school uniforms, and the food they need to develop intellectually, spiritually, physically, and socially. Guided by their faith and this material support, the sisters witness to Christ's love while carrying out their works of mercy. You can participate in their success by donating to this special collection when it is taken up in our diocese, either by contributing at Mass or through your parish's e-giving platform. #GiveCatholicTogether also accepts funds online for the collection. For more information about the collection and who it supports, visit www.usccb.org/cee. Thank you for your help to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

AROUND OUR DIOCESE AND BEYOND



Lent at the Cathedral

This Lent the Cathedral parish will be focusing on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will be distributing *The Fountain of Youth, Confession: The Only Key to Living Forever* by Dave Durand to our parishioners on the first Sunday of Lent, March 8-9. We will be hosting an Adult Faith Formation session on Confession in conjunction with a CCCW Soup Supper on March 26. The session will be repeated the following day after the 12:05 Mass. We will invite folks to return the following Wednesday, April 2 for conversation about the book; again during the CCCW Soup Supper and after the 12:05 Mass. In addition to all the normal times Cathedral offers Confession, we will host extended Confession times on April 11-12.

Throughout my life I have always been amazed and encouraged by the number of people who attend mass on Ash Wednesday. Especially considering it is not a holy day of obligation. We clearly see it as a holy day of opportunity. An opportunity to deepen our faith that flows from the desire God places in our hearts to be close to Him, to live a life of holiness and to spend eternity with Him in heaven.

The spiritual discipline and practice of receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation strengthens our souls amidst the trials and temptations of our daily lives while it also prepares us for the day we meet our Lord at the end of our life. Given the tremendous spiritual benefits of Confession, what lies behind the fact that only a small percentage of the faithful regularly receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

The book, "The Fountain of Youth- Confession: The Only Key to Living Forever," offered to all Cathedral parishioners this Lenten season, explores the question and the reasons behind why so many do not receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It provides accessible and compelling insights on this important and life changing sacrament of healing for us to reflect upon during Lent. For those who regularly receive this sacrament you will find this book to be a source of affirmation and inspiration to continue this holy discipline. For those who have, for many reasons, drifted away from the Sacrament of Reconciliation you will find in this book hope and encouragement to return to this important sacrament of healing. In this Jubilee year of Hope may we each be strengthened in our faith and in our journey to holiness by receiving the graces offered in this great Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Deacon David Beach

Around the Diocese

- **St. Patrick Catholic School's Annual Blarney Bash**, Friday, March 14, 2025 at the LRS Hangar at Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM. Ticket prices are \$40 per person or \$400 for a reserved table of 8. Make your reservations online at www.st-patrick.org or by calling (217) 523-7670.
- **Catholic Women's Prayer Breakfast at St. Paul Catholic Church, Highland, IL** March 22, 8a.m.-noon. Adoration/7 a.m., Rosary/7:30, Mass/8:00 a.m., catered breakfast /guest speaker Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. For more information: email womensbreakfast2025@gmail.com or text Rose Wascher at 847-274-3916. Pre-registration is required for breakfast. Register at stpaulhighland.org. Deadline to register is March 15.
- **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.