

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

MARCH 9, 2025 | FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



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 10

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.



Lenten Sacrifices Strengthen Hope

In the next paragraph of Spe Salvi, which concludes this section on “[t]he concept of faith-based hope in the New Testament and the early Church”, Pope Benedict continues to reflect on the “substance” of faith which helps us to have hope in the future. He looks at the Greek word *hypomone* which is used in Hebrews 10:36: “You need **endurance (hypomone)** to do the will of God and receive what he has promised.” Here is what the Holy Father has to say about that word and its relation to the concept of hope:

Hypo-mone is normally translated as “patience”—perseverance, constancy. Knowing how to wait, while patiently enduring trials, is necessary for the believer to be able to “receive what is promised” (Heb 10:36). (SS 9)

With the coming of Christ, God has “communicated to us the ‘substance’ of things to come, and thus the expectation of God acquires a new certainty.” (ibid) This certainty is based on the fact that what is to come for us in fullness has already come, and we have already begun to share in it through the gift of grace, as I discussed a few weeks ago in the article titled Already but Not Yet.

As I read these words, they strike me as offering a helpful perspective as we begin the Lenten season. It is customary for us as Catholics to select something additional to do for Lent. For many, that means giving something up, such as earthly goods like certain foods, drinks, or other pleasurable activities. Many will also be more intentional about taking up some sort of charitable activity, such as giving alms more frequently or in a larger amount, or volunteering to do some sort of service to others. Focusing more on our prayer life is also something many Catholics will pursue during this season. For the purpose of this article, I want to say a few words about fasting (giving something up).

When chosen well, we will generally choose something to give up that will be difficult. If what we give up is not something that will be hard, why even do it? Giving something up that will be difficult helps to train our spiritual muscle of restraint, so that when faced with other temptations, we will have greater strength, aided by God’s grace, to remain faithful to the Lord. But there is another reason why I think it is good to choose a sacrifice that is difficult. Being deprived of something good can increase our hope of that good being restored in the future. When we undertake our Lenten sacrifices well, hard though they may be, we look forward to Easter Sunday with greater eagerness. Though we may have to, for a time, experience the pain of denying ourselves something, we know that when Easter comes, and we can resume our partaking of what we have given up, it is something we enjoy all the more! This is why I think when we choose what to give up, it can be advisable to choose something that is not in itself bad. For example, we might really like adding creamer and sugar to our coffee, but having that (in moderation) is not necessarily bad for us. Therefore giving up something like this can be a good choice. On the other hand, some people will decide to give up gossiping for Lent. This is a good thing, but gossiping is not good to begin with, so although it is commendable to give that up, and giving it up might be hard, we would hope that this is something we can root out altogether, not just give up for a time. I hope that difference makes sense. By all means, we want to be more attentive to avoiding sinful habits, but that should be an all-year effort, not just restricted to Lent.

Our experience of giving up something good for a period of time, knowing it will be restored on Easter is a small experience of what the Holy Father is talking about, I believe. If we can build that muscle of knowing how to wait for something in the future, something which will certainly be given to us, we will be able to endure other trails that we face, those we do not choose, and to be at peace knowing that beyond those trials is the promise of eternal peace and joy in the Kingdom of Heaven.

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 10

7am - John Jageosh Jr.
(Barbara Brauer)
12:05pm - Woody Woodhull
(Karen Johnson)
5:15pm - James "Jim" Bloom
(Fr. Tolton Council 16126)

Tuesday, March 11

7am - John Montgomery
(John Busciacco)
12:05pm - John Jageosh III
(Barbara Brauer)
5:15pm - Bill Hickerson
(Friend)

Wednesday, March 12

7am - Bryan Hallengren
(Family)
12:05pm - Rev. Msgr James O'Shea
(McGee Family)
5:15pm - Int for Doris Drago
(D.A. Drago)

Thursday, March 13

7am - Linda Olivero
(Family)
12:05pm - Jan Cobb
(Family)
5:15pm - Cesare Chiaradonna
(Geny Chiaradonna)

Friday, March 14

7am - Joseph "Jerry" Stasukinas
(Sherry Smith)
12:05pm -Caryl Beach "Carol"
(Dcn. David & Mary Beach)
5:15pm - Int for Bianca
(D.A. Drago)

Saturday, March 15

8am - Tammy Sue Hall
(Granddaughter)
4pm - Dennis Fringer
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)

Sunday, March 16

7am - Irvin Larry Smith
(Bev & Larry Smith)
10am - For the People
5pm Stephanie Sandidge
(Sue Sandidge)



Pope Francis on the Communion of Saints (Part 1)

In light of Our Holy Father Pope Francis' serious sickness (as I write this article), I wanted to bring something of his words to you this week and next. On April 7, 2021, while doing an ongoing catechesis on prayer, he spoke on how our prayer brings us into union with the saints. They are prescient words as we embark on deeper and more consistent prayer during this season of Lent. Perhaps one of the ways we can do this is simply to unite and pray with those saints that are especially close to us. They have learned the work, and received the gift, of prayer perfectly; they can be a great help to us!

I was also moved especially by his reflection on prayer in time of suffering, especially as he himself has been carrying a heavy burden on that front these past weeks. Again and again, he has thanked the world for holding him in prayer, AND while hospitalized has given his signature for the further steps towards canonization of multiple saints! (Naming as venerable Fr. Emil Kapaun, military chaplain from Kansas; Italian layman Salvo D'Acquisto; Michele Maura Montaner, a 19th-century Spanish priest; Italian priest Didaco Bessi; and Kunegunda Siwec, a Polish laywoman who died in 1955.) He is living out the teaching he gave those 4 years ago!

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Today, I would like to reflect on the connection between prayer and the communion of saints. In fact, when we pray, we never do so alone: even if we do not think about it, we are immersed in a majestic river of invocations that precedes us and proceeds after us.

Contained in the prayers we find in the Bible, that often resound in the liturgy, are the traces of ancient stories, of prodigious liberations, of deportations and sad exiles, of emotional returns, of praise ringing out before the wonders of creation... And thus, these voices are passed on from generation to generation, in a continual intertwining between personal experience and that of the people and the humanity to which we belong. No one can separate themselves from their own history, the history of their own people. We always carry this inheritance in our attitudes, and also in prayer. In the prayers of praise, especially those that blossom from the hearts of the little ones and the humble, echo parts of the Magnificat that Mary lifted up to God in front of her relative Elizabeth; or of the exclamation of the elderly Simeon who, taking Baby Jesus in his arms, said: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word" (Lk 2:29).

Prayers — those that are good — are "expansive", they propagate themselves continuously, with or without being posted on social media: from hospital wards, from moments of festive gatherings to those in which we suffer silently... The suffering of each is the suffering of all, and one's happiness is transmitted to someone else's soul. Suffering and happiness are part of a single history: they are stories that create history in one's own life. This history is relived in one's own words, but the experience is the same.

Prayer is always born again: each time we join our hands and open our hearts to God, we find ourselves in the company of anonymous saints and recognized saints who pray with us and who intercede for us as older brothers and sisters who have preceded us on this same human adventure. In the Church there is no grief that is borne in solitude, there are no tears shed in oblivion, because everyone breathes and participates in one common grace. It is no coincidence that in the ancient church people were buried in gardens surrounding a sacred building, as if to say that, in some way, the multitude who preceded us participate in every Eucharist. Our parents and grandparents are there, our godfathers and godmothers are there, our catechists and other teachers are there... That faith that was passed on, transmitted, that we received. Along with faith, the way of praying and prayer were also transmitted.

Fr. Dominic Rankin

Stewardship of Treasure

March 1st & 2nd

Envelopes:	\$8,569.00
Loose:	\$3,647.58
Maintenance:	\$1,055.00
Total:	\$13,271.58

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!

WEEK OF MARCH 10

<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 OCIA 6:00 PM School Library	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Rosary 4:45 PM Church Lenten Soup Supper 6:00 PM Atrium Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room	Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM & 6:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church Stations of the Cross 5:45 PM Church		Family of Faith 6:15 PM Atrium

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



**CATHEDRAL PARISHIONER
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
TUITION SCHOLARSHIP**

Applications are available now and are due by March 15th.
The scholarship will be paid directly to the school by April 15th.

Cathedral Parishioner Catholic School Tuition Scholarship

The Cathedral Parish believes in the value of Catholic education and is committed to assisting parishioners who choose a Catholic education for their children by providing tuition assistance. Parishioners will receive a \$500 tuition scholarship for each child enrolled in a Springfield Catholic Grade School (Grades K-8), and a \$750 tuition scholarship for each child enrolled at Sacred Heart-Griffin High School. The Scholarship is eligible to any parishioner household who is registered and active in the Cathedral parish. For more information or to apply, please visit our website (www.spicathedral.org/cathedral-parishioner-catholic-school-tuition-scholarship-form/). Applications are DUE by March 15th, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact the Cathedral Parish Office at 217-522-3342.



**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!

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!

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 debpiil@yahoo.com or join our Facebook page for more information!

CCCW Lenten Soup Suppers

Looking for dinner options during Lent? Join the women of CCCW for Lenten Soup Suppers throughout this season of Lent! Seven homemade soups with bread & crackers will be served. All are welcome! Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 9, beginning at 6pm in the Atrium

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.

Free Online Course: Come, and You Will See: Images and Invitations in the Gospel of John

Each of the evangelists has a particular purpose for sharing the good news of Jesus with the Church and the world. In the fourth gospel, John tells his audience that his purpose for writing is "that you may [come to] believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). John wants to share with those who read and hear his words what he has come to believe: Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6). But how exactly do John's words and the images they evoke lead people to believe today? In this course, we will examine John's use of imagery throughout the Gospel as a way of inviting you to know Jesus better. Come to know Jesus as "Lord and God" (20:28) so that you might also invite others to "come and see" (1:39) all that Jesus wants to reveal. This course is not intended to be academically strenuous but to provide a shallow-entry point for those who have busy lives and need flexibility. This course is designed for personal enrichment and does not count towards any academic credit at Sacred Heart Major Seminary or for any certification in the Archdiocese of Detroit. Visit <https://equip.shms.edu/courses/come-and-you-will-see> to enroll now.

Second Collection - Catholic Charities

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ: This past March 1st, Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois celebrated our 100th Anniversary. Ever since that day in 1925 has helped countless numbers of the less fortunate in our community. Our mission "to extend to all the healing and empowering presence of Jesus," has remained the same since being established by Bishop Griffin. Springfield Catholic Charities encompasses Sangamon, Scott, Cass, Christian, Menard, and Morgan Counties. The programs that we offer are the Holy Family Food Pantry, which is in Springfield, our Mobile Food Pantry, which is designed to meet the needs of food insecurity in our rural areas, the St. John's Breadline, which is our long standing soup kitchen in Springfield, Intact Family Services, which works keep families together, our Crisis Assistance office which helps individuals and families experiencing everything from needing help with rental assistance to helping obtain birth certificates. Our final program that we offer is our Catholic Legal Services office, which offers free legal representation on matters of civil law. The phenomenal work that is done at our local Catholic Charities could not be done without our many donors. We would please ask you to help in our mission "to extend to all the healing and empowering presence of Jesus." No donation is too small as we seek to follow Jesus when he commanded his followers to "love one another as I have loved you."

In Christ,
Patrick McConnell
Springfield Catholic Charities Area Director

A RECOMMITMENT TO END HUNGER

Since 1975, Catholics across the United States have come together each Lent to respond to global hunger through the CRS Rice Bowl program. Learn how people like you have made a local and global impact on the lives of our sisters and brothers in need and why our prayers and almsgiving are still needed today. During this holy season, let us recommit to sharing bread for life with our global family so that all people can reach their God-given potential. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-1 to read this week's Story of Hope.

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.

Excuse Me?

Sometimes I am guilty of finding whatever excuse I can to justify my actions - either doing something I shouldn't or not doing what I should. For example, there was a period in my life when I made all kinds of excuses to avoid the sacrament of reconciliation.

Fortunately, when my children were old enough to receive the sacrament, I realized it was important to set aside my excuses and set an example for them, so I returned to regular confession. My life has been so much better as a result. It turns out, those excuses were robbing me of many things, including an inner peace that is nearly impossible to describe.

If you have ever made an excuse to avoid reconciliation, I urge you to read your free copy of *The Fountain of Youth, Confession: The Only Key to Living Forever*. If you read just ten pages a day, you will be finished in just one week!

I found this short book very easy to read and understand. Among the things I most appreciate is the way the author logically dispels the most common excuses for avoiding the confessional while reaffirming that this sacrament is one of the greatest gifts we will ever receive in this life. The next time I need a nudge to make time for confession, I know where to turn.

If you do nothing else for Lent, please give this book a chance!

Jason Anselment

Around the Diocese

- **Lenten Men's Catechesis with Fr. Peter Chineke.** A powerful opportunity for spiritual growth and empowerment. In a rapidly changing secular world, let's deepen our faith together, strengthening bonds, and equipping ourselves with the knowledge to navigate life's challenges with confidence and purpose. No payment, no signup, just show up! Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3, 7pm, St. Jude's Parish Center, 633 S Walnut, Rochester, IL
- **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.
- **Taize Prayer: To the Desert, Follow Me;** Sunday, March 16, 6:30pm, St. Frances Cabrini Church, 1020 N Milton Ave. An ecumenical, common, contemplative prayer for peace and healing, celebrated in candlelight with Scripture, prayer, music, and silence for choir, instruments, and assembly. Please bring a gift of food for the poor.
- **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.
- **Come join the SHG Music Department in the Merry Old Land of Oz!** Featuring the talent of SHG students (as well as some local grade school talent rounding out our cast of munchkins!) in revisiting this timeless classic. Join Dorothy on her journey over the rainbow, where she will meet all of your favorites...Glinda the Good, the Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion, and everyone's favorite villain...The Wicked Witch of the West! Featuring all of the nostalgia of the 1939 MGM film and some fun updates for the stage, we can't wait for you to join us for this magical production. Tickets are on sale now. Get them at weareshg.org/WizardofOzTickets. Show dates are March 21 - March 23 and March 28 - March 30
- **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.