

# *Cathedral* OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

**MARCH 30, 2025 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFICE: 217-522-3342  
[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 13

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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  
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PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN  
IN RESIDENCE

DEACON DAVID BEACH

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

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

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

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

KIM GUNTER  
BUSINESS MANAGER  
KGUNTER@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

JULIA MAYFIELD  
PARISH SECRETARY  
JMAYFIELD@CATHEDRAL.DIO.ORG

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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.



## Reaching Out Toward the Unknown

As he concludes his short reflection on the question of “Eternal life – what is it?”, Pope Benedict explains that even though we do not know with great clarity what eternal life is, we nevertheless continue to reach out to it. He describes that yearning in this way:

*In some way we want life itself, true life, untouched even by death; yet at the same time we do not know the thing towards which we feel driven. We cannot stop reaching out for it, and yet we know that all we can experience or accomplish is not what we yearn for. (SS 12)*

He concludes that this unknown “thing” is the true “hope” that drives us forward in our pursuit of what our hearts ultimately long for. This longing for the unknown, which promises something fulfilling, often leaves us with an experience of suffering as we continue grasping at worldly hopes, only to find that they leave us feeling unfulfilled, longing for something more, longing for something that will endure.

This dynamic of grasping for something, and feeling unfulfilled, when directed toward unhealthy, worldly things, can result in addiction. I recently came across a resource called Creedopedia, which is an online reference book on the Catholic faith, produced by the publishers of YOUCAT, the youth catechism first published in 2011 as a resource for young people to learn their Catholic faith. In the Creedopedia, there is a helpful, succinct definition of addiction that highlights the point I just made:

*Behind every addiction, there is longing. People seek ecstasy, a never-ending feeling of happiness and fulfillment. Various types of addiction can numb a sense of inner emptiness for a moment, evoking “ecstatic feelings”. However, this is a far cry from what a person with an addiction is really longing for.*

*(<https://youcat.org/credopedia/addiction-a-longing-for-more/>)*

With the help of the words of the Holy Father from this paragraph, we know that what we are really longing for is God, more specifically eternal life with Him in Heaven. But because this reality escapes our human experience, we find ourselves in a state of confusion. The Holy Father comments on this confusion:

*“Eternal”, in fact, suggests to us the idea of something interminable, and this frightens us; “life” makes us think of the life that we know and love and do not want to lose, even though very often it brings more toil than satisfaction, so that while on the one hand we desire it, on the other hand we do not want it. (SS 12)*

In an attempt to give some sort of sense of what the experience of eternal life might be like, the pope proposes an interesting analogy:

*It would be like plunging into the ocean of infinite love, a moment in which time—the before and after—no longer exists. We can only attempt to grasp the idea that such a moment is life in the full sense, a plunging ever anew into the vastness of being, in which we are simply overwhelmed with joy. (ibid)*

Perhaps these past few articles in which we struggle with the idea of what eternal life is still leaves us feeling somewhat uncertain, and maybe still a bit confused. But hopefully the words of the Holy Father on this question have given us some encouragement, and most of all, a greater sense of hope – true hope, a hope that keeps us moving forward in faith, and a hope, which we believe with firm faith, will not disappoint.

*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 31

7am - Deceased Members of Rocco Piccinino Family (John Busciacco)  
12:05pm - Delbert & MaryAnn Johnson (Kristen Johnson)  
5:15pm - Mark R. Cass (Larry & Bev Smith)

#### Tuesday, April 1

7am - John Morrison (Fr. Tolton Council 16126)  
12:05pm - Marian Olivero (Family)  
5:15pm - Anna Wanda Chiaradonna (Geny Chiaradonna)

#### Wednesday, April 2

7am - Lenn Family (Rose Lenn)  
12:05pm - Ralph Smith (Kenneth Smith)  
5:15pm - Ben Gaston (Gregory & Marie Fleck)

#### Thursday, April 3

7am - Tom McGee (McGee family)  
12:05pm - Marve & Kathryn Bangert (Bangert Family)  
5:15pm - Fred & Rita Greenwald (Bev Hoffman)

#### Friday, April 4

7am - James "Jim" Bloom (Fr. Tolton Council 16126)  
12:05pm - Anna Geraldine Gasaway (Rob Gasaway)  
5:15pm - Brother Francis Skube (Friend)

#### Saturday, April 5

8am - Woody Woodhull (Rebecca Woodhull)  
4pm - Archie Harmon Sr (Archie Harmon)

#### Sunday, April 6

7am - Mary Ann Midden (Bill Midden)  
10am - Fred & Rita Greenwald (Lou Ann Mack)  
5pm - For the People



## St. John Climacus (Part 1)

Feast Day: March 30th

In the year 600 AD, St. Gregory the Great penned a letter to the abbot of the famous St. Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai. (Yes, that would be where Moses encountered the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the burning bush, and where God gave His people the gift of the Ten Commandments.) Back in the early ages of the Church already some of the first desert fathers made their way here – it is the oldest continuously inhabited monastery in the world – and was originally entrusted to Mary. This because Our Lady, being the God-bearer, the theotokos, fulfills spectacularly what was foreseen in the burning bush – a bush on fire yet unburned; a mother, still a virgin, and manifesting the Lord in an even more extraordinary way! Some centuries later, it was now named after the famous St. Catherine of Alexandria whose relics had been enshrined there. Some 170 saints would come from this monastery in the centuries since, and the man that Gregory was writing to was one of them.

*Gregory to John, Abbot of Mount Sinai[i],*

*The Epistle of thy Humility testifies to the holiness of thy life; whence we give great thanks to Almighty God, for that we know that there are still some to pray for our sins. For we, under the colour of ecclesiastical government, are tossed in the billows of this world, which frequently overwhelm us. But by the protecting hand of heavenly grace we are raised up again from the deep. Do you, then, who lead a tranquil life in the so great serenity of your rest, and stand as it were safe on the shore, extend the hand of your prayer to us who are on our voyage, or rather who are suffering shipwreck, and with all the supplications in your power help us as we strive to reach the land of the living, so that not only for your own life, but also for our rescue, you may have reward for ever. May the Holy Trinity protect thy Love with the right hand of Its protection, and grant unto thee in Its sight, by praying, by admonishing, by shewing example of good work, to feed the flock committed to thee, that so thou mayest be able to reach the pastures of eternal life with the flock itself which thou feedest. For it is written, My sheep shall come and shall find pastures [John 10]. And these pastures in truth we find, when, freed from the winter of this life, we are satisfied with the greenness of eternal life, as of a new Spring.*

*We have learnt from the report of our son Simplicius that there is a want of beds and bedding in the Gerontocomium [for the elderly], which has been constructed by one Isaurus there. Wherefore we have sent 15 cloaks, 30 rachanae [probably some kind of cloak or blanket], and 15 beds. We have also given money for the purchase of mattresses and for their transport, which we beg thy Love not to disdain, but to supply them to the place for which they have been sent.*

*Given on the day of the Kalends of September, Indiction 4. [September 1, 600 A.D].*

We do not know very much about "John", though the surname "Climacus" is how we know him now, a simple phrase in Greek, "tēs klimakos", "of the ladder", for he was the author of a spiritual work "The Ladder of Perfection." He was in his 70s when Gregory wrote to him, having spent decades as a hermit at the base of that mountain learning from another monk, Martyrius, and then studying the lives of the saints. At an elderly age, he had been begged by the monks of St. Catherine's to become their leader and mentor. It was as an older, and famously holy, man that he wrote "the ladder", modeled after the image of Jacob's Ladder, with some thirty rungs making up the steps necessary to progress in holiness. The image has become a famous icon, depicting the ladder, with St. John helping others up towards heaven (with demons attempting to pull them off), and copies can be found all over the world (one is in bishop's chapel upstairs!)



## Stewardship of Treasure

### March 22nd & 23rd

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Envelopes:   | \$4,586.00 |
| Loose:       | \$2,646.00 |
| Maintenance: | \$15.00    |
| Total:       | \$7,247.00 |

### January Online Contributions

\$18,512.14

### January Debt Reduction

\$5.00

### February Online Contributions

\$18,119.08

### February Debt Reduction

\$5.00

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!

*Fr. Dominic Rankin will return to Sinai, and again to one of our Popes next week!*

## WEEK OF MARCH 31

| <u>MONDAY</u>               | <u>TUESDAY</u>                 | <u>WEDNESDAY</u>  | <u>THURSDAY</u>   | <u>FRIDAY</u>  | <u>SATURDAY</u> | <u>SUNDAY</u>                        |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Rosary<br>4:45 PM<br>Church | Adoration<br>4:00 PM<br>Church | Men's Bible Study<br>6:00 AM<br>School Library<br><br>Adult Faith Formation -<br>Confession<br>12:30 PM & 6:00 PM<br>Atrium<br><br>Rosary<br>4:45 PM<br>Church<br><br>Lenten Soup Supper<br>6:00 PM<br>Atrium<br><br>Choir Rehearsal<br>7:00 PM<br>Choir Room | Women's Bible<br>Study<br>10:00 AM,<br>1:00 PM &<br>6:00 PM<br>School Library<br><br>Adoration<br>4:00 PM<br>Church | Rosary<br>4:45 PM<br>Church<br><br>Stations of the<br>Cross<br>5:45 PM<br>Church<br><br>First Friday<br>Concert<br>7:00 PM<br>Church |                 | Family of Faith<br>6:15 PM<br>Atrium |

## What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



*Cathedral First Friday Concert*  
**APRIL 4, 2025**  
**7 PM - 8 PM**  
*Featuring*  
*Annie Gregurich, Piano*  
*Kamen Petkov, Violin*

### April First Friday Concert Series

Join us on Friday, April 4, 2025 at 7pm in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! April's concert will feature Annie Gregurich, Piano, and Kamen Petkov, Violin. 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**  
  
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!

**April 10, 7:00 pm in the Cathedral Atrium**



**EXTENDED  
CONFESSIONS**  
APRIL 11 - 12:30PM-6:30PM  
APRIL 12 - 9:00AM-4:30PM

### Extended Confessions

The Cathedral will be hosting extended confession on hours on Friday, April 11th from 12:30pm-6:30pm, and Saturday April 12th from 9:00am-4:30pm. Please consider joining us so as to prepare well for the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Eternal Rest-The Art of Dying Well

The art of dying well is also the art of living well. By understanding who we are and what we are made for, we can order our lives and values according to God's design for our true fulfillment. Knowing we will die someday allows us to live as prudent stewards of the time we're given, and it grants us the ability to joyfully anticipate eternal life. Eternal Rest presents the Church's teaching about death and God's response to it with wisdom and truth, gentleness and compassion, so that participants may think about and prepare for death in the light of Jesus Christ, the Author of life. RSVP by calling Vicki at 217/522-3342 or by emailing [ycompton@cathedral.dio.org](mailto:ycompton@cathedral.dio.org) Cathedral Women's Bible Study, 4 Thursdays, April 24-May 15 @ 6:00pm, \$15.

## 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, April 2, 9, beginning at 6pm in the Atrium

## 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 May 1.

## PROTECTING CROPS FROM NATURAL DISASTERS IN

**BANGLADESH** Shahadat's village, and much of Bangladesh, is located on flat lowlands. The intense rainy season causes flooding that often destroys farms and crops. Find out how Shahadat learned new farming skills from a Catholic Relief Services program that enabled him to increase the yield of his vegetable crops despite the challenges of climate change. Visit [csrricebowl.org/week-4](http://csrricebowl.org/week-4) to read this week's Story of Hope.

## Adult Faith Formation - The Fountain of Youth, Confession: The Only Key to Living Forever, Pt. 2

Few experiences in our Catholic faith bring more anxiety than going to Confession. But, when we have a profound encounter with God's mercy in this sacrament, few things in our Catholic faith bring greater peace! Come and learn about how to prepare well to receive this sacrament and so experience the remarkable gift of freedom that the Lord offers us from going to confession. Please join us for another Adult Faith Formation session on Confession this Wednesday, April 2. This session will be offered after the 12:05pm Mass on Wednesday, as well as in conjunction with a CCCW Lenten Soup Supper on Wednesday at 6pm.

## Knights of Columbus - Cor Meeting

ATTENTION MEN OF CATHEDRAL PARISH! The next Cor gathering is this Sunday, March 30. Join us for a Rosary after the 10 AM Mass, and then a presentation on what "Jubilee" means and from where the concept comes. Bring a snack to share! 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. For more information, contact Kyle Holtgrave at (217) 622-4994.

## All About the Cathedral

Atila the Hun in our Cathedral? 3 Bishops buried behind the altar! 10 things you didn't know about our Cathedral. Watch here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lpReuiv248>

## Feed the Hungry

A good Lenten practice is to pick up a few extra items when you go to the grocery store and donate them to Holy Family Food Pantry. The pantry is currently in great need of peanut butter, jelly, and crackers. Drop off your donations in the blue bin in the atrium. Thank you for your generosity!

## 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](http://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!

## The Apology

I like to imagine the Prodigal Son practicing his apology in the mirror.

He wouldn't have, of course. Mirrors weren't exactly a dime a dozen back then. But I imagine him anyway, rehearsing the words as he contemplates his own gaunt reflection: "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. Treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."

In other words, I have done wrong. I deserve nothing from you. But please, don't let me starve. Save me.

The apology wasn't necessary to move the heart of the father. We know that because before they meet, before anything is said, the father is overcome with compassion — not because he got his satisfaction, that long-awaited "I'm sorry, I was wrong." No, he's simply overjoyed to see his son alive. Even without apology, we know the father will beg his son to stay.

So why does the son apologize?

The father doesn't need the "I'm sorry." He isn't starving and lost. He knew all along it was a bad idea. He doesn't need to learn any lessons.

But what a tragedy it would have been, if the son had never said he was sorry. Undoubtedly, his father would have let him stay as a hired worker, and he would have had food to eat. He would have survived. But he wouldn't have been what he was born to be.

I often think of the son's apology as I am kneeling in the confessional, awkwardly reciting sins God already knows and is eager to forgive. Why are you doing this? some people would ask. God doesn't need this.

It's the apology, you see. The apology means everything. The Prodigal Son was dead. The apology brought him back to life.

God doesn't need our repentance. We need our repentance.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman  
©LPi

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## 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! Thursday, April 3, 7pm, St. Jude's Parish Center, 633 S Walnut, Rochester, IL
- **Summer Immersion Experience with Dominican Sisters in Chicago,** Single Catholic women ages 18 - 45 are invited to participate in the Dominican Sisters' Service Immersion Experience in Chicago. This unique opportunity allows participants to engage deeply with the mission and ministry of the Dominican Sisters while serving the local community and discerning their own path in faith and service. The event is scheduled for June 21-25, 2025. Participants will have opportunities for prayer, reflection, hands-on service, and conversation about vocation and Gospel justice. Participants will walk alongside the Dominican Sisters, gaining firsthand insight into their charism of prayer, preaching, community life, and service. Complete the interest form at [springfieldop.org/summer](http://springfieldop.org/summer). Facilitated by several congregations of U.S.-based Dominican Sisters. For more information call Sister Denise Glazik, OP, at 217-787-0481.
- **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).