

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

APRIL 13, 2025 | PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION



524 EAST LAWRENCE AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
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FOUNDED IN 1839 | DEDICATED IN 1928 | BUILT ON FAITH, RENEWED IN HOPE IN 2009

Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 15

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.



Blessed the People Whose God is the Lord

In the previous article, we confronted the critique of a hope that is predominantly individualistic, excluding a sense of being a part of a community and seeing salvation as something private. In this next paragraph, Pope Benedict offers a few different sources which support the consistent view that our hope is necessarily social in nature. He writes the following:

Consistently with this view, sin is understood by the Fathers as the destruction of the unity of the human race, as fragmentation and division. Babel, the place where languages were confused, the place of separation, is seen to be an expression of what sin fundamentally is. Hence “redemption” appears as the reestablishment of unity, in which we come together once more in a union that begins to take shape in the world community of believers. (SS 14)

As Christians, we must always avoid the temptation to fall into a sense of isolation, believing that this journey of faith is a solo enterprise. From the beginning of Creation, the Lord said: “it is not good for man to be alone.” (Gen 2:18) Since God Himself is a community of persons in the Trinity, and given that we are made in His likeness, then we too are called to see our identity as necessarily social in nature.

In the quote above, the pope mentions how sin works against the unity of the human race. There is a danger in considering this on too universal of a level. We should take this to heart as we consider our own individual sins. Perhaps we think that some of our sins are really only hurting ourselves. But every sin that we commit, no matter how private, always affects the rest of the community. As St. Paul writes: “If one member suffers, all suffer together.” (1 Cor 12:26) With that in mind, we should be very eager to repent of our sins as quickly as possible, not just for our good, but for the good of the entire body, for our being reconciled with God affects the strength of the body. By avoiding being reconciled to God, avoiding His mercy, perhaps under the mindset that our sins are just that, our own personal sins, then we deprive the rest of the body from flourishing and making progress toward our common goal of Eternal Life.

As we enter into Holy Week, let us be very aware of our union with our brothers and sisters throughout the world and throughout time. We are all united in the fact that “all have sinned” (Rom 3:23), and therefore we all should feel responsible for contributing to the sufferings that Jesus underwent. But, thanks be to God, through His Passion that He underwent for all sinners, ourselves included, He has made possible our being reunited as brothers and sisters through the grace of His Resurrection. His victory strengthens our identity as His Chosen People, delivered from slavery, and destined for the new Promised Land that awaits us in Heaven.

I would highly encourage you to consider joining us for as much of the Paschal Triduum as you can, for immersing ourselves in these most sacred mysteries of our salvation along with our fellow pilgrims, we will be renewed in our awareness of the blessing of being members of the same body, and rejoice with the words of the Psalmist: “Blessed the People whose God is the Lord” (Ps 144:15)

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, April 14

7am - Margaret Lemanski
(Jim & Paula Atwood)
12:05pm - Woody Woodhull
(Munie Family)
5:15pm - Don Smargiassi
(Dcn Larry & Bev Smith)

Tuesday, April 15

7am - Mark R. Cass
(Dcn Larry & Bev Smith)
12:05pm - Walter Woodhull
(Munie Family)
5:15pm - NO MASS
6:30pm - Chrism Mass

Wednesday, April 16

7am - Betty & Gene Barish
(Family)
12:05pm - Barbara McGee
(McGee Family)
5:15pm - Deceased Members of
Chiaradonna Family (Geny
Chiaradonna)

Thursday, April 17

6:30pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 18

3pm - Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Saturday, April 19

8pm - Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 20

7am - Raymond & Eulalia Ohl
(Angela Ohl-Marsters)
10am - Special Intention for Bev Smith
(Larry Smith)
5pm - NO MASS



Środowisko (Part 1)

It was April 19th, 1952, the Saturday after Easter that year, and a group of college students in Kraków were intent on escaping the drab, communist-controlled, city for a weekend trip to the Zakopane mountains. Five of the girls dormed together at the convent of the Sisters of Nazareth on Warszawska street and were that evening stealing across town to catch their late-night train south. Several of the men studying at the Kraków Polytechnic whom they had gotten to know through the Catholic chaplaincy in the city were going to meet them at the train station and they were going to spend Sunday hiking and taking in the splendid crocuses that were just then beginning to bloom. When they got to

the station, news arrived that the guys' exam had been moved up so they would miss the trip, instead a man in battered clothes stepped forward to join them for the trip.

Their uncertainty was only slightly relieved when they recognized their college chaplain, Fr. Karol Wojtyła, whom they had gotten to know when attending Mass at St. Florian's just outside of Kraków's old town center where he was also one of the vicars. They had never seen him not wearing his cassock, and furthermore it was absolutely forbidden by the communist authorities for a priest to work with groups of young people. They could go to St. Florian's without too much trouble, but traveling on a train with a priest could get them, and him, in very hot water. Poland was a country under the heel of Soviet Communism. Countless cities had only recently been rebuilt in the aftermath of WWII, during which millions of Poles had been sent to concentration camps and never returned. Millions more had returned, or been forcibly resettled into a newly redrawn Poland within the borders of the USSR. Countless priests and religious and other leaders had been killed during the war, and thousands more by the communists after, and the beatings and disappearances were still commonplace.

Their Catholic faith was one of the few lights amid the darkness and anchors that the Poles still tenaciously held onto in those difficult days. But still ... the train pulled to a stop ... they glanced at their priest not knowing what to do ... "Let's get in" he simply said, and so they did, and so began an epic tale of taking on an evil empire from the inside.

It is a story I look forward to telling over these next weeks. Yes, about Fr. Wojtyła, many years before he was Pope St. John Paul II, and his teaching and investing and engaging and praying for this group of young people. But also, to come to know those ordinary university students – that night six young women: Danuta, Ola, Wanda, Elśbieta, Teresa, and (another) Danuta – who risked much (and gained much) by stepping into authentic Christian community. This was one of the many little groups that would come together over the next few years to form what John Paul would call "my środowisko." That Polish word has a range and depth of meanings something like "environment" or "milieu", and it helpfully captures both the wide variety of different people who would choose to join the fledgling band coalescing around this thoughtful young curate and the sheer quantity of life they would share together. But I think that pronoun "my" adds the essential personal element that was always there when you were with Fr. Wojtyła. These were never just a "congregation" or anonymous members of his chaplaincy, they were a community, friends, companions, fellow explorers and actors in the drama of human life, and yes, fellow combatants for a life of freedom, and truth, and authenticity, within a culture-of-death that sought to erase all that from their hearts.

Far away from the secret police wandering the foothills of the Zakopane mountains, the students slowly warmed up to their incognito chaplain, but as they headed back to the train station for their return journey something of the reality back in the city began to sink back in. "What should we call you on the train?" Danuta shyly asked. Their priest grinned and quoted the most famous line from a trilogy of iconic novels about Polish history and identity, "Call me Uncle" he said. It was the term 'Wujek' in Polish, a nickname they would fondly call him by for the rest of his life.

Fr. Dominic Rankin will return to Kraków next week. Just one thought to tie things together. Notice that Jesus also will be "incognito" in a different fashion when taking on the empire of Satan. He does not come with thunderbolts and heavenly hosts, He comes on a donkey, and takes up the weapon of the cross. Our fight will most likely be more like theirs than what we find in comic books and epic showdowns.

Stewardship of Treasure

April 6th & 7th

Envelopes:	\$5,490.35
Loose:	\$3,276.76
Maintenance:	\$900.80
Total:	\$9,667.91

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!

Sacraments Deaths

Judith K. Ansell
Date of Death: March 21, 2025

Janet Lea Cobb
Date of Death: March 21, 2025

WEEK OF APRIL 14

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library	Adoration 4:00 PM Church	The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 3:00 PM Church	Blessing of the Easter Food 11:00 AM Church	Easter Sunday Masses 7:00 AM & 10:00 AM Church
	OCIA 6:00 PM School Library	Rosary 4:45 PM Church	Mass of the Lord's Supper 6:30 PM Church		Easter Vigil 8:00 PM Church	No 5:00 PM Mass
	Chrim Mass 6:30 PM Church	Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room				

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



EASTER TRIDUUM SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper
6:30pm

The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday
3:00pm

Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday
8:00pm



EASTER SUNDAY MASSES

7:00 AM
10:00 AM



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!

May 15, 7:00 pm in the Cathedral Atrium

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 vcompton@cathedral.dio.org. Cathedral Women's Bible Study, 4 Thursdays, April 24-May 15 @ 6:00pm, \$15.

Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality

On Sunday April 27, the first Millennial Saint, Carlo Acutis, will be canonized in Rome. That same day, a movie about his life will be in theaters nationwide entitled Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality. See locations and tickets at www.carloacutisfilm.com. Around the world there has been great interest in learning more about this fascinating young man and his impact on the youth of today. This movie will be an inspiration to all who watch it to follow Carlo's example by becoming an authentic disciple of Christ.

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.

CALLED TO SHARE BREAD FOR LIFE

Holy Week, a sacred time in the liturgical year, invites us to journey with Christ through his Passion, Death and Resurrection. As we witness the Last Supper and Jesus' gift of the Eucharist, we are reminded of our call to be bread broken for others. Let us draw strength from the Bread of Life and dedicate ourselves to serving our sisters and brothers who bear heavy crosses, bringing hope and the joy of the resurrection to the world. Visit csrricebowl.org/holy-week to learn more.

Grief Share

Cathedral is proud to host a weekly bereavement group. No matter what you are grieving, you are welcome to attend. Every Tuesday, beginning May 6, 1:00-2:300 in the Cathedral School Library. Call the parish office for more information or email Berni at jackandberni96@yahoo.com

GoPublic4Life

In association with Vision 2020-Illinois, The Civic Committee of the Two Hearts Pregnancy Resource Center (formerly Springfield Right To Life) prayerfully invites you to join us in a local GoPublic4Life event that will start at our local offices at 519 N. Bruns Lane, Springfield, IL 62702 on Saturday, April 26th, 2025 from 10:30 am to 12 noon. During this time Pro-Life Warriors will publicly represent the sanctity of every born and preborn human life and will demonstrate their dependence on God by joining in worshipful song, dedicated prayer, and a period of silent witness. For more information, please call the Two Hearts Pregnancy Resource Center at 217-523-2700

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!

Second Collections - Holy Land Collection and Seminarian Collection

Each year, the Holy Father asks every Catholic parish around the world to take up a collection on Good Friday to keep a Christian presence in the Holy Land. This year, help is needed more than ever. The Holy Land Collection supports the work of the Franciscans in the sacred shrines, ministers to the parishes, provides information and education in communities and schools, and cares for the basic needs of people in the Holy Land. During such a difficult time, where we must rebuild not only buildings but so many broken lives, your promotion of this important collection is essential. The Seminarian Collection will help our diocese to educate and form future priests. Our diocese has been blessed with an increasing number of young men who have generously said yes to God's call. We now have 11 seminarians. You can take a personal role in their formation with a generous gift in the special Easter collection.



Sharing the Good News of Jesus: Practical Steps

The second step Patti Stenson of the Newman Connection suggests is Build a genuine connection. Effective evangelization begins with a relationship. Take time to understand where the other person is coming from. A genuine connection is not about trying to “fix” someone or immediately correcting their beliefs.

When Jesus met the woman at the well, He didn't dive headfirst into points of conflict. Instead, He connected with her on what was common to both of them—their need for water. It wasn't until Jesus asked her for a drink that He made the connection between earthly water and the waters of grace that He offers us all. He only shared this with her once she showed some level of openness.

People must trust us at the human level. We can't take someone to higher ground until we've found common ground. This is where having a relationship based on trust makes the difference.

Around the Diocese

- **Women's Day of Recollection**, Thursday, April 24, at Sacred Heart Church (730 S. 12th St., Springfield), from 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. There will be a meditation given by a priest, time for silent prayer and reflection, a doctrinal talk, and Benediction. Confession and spiritual direction with the priest will be available. All women throughout the diocese are invited to attend. The spiritual guidance at the Recollection is entrusted to a priest of the Prelature Opus Dei.
- **Springfield Deanery Council of Catholic Women Meeting**, Saturday, May 3rd, 10 am at St. Joseph Church, in the Parish Center, 1345 N. 6th Street, Spfld. Sr. Mary Ellen Backes OSU will speak about the Water For Women program. Lunch will be served with a \$5 suggested donation. A business meeting and tour of the Ronald McDonald House in Spfld are also on the agenda. If you have any pop tabs saved, please bring them with you. All women are invited to attend! RSVP by April 27th to Diane Mounce, St. Joe's Pastoral Council Secretary, 217-971-2350, voice and text.
- **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. 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.