

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

APRIL 20, 2025 | THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



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 16

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

THE VERY REVEREND BRIAN C. ALFORD, V.E.
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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.



Christ my Hope is Arisen!

Alleluia! He is Risen! One of the more beautiful parts of the liturgy on Easter morning is the proclamation of the Easter Sequence, sung right before the Gospel. This hymn dates back roughly 1000 years, and the Church has required its use on Easter Sunday since 1570. Suffice it to say that it has stood the test of time!

In the middle of the hymn, the attention turns to St. Mary Magdalene, who was the first witness of the Resurrection of Jesus. The hymn asks: "Speak, Mary, declaring, what you saw, wayfaring." Her response follows:

The tomb of Christ, who is living,
The glory of Jesus' resurrection;
bright angels attesting,
The shroud and napkin resting.
Yes, Christ my hope is arisen;
to Galilee he goes before you.

During this Jubilee Year, as we are invited to be pilgrims of hope, we find in St. Mary Magdalene a model for us to imitate. Recall that she was present when Jesus died on the Cross. But even in the sadness of that dark moment, she still possessed hope. It was hope that brought her to the tomb early Easter morning, and when she sees the Risen Christ, she is overjoyed as her hopes are fulfilled. We then read in John's Gospel:

Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and what he told her. (Jn 20:17-18)

Mary Magdalene, having had her hope fulfilled, now goes out to share that message of hope with others, not content to keep it to herself. She becomes a pilgrim of hope, or in the words of Pope Francis, she becomes an "Apostle to the Apostles." The message of great hope that Christ is Risen begins to spread, thanks to Mary's witness of hope.

On first hearing this hymn, people might confuse the mention of the name Mary to be that of our Blessed Mother. And although this is not the Mary it is referring to, nevertheless we can turn to Mary, the Mother of God, on this day as well. For she too was at the foot of the Cross when her Son died. Although she would have suffered greater anguish than Mary Magdalene, her hope was far greater. Therefore we can turn to her as well on this Easter morning, asking her to pray for us who look forward in hope to the Lord's return in glory. I share a portion of the final paragraph of Pope Benedict's document on hope, *Spe salvi*, in which he reflects on Mary as a great model of hope, especially in the light of this great feast we celebrate today:

In this faith, which even in the darkness of Holy Saturday bore the certitude of hope, you made your way towards Easter morning. The joy of the Resurrection touched your heart and united you in a new way to the disciples, destined to become the family of Jesus through faith. In this way you were in the midst of the community of believers, who in the days following the Ascension prayed with one voice for the gift of the Holy Spirit (cf. Acts 1:14) and then received that gift on the day of Pentecost. The "Kingdom" of Jesus was not as might have been imagined. It began in that hour, and of this "Kingdom" there will be no end. Thus you remain in the midst of the disciples as their Mother, as the Mother of hope. Holy Mary, Mother of God, our Mother, teach us to believe, to hope, to love with you. Show us the way to his Kingdom! Star of the Sea, shine upon us and guide us on our way! (SS 50)

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 21

7am - Betty Rogers
(Family)
5:15pm - NO MASS (Easter Monday)

Tuesday, April 22

7am - Monique Gaston
(Gregory & Marie Fleck)
5:15pm - Tom McGee
(McGee family)

Wednesday, April 23

7am - John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - Diana Schumacher
(Daniel Schumacher)

Thursday, April 24

7am - Dhabalt Family
(Bev Hoffman)
5:15pm - Rev. Msgr. James O'Shea
(McGee Family)

Friday, April 25

7am - Michael Poggi
(Family)
5:15pm - Intention for Cathy
(DA Drago)

Saturday, April 26

8am - Donald Borre
(Family Intention)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, April 27

7am - Cathy Furkin
(Family)
10am - Helen & Edward Hmielak
(Karen & John Kjellquist)
5pm - Mercedes & Charles Nesbitt
(Kathy Frank)



Środowisko (Part 2, Hope)

It was a bitterly cold February day in 1941 when Karol Wojtyła returned from his labors at the Zakrzówek quarry. He walked back, as usual, with a coworker and friend Juliusz Kydryński, whose mother gave Karol some dinner to take back for him and his father. When Karol entered his father's room at the end of their dark hallway, he found his bedridden father slumped over, and when he tried to lift him up, discovered that during that day he had died. They had nicknamed their drafty and dark apartment "the catacomb." That evening it was heart-wrenchingly apropos. "I was not at my mother's death, I was not at my brother's death, I was not at my father's death. At twenty, I had already lost all the people I loved." The distraught son ran for a priest from St. Stanislaw's to give his father the Last Rites (they can be given when there is

doubt about whether the person is dead) and all that night he stayed kneeling by his father's side. Juliusz came to be with him, though Karol ever after said that he had never felt so alone.

My friends, this week we have stayed with Christ as he approached His death for our sake, spending time at Jesus' cross and tomb, watching Him win for us the grace to make us saints. It is a tremendous gift to be with Him! We will all face our share of catacombs, crosses, or calvaries too. Perhaps right now for you that is an interior place of suffering or temptation, or a loss in your family or brokenness in a relationship, or maybe it is the burdens and fears that are just part of being human. Holy Week reminds us that in every suffering we are with Our Lord.

But there is more in the cross than that!

The Kydryńska's invited Karol to come live with them for a time, intense prayer continuing to pour from his heart. "He went to Mass every day, he prayed a lot in his room, and he lay prostrate" they remembered of him, practices would mark the rest of his life. We do not get to see the grace at work within him but about a year later Karol chose to enter the underground seminary (the Nazi's still occupying Poland, and most of Europe). It was not the obvious choice for a man with many young friends, fervently engaged in theatre and acting, and wanting to finish a degree in philology, BUT it makes sense if he took that year to pray like his recently-passed father. In Crossing the Threshold of Hope, JP II recalls from his childhood: "... after my mother's death, [my father's] life became one of constant prayer. Sometimes I would wake up during the night and find my father on his knees, just as I would always see him kneeling in the parish church. We never spoke about a vocation to the priesthood, but his example was in a way my first seminary, a kind of domestic seminary."

Crosses, losses, sufferings, these do not just make us more like Jesus, they incorporate us into His saving the world! St. Paul says to the Colossians, "I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church." Paul is not saying that carrying his cross adds something to Jesus' or completes something Jesus neglected to do on calvary. Rather, the phrase means that Paul carrying his cross – because he has been bonded with Christ by baptism – is in fact carrying Christ's cross, or better yet, Christ is carrying His cross through Paul. My friends, when you pick up your cross – whatever it is – Jesus' perfect act of obedience, and love, and trust – the act that saved the world – happens through your heart, your hands, your will, your body. Do not underestimate your cross!

In 1946 (the Communists now in charge) Karol was ordained a priest on All Saints day and celebrated three 'first' Masses the following day (as priests are allowed to do on All Souls Day). He wore black vestments, and offered one Mass for his deceased mother, one for his deceased brother, and one for his deceased father. One might think it was a somber day. It was not.

It is a hard truth that there is no way to Easter except by Calvary, no way to the Father except through Christ. But the thing is that resurrection is not a gift if redemption has not happened yet. Going and eating from the tree of life is a terrible eternity if the hurt and separation from the tree of knowledge has not yet been remedied! To be alive forever, but stuck in sin, would be hell – it is hell. BUT, when we carry our cross through, with, and in Jesus, then the gift of eternal life bursts into our lives now. When Fr. Wojtyła raised the consecrated host – and whenever we receive the Eucharist while carrying our own crosses – not only are we brought back to Holy Week, and not only are our crosses transfigured into His, but the resurrection is also renewed in us. Angels descend, Christ steps into our midst, forgiveness and joy are poured forth, and we are sent out with news of the greatest come back in history.

And we aren't bystanders! That Good News is part of our crosses too.

Fr. Dominic Rankin

Stewardship of Treasure

April 12th & 13th

Collection numbers were unavailable at the time of publication. Please check back next weekend for these collection numbers.

March Online Contributions

\$21,710.74

March 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!

WEEK OF APRIL 21

<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 Rosary 4:45 PM Church 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 K of C Meeting 6:00 PM School Classroom	Rosary 4:45 PM Church		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?



May First Friday Concert Series

Join us on Friday, May 2, 2025 at 7pm in the Cathedral for a First Friday Concert! May's concert will feature Kyle Jones, Classical Saxophone. The First Friday Concert Series is sponsored by the Staab Family, directed by Mark Gifford, and is free and open to the public. All are welcome!



Sunset Brunch and Brushes

Join us for our final paint event on Friday, May 16th at the Cathedral! Doors open at 6pm and painting starts at 6:30pm. In lieu of payment for this event, we will ask that all attendees bring a donation for a local charity (to be announced closer to the event). RSVPs are due by Friday, May 9th, to confirm your spot and supplies - no exceptions. Visit <https://dio.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/226/responses/new> to make your reservation today! Any questions can be sent to Kim Gunter (kgunter@cathedral.dio.org) or Haley Dutton (hdutton@cathedral.dio.org).



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.

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.

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.

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

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, 1:00-2:30 in the Cathedral School Library. Call the parish office for more information or email Berni at jackandberni96@yahoo.com

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!

HAPPY EASTER!

As our CRS Rice Bowl journey comes to an end, may the Eucharist continue to transform our lives and help us respond to God's call to serve our global family. Let us commit to sharing the joy of the Resurrection with people in our local community and around the world. Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl or donate online at crsricebowl.org/donate.



Sharing the Good News of Jesus: Practical Steps

Share Your Experience

People can argue with theology, but they can't argue with your personal experience of God's love. Share how your faith has impacted your life and how the sacraments—especially the Eucharist—have deepened your relationship with Him. When sharing your story, focus on how God has worked in your life in tangible ways. As St. Peter advises, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

Personal stories of faith are powerful! By being open and vulnerable about your own journey, you invite others to see how a relationship with Christ could transform their lives too.

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.
- **Springfield Deanery Holy Hour for Vocations**, 7:00pm on Sunday, May 4 at Holy Family Catholic Church, 2440 S. Franklin Street Rd., Decatur, IL, 62521. Please join us for an evening of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as we pray for an increase in vocations to the Priesthood, Religious Life, and Holy Matrimony.
- **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 springfielddop.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.