

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

AUGUST 22, 2021 | 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**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 3 ISSUE 34

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 PETER CHINEKE
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
IN RESIDENCE

THE REVEREND DOMINIC VAHLING
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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!

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.

We hope that your visit to our Cathedral is one of grace and beauty and that you feel at home in the mother church. We also hope that you will find this edition of the Cathedral Weekly to be both informative and spiritually enriching. May God bless you and yours!



Frequent Reception of the Eucharist

A few weeks ago, we heard in our Sunday Gospel reading the first of the seven “I AM” statements that Jesus uses in the Gospel of John. This first statement: “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35) might be His most important title, as it is at the heart of His teaching on how He offers Himself to us in His Body and Blood in the Eucharist, which is the “source and summit” of our lives as Catholics. In that same Gospel passage, as Jesus is describing this gift He will give, His disciples say: “Sir, give us this bread always.” (Jn 6:34) Their hearts had been stirred and they desired to receive this gift as often as possible.

It is my hope that our focus on the Eucharist over the past several weeks has stirred in your hearts a desire to receive our Lord in Holy Communion with greater love and to receive Him more frequently. It is on the topic of frequent reception of the Eucharist that I would like to conclude our reflections on this most important topic of our faith. You may recall that I have mentioned Pope St. Pius X in a couple of my Sunday homilies, how he was the pope that lowered the age for first reception of Holy Communion. He also wrote about the proper motivations we should have when receiving the Eucharist. One of the most significant topics he addressed in his writings on the Eucharist was the encouragement to receive Holy Communion more frequently, even daily if possible. Before that time, frequent reception of Holy Communion, even every Sunday, was not very common. Some Catholics were content only to receive Holy Communion once a year during the Easter Season, which is the origin of the term “Easter Duty.” To instill a greater love for this gift and to open the door to the graces contained in this gift, the Holy Father wrote:

But since it is plain that by the frequent or daily reception of the Holy Eucharist union with Christ is strengthened, the spiritual life more abundantly sustained, the soul more richly endowed with virtues, and the pledge of everlasting happiness more securely bestowed on the recipient, therefore, parish priests, confessors and preachers, according to the approved teaching of the Roman Catechism should exhort the faithful frequently and with great zeal to this devout and salutary practice.

The Eucharist, as Pope Francis reminds us, is medicine for our weaknesses, and the more we receive this medicine, the stronger we become. It has been my experience that those who commit to frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist make significantly greater progress in living the life of Christian discipleship and find greater peace and fulfillment in their lives.

Here at the Cathedral, we have daily Mass at 7 am and 5:15 pm Monday through Friday, and at 8 am on Saturday morning. Maybe you cannot make it to Mass every day, but could you start by trying to get to Mass for at least one daily Mass a week apart from Sunday? That is how I started many years ago, going on Friday morning on my day off. As I grew in my love for Jesus in the Eucharist, I wanted more, so I started going nearly every morning. That decision to make the Eucharist a daily part of my life was one of the primary catalysts that led to my entering the seminary and eventually becoming a priest. Frequent reception of the Eucharist transformed my life drastically, and very much for the better. The Lord wants to do the same in your lives as well. Will you give Him the opportunity to do so?

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, August 23

7am - Edith June Hackenmueller
(Harry Hackenmueller)
5:15pm - Alfred G. Nicoud
(Tim Nicoud)

Tuesday, August 24

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath
(Augustine Eleyidath)
5:15pm - John & Edith Bakalar
(John Busciacco)

Wednesday, August 25

7am - Special Intention for Mark Beagles (Bernie Ely)
5:15pm - Jean Anne Staab
(Court, Lynn, Jen, & Drew Dickason)

Thursday, August 26

7am - Richard Willaredt
(Margaret Barth)
5:15pm - Special Intention for Mark Beagles (Bernie Ely)

Friday, August 27

7am - John Vogt, Jr.
(Bill Vogt)
5:15pm - Adrian Mercier
(Marlene Mulford)

Saturday, August 28

8am - Special Intention for Faustina Gray (Nick & Teresa Gray)
4pm - For the People

Sunday, August 29

7am - Barbara Litzelman
(Fran, Elaine, & Doug)
10am - Special Intention for Jake Pritchett (Family)
5pm - Jean Anne Staab
(Mary & Patty Fulgenzi)



Fishing with Father Alford

It is almost twenty months since Covid-19 changed nearly everything in the world. Schools closed. Churches closed. Many big businesses shut down temporarily while others closed indefinitely. Still, several small businesses died a painful death. Amid all these, people's social life is stifled to death as humanity, especially the sick and the elderly, continues to suffocate in social isolation.

While things are easing off gradually, people are almost getting used to the new lifestyle of social isolation imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. One can hardly deny the possible emotional and psychological consequences of this new lifestyle. People are getting used to being ALONE. Some of us are becoming comfortable with lonely life so much that attending any social events and making physical contacts and connections with other people are gradually becoming undesirable.

To address this social conundrum, last Wednesday, August 11th, we had a fun-filled parish event – "Fishing with Father Alford." This event, the first time in our Cathedral parish, took place at the Villa Maria Retreat Center shore of Lake Springfield. The "Fishing with Father Alford" was intended to help our people have a fun social time with one another and their priests after these loooooong months of isolation and social distancing. That goal was met with about thirty parishioners and friends gathering for nearly three hours of fishing, snacking, and chatting. There were also joyful shouts whenever someone caught a fish.



Personally, the highlight of the fishing last week was seeing Julia, one of our youngest parishioners at the event, smile and take pictures with the fishes before they were thrown back to the lake. The joy in her face and in the faces of the other children that evening was deeply Christlike! Their presence and the fun we all had reenacted a friendship and camaraderie so deep to be captured with words. I am sure that Julia and others who were part of the event will agree with me.

In these times of uncertainty with a lingering pandemic, we need to make intentional efforts to stay socially and spiritually connected to maintain our sanity. Attending Masses and other parish and community events are important if we must survive these unusual times and maintain healthy emotional and spiritual lives.

For an added opportunity, this time for a more spiritual encounter with one another and with our Lord Jesus Christ, I am inviting everyone to a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, in October. I plan on this to be a time of short retreat and spiritual renewal for everyone. We will also have a holy time to pray together, listen to a reflection, have a tour of the Shrine, do a Holy Hour of Adoration and Benediction, and celebrate the sacraments in that beautiful Shrine of Our Blessed Mother.

The registration for this pilgrimage is ongoing and will end on Monday, August 30, 2021. Please call the parish office at 217-522-3342 to register. For any questions about the pilgrimage, call me at the parish office or contact me through email at pchineke@dio.org.

Father Peter Chineke serves as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and as co-chaplain of Sacred Heart-Griffin High School.

Stewardship of Treasure August 14th & 15th

Envelopes:	\$5,132.00
Loose:	\$2,215.00
Maintenance:	\$230.00
Total:	\$7,577.00

July EFT: \$20,888.40

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!



Befriending the Saints

It's hard to play *Fur Elise* if you had never heard it ... hard to pray the Breviary if you have never sat down with someone and seen how it is done ... hard to back squat 300lbs unless you learn from someone who knows how to do it.

It is also hard to be holy if you've never gotten to know a saint.

I think it was this deep-down realization that got me interested in telling the lives of the saints last year when we all started writing for the bulletin and this past year digging into the sacraments has only deepened my love and appreciation for the saints. I cannot recount everyone we got to know last year, but how can I forget the zeal of St. Francis Xavier – bringing baptism to as many as he could?! Or, St. Don Bosco – his vision of the Eucharist as one of the pillars that holds us on the path to Heaven?! Or, St. Patrick – writing his own Confessio, recounting the tremendous mercy of God, offered to all of us in Confession? Or, Mary and Joseph – their loveliness and holiness in marriage?!

The thing is, we can study the scriptures and peruse the catechism, but if we never get to know concrete examples of the faith lived-out, we can struggle to turn the brain-knowledge of our faith into a heart transformed by grace and a life alive with God's love. But if we do have those examples, not only can we be inspired by their lives, and we can see in them the Gospel incarnate again and again. But also, the saints are more than examples for us, they are friends and helpers along the way! They not only have run this race before us, they are now on the sidelines cheering and coaching us along the way. We see how they responded to the particular circumstances of their day, and we can speak to them about the particular circumstances of our day, and in friendship with them we grow in our friendship with God.

This year, our overall theme for parish catechesis will be continuing onto the third pillar of the Catechism (after the first – on the creed: the what we believe, and the second – on the sacraments: the where we are sustained in our belief; and before the fourth pillar of prayer: Who we are in communion with). This third pillar is the moral life – often called “Life in Christ”: the how we live out our faith – and though I am certain the other priests here will offer tremendous insights into our conscience, as well as the virtues, commandments, and beatitudes that composes our roadmap to sanctity, I am all the more excited to learn those things in and through the lives of our saints.

Every saint has wrestled with vice, and discovered virtue; has fallen short of God's commands, and received His forgiveness and continued call. And they remain for us not only models, but continuing members of our Church, if in the life beyond! This week, I have not chosen any saint in particular, but I offer to all of us the question: Have I befriended any saints? St. Bartholomew (August 24th), St. Monica (August 27th), and St. Augustine (August 28th) are famous ones we celebrate this week. Do you know their story? Do you know what they struggled with? Do you know why they are a saint? What about St. Emily de Vialar (spent her life in care for the poor, Feast day August 24th), St. Zephirin (Pope, battled heresy, Feast Day August 26th), or St. Sabine (Roman Martyr, Feast Day August 29th)? There are so many saints, spend a few minutes getting to know them, and then spend a few minutes talking your life over with them!

Fr. Dominic Rankin has long loved Pope St. John Paul II, but really got to know him better during his seminary studies in Rome, where the great saint lived so many years of his life, and is now buried in St. Peter's Basilica. One day, praying at JP II's tomb, he was saddened by the fact that he would never be able to join the great pope to celebrate Mass. And then God gave a great grace: at every Mass, everyone who is in union with Christ, is reunited around Him. And so, we cannot be closer to the saints, including those we love the most, than when we go to Mass.

Which saints are with you in your pew? Which saints have I concelebrated Mass with?!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Cathedral

Thank you from Safe Families!

Thank you for allowing Safe Families to come and worship with you at the Cathedral Of the Immaculate Conception! We were so blessed to be able to take part in Mass and meet the amazing people in your parish. We were able to speak with numerous families who were excited to learn about Safe Families and how they can fulfill God's call to love and care for others! We are so excited to see how God uses the people of your parish to do his work through Safe Families. We can not thank the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception enough for the blessing we received while joining your worship.

Knights of Columbus Father Tolton Council 16126

Father Tolton Council 16126 of the Knights of Columbus has their regular membership meeting on Thursday, August 26 at 7 PM at the Cathedral School. Among other topics, the council will be organizing volunteers to help with the annual Intellectual Disabilities fundraising drive at HyVee in September. Money collected goes to local organizations that work with people with intellectual disabilities. Volunteers do not have to be members of the council to participate. The council is also planning a dinner fundraiser for the parish Catholic school scholarship fund. Men interested in becoming members can contact the council at info.kofc16126@gmail.com or visit www.kofc.org/join.

A Parish Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Join Fr. Peter on an overnight Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, on Friday and Saturday, October 15-16, 2021! While seeking a deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ through devotions to our Blessed Mother, Catholics from around the world make this pilgrimage. Achieving this spiritual goal, many of these pilgrims end up attracting countless miracles and blessings for themselves and their loved ones.

To register, please call the Parish Office at 217-522-3342. The payment will be \$270.00 for a private room with a standard king-size bed and \$230.00 to share a room with someone else. The payment will cover the transportation, hotel, bus tip, and shrine donation expenses. Payments will be accepted by checks, cash, or EFT and must be addressed to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Springfield, IL. The last day for registration with a full or half payment (\$150.00) will be Monday, August 30, 2021. For half-payments, complete payment will be due on Monday, September 27, 2021.

For any questions, clarifications, or inquiries about the pilgrimage, contact Fr. Peter Chineke at 217-522-3342 ext. 134 or by email at pchineke@dio.org.

Parish Party

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 25 for a Parish Party!! Watch the Weekly, website, and eWeeklys for more information to come!

First Friday Concert - September 3, 2021

Sacred Sounds, Sacred Spaces at the Cathedral will host a First Friday Concert on September 3rd, 2021 at 7PM featuring Young Musicians - Local High School and College Musicians! This concert is free and open to the public.

Discovering Our Dignity - Study of Women of the Bible

Through their stories recorded in Scripture, women of the Bible reach out to touch our "present" in a tender, honest and loving way—woman to woman—with ancient wisdom, sage advice, and insights from sorrowful failures and emotional wounds. Learn how God worked in the lives of Biblical women:

- Sisters Leah and Rachel overcame jealousy when they learned that God offered all that they really needed
- Abigail's faith was so strong she didn't despair, no matter how unpleasant life was with her husband
- Deborah had been given grace by God to act as His prophet, for the good of her people
- Mary the Blessed Mother's "yes" to God—her fiat—changed everything. How else did her words and deeds influence Jesus, and vice versa?

Thursdays at 10:00am and 1:00pm beginning October 7. Workbook is \$40. Register by contacting Vicki at vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or 217-522-3342.

It was so fulfilling spending a few hours a week with spiritual, fun, sincere, giving women! I will most definitely continue with another Bible Study with this amazing group.

- Pamela Hargan, Parishioner of the Cathedral

Catechesis for Our Children

The Rite of Baptism emphasizes that parents are the first teachers of their children in the ways of the faith. The Second Vatican Council calls the family the "domestic church" insisting that "parents, by word and example, are the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children" [cf. Lumen Gentium §11]. Given the emphasis placed on parents, we want to help parents to be what they are called to be in Christ: true heralds of the Gospel to their children. This is why the Cathedral has adopted A Family of Faith: Catechesis for the Whole Family, a family-based catechesis and formation opportunity meant to assist parents with the education of their children in the faith.

We are excited to launch Year 3, Life in Christ, in September. All our families with school aged children, Pre-K to gr. 8, are invited to join us, two Sundays a month for formation and fun. At the same time a separate program for our teens will be offered. We will be mailing registration packets to all families who have joined us in the past. If you are new to Family of Faith, please call the parish office to request a packet or visit www.spicathedral.org/family-of-faith. We hope you will join us!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

SDCCW 92nd Convention

The 92nd Convention of the Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (SDCCW) will be held on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 in Jacksonville, IL at Hamilton's South Ballroom, 110 North East Street from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Program begins at 9 a.m. Registration forms, Pot-of-Gold (50/50) and Quilt Raffle Tickets, (\$1, 6/\$5) will be available in the Atrium after Saturday, 4 pm and Sunday Masses. Please stop by and support this worthy cause which gives scholarships to Diocesan young women, contributes to the Seminary Fund and supports Right to Life, Catholic Relief Services Projects in addition to other charitable works.

Women's Day of Recollection

A Women's Day of Recollection will be held this coming Thursday, August 26, at Sacred Heart Church (730 S. 12th St., Springfield), from 12:45 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. There will be two meditations given by a priest and a 30-minute period for silent Adoration between the meditations. The ladies may take advantage of the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and spiritual direction during this time, as well as following the Recollection. 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.

Part-Time Cook/Server

The Villa Maria Catholic Life Center is looking for a few new people to join their staff! The Cook/Server assists with the preparation, cooking and serving of meals for small and large groups at the center. The cook/server is responsible for cleaning kitchen equipment and utensils, the dining room, and the buffet equipment after a service. The position also assists in keeping the kitchen clean, organized and prepped for the next service. Morning and evening shifts available. More about the position can be found at www.dio.org/jobs. To Apply: Please email resume and/or completed application to hr@dio.org or send to: Diocese of Springfield in Illinois Office for Human Resources, Attn: Erin Danaher, 1615 West Washington, Springfield, IL 62702

Riverton/Spaulding Fall Festival

It's time to re-open the Riverton/Spaulding communities with friends, families, festivities, and fun! Come out and join the Riverton Knights of Columbus Marian Council #3914 on Saturday, August 28 from 4:30pm-10:00pm at the Field of Dreams, 6237-6239 Riverton Road in Riverton, IL! Musical entertainment will be provided by DJ Brad Schroeder with karaoke, limbo, kids games, chicken dance, and much more! Food and refreshments will be available for purchase, and fireworks begin at dusk.

Coordinator of Restored Order Catechesis and Diocesan Liturgies

The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is seeking a mission-driven, enthusiastic individual for the role of Coordinator of Restored Order Catechesis and Diocesan Liturgies. This position is responsible for organizing, directing, and fostering excitement and participation for the Diocesan-sponsored Masses at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, IL. This position not only coordinates the liturgies and accompanying events, but also assists parishes and schools in catechizing students, parents, volunteers, and staff. The full job description can be found at www.dio.org/jobs. To Apply: Please email resume and/or completed application to hr@dio.org or send to: Diocese of Springfield in Illinois Office for Human Resources, Attn: Erin Danaher, 1615 West Washington, Springfield, IL 62702

Become a Dominican Associate

The Springfield Dominican Associates are called to embody the Dominican charism, hear and proclaim God's Word, and promote the dignity of all persons. Their lives are rooted in prayer, study, community, and ministry. Through diverse gifts, they strive to participate in the mission of the Church by putting into action our call to preach the Word with our lives. Those interested in becoming a Dominican Associate must complete a nine-month formation process in which they study dimensions of church and Dominican life. For more information, please visit www.springfieldop.org.

A Scout's Duty to God

Duty to God is an important part of Scouting and all Scouts in 7th grade and up are invited to earn the Ad Altare Dei religious emblem from the Catholic Committee on Scouting. There will be an orientation session on Sunday, August 29 at 6:30 PM at the Catholic Pastoral Center in Springfield with group meetings following every 4th Sunday through May 2022. Scouts in a Scouts BSA or Venturing Crew who are in 7th grade and older are eligible. For more information, go to <https://scouts.dio.org> or contact the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting at (217) 698-8500, ext. 154 or email scouting@dio.org.

Sacred Heart Church, Virden Annual Fried Chicken Dinner

Sacred Heart Church in Virden will be holding a "Drive-thru only" Annual Fried Chicken Dinner on Sunday, September 12, 2021 beginning at 11am and serving while supplies last at the K of C Hall. The packaged meal includes our signature fried chicken (1/2 chicken pieces), mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, and a cookie, all for \$10. 50/50 raffle tickets will be sold - \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Entrance into the parking lot secures your dinner order! Thank you for your support!

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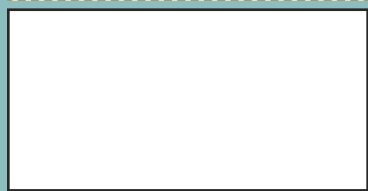
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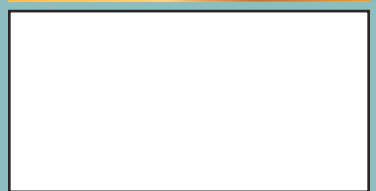
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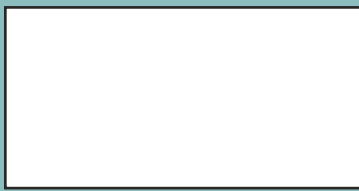
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