

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021 | 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 36

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
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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!



Life in Christ

Labor Day marks the unofficial end of Summer for many people, especially for students who are resuming (or have already resumed) another year of education. With each new year comes new material that deepens the student's understanding of current concepts or introduces him or her to new concepts. Such is the case with our Family of Faith family catechesis program as well. As you will recall from last year, I stressed that our entire parish community is a family, so we are all invited into this process of ongoing formation in our faith.

Last year, our focus was on the second major section of the Catechism which deals with the Sacraments. This year, we continue to build on that foundation and move into the third major section of the Catechism: "Life in Christ." The connection between these two sections can be seen in the introductory paragraphs of this section where we read:

Incorporated into Christ by Baptism, Christians are "dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" and so participate in the life of the Risen Lord. Following Christ and united with him, Christians can strive to be "imitators of God as beloved children, and walk in love" by conforming their thoughts, words and actions to the "mind ... which is yours in Christ Jesus," and by following his example. (CCC 1694)

At the most fundamental level, the sacraments give us grace, which is a participation in the life of Christ, thus making it possible for us to live our life "through Him, with Him, and in Him." And living our lives in union with Christ is the most basic explanation of what this section of the Catechism is all about. We will cover various topics during this year, including the virtues, the Commandments, the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, the Beatitudes, and Catholic Social Teaching. All of these topics touch on how we should live our lives as Christians - every aspect of our lives - thoughts, words, and actions. The goal of our lives is not just following a set of rules, but it is all about letting the life of Christ be continued in our lives.

When it comes to the moral life taught by the Church, we so often fail to understand this most important point. Many people only hear "do this" or "don't do that" and it seems like the Church is trying to control our lives. But do we ever stop to put those commandments in the proper context? Do we truly appreciate that what Christ (and by extension the Church) teaches us and asks of us is actually a true path to freedom and joy? We will only come to that understanding if we start with the person of Christ and our relationship with Him, hearing His words addressed to us that summarize His desire for us in offering us His teaching: "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

Do you desire this for your life, to have life and have it more abundantly? I guarantee the answer for each of us is a resounding "yes"! So what do we have to lose in following the way of life Christ and the Church invites us to live? I hope you will come to discover, over the course of this year, that we have absolutely nothing good to lose. Rather, by letting the life of Christ be lived in us, we have everything to gain, most importantly eternal life in 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, September 6

7am - Anna A. Eleyidath

(Augustine Eleyidath)

5:15pm - NO MASS

Tuesday, September 7

7am - Special Intention for Gregory

Fleck (Chris Sommer)

5:15pm - Jean Anne Staab

(Brian and Michelle Lauer)

Wednesday, September 8

7am - Michael Poggi

(Family)

5:15pm - Rev. Samuel Kothapalli

(Joan Stannard)

Thursday, September 9

7am - Special Intention for Daniel

Gauwitz (Chris Sommer)

5:15pm - Jean Anne Staab

(Court, Lynn, Jen, & Drew Dickason)

Friday, September 10

7am - Jean Greenwald Reno

(Fred & Rita Greenwald)

5:15pm - Special Intention for

Bianca (D. A. Drago)

Saturday, September 11

8am - Mary Ann Midden

(William Midden)

4pm - Tommy Regan

(Vick & Janet Burghart)

Sunday, September 12

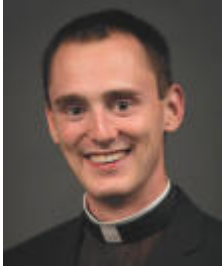
7am - Angeline Sherman

(Bob & Diane Buretta)

10am - Jean Reno Zimmerman

(Jan Paulus & Marjorie Paulus)

5pm - For the People



The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Feast Day: September 8th

We can thank God that we live in the “land of the free and home of the brave”, but the fact of the matter is, if each of us are not moral individuals – upright, wholistic, virtuous, saintly, generous, rightly-ordered, that kind of thing – than freedom just collapses into ruckus, and bravery quickly devolves into rash brazenness (and our national home doesn’t last much longer than that). This is not just a Catholic idea either! Benjamin Franklin, to someone who asked him what kind of government the new country would have as the Constitutional Convention closed, famously quipped “a republic”, adding the essential words “if you can keep it.” John Adams said it more directly: “Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” And, George Washington, in his final speech to the American people, spoke to this truth at length:

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. ... And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion.

This week I open with these lines because I want to emphasize the desperate need our country has for moral individuals, and then I want to point that need directly at my own heart, and beg the Lord for the grace of conversion within myself. It is so easy to point to terrorists, or tyrants, or television, or temperature-change, or anything or anyone other than myself and say “that’s the problem”; they need conversion. And it is way easier to complain, or debate, or ignore any of those other things, and therefore push the conundrum out of my area of responsibility, hopefully at least to Capital Street, or maybe as far away as Washington DC, or Afghanistan, or maybe China.

But all of this sells ourselves short, and neglects the chance we have in our heart and in our home to cultivate Christian living. This week we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Nowhere in the Gospel do we get this precious scene, and yet what human joy must have filled the hearts of Joachim and Anne as they finally held their baby girl, and what supernatural joy must have filled the saints in heaven as God revealed to them His desire for her role in salvation history! What has this to do with Benjamin Franklin?! Mary, before we get to her saying ‘yes’ to Gabriel, or holding Jesus in Bethlehem, or staying near through the cross and to the upper room ... before any of that happened, she was a girl, with parents, and she was given the gift of a holy heart.

This happened, at first, at the exact moment she was conceived. This is what we celebrate at the Immaculate Conception. Yet we also celebrate her birthday, just as we celebrate all of ours as well: the day we were born and held and seen by our family. What was so supernaturally special on Mary’s birthday that we dedicate a feast to it in the Church? On this day, Mary’s immaculate heart was entrusted by God to the care of her parents, and they cared for her well. Virtue, holiness, morality, freedom... all of these are things that must be established and maintained! Attacks will come upon us, and upon those we love, from every corner, to distract or destroy the holiness we are meant to have within. First of all, we must do this in our own hearts – maintaining our interior freedom, our moral compass, our holiness and virtue – and then spouses for each other, parents for their children, teachers for their students, and pastors for their parishioners.

And if we have done this well, we need not worry about much else!

Fr. Dominic Rankin fondly remembers celebrating birthdays in his home growing up. The Rankin tradition was birthday cake for breakfast, followed by some sort of family excursion during the day. The zoo in St. Louis remains a highlight from one such occasion. Unfortunately, he was too rambling this week to fit a photograph of the day. Maybe next time!



*I have read the CCC on what it says happened when Jesus descended into hell. Still not clear. Could you explain a little more?
- John Sivak, Parishioner of the Cathedral*

In the Apostles' Creed, the Church professes that Jesus "was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead." The meaning of the word "hell" in this sentence means something very different than our common understanding today. Today, if someone "goes to hell" it means that they have chosen to be eternally separated from God. This is a state of "definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed" (CCC 1033). Hell is the opposite of heaven where God and the souls of the just now dwell. In the Scriptures, the word "hell" is used to translate Sheol (from Hebrew) and Hades (from Greek).

In the Apostles' Creed, the hell that it is referring to is a place that is now empty, which we can call a realm of the dead. With Adam's sin, the gates of heaven were closed, and only when Jesus died on the cross were they reopened. Before Christ's death on the cross, souls could not get into heaven, so they went to a sort of holding place, waiting for someone to redeem them. When Jesus died, his human soul also went to the realm of the dead, like countless dead before him. However, he did not go there to stay but to lead all the holy souls to heaven. Imagine Jesus entering a room filled with millions of people, who are waiting for someone to lead them to heaven. When Jesus enters, he is recognized as the Savior by the holy ones, and the devil finally realizes that he has been duped. Up until that point, the devil probably did not know that Jesus' death would lead to the gates of heaven being reopened. Jesus then led a great army of holy people into heaven, including Adam, Eve, Abraham, Moses, and John the Baptist, and all the holy people we read about in the Old Testament.

The sin of Adam caused the gates of paradise to be closed, while the death of the new Adam (Jesus) caused the gates of paradise to be reopened. There is a tradition in art of depicting this great meeting between Jesus and Adam, commonly called the "harrowing of hell." An ancient homily puts these words in the mouth of Jesus: "I am your God, who for your sake have become your son. I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead" (CCC 635).

Christ's work of salvation was possible because he was a divine person with two natures (human and divine). He became subject to the laws of our nature so that he would be able to experience human death and pay a price that no other human being could. However, because he was God, he had the power to destroy the hold that death had on the human race since Adam's sin. Jesus acted as a sort of "secret agent" entering Hell with his human nature, then using his divine power to open the gates of heaven and lead all the holy souls there. I realize that comparing Jesus to a secret agent falls far short of the great mystery of his Incarnation, as all analogies do. However, I hope it serves to illustrate what happened when Jesus descended to the realm of the dead before his glorious resurrection.

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

Have a question about your faith? Want to know more about a particular Catholic teaching? Submit your questions to Haley at hbentel@cathedral.dio.org or on our website at www.spicathedral.org/ask-father if you wish to remain anonymous.

Stewardship of Treasure August 28th & 29th

Envelopes:	\$5,549.00
Loose:	\$2,120.00
Maintenance:	\$160.00
Total:	\$7,829.00

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!

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around 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!

Parish Party

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

Mass Schedule Change

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, September 6 in observance of Labor Day. There will be no 5:15pm Mass and no confessions. 7am Mass will be held as regularly scheduled.

Forge Event

The Forge (the Springfield area Catholic young adult group) is hosting a cookout with yard games at the Cathedral on September 10th beginning at 7pm! Any young adult ages 18-39 is encouraged to attend. Meat will be provided, but please bring a side dish to share and a friend!

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 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

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Around the Diocese

Blood Drive at St. Frances Cabrini Parish

The Impact Life Blood Center (formerly the Central Illinois Community Blood Center) is in need of blood donations for patients across its region. One whole blood donation can help up to 4 patients. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact Anne Powers by email (imacls@hotmail.com) or call or text 217-381-3847. Or, visit bloodcenter.org using group sponsor code 61274 to locate the drive. Please consider making an appointment for this blood drive. Saturday, September 18, 2021 in the St. Frances Cabrini Parish Center.

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!

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

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

Christ the King Bible Study

Join us on Tuesday mornings for a study of the Mass from Ascension Press. "A Biblical Walk Through the Mass" is a 5-part series by Dr. Edward Sri. In the Mass, we encounter God in the most intimate way possible as we hear him speak to us in the Liturgy of the Word and as we receive him Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist. The series explores the Biblical roots of the words and gestures we experience at Mass. The group will meet in the Christ the King Parish Hall starting September 21 from 9:30-11:00. For information call Mary Kay Hinkle at 217-899-2599 or email to: mbhinkle75@comcast.net.

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.

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