

Cathedral OF THE *Immaculate Conception*

JANUARY 5, 2025 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



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Cathedral Weekly

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1

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!

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.



Walk with One

A few months ago, I wrote about our entering into the third year of our National Eucharistic Revival, a year focused on mission. We have reflected on our diocesan / parish mission statement as articulated in our 2017 Fourth Diocesan Synod, and the four pillars of discipleship and stewardship: hospitality, prayer, formation, and service.

As we begin this new calendar year and prepare to shift back into Ordinary Time for a couple of months before Lent, I would like to draw our attention to an initiative that the National Eucharistic Revival team is promoting called Walk with One.

The premise of the initiative is rather simple. It recognizes that the spreading of the Good News, which we call evangelization, typically takes place in one-on-one encounters, encounters that can happen anywhere or at any time. While we should always be prepared to give a witness to our faith (cf. 1 Peter 3:15), we can also be intentional in our efforts to share the Gospel message. This is what the Walk with One initiative invites us to do, to identify just one person with whom we desire to walk toward a deeper relationship with Jesus and His Church.

In last week's bulletin article, I shared the story of praying for my grandmother, and how this weekend, we would be inviting you to consider the name of somebody whom the Lord has put on your heart to accompany. I realize this might initially sound intimidating, but at this point, all we are asking for is prayer. Most of us are not comfortable inviting somebody to come back to Mass or confession, so this time of prayer has two aims. Obviously, we are praying for the Lord to prepare the hearts of those with whom we desire to journey. But we are also praying for ourselves, that we might have the courage and the conviction to approach them and offer a more explicit invitation to them at some point in the future. That invitation may not be just to come to Mass. It might be inviting them to go to confession with you. It might be more basic, like inviting them to join you for coffee or a meal so that they can share their story. The how is not so important at this point, but our focus is on the who.

As we begin this time of prayer for these individuals, let me caution against a mindset that we can sometimes fall into. We can be tempted to see others as "projects" to work on. Once we get them back to Mass, then our work will have been done. No, we want to see these individuals as people, companions on our journey of faith. We need to love them and be genuinely interested in them. Even if the person does not immediately accept our explicit invitation, we will not cease to be involved in their lives. We want to love them where we find them, hoping that the Lord will move them to a different place, using us as His instruments in bringing about that progress. Regardless of the outcome we hope for, when we sincerely seek to accompany a brother or sister in the Lord, witnessing to our love of the faith, God is glorified, and nothing will have been wasted. God is far more patient and committed to this than we are, and that can be extremely comforting.

As soon as the Lord places an individual on your heart to walk with, first of all from a distance, begin to pray for them each and every day. It could be as simple as adding a fourth Hail Mary to the three Hail Mary's I've encouraged us to say each day for our parish, the clergy of the parish, and ourselves. We might consider spending time in Eucharistic Adoration, offering that time up for them. We might look for a novena to pray for them. It does not need to be complicated, just that we do something each day. Let us also make sure to thank God every day for the good He has planned for us and for them through this commitment to prayer, and whatever concrete actions the Lord may invite us to take in the future.

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, January 6

7am - Don Smargiassi
(Family & Friends)
5:15pm - Ryan McShane
(Capranica Family)

Tuesday, January 7

7am - Anthony Kim Edgar
(Bev & Larry Smith)
5:15pm - Robert Furtwengler
(Lisa Logan & Lori Logan Motyka)

Wednesday, January 8

7am - Edziu Dombrowski
(John Busciacco)
5:15pm - George Hovanec
(Bev & Larry Smith)

Thursday, January 9

7am - Msgr. James O'Shea
(Kathy Howard)
5:15pm - Woody Woodhull
(Fr. Tolton Council 16126)

Friday, January 10

7am - Archie Harmon Sr.
(Archie Harmon)
5:15pm - Esther Antonacci
(Mike & Pam Burge)

Saturday, January 11

8am - Sandy Bloom
(Cindi & Dick Allender)
4pm - Fred & Rita Greenwald
(John Busciacco)

Sunday, January 12

7am - For the People
10am - Catholic War Veterans of
Cathedral (Catholic War Veterans Post
1916)
5pm - Anita Bates
(Lou Ann Mack)



St. Dominic, the Martyr, Part 2

Feast Day: December 29th

What is Jesus doing when He claims to have fulfilled Psalm 110 in Himself? St. Peter interprets it for us in his first sermon on Pentecost (and thereby underlines how critical it was to Jesus' mission and identity). Hang on as we get a full taste of his understanding, and passion, having just received the Holy Spirit!

Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

*"The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool."*

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [Acts 2:29-38]

Jesus, Peter tells us, by claiming psalm 110 for his own, is claiming two extraordinary things: that He is the Christ, the Messiah, the anointed heir and son of David – yes, a lord, a rival to the Roman rulers – but also that He is son and equal of YHWH, God incarnate – yes, the Lord, not just a rival of the high priestly class, but the only one who fully interprets (and actually inspired) the scriptures. Rightly so then, when Jesus claims to fulfil this passage, both Pilate and Caiaphas know He is throwing the gauntlet before them.

And Jesus is not only claiming those extraordinary identities by citing this passage, but is turning the whole thing on its head at the same time! It had always been read as a promise that one day a new David would successfully conquer all of Israel's enemies. What if instead it was always a promise of a King and Kingdom that instead embraces Israel's enemies? What if the carpenter's son was in fact the true High Priest? What if the Roman occupation was not contrary to God's Kingdom but the way in which God's Kingdom will be carried to the world? What if death itself were the means to Eternal Life, and the descendent of David were in fact His Creator? What if this son of David were the Lord that David served?

And so we take another leap forward, one century, and another, and another. A cantankerous Church Father, the great scholar Jerome, found his way to another quiet cave near the village of Bethlehem and began to translate the Old and New Testaments into Latin. He came to the critical passage of Psalm 110, verse 1 and replaces the Hebrew "adonai" and Greek "kyrios" with the Latin word "Dominus." And so, "The Lord says to my lord" becomes the splendid Latin line, "Dixit Dominus Domino meo." Such were the words cited by Ambrose or Augustine in their preaching and teaching on the radical transformation of death that comes with Jesus' Resurrection (Ambrose's Exameron) and His equality with the Eternal Father (Augustine's Tractate 99).

But first, just a few decades before all three of those great Fathers of the Church, we have a saint who depicts even more clearly the fulfillment and authentic Christian interpretation of this age-old prophecy. We are far from Bethlehem, beyond even Cairo, probably near modern Tunisia or Libya and we are watching eight men, Christians, refuse to uphold Diocletian's divinity and offer incense in his honor. They are part of the Roman empire and Roman culture; their names obviously Latin: Dominic, Victor, Primian, Lybosus, Saturninus, Crescentius, Secundus and Honoratus, but they will not budge to their emperor's demand.

Their Lord, not Caesar, has conquered death and sanctified death. Their Lord, not Caesar, has both divinity, and authority. Their Lord, not Caesar, reigns eternally and death cannot cut them off from Him. And the first was named "Dominic", the first St. Dominic in the history of the Church, and we know nothing about him except His name, "Dominicus", "of the Lord." Yet with that name, he carries in himself a radical claim: that The Lord and his lord are the same person, the God-man Jesus Christ.

Fr. Dominic Rankin is just glad to have been introduced to another name-sake and intercessor this week. (AND, another feast day that ought to be adequately celebrated!)

Stewardship of Treasure

December 20th & 21st

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

October Online Contributions

\$51,103.80

October Debt Reduction

\$1,526.00

October Second Collections

World Mission Sunday
\$2,929.00

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 JANUARY 6

<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	Grief Share 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church OCIA 6:00 PM School Library	Men's Bible Study 6:00 AM School Library Rosary 4:45 PM Church Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM School Classroom	Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM School Library Adoration 4:00 PM Church	Rosary 4:45 PM Church Millikin Concert 7:30 PM Church		

What's Going on Around the Cathedral?

WHAT ARE YOU
THANKFUL FOR
AT THE
CATHEDRAL?

Sharing Our Gratitude

What are you thankful for at the Cathedral?

The holy sacrifice of the Mass and Reconciliation of course, but I am also thankful for the visit when I was in the hospital.

SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS



K of C "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest Winners

The judges of the 2024 Knights of Columbus Cathedral Council 16126 "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest selected the following as the top posters for the listed grade category. Those posters will continue on to the Knights of Columbus District level competition.

Grade K: William H.
Grade 1-2: Vincent H.
Grade 3-4: Grace W.
Grade 5-6: Evelyn H.
Grade 7-8: Mychael D.

Cathedral Council 16126 wants to congratulate all of this year's participating artists! Their innovative poster creations displayed the richness of their artistic talents with envisioning, designing, sketching and finally creating remarkable images bringing out the importance of Our Lord with the Christmas Season. Their awareness in the grace and hope that Our Lord brought on Christmas is truly inspiring. All of them were winners from the perspective of the great faith they have displayed!

Stewardship Reflection

What gifts do you give to the Lord? Pope St. Gregory said that these three gifts represent what we should give God every day. Gold – we should reflect Christ's wisdom in all our relationships. Frankincense – represents our daily prayer and adoration to God. Myrrh – is a symbol of our daily sacrifices that we unite with Jesus for the sake of others.

Support the Catholic Times

Catholic Times, the magazine of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, has always been a key communication tool for our diocese. Whether it is important announcements, teaching the faith, or inspirational stories, the magazine provides tremendous value to readers. For example, that was apparent this past year with special coverage of the historic National Eucharistic Pilgrimage procession that stopped in seven cities in our diocese.

Catholic Times is committed to deepening readers' understanding of the Catholic faith through its Hey, Father! series, tackling complex topics in bioethics, and illuminating the meaning of sacraments, the Mass, and Church teachings. At the heart of the magazine is its feature reporting, which highlights inspiring stories of individuals, parishes, and schools working to advance the Kingdom of God within the diocese. With a strong focus on local coverage, each issue delivers stories that resonate with readers, featuring contributions from both laity and clergy who are integral to the community.

The Bishop's column, "Lex Cordis Caritas," is one of the best ways he can speak about the issues we face as Catholics and update readers on important decisions he makes that impact the faithful.

Please consider supporting this communication tool, so we can ensure *Catholic Times* remains an inexpensive source of Catholic information, education, and inspiration. You can add your donation in a separate envelope to the normal collection throughout the month of January.

Cathedral Meal Train

Just as the Bishop and our priests of the parish provide us with spiritual nourishment at Mass, we strive to provide them with physical nourishment, in order to give them the strength they need to continue to serve our parish family. Volunteers can utilize our Meal Train website to sign up for the dates that work best for them throughout the year. If you are interested in volunteering in this ministry, please visit www.spicathedral.org/cathedral-meal-train/.

Lectio: Eucharist: Discovering the Mass in the Bible, for Women

Acclaimed author and teacher Dr. Brant Pitre digs down to the biblical roots of the Eucharist, through its foreshadowing in the miraculous events of the Old Testament, the Gospels, and Apostolic teaching. "The Lamb of God," "The Bread of Life," "The Body and the Blood of Christ"... these are phrases we know from the Mass. But do we understand what they mean in the greater and deeper context of Scripture and Church teaching? We'll discover firsthand how Christ's Body and Blood are an integral and wondrous part of God's plan for our salvation. To register and order your workbook call 217/522-3342 or email vcompton@cathedral.dio.org. Thursdays @ 6:15pm at the Cathedral, starting on Jan 30, 10 weeks, \$20

The Answer

Have you ever had an epiphany?

I'll confess that I've never spent much time reflecting on the term "epiphany." In my head, there has always been a strict separation of church and state when it comes to this word. I think of the religious feast of the Epiphany, when we celebrate the magi's encounter with the Christ Child, as totally distinct from our modern understanding of the ancient Greek word *epipháneia*, which means "manifestation" or "appearance."

"I've had an epiphany," I have said many times before, and what I mean is that I have come to a long-awaited realization. I have received the answer to a question which has perplexed me, perhaps troubled me. I now know what course of action I must take.

"Today is the Epiphany," I say to my children when we make a king cake and bring the little magi figures to our Nativity beneath the Christmas tree (which will, after today, be put back into storage, for the Christmas season has come to its fulfillment).

And I've always thought I meant I was saying two very different things.

But today, I ponder the journey of the magi, one that must have often been treacherous and uncomfortable. I think about their meeting with Herod, a situation that certainly was fraught with tension and fear. And I imagine the feeling in their hearts as they approached the young Messiah and fell to their knees. I think of the peace they must have felt. The new, vibrant awareness of what their own purpose was.

It was an epiphany for them — a discovery of truth. An answer.

It should be the same for us.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
©LPi

Around the Diocese

- **State lawmakers are expected to vote on physician assisted suicide legislation in early January.** Illinois residents deserve excellent pain management, not assisted suicide. Illinois has excellent, modern, palliative care programs to alleviate suffering - no one's pain should be unmanageable in our state. Hospice care is paid for by Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance. We deserve the best in pain management and quality care, not suicide drugs. Tell your state legislators to VoteNO on SB 3499 - assisted suicide. Visit www.ilcatholic.org for additional information and resources.
- **25 Not Impossible Christmas Trivia Questions** - Dive Deep presents 25 not impossible Catholic Trivia questions about Christmas! Go to youtube.com/diospringfield or search "Dive Deep" on all the major podcast platforms to listen and subscribe. Dive Deep is the podcast of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.
- **Fr. Tolton Religious Award** - Our local Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting has created a new patch award for Venerable Fr. Augustine Tolton! The award requirements are patterned after similar programs from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and Scouts of any national program may earn the award. Details are online at dio.org/scouts/.

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