

ISSUE NO. 116

10 NOVEMBER 2019

Cathedral WEEKLY

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WHAT IS PURGATORY? | FR. MICHAEL FRIEDEL
FIVE FEATURES OF FAITH | FR. BILLY SWAM
STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION | KATIE PRICE

Cathedral WEEKLY

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

THE VERY REVEREND CHRISTOPHER A. HOUSE, V.J.
RECTOR

THE REVEREND MICHAEL FRIEDEL
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND DOMINIC RANKIN
PAROCHIAL VICAR

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Mass Times: SAT 4PM, SUN. 7AM, 10AM, 5PM
Weekday Masses: MON. thru FRI. 7AM, 5:15PM and SAT. 8AM
Reconciliation (Confessions): MON-FRI 4:15PM- 5PM, SAT. 9AM-10AM,
2:30PM-3:30PM, and SUN. 4PM-4:45PM
Adoration: Tuesdays & Thursdays 4PM to 5PM

Diocesan Victim Assistance is available. For the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, please contact: Patricia Kornfield at 321-1155.

Please remember that if you or a loved one is in the hospital, a nursing home or home-bound, to contact the Parish offices or Sr. Francella at 522-3342 x 142. Hospitals may know you are Catholic, but not know you are from Cathedral. We would be happy to visit.

Welcome to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception!

On behalf of our bishop, the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, our parishioners, deacons, and priests, I 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.

I hope that your visit to our Cathedral is one of grace and beauty and that you feel at home in the mother church. I 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!



Very Reverend Christopher A. House
Rector

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week

Monday – November 11

7 AM DORIS DREA (MIKE & KAREN RELLIHAM)
5:15PM NO MASS

Tuesday – November 12

7 AM BETTY EDGAR (J. HELM)
5:15 PM SHIRLEY LOGAN (LISA LOGAN & FAMILY)

Wednesday – November 13

7 AM SOPHIA E. BARTOLETTI (BARTOLETTI FAMILY)
5:15 PM BILL CRUMLY (JOAN & ANDY ANTONACCI)

Thursday – November 14

7 AM SPECIAL INTENTION FOR ELLEN MATTOX (SHANA GRAY)
5:15 PM BIANCA & FAMILY (ANONYMOUS)

Friday – November 15

7 AM MARY PRIESTER (JUDITH & IGNATIUS HODNIK)
5:15 PM HELEN F. CALL (ST. LOUISE DEMARILLAC GUILD)

Saturday – November 16

8 AM BONNIE DONNALS (DAN KELCH)
4 PM MADISON JOY RHOADS (CAROL MORGAN)

Sunday – November 17

7 AM JOHN & EDITH BAKALAR (JOHN BUSCIACCO)
10 AM SR. M. PAULETTA OVERBECK, OP
(WALTER & BECKY WOODHULL)
5 PM FOR THE PEOPLE



What Is Purgatory?

In the Catholic Church, the month of November is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Souls, honored in a special way on November 2nd with the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (more commonly known as “All Souls Day”). This month, therefore, we pay particular attention to our duty as Christians to pray for the dead: those who have gone before us in this life and are now in need of our intercession in order to attain eternal life with God.

But why do Catholics pray for the dead? Well, in short, it’s because we believe in the doctrine of purgatory. However, in my conversations with many faithful and holy Catholics, I get a sense that most people misunderstand or simply “don’t get” what the Church teaches us about purgatory.

So—what is purgatory? According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, purgatory is “a state of final purification after death and before entrance into heaven for those who died in God’s friendship, but were only imperfectly purified; a final cleansing of human imperfection before one is able to enter the joy of heaven.” A soul which has completely rejected God chooses for itself the punishment of hell. A soul which is purified completely of sin in this life, on the other hand, is brought immediately into eternal rest in heaven (and is therefore a saint, whether canonized or not!). But for the other souls—not damnable, but not yet perfected in grace—the Church recognizes a period of *purification*.

This purification is entirely unlike the punishment of hell in that a soul in purgatory is *de facto* destined for heaven, but must undergo cleansing from all sin before spending eternity in the unbridled presence of God. How we will experience that purification may indeed be a “refining fire” (your guess is as good as mine!), but there is one very key difference between that and the “fires of hell:” the undying hope of eternal salvation.



One of the effects of the Protestant Reformation was to throw out this doctrine of purgatory, which in my humble opinion was a grave mistake. See, Catholics see purgatory as an extension of God’s unfailing mercy; to throw it out is tantamount to saying that all the souls unworthy of immediate acceptance to heaven (which would be anyone with any attachment to sin left in them!) is banished to hell. I don’t know about you, but I would much rather believe in a God who mercifully purifies those souls not in obstinate refusal of that mercy!

Traditionally, then, the Catholic Church has always understood itself to be comprised of three states: the Church Triumphant (i.e. the saints already rejoicing in heaven), the Church Militant (i.e. us still fighting it out here on earth), and the Church Suffering (or the Church Penitent/Expectant, i.e. those souls currently experiencing purification in purgatory). It has always been understood that one of the great tasks entrusted to the

Church Militant is to pray for the eternal repose of the souls of the Church Suffering, to help them by our prayers to attain that purification necessary to enter heaven. It is our spiritual work of mercy, praying for the living and the dead, that aids souls in reaching God.

For that same reason, you may have heard of Masses being “offered” for a deceased loved one (at Cathedral, our practice is to share the intention of the Mass during the petitions). As the Catechism states, the Church has always “honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, *above all the Eucharistic sacrifice*, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God” (emphasis mine). To have a Mass offered for a deceased parent, sibling, child, or friend is perhaps the most loving and fitting way possible to remember your loved ones, for by it, the innumerable and eternal graces of the Mass are applied to their souls.

Unfortunately, fewer and fewer people are making the sacrifice to have Masses offered for their relatives and friends. The process is actually quite simple. The “offering” is traditionally ten dollars (which is our participation in the sacrifice of the Mass), and dates can be requested by contacting your local parish’s secretary.

As our Gospel reminds us, our God is “not God of the dead, but of the living.” May we always remember our responsibility and our privilege to aid our brothers and sisters through their final purification into eternal life, where at last they may see God face to face!

Father Michael Friedel is a Parochial Vicar for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.



Five Features of Faith

In our efforts to evangelize and proclaim the Gospel, it is good to keep our focus and prayer on the goal of our work—that others will come to faith in Christ and enjoy a personal relationship with him.

This intrinsic connection between faith born from evangelization begins with

Jesus himself in Mark's Gospel where his first words are:

“The time has come and the kingdom of God is at hand.

Repent and believe the Good News!” (1:15).

For St. John in his Gospel, his entire life of preaching and writing about Christ has been at the service of faith in him:

“These things have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that through your faith in him you may have life” (20:30).

So what then does this faith look like? What kind of faith do we hope to be born from our efforts to evangelize?

A Faith Born from Above.

In the fourth Gospel, Jesus reminds us that

“no one can come to me unless the Father draws them” (John 6:44).

Faith then is a gift from God born of hearing his Word and seeing it in action (cf. Rom. 10:17). Faith is not our own opinion or achievement. We cannot come to it by our own efforts. Faith does not arrive to us through one single argument or even a series of converging signs. *Even when these signs are in place, it takes the gift of the Holy Spirit for us to finally “get it” and to assent to faith with our whole being.* This is because the love of God engages the entire human being with all of his or her physical, psychological, and spiritual powers. This is what happened in the case of Lee Strobel as he tells his story in *The Case for Christ* in the movie based on the book of the same name. He set out to debunk his wife's faith and gathered all the evidence he could find to prove his case. But while the evidence moved him in the direction of faith, it was the love of his wife and her prayers that finally clinched his assent.

A Faith that Grows.

We often think of faith as something we have or we don't have. I believe or I don't believe and those are the only two possibilities. We also can think of faith as something that remains static and doesn't grow. The truth is that faith can be born or reborn in us at any time, just like it was in the people who encountered Christ in

the Gospels. For those who believe, there is an organic quality to faith that we recognize over time. Faith lives and grows. In the Gospels, Jesus often likens the gift of faith to a mustard seed (cf. Matt. 17:20). It begins small but can grow to such a degree that others benefit from it, like birds in the branches of a tree that began its life as a seed. Our faith in Christ is something alive and active. It prompts us to think in new ways, to act differently, and to understand God in bigger terms, beyond the image of him we already have. Faith also takes us beyond our comfort zones, moves us closer to those on the margins, and grounds our faith in the service of truth and charity.

This demands a necessary openness on our part to allow our faith to grow, to be affirmed and to be challenged when

necessary. *So when it comes to the big questions of our time, we should not be afraid to engage our faith with the confidence that the Holy Spirit gives us.* The Gospel message entrusted to us bears within itself the truth that sets humanity free and sets us on course for a better life.

While this task of engaging with the big questions of the world can be difficult and even dangerous, it affords us the opportunity for our faith to be tested and to grow. It is like a muscle of our bodies that grows stronger when it is used and made to work. So far from being something static, our faith is something that progressively changes us to become more

Christ-like and sends us on mission in his name. There is a dynamism in faith that invites us to a metanoia or “going beyond the mind we have.” It opens us to new horizons and to see all things with new eyes.

A Faith that Draws Us into Relationship.

Faith is often exclusively associated with religion. So we might hear someone say: “Yes, I have faith, I believe in God”; or, “No, I don't have faith, I am an atheist.” This is inaccurate because it assumes that only religious people have faith while nonreligious people don't. The truth is that faith is much more part of everyday life than we realize. As Bishop Barron has often pointed out, if a young man is in a relationship with a girl, he can collect all the data he wants about her, but until she speaks to him, the relationship can never get off the ground. Only when the two parties speak to one another can the trust begin to grow. And if the relationship grows to the point of them wanting to marry, then their decision is still based on faith and trust. By getting married, both put their faith in one another and nourish that trust afterwards as husband and wife.



Continued on p. 5

Continued from p. 4

So it is with God. God has spoken first through his creation and through the history of a people he loved. In the words of St. John:

“God loved us first” (1 John 4:19).

As Christians we see this love offered to us through the person of Jesus Christ who came to reveal God to us. Faith then is our “Yes” that accepts the truth of what God has spoken and the love for us that he has revealed. Faith is a “Yes” to a “Yes.” It is our “Yes” to God’s “Yes” that comes first. This is the basis of a relationship that unites us to God.

A Faith in Christ Jesus Our Lord.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus reveals a God who desires a personal relationship with each of us. Through faith and trust we are invited to know him and be known by him, to be loved by him and to love him in return.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus invites us to faith in him:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me” (John 14:1);
 “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will never die” (John 11:25-26).



What an extraordinary claim for anyone to make! There are only two possible responses to this invitation to faith by Jesus. One is to reject him out of hand as a narcissistic madman, and the other is to do exactly what he asks us to do and come to believe in him and who he claims to be. There is no middle ground.

The more we contemplate the life of Christ—his goodness, truth, and beauty—the easier it is to believe in him. First, his goodness—his mercy, his compassion, his patience, his understanding, and his love. He spent his whole life doing good for everyone, and his love gave birth to faith in him. His truth—before Pilate he said that he had come for this, was born for this, to bear witness to the truth, and all who are on the side of truth listen to his voice. Without truth, humanity caves in on itself in deception and fear. His beauty—the life of Jesus was beautiful and radiant with light

as revealed at his Transfiguration. And all who are united with him in Spirit radiate that same light and exude the fragrance of his charity. This is why he asks us to be light to the world (Matt. 5:14) and carry the light of his presence to all we meet.

A Faith to Be Shared.

The gift of faith is not given for ourselves. It is given to be shared. The joy of the Gospel leads us to be people of mission in all kinds of ways. We want others to know God and we desire to lead others to faith in him. We want his kingdom of peace and justice to flourish, and so pray for it and work for it. In this spirit, Pope Francis urges us to “go forth to offer everyone the life of Jesus Christ” (The Joy of the Gospel, 49). Our act of believing must allow the joy of faith to shine through in lives that are centered on the Lord and united to others in community. And it is with others in the family of the Church that our faith is nourished and strengthened to carry it forth to all in Jesus’ name.

For us dedicated to evangelization, the haunting words of Jesus are never far from our hearts:

“When the Son of Man returns, will he find any faith on earth?” (Luke 18:8).

Evangelization is not an end in itself but is at the service of faith. This article has described five features of that faith: that it is a gift from God that grows, that draws us into relationship, that centers on Jesus Christ, and that leads us to give ourselves away in loving service and mission.

May the quality of our own faith be marked by these features so that we can share it confidently and effectively with a skeptical world.

Fr. Billy Swan is a priest of the Diocese of Ferns, Ireland. He holds a degree in chemistry and worked for a number of years for a pharmaceutical company before entering seminary. Ordained in 1998, he served for four years as an associate pastor before further studies in Rome where he was awarded a Licentiate and Doctorate in Systematic Theology from the Gregorian University. He served for four years as the Director of Seminary Formation at the Pontifical Irish College, Rome. He is currently based at St Aidan’s Cathedral, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

Stewardship In Action

Over the next few days, all registered parishioners of the Cathedral and our friends who contribute to the Cathedral will be receiving an invitation from the parish to participate as stewards! Stewardship is the invitation to orient your lifestyle, choices, and habits around God. Through spending time in prayer and service and offering generously from your treasure, you are actively orienting your life toward one in intimate relationship with Jesus and the church. We appreciate the many of you who have consistently responded to this invitation!

If you are curious how your life might change when you become actively engaged in a stewardship way of life, consider these three activities of a steward as an example:

Making time for God in prayer...

What would your morning look like if you grabbed the Bible instead of your phone first thing in the morning (unless of course you read the Bible on your phone)? Would you approach the morning differently?

Individuals who start their day in prayer tend to report a better morning routine, a happier demeanor in the morning, and better relationships to family, friends and co-workers.

Helping those in need

Think about the last time you volunteered in service to another. How did you feel? Did you feel accomplishment, purpose, or belonging? Last weekend, Cathedral volunteers helped at the Habitat for Humanity project. These volunteers experienced community building (literally!) and a sense of belonging. While they were able to help another in need, many felt a sense of accomplishment and gratitude for the gifts they have in their lives. When you give, you receive! On the following page, we



have a list of ministry opportunities that you are welcome to inquire about and join!

Generously and proportionately giving

What do you normally give up for Lent? Why do you give that up? Lent is a great opportunity to let bad habits die, however stewardship is our constant reminder to detach from those materialistic goods, bad habits, or distractions in our lives that are preventing us from a deeper relationship with God. What items do you find yourself purchasing that you don't really need? What habits could you down-size or break in order to practice greater

tithing to the Parish mission?

It is no easy task to change habits- especially financial ones- but this act of trust and joy filled giving can quickly develop into a holier, happier, and healthier lifestyle for you and/or your family!

Stewardship is a disciple's toolkit and an opportunity is presented to us each time we go to Mass. We have the opportunity during the Offertory to discern our stewardship of prayer, gifts, or service. Think about these three questions the next time you are at Mass:

•Who can I pray for this week?

- How can I help someone this week?
- What can I give to God and His church this week?

Those reflective questions can help guide you toward a more active stewardship way of life!

If you have any questions regarding the Season of Stewardship or your participation in stewardship at the Cathedral, please contact Katie Price in the Parish Offices at kprice@cathedral.dio.org or call the Parish Offices at 522-3342.

Stewardship Activity

Stewardship of Prayer:

Please pray for our parish during this Season of Stewardship.

Stewardship of Service

Have you been able to help with the Habit for Humanity build? How was your experience? Share with us your experience and we would enjoy sharing your witness with others looking to help or serve! You might just be the inspiration for someone to get started in volunteerism in the community!

Stewardship of Gifts- November 2nd & 3rd

Envelopes:	\$6,373.00
Loose:	\$2,935.55
Maintenance:	\$1,210.00

Total:	\$10,518.55
October EFT	\$17, 897.70



Ministry Overview Prayer

Readers- Liturgical Ministry

The ministry of Reader calls those with strong faith and good communication skills to proclaim the Word of God. This responsibility is not to be accepted carelessly; as a proclaimer of the Word, a reader doesn't just read the scriptures aloud, but becomes the vessel for the dialogue between God and His people. Prayerful preparation is essential.

Greeters/Ushers- Liturgical Ministry

Our Ushers & Greeters fulfill an important role in the church. They welcome parishioners and visitors alike and assist those with special needs before, during and after mass. They gather the offerings; provide hospitality, and distribute the parish bulletin following mass.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are called upon to distribute Holy Communion during Mass when more than the ordained, or ordinary, ministers (bishop, priest, deacon) are needed. Extraordinary Ministers may also take communion to the sick or homebound. To be a servant of God through this ministry requires that you bring a strong faith, a reverence to the sacrament, and an inclusiveness of others as the foundation of your ministry.

Altar Servers

Altar Servers may be called upon to serve in any number of situations including Sunday Mass or weekday Mass celebrations, funeral liturgies, Eucharistic Adoration, or any other public worship service in the church. The Altar Server is an extension of the community's need to participate actively in the celebration of the church's public ministry.

Cathedral Choir/Music Ministry

Cathedral Choir sings every Sunday at the 10:00 Mass and for various special services throughout the year, including Christmas, Holy Week, and various diocesan celebrations. Repertoire extends from Gregorian Chant to newly written compositions. Rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings 7:00-9:00 pm in the Cathedral Choir Loft, and warm-ups are at 9:15 a.m. before the Sunday morning liturgy.

Formation

Bible Study

If you would like the opportunity to learn more about your faith through Scripture, than this ministry is for you. The particular study changes throughout the year and all are welcome to join!

Homebound Ministry

Are you someone with a heart for service and hospitality? Join this ministry to help support Cathedral's homebound community and accompany those in need.

Bereavement Ministry

Cathedral parish will begin hosting Grief Share, a weekly grief support group. If you, or someone you know, would like help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend, please join us.

Family of Faith Program

NEW this year is the Family of Faith program, which is an innovative and family-centric faith formative learning opportunity. Join us as a participating family or a volunteer!

Vacation Bible School

Would you like to help lead youth through their faith next summer? Consider sharing your time for one-week during the summer and help form young minds in the faith!

Youth Ministry

Are you a high schooler looking for a youth ministry program or interested in working with youth? Please contact us with any ideas or insights into reaching out to this audience.

Discipleship & Stewardship Ministry

Are you interested in helping with the Ministry Thank You Dinner or with events like REBOOT? We could use your time and talents in building up disciples at Cathedral. All are welcome!

Adult Faith Formation/Programming

Consider joining us for any of the adult faith formation programs throughout the year. A full calendar is located here: <https://spicathedral.org/adult-faith-formation-2/>

Hospitality

Alpha Ministry

Are you looking to grow in your faith or are you willing to provide radical hospitality to those searching and seeking? Alpha begins again in the new year and we could use your help!

Hospitality/Parish Events

Are you interested and able to help with hospitality for special events? The Cathedral is host to many special events and Liturgies throughout the year!

Service

Cathedral Council of Catholic Women

Join the women of the Cathedral in fellowship and fun! The CCCW hosts a variety of events during the year which supports the Mission of the Cathedral and scholarships. All women of the parish are welcome!

Knights of Columbus Father Augustine Tolton Council

Charity has been the first principle of the Knights of Columbus since its founding. Join these Catholic men of faith and charitable action. They host a variety of service opportunities and events throughout the year which help support the Cathedral and scholarship programs for Cathedral families.