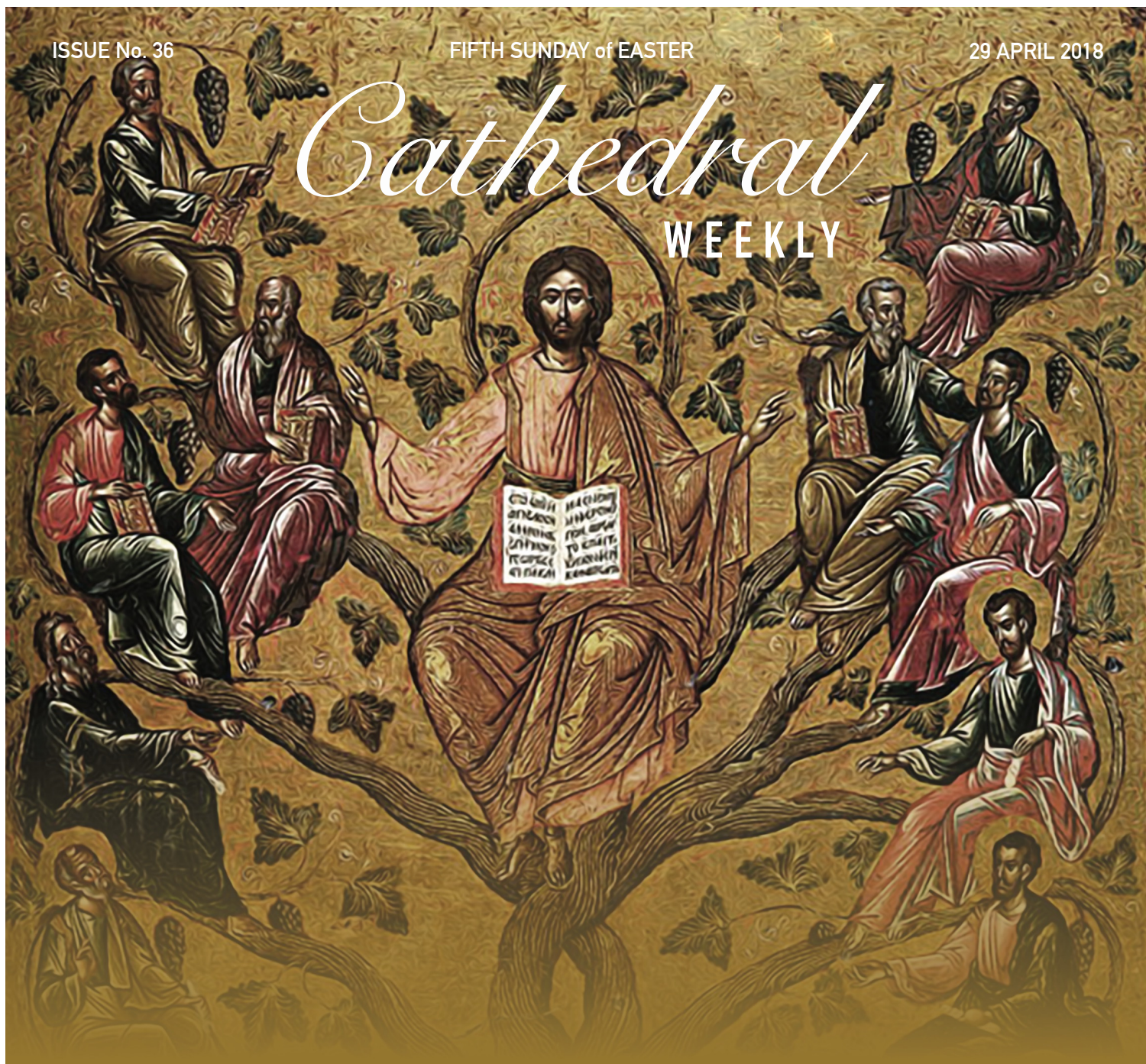


ISSUE No. 36

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

29 APRIL 2018

Cathedral WEEKLY



I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES.

AROUND THE PARISH | FR. CHRISTOPHER HOUSE
A STEWARDSHIP WAY OF LIFE | KATIE PRICE
WHAT'S A GREATER LEAP OF FAITH... | BRIAN G. KEATING
AN UNLIKELY FRIEND | FR. MICHAEL CUMMINS

Cathedral WEEKLY

THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI
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OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

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Thank you!

Thank you to LPI, our bulletin/Weekly publishing company for upgrading our paper for the Weekly at NO additional cost. We want to continue providing the best resource for your faith formation, while also being a resource to pass along to friends who might be interested in reading the articles. Thanks to LPI for their continued support in this endeavor!

Parish Registration

Interested in joining our Parish? You may register online at <https://spicathedral.org/new-member-registration-form/> or contact the Parish Office for a paper registration form. We will then reach out to meet with you and provide you with some more information. We look forward to meeting you! Any questions, please contact Katie Price at kprice@cathedral.dio.org.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

Monday 30 April

7AM - Hildegard Radar (Bev & Larry Hoffman)

5:15 PM - Thelma Judy (Mary Reinhardt)

Tuesday 1 May

7AM - Betty Sowarsh (Lillian Cawley)

5:15 PM - Aurora Mata (Barb Kopec)

Wednesday 2 May

7AM - Gene DeRuntz (Harry & Alberta Lang)

5:15 PM - Catherine Staab (Joe & Christine Forestier)

Thursday 3 May

7AM - John Hennrich (Mary Pat Fruin)

5:15 PM - Irvin Larry Smith (Don & Mary Kay Smargiassi)

Friday 4 May

7AM - John Vogt, Jr. (Bill Vogt)

5:15 PM - Agnes & Buddy Heinman (Barb Kopec)

Saturday 5 May

8AM - Marie Martinez (John Busciacco)

4 PM - Lenn Family (Family)

Sunday 6 May

7AM - Toni & Earl Keller (John Busciacco) 10 AM - For the People 5 PM - Bart Rotherham (Betty Rotherham)

Like the Cathedral Weekly? Share this copy with a friend!



Around the Parish

When we changed the format of the bulletin to become The Weekly, the format of my column changed from a sort of “what’s going on” to a more focused column on something usually pertaining to discipleship, many times reflecting on the readings of

the particular Sunday. This week I have decided to revisit the old format and I think that I will do that from time to time when things are going on in the parish that I would like to draw your attention to.

May is generally a busy time for families and it is no different for the parish family. This coming month will be of particular significance for us. Since Easter was relatively early this year, one event that normally falls in May has already been celebrated. First Communion for our 2nd grade students in our PSR program and in our school was celebrated this past weekend, April 21/22, on the Fourth Sunday of Easter also known as “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Our parish 8th grade class is preparing for their commencement exercises in just under three weeks on Friday, May 18th at 6:30PM in the Cathedral church. All are welcome.



We ask for God’s blessing on these students celebrating these great achievements.

While these events are always moments of joy, there can be no denying that these events this year are also wrapped with a sense of sorrow as we prepare to end our grade school programming. In these upcoming weeks I would ask that you keep our school children, faculty, staff, and all of their families at the forefront of your prayers. This time of transition will not be easy for many and your prayers are most appreciated.

As we prepare for this transition, I would like to invite you to take a walk through the Cathedral School on Sunday, May 6th, from 11:00AM to 1:00PM.

There will be refreshments provided, many old photographs on display, and memories to be shared.

May will bring another transition with it. If you were not able to join us at Mass last weekend, it was announced that our Father Braden Maher will be concluding his appointment with us and transferring to Our Savior Parish in Jacksonville as parochial vicar. He will also assist as the parochial vicar of the parishes in Beardstown, Arenzville, and Virginia. This new assignment will begin on August 1st. Before Father Maher begins his new assignment, he will begin studies in Canon Law at the Catholic University of American in Washington, D.C. at the beginning of June. This means that he will be leaving us at the end of May. We are grateful to Father Maher for the ministry that he has provided to us over these past two years and we wish him every grace and blessing in his transition.

We will have a farewell reception for Father Maher after the 4:00PM Mass on Saturday evening, May 19th, in the Atrium.

There will be further reminders to come. We will joyfully welcome his successor, Father Michael Friedel, at the beginning of July and I will have more to share with you about Father Friedel in the future.

Personally, I do not like transitions, mostly because they seem to come with grief, but this is a part of the Christian life. As we move towards these times of change, let us remember the Lord’s words to his disciples when he told them that he would be leaving them in the earthly sense but that he would always be present to them in the gift of the Holy Spirit: you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy. I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world (John 16: 20, 33). God bless you!

Father Christopher House is the Rector-Pastor of the Cathedral and serves in various leadership roles within the diocesan curia, specifically Chancellor and Vicar Judicial.

STEWARDSHIP



A Stewardship Way of Life Saint Fidelis Sigmaringen

Every month, the International Catholic Stewardship Council writes about a Saint who lived a stewardship way of life. We will begin to share these examples each month,

so we too can learn how to bear witness to the Gospel in our lives. For more information, <http://catholicstewardship.com/>.

Given the name Mark Rey at his birth in 1577, our stewardship saint for April grew up in Sigmaringen, a town located in present-day Germany. He was the son of the town's affluent burgomeister (mayor) and studied law and philosophy at the renowned University of Freiburg. As a student, Mark made prayer a priority in his daily life. He also spent time visiting the sick. He embraced a humble, chaste and simple lifestyle.

He earned a doctorate in canon and civil law, became a prominent lawyer and soon gained a reputation for representing those who had no money to pay. Mark was affectionately nicknamed "the poor man's lawyer." He was known to be extraordinarily generous, and committed himself to working with the poor.

Dismayed by the greed and corruption he found among his counterparts in the legal profession and in the courts of law, Mark abandoned his law practice and entered the Capuchin religious community. He took the name Fidelis, which is Latin meaning "faithful." He studied for the priesthood and after ordination, celebrated his first Mass in 1612 on the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi (October 4).

After his ordination, Father Fidelis was assigned to preaching and hearing confessions. It was reported that a large number of converts were accepted into the Church because of his zealous evangelizing efforts. He was devoted to Saint Francis of Assisi and revealed that devotion in his pastoral care of the poor and sick. During a severe epidemic in a city in which his friary was located, he cared for and cured many.

In 1621 Father Fidelis was sent to begin missionary work in Switzerland, a territory that had experienced much bloodshed as a result of growing tensions among a number of religious movements of the expanding Reformed traditions. All of these movements were violently opposed to the Catholic faith at the time. His writings, preaching and pastoral ministry converted many in Switzerland to Catholicism. But many others, enraged by his missionary work, threatened his life. On April 24, 1622, while traveling on the road between preaching missions, Father Fidelis was attacked by a group of armed men, beaten and hacked to death. He was 44 years old. Fidelis once wrote: "It is because of faith that we exchange the present for the future." He was canonized in 1746 and his feast day is April 24.

Katie Price is the Coordinator of Stewardship at the Cathedral. She has worked in Parish Stewardship for ten years, previously as the Archdiocese of Chicago Parish Stewardship Coordinator. She can be reached at kprice@cathedral.dio.org.



STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE Weekly Collection April 14th & 15th

Envelopes: \$5,047.20
Loose: \$4,466.94
Maintenance: \$266.00
TOTAL: \$9,780.14

Needed to operate weekly: \$15,907.89
Difference: -\$6,127.75
(March EFT \$17,975.65)



STEWARDSHIP of Time & Talent

Try to think of someone who has exemplified a stewardship way of life. How did they live out their call to discipleship? How can we learn from them?



What's a Greater Leap of Faith: God or the Multiverse?

How did we get here? I mean, literally. Not just you and me, but the whole shebang. How is any kind of life possible? The universe is a hostile place — solar flares, cosmic rays, asteroids flying about. The odds against our existence are truly astronomical.

Take it from me — I'm an astrophysicist. My job is to look out into space, at stars and galaxies, trying to answer these basic how-did-the-universe-come-to-be questions.

Well, those who have a religious faith have an answer: God.

The earth's distance from the sun, the size of the atom, and a thousand other things large and small that allow us to live and to breathe and to think all seem perfectly tuned for our existence. To many, this design suggests a designer. But from a purely scientific point of view, the faithful have a big problem: They can offer no indisputable proof for this belief.

Because of the lack of hard evidence, it's probably not surprising that over 70% of the members of the National Academy of Sciences declare themselves to be atheists. But they have a big problem, too. Absent a creator, how do they account for the existence of the universe, of planet earth, of human consciousness? How do they account for the existence of ... anything?

Well, turns out they have an answer. And it's become all the rage in scientific circles. It's called the "multiverse," and according to many scientists, our universe isn't the whole ball game; far from it. These scientists argue that there are an awful lot of universes out there — not just one or two, but an infinite number.

Let me explain: 13.8 billion years ago, there was a Big Bang — from something unimaginably small (we don't know exactly what), the universe exploded into existence. How did it happen? Why did it happen? Doesn't matter. 'Cause it happened.

Immediately after the Big Bang, the universe underwent a rapid expansion. Think of a gush of bubbles exploding from a seriously shaken soda can just after it's popped open. Cosmologists call this the Theory of Inflation.

As the universe inflates and expands — the bubble universes grow and separate to become their own distinct entities, each with their own unique properties. In other words, new universes

are spawned — and not just a handful...an infinite number of them.

Some of these universes would be too cold for life, and some too hot. But, with an infinite number, surely one is bound to get it just right. In short, you and I are just an accident that, given enough universes, was inevitable.

In short, a vast number of the world's most eminent scientists believe in something that hasn't been, and in all likelihood, will never be proven.

But, wait — there's more. Because there are so many universes, it's very likely, according to the multiverse scenario, that everything that could possibly happen does happen in one universe or another. That girlfriend who broke up with you? You're married to her in another universe.

Does this sound a bit far-fetched? A little science-fiction? Well, not to Nobel Prize-winning scientists like Steven Weinberg or the famed cosmologist Stephen Hawking, as well as a myriad of others who whole-heartedly endorse it.

But here's what's really surprising: They endorse it knowing there's not a single shred of hard scientific evidence that supports it. And how can there be? There's no way we can access another universe.

In short, a vast number of the world's most eminent scientists believe in something that hasn't been, and in all likelihood, will never be proven. How does that sound to you?

Probably the same way it sounds to the distinguished physicist Paul Davies: "Invoking an infinity of unseen universes to explain the unusual features of the one we do see is just as [made up] as invoking an unseen Creator. The multiverse theory may be dressed up in scientific language, but in essence it requires the same leap of faith."

Or, as G.K. Chesterton quipped: "When men stop believing in God, they don't believe in nothing; they believe in anything." For multiverse believers, this is literally true: the same scientists who reject God's existence due to lack of evidence pin their hopes on a theory so all-inclusive and vague it can never be refuted.

Those who believe God created the universe are intellectually honest enough to admit that they do so on the basis of faith. But those who believe in the multiverse are also keeping the faith. They just don't admit it.

So, let me ask you, who's taking the bigger leap?

Brian G. Keating is Professor of Physics at the University of California at San Diego and an astrophysicist at the Center for Astrophysics & Space Sciences (CASS). He is the author of Losing the Nobel Prize: A Story of Cosmology, Ambition, and the Perils of Science's Highest Honor.



An Unlikely Friend

Sometimes I wonder if we go about it backwards in our catechesis of young people. We tell our young people about the saints, we give them holy cards, we ask them to choose the name of a saint for confirmation – all ways, at least on one level, of hoping that they will be inspired by the saint and come to know more of Jesus and living the

Christian faith. Would it not be better, first and foremost, to introduce our young people to Jesus (to truly encounter him as Lord and Savior) and then trust that over time Jesus himself will introduce our young people to his friends, the saints?

I have to admit that this is the way that I have come to know and have friendship with different saints in my own life. Through Christ I have met St. Paul, I have met St. Teresa of Avila, recently I have begun a friendship with St. Josephine Bakhita and (I have to admit) that it is only through Christ that I have developed a friendship with St. Therese.

I grew up one of four boys in East Tennessee in the 1970's. You quickly learned how to have thick skin growing up with three brothers; as our preferred way of showing affection was either mercilessly mocking one another or sneaking a punch when the parents were not looking. My parents, may they rest in peace, were both converts to the Catholic faith. My father had a life-long struggle with alcoholism (which he lost) and my mother struggled with an alcoholic for a husband. Often, my brothers and I were on our own. My extended family is the proto-typical American family, it seems, when it comes to religion and faith – meaning we are a mix of everything (Lutheran, Evangelical, Episcopalian, Baptist, Catholic, non-practicing Catholic, and agnostic). We cover the whole spectrum. This is my experience.

What possibly could I have in common with a 24-year-old French saint who lived in the mid-to-late 1800's, who never left her convent once she entered, and who would break down in tears at the drop of a hat when she was a child?



Yet, I met St. Therese and I was not expecting a friendship. At the seminary I attended for my theology studies, there is a beautiful statue of St. Therese of Lisieux on this "boat-dock" area on the lake near which the seminary sits. I was in the practice of taking walks around the lake, if not every day then at least a few days each week, so every time I went for a walk I would pass by this statue. Over time, I began to notice that flowers were always left by this statue of St. Therese and I thought, "Hmmm, that's interesting." Then, one quarter, I took a class entitled "Spiritual Autobiography" offered by Fr. Lou Cameli and one of the books we covered was Therese's "Story of a Soul." I really struggled with the syrupy language of the book. It is not my style but I was taken with an incident in her childhood (which she considered her conversion moment) when she was able to let go of her own feelings and rather focus on the needs of another person (her father). She had overheard her father make a comment basically about the pampering she received at Christmas but instead of

breaking down in tears (which was her wont) she let it go in a moment and celebrated Christmas with her father and family.

It was a little thing certainly but in this little thing and little moment of encounter she made the choice for love and for Christ.

This choice for love in the "little moments" became her way toward discipleship and, ultimately, sanctity.

I was struck by that, and by the end of that year I had made my first novena to St. Therese of Lisieux. When the Novena concluded I left some flowers by her statue overlooking the lake.

St. Therese does not impose (as some saintly figures do) and I think this is what is so attractive about her. Friendship with St. Therese is like having a sister. Her way is the little way. I was not looking for a friendship but I met her and she has been a friend and a model to me ever since.

Fr. Michael Cummins is a priest of the Diocese of Knoxville, TN. Ordained in 1995, he has served in a variety of roles within his diocese. Currently he is serving as pastor of St. Dominic Church in Kingsport, TN. Fr. Cummins holds a Masters of Divinity and Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the University of St. Mary of the Lake (Mundelein Seminary) in Chicago. He has a deep interest in Christian Anthropology and the interaction between faith and culture.

Sharing the Gospel

Put a brand new light bulb in a lamp. Turn the lamp on. It shines brightly. Now, unplug the lamp. The lamp goes dark. It might be a nice lamp. It might have a new light bulb. Yet, without being plugged in to electricity, the lamp cannot shine. In today's Gospel, Jesus is the vine and you are a branch. As long as you are attached to Jesus, your faith can grow fruit like love, kindness and gentleness. If you break away from Jesus, your faith will die, and you will not grow any fruit. Stay plugged in to Jesus, so you can shine. Stay connected to Jesus, so your faith can grow fruit.

JN 15:1-8

Let Us Pray

Lord,

God, help me to stay connected to Jesus. Help me to look at my parents, family, and friends as examples of how to live a life close to you.

Amen.



Puzzle

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

vine	Father	honored
joined	pray	gardener
branch	fruit	clean

inev	<u>v</u> <u>i</u> <u>n</u> <u>e</u>
Fareth	_____
genarder	_____
chanbr	_____
fritu	_____
lecan	_____
jedoin	_____
rapy	_____
onhored	_____

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Mission for the Week

Read Galatians 5:22-23 with your family. Write down the nine different kinds of fruit that will grow from your faith, when you stay connected to Jesus.

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Growing with the
GOSPEL



John 15:1-8 ■ 5th Sunday of Easter

CYCLE B



Read the Gospel and Color



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TEXT: B053East5_gg2nd3rd.txt

COLORING GRAPHIC: B053East5_gg5.tif

Name _____

