

ISSUE NO. 56

16 SEPTEMBER 2018



Cathedral WEEKLY

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LUNATIC, LIAR, OR LORD | FR. CHRISTOPHER HOUSE
DIGGING MY HEELS INTO LIGHT: WHY I WON'T LEAVE THE CHURCH | ELIZABETH SCALIA
FALL FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS AT CATHEDRAL

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 WAYNE STOCK
PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND MICHAEL FRIEDEL
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

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

Priests Convocation

The Cathedral priests will be away from Monday afternoon through Thursday evening at Convocation. Please note the deacons will be offering communion services beginning Monday evening thru Thursday evening at the regular Mass times. No confessions will be offered these days. Normal Mass and confession times will resume on Friday morning. Please keep our priests in your prayers!

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is a process developed by the Catholic Church for prospective converts to Catholicism. Through weekly sessions, candidates can have their questions answered while gradually being introduced to Catholic beliefs and practices. Deacon Scott Keen, our facilitator, will be available after all Masses on Sept 8-9 and 15-16 to answer your questions, or call the Cathedral office at 522-3342.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

Monday 17 September

7 AM - Mary Ann Midden (William Midden) 5:15 PM - Communion Service

Tuesday 18 September

7 AM - Communion Service 5:15 PM - Communion Service

Wednesday 19 September

7 AM - Communion Service 5:15 PM - Communion Service

Thursday 20 September

7 AM - Communion Service 5:15 PM - Communion Service

Friday 21 September

7 AM - Gene DeRuntz (JoAnn Barnett) 5:15 PM - Mrs. Mary Ratna Kumari Pandity (Suseela Pandity)

Saturday 22 September

8 AM - Jim Warren (Family of Jim Young) 4 PM - Don Siddens (PJ & Ruth Staab and Family)

Sunday 23 September

7 AM - Mary Ann Midden (William Midden) 10 AM - For the People 5 PM - Margaret Mary Shields (Arzy Staten)

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Lunatic, Liar, or Lord

The Christian writer C.S. Lewis in his book *Mere Christianity* posed the question that Jesus Christ had to be one of three things: a lunatic, a liar, or, actually Lord as he claimed to be. Lewis was not the first to frame this conundrum, but he was the one who “popularized” the question. The question cuts to the point of stating

who Jesus is. If he is not who he claims to be as Messiah and Lord then he is out of his mind for claiming to be the Son of God or he is a liar and a charlatan who deceived the masses. Surely we agree that Jesus was not insane nor he was he a liar, so, therefore, Jesus is Lord. Well, aren't we glad that we settled that? If only it was that easy.

The question of who Jesus Christ is for each of us is far more pointed because each of us must offer a personal response. What makes this all the more difficult is that our own personal



integrity is tied to our answer. “Who do you say that I am,” Jesus asks the Apostles and Jesus asks each of us. He is not looking for an answer from the Catechism or an answer that you can search for on Google. Jesus demands a personal response from each and every one of us.

Yes, he is Lord. Isn't that why we call ourselves Christians? Isn't that why we come to Mass on Sunday, and say our prayers, and wear crosses around our necks, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera? Yes, but is Jesus the Lord of all of my life, not just for one hour on Sunday or Saturday evening or just when I need him or when I feel guilty about something or when it's convenient? We, you and I, have to ask ourselves honestly that if we acclaim Jesus to be

who he says he is then we, as self-proclaimed Christians, have to reflect that truth in every aspect of who we are. True discipleship is not about giving a portion of ourselves but it is about giving over our total selves: thoughts, actions, words, desires, everything for Christ!

An honest read of the Gospels lets us know that there is no “fine print” with Jesus's invitation to us to be his disciples. The Gospels are a perfect example of full disclosure and this is demonstrated this Sunday when Jesus not only asks us such a pointed question but then he tells us what those who



want to be true disciples must be willing to embrace: the cross. However, that full disclosure is not just about hardship and sacrifice. The Gospels also tell us about the love, the life, the grace, and the mercy that Jesus wants us to know and possess in and through him. Making that personal statement that Jesus is Lord and Messiah means going “all in” for Christ. To offer all to and for Christ can be rather intimidating, but, as the Lord repeatedly says, do not be afraid! The Lord Jesus is with us with his grace to strengthen us and with his mercy for when we fail.

Saint Francis Xavier Seelos once said “no one was ever lost because his sin was too great, but because his trust was too small.” Do we trust in the Lordship of Jesus Christ? Do we trust in his power to change us and make us new? Do we trust in his power to save? Jesus's question of “who do you say that I am,” presupposes trust if we are to answer the same as Saint Peter. Our total trust and reliance must be in the Lord Jesus. That trust is proven in our willingness to hold nothing back from him. We want to see the world renewed, the Church renewed, and ourselves renewed. This can and will happen, but if not in and through Jesus Christ then in and through whom?

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

STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship Activity

Stewardship of Time

Lives are busy this time of year! Make sure to find time to grow deeper in your relationship with Jesus. Pray before meals, join a Bible study, attend Daily mass, or spend some time in quiet reflection.

Stewardship of Talent

Have you considered sharing your talents with the parish or have an idea of a ministry you would like to see formed? Reach out to Katie Price for more information at kprice@cathedral.dio.org.

Stewardship of Treasure- September 8th & 9th

Envelopes: \$4,751.00
Loose: \$4,206.50
Maintenance: \$145.00

TOTAL: \$9,102.50

Needed to operate weekly: \$15,907.89

Difference: \$ 6,805.39

August EFT (\$16,984.00)

Sacraments

Please pray for the repose of the soul of William Cole Gerding and for his family and friends who have laid him to rest recently.

We have had no recent Baptisms, or Marriages. Looking for information? Please contact the Parish Offices at 522-3342.

Scripture Questions

First Reading: IS 50:5-9A

We hear today how the prophet Isaiah suffered, even though he was innocent of any wrongdoing. Yet Isaiah put his trust in the Lord. What does this tell us about Isaiah's character?

Second Reading: JAS 2:14-18

James emphasizes the importance of faith producing good works. What good works do you do that stem from your faith?

Gospel Reading: MK 8:27-35

Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter rightly identifies him as the Messiah but fails to see the role of Jesus' suffering. Why do you think Peter (and many modern believers) struggles with the idea of a suffering Messiah?

Stewardship Thoughts



I must confess. I have not always prayed for someone if I told him or her I would. I have fallen victim to making the phrase, "You are in my prayers," a sentence void of real emotion or intent. It is like asking the question, "How are you?" Do I always want to know how you are at the time? Then follows the most common responses of "fine" or "good." I could have had the worst day, but I still utter a response that does

not reflect my true state. Many of us say things to be nice without really thinking about it. At least, I hope I am not the only one.

The truth is that words are meaningless without action. We sometimes make ourselves and others feel better by saying we will do things only to provide no action at all. Offering best wishes to those in real need without any action is worth little. Even if we think we are sincere, true faith without works is dead.

Good stewardship requires us to say what we mean and mean what we say. Stewardship is a way of living. It does ask for sentiments of love. It asks for profound actions of love. We need to offer our gifts, talents, time, and prayers to one another and then follow through. This means we need to be more mindful of what we are saying, more committed to following through, and more accountable for our actions if we fail. If we practice this way of living, not only will we be able to say we are doing the right

thing, but our integrity will be intact and we will bear witness to the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Tracy Welliver works for Liturgical Publications Inc. in Stewardship. He is currently the Director of Parish Community and Engagement for LPI, having previously served for 22 years as Pastoral Associate at Saint Pius X Catholic Church in Greensboro, NC.





Digging My Heels Into Light: Why I Won't Leave The Church

The question has been put to me again and again. Ever since the stories of child sex abuse broke out of Boston in 2002 and threw the Catholic Church headlong into an ongoing and painful Lent, people have asked me: "Why are you still a Catholic?"

Over the course of this summer, in the wake of revelations about former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick's criminal abuse of minors and his longstanding sexual exploitation of seminarians, the soul-shattering Grand Jury report out of Pennsylvania, and the ugly, repellantly partisan sniping among Catholics (both clerical and lay) over the controversial and still-unresolved testimonio of a former papal nuncio to the United States, the question has been asked more frequently and with growing urgency: "Why are you still part of this Church, so beset by ecclesial politics, run by so many feckless leaders, so saturated with a mindset of secrecy as to hide acts of real evil perpetrated against innocence? How do you maintain your faith amid so much darkness?"

Well, when have darkness and light been anything but co-existent? How do we recognize either without the other?

I remain within the Catholic Church because it is a Church that has lived and wrestled within the mystery of the shadowlands ever since an innocent man was arrested, sentenced, and crucified, while the keeper of "the keys" denied him, and his first priests ran away. Through two thousand imperfect years—sometimes glorious, sometimes heinous—the Church has contemplated and manifested the truth that dark and light, innocence and guilt, justice and injustice all move together, back and forth like wind-stirred wheat in a field, churning toward a culmination imaginable yet out of reach.

Yes, in a Church of billions, a number of her clergy have sinned, and gravely—criminally—against too many. If this darkness were her only reality, how could I remain?

But the other reality is one of light—the light that shines through the service of innumerable priests, religious, and layfolk who have faithfully labored in the fields of the Lord and honored his creation, and his creatures, by offering him the best of their energies. I read of the Passionist priest Father Rick Frechette building hospitals in Haiti and burying her dead, and I see light.

I meet Sacred Heart of Jesus Sister Rosemary Nyirumbe and see how her mission to teach one skill has saved the lives of thousands of exploited people touched by evil, and I see light.

Both Father Rick and Sister Rosemary shine with it, as do the Benedictines of Mary, the old-school Benedictine nuns who are building an abbey, one psalm and one song at a time, in order to give worship and praise to God on our behalf—to pray day and night for those of us who cannot or will not pray—for the sake of the whole world.

So do the thousands of volunteers who assist the poor through the St. Vincent de Paul Society or the Knights of Columbus. So do the anonymous people in our parishes, who work the outreach, light the candles, knit the prayer shawls, visit the sick, teach the young, or shovel the walkway after a snowstorm. All of it helps to illumine the dark, brighten the light.

And then, of course, there is the brightness of the Holy Eucharist, the incomparable Bread of Life, supersubstantial and luminescent. To be before it is to know, "Yours is more than mortal beauty; every word you speak is full of grace."



If the Church is a paradox of light and dark, that is really not so unusual, is it? Consider our nation: we are a "beacon of freedom" but formed by men who owned slaves. We are a nation of demonstrated goodwill and generosity—quick to send aid to others in the face of natural disasters—yet also the only nation that has ever deployed a nuclear weapon of mass destruction.

Consider the darkness and light that resides within ourselves too. I am a woman with very generous instincts, and I try to love everyone, but I am capable of corrosive scorn. Have I been much sinned against? Yes. So have you. Have I sinned against others? Oh, yes. So have you.

Like a pebble cast into a pond, our every action ripples out toward the edges, reaching farther than we intended, touching what we do not even know, for good and for ill. It all either means nothing, or it means everything.

As a Catholic, I believe it means everything.

That doesn't mean I do not suffer for the sins of my Church; we people in the pews are roiling with feelings of betrayal, shame, revulsion. My stomach aches with it; I am sometimes sleepless and edgy, and wondering what will happen next.

But I will remain, because on the other side of this darkness I see the light that is faith working within me, and many others, specifically due to this crisis. I have dug in my heels for the sake of this Church and her people, so I am also praying more for the victims and for all of us; for the Truth to triumph, for Wisdom to reign. I am fasting more, and being quicker to "offer it up" when pain or anxiety arises. I am "working my faith" in a new and more mindful way than I have in a long time, and I know I am not alone in any of it. I see light in the determined faith of other Catholics.

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Fall Faith Formation Programs at Cathedral

We are excited to announce a series of faith formation programs at the Cathedral this fall! Please bring a friend and join us for any or all of these formative programs. All are welcome and we will do our best to provide light hospitality. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Price at kprice@cathedral.dio.org.

Book Study

Facilitated by parishioner Mary Francis and open to all, the book study group will choose a book on saints, spirituality, prayer, Church teaching, or something else to read and discuss. Bring your book suggestions and a snack to share if you like.
Cathedral School Hall, Wednesdays beginning September 19, 6:30-8:00pm

Bible Study

With men and women of Cathedral parish on the first and third Tuesday of the month beginning on September 18. Facilitated by parishioner Larry Travis.
Cathedral parish library, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays beginning September 18, 6:15-7:45pm

Catholicism Series

Bishop Robert Barron journeys around the world and deep into faith to teach us what Catholics believe and why. This video and discussion program uses the spiritual and artistic treasures of the Faith to illuminate the key teachings of the Church. Facilitated by Vicki Compton.
*School Hall, Tuesday mornings
September 18-November 20, 10:00-11:30am*

The Mystery of God: Who God Is and Why He Matters

Join Father House for a DVD presentation by Bishop Robert Barron followed by discussion. This series will explore the mystery of the Triune God as understood in the Church's Tradition and taught by such individuals as St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Pope Benedict XVI.
Cathedral Atrium, Tuesdays September 25th and October 2nd & 9th, 7:00pm

Festival Choir Concert

Choirs from throughout the diocese will come together for a musical celebration of the 90th anniversary of the Cathedral.
Cathedral, Saturday, October 13, 7:00pm

Priest, Prophet, and King

The three-fold ministry in which all of the baptized share comes from Jesus himself as Priest, Prophet, and King. Father House will present this DVD series by Bishop Robert Barron that explores who Jesus Christ is as God-made-man and Savior of the world.
Cathedral Atrium, Tuesdays October 23rd, 30th, & November 6th, 7:00pm

The Last Things

As the Church year comes to an end and the faithful are reminded to turn their attention to the Second Coming of Christ, Father Stock will explore the concept of the Four Last Things as taught by the Church: Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell.
Cathedral Atrium, Mondays November 19th & 26th, 7:00pm

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Having survived sexual abuse in the family and the public schools, I identify deeply with the pain, the sense of powerlessness and abandonment that the victims of some of our priests and leadership have endured. I grieve for them—and for my Church, and for all of the countless good priests and religious who are tarnished by the actions of a depraved minority.

I am saddened beyond words to know that the Church's sins of commission and omission are casting doubt into the hearts and minds of many, and that some are leaving. They will miss the consolations of the Church in light, out of understandable concern for its shadows.

Finally, I see light in the crucifix. There, on the wood of the cross, we encounter Jesus, son of Mary, who knew shame, betrayal, abandonment, scorn, jeering, ridicule, unimaginable pain and sorrow, and submitted to them in order to draw us into a consoling embrace that says, "I know what you are feeling; I

know what you are thinking. You tortured ones, you shamed ones, you innocent ones, you slandered ones; I am the One who knows, and we are actually all in this together, and quite outside of time."

The darkness within my Church is real, and it has too often gone unaddressed. That absolutely must change.

I will do my part, because I want my Church to shine. But I understand that everything, from our institutions to our innermost beings, are now seen only as through a glass, darkly. Arms outstretched, listening for the Word and its echoing liturgy, I make my way forward, in bright hope.

Elizabeth Scalia is a Benedictine Oblate and author of several books including the award-winning Strange Gods: Unmasking the Idols in Everyday Life (Ave Maria Press) and Little Sins Mean a Lot (OSV). Her work can be found on the Word on Fire Blog and is used with permission.

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus was the king, the Messiah that God's people had been waiting for. In today's Gospel reading, the disciples were confused. If Jesus was the king, why was he saying he would die soon? Jesus' friends did not understand yet that by dying on the cross, Jesus would save them from their sins.

MK 8:27-35

Let Us Pray

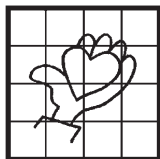
Lord,

Thank you for coming to save me from my sins. Help me to lead my life in a way that reflects your love and mercy. Help me to be more like you every day.

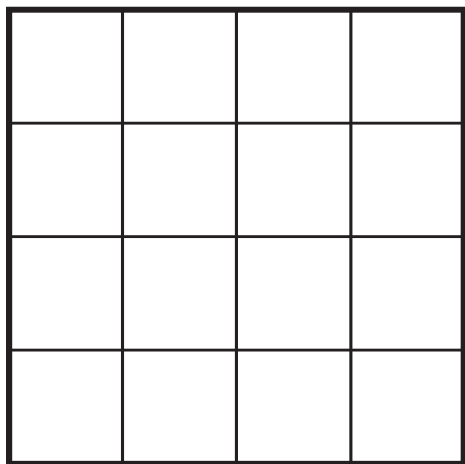
Amen.



Puzzle



Enlarge the picture square by square.



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Mission for the Week

With your family, talk about what you would enjoy if you were a king or queen. Tell how Jesus was different from other kings.

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Growing with the
GOSPEL



Mark 8:27-35 ■ 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

CYCLE B



Read the Gospel and Color



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