



#### THE MOST REVEREND THOMAS JOHN PAPROCKI

NINTH BISHOP
OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS

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

THE REVEREND WAYNE STOCK

PAROCHIAL VICAR

THE REVEREND MICHAEL FRIEDEL

PAROCHIAL VICAR

DEACON IRVIN LAWRENCE SMITH

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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.

#### **CCCW Socktober**

The Cathedral Council of Catholic Women (CCCW) invites each of you to join with other area parishes to participate in Socktober. During the month of October, you will find a laundry basket at each of the Cathedral entrances to collect socks for the homeless and disadvantaged in our community. The greatest need is socks (and hats & gloves!) for adult males. However, there is a need among women and children in area shelters as well. Thank you for your participation in Socktober!

# Knights of Columbus Annual Steak and Whiskey Dinner

The Father Tolton Knights of Columbus Council will be holding their Annual Steak & Whiskey Scholarship Dinner on Friday, November 2, 2018 from 7-11 pm. \$40 per person includes a steak from Magro's Meat and Produce, baked potato, vegetable, salad, four whiskey tastings and dessert from Pease's at Bunn Gourmet. Go to https://kofc16126.bpt.me to reserve your spot today!

#### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

**Monday 5 November** 

7 AM - Barb McGrath (Sue Warner)

**Tuesday 6 November** 

7 AM - Special Intention (Carl & Lou Ann Mack)

Wednesday 7 November

7 AM - Mary Ann Midden (William Midden)

**Thursday 8 November** 

7 AM - Mary E. Steil (Steil Family)

Friday 9 November

7 AM - Mary Ann Midden (William Midden)

Saturday 10 November

8 AM - Tina Howard (Phil & Joan LaRose)

**Sunday 11 November** 

7 AM - For the People

10 AM - Genevieve Sabattini (Barbara Bitschenauer)

5:15 PM - Mrs. Mary Ratna Kumari Pandity (Suseela Pandity)

5:15 PM - Mary Ann Midden (William Midden)

5:15 PM - Judy Huff (Mary Sestak)

5:15 PM - John & Edith Bakalar (John Busciacco)

5:15 PM - Joe & Mary Schweska (Tom McGee)

4 PM - Joseph & Chuck Landgrebe (Helen & Katie Call)

5 PM - Cynthia Crispi (John Busciacco)

# RECTOR'S COLUMN





## The Four Last Things

The winds of the last Sunday in October took many leaves with them but the colors of the season are still in full bloom. The beauty of creation in autumn is also a harbinger of the coming of winter when much of creation will enter into its deep sleep. While the winter may be cold and dark, we know that light and warmth

will return again as springtime will call creation back into new life, yet we still must face the winter. The same is true in our lives that this earthly life must come to an end. As we begin the month of November, the month of All Souls, it is good for us to be reminded of what the Church terms the Four Last Things: death, judgement, hell, and heaven.

They say that there are two unavoidable realities in life: **death** and taxes. That statement is only half true. You can avoid taxes, I don't advise it, but people do try and some are successful. Some

people try to avoid death but no one has succeeded there. Life is the time and opportunity for us to accept God's grace and to cooperate with it. While death is perceived as the natural course of life, death is also understood from a religious perspective as an aberration, as a consequence of sin, that was not made nor intended by God (see Wisdom 1:13 & 2:24). A disciple should be able to see a distinction between death and Christian death. For the faithful Christian death has been transformed into nothing more than a doorway to a new and greater life with God in Christ.

This year on the Solemnity of Christ the

King (two weeks from now) we will hear the Gospel of the Last Judgment proclaimed to us at Mass. While the Scriptures speak of this general **judgment** the Church also speaks of particular judgment that all of us will face at the moment of death. Our own innate sense of justice moves us to believe that there must be some final reckoning concerning what good, or lack thereof, that we did in our earthly life. This judgement is not so much about God rendering a decision regarding us but rather fulfilling the choice we made by how we lived, as St. Paul teaches us "for we

must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil" (2 Cor 5: 10). From this judgment, we then enter into one of two destinies: eternal life or eternal damnation.

For those who live and die in God's friendship, they can be assured of everlasting life with him in **heaven**. This eternal destiny may be entered into immediately for those who die without any attachment to sin or after a period of purification for those who die, not in mortal sin, but with an attachment to venial sin. This process of purging is known as purgatory. Every soul in purgatory is destined for union with God in heaven. The pain of purgatory is not an intentional punishment inflicted by God but rather it is the result of the pain of separation experienced by the soul until it achieves perfect union with God.

For those who die in a state of mortal sin, having made a clear, manifested choice against God, the Church teaches that those souls suffer the eternal torments of **hell**. The suffering of hell is not one of fire and brimstone, but one of complete and

everlasting separation from

God with full knowledge of what has been lost. The Church teaches that hell does indeed exist and the Lord Jesus warns us of it in the Scriptures. While the Church affirms hell's existence, she does not formally teach that anyone is there except the devil and his fallen angels.

Death and judgment are realities that all of us must one day face, but for those who strive daily to live in God's friendship, sinners though we are, we have nothing to fear for we have a loving and merciful God. Let us keep our hearts open to that love and mercy every day. If you would like to learn more about

the Four Last Things, I invite you to two upcoming faith formation sessions on the subject with Fr. Stock on November 19th and 26th at 7PM in the Cathedral Atrium.

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



## SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP



### Stewardship Activity

#### Stewardship of Time

We have a need for more liturgical volunteers! Please take a look at the details below in the Season of Stewardship.

#### Stewardship of Talent

Fall at the Cathedral brings many opportunities for volunteerism! Looking to become involved? Email Vick Compton at <a href="mailto:vcompton@cathedral.dio.org">vcompton@cathedral.dio.org</a>

Stewardship of Treasure- October 27th & 28th

Envelopes: \$3,606.83 Loose: \$5,070.00 Maintenance: \$136.00

Total: \$8,812.83 October EFT (\$17,501.20)

#### Sacraments

Please continue to pray for those listed on the online prayer wall and in our daily intentions. We have not had any recent funerals, weddings, or baptisms. Looking for sacramental information? Please contact the Parish Offices at 522-3342.

#### **Scripture Questions**

First Reading: DT 6:2-6

Moses reminds the Israelites to teach their children and grandchildren the greatest commandment given to them by God just before they were entering into the Promised Land. What are you teaching your children and grandchildren about God?

Second Reading: HEB 7:3-28

The author of Hebrews continues to emphasize Jesus as the perfect and eternal holy, heavenly high priest who intercedes to God for us sinners. For what sins in your life do you need Jesus' intercession?

Gospel Reading: MK 12:28b-34

We hear today a positive encounter between Jesus and a scribe. Jesus affirmed the scribe because he answered Jesus "with understanding." Why do you think so many of the religious leaders of Jesus' day misunderstood him?



# Season of Stewardship

"All things are possible for God"

Thank you for filling out the Stewardship Intention Form! There is still time to fill it out. Please return to the Parish Offices or fill it out online at

spicathedral.org/stewardship-form

We are grateful to the many parishioners who have already placed their stewardship forms in the offertory basket or submitted them online last week. Thank you for answering the call, for confirming your commitment to stewardship at Cathedral, and for being a participant in the life of this community! There is still time to fill out your form and join us. To do so, please fill it out online at <a href="mailto:spicathedral.org/stewardship-form">spicathedral.org/stewardship-form</a> or contact the Parish Offices for a paper copy. Thank you and God bless!

If you have any questions, please reach out to the parish offices or Katie Price at <a href="kprice@cathedral.dio.org">kprice@cathedral.dio.org</a>. Please be patient with Katie's response while she is on maternity leave. We will respond as soon as possible.

## FAITH FORMATION





## Lessons from St. Teresa: How to Be the Eyes, Hands, and Feet of Christ

Christ has no body but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours, Yours are the eyes with which he looks Compassion on this world, Yours are the feet with which he walks to

Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, Yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours, Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

- St. Teresa of Ávila

When I first read the words of this beautiful prayer by St. Teresa of Ávila, I felt they truly summed up how I wanted to live my life — by sharing God's love with those around me. My own prayer became focused on finding ways to love the people I meet, even in the routine circumstances of my day.

He was perhaps 5 years old, standing in my open doorway and waiting for me to notice him. When I greeted the little boy, he whispered in his best English: "My mother asks you give her painkillers. Her tooth is hurting." Because my husband and I run a tourist lodge in Gambia, I spend the winter months in this tiny West African country. Many people live hand-to-mouth, and finding money to go to a health clinic is beyond them. Our neighbors know I keep a basic first aid kit and painkillers on hand, so it's a rare week when someone doesn't appear at our door asking for help. It's one small way I can show love to my community. Jesus said that the greatest commandment was to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself, and he lived out that commandment daily. He brought God's love to those on the margins of society, stood up against injustice, and showed compassion for those he met.

St. Teresa was born in Spain in 1515. As a young woman, she became a Carmelite nun, but for many years she found it difficult to devote herself as fully to God as she wanted. But eventually, after a series of visions, she felt herself becoming closer and closer to God, founding her own religious order despite much opposition. She focused on living a life of simplicity and experiencing God's love, motivating her to show that love to those around her. This famous prayer sums up her attitude. It's become a very real inspiration for me here in one of the poorest countries in Africa. Here are a few ways you too can bring this prayer to life:

Yours are the eyes that look with compassion

When Jesus looked at people he met, he didn't judge them by the standards of the day. He looked beyond the outward circumstances of their lives — circumstances that sometimes

invited condemnation from the religious leaders and the community — and showed love toward them. Think about his compassionate exchange with the woman caught in adultery or his interactions with Zacchaeus, the tax collector reviled in his community. With these examples in mind, I'm trying to look at others with the same compassion, without judging or condemning, even those who perhaps don't invite it easily.

Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world

Jesus used his hands to work as a skilled carpenter. We, too, have skills we can use to help others, such as helping a friend fix their car, using your gifts to update the church website, or cleaning up a neighbor's yard after a storm. Jesus also blessed people with his hands, like the children who were brought to him despite the disciples' disapproval. In the past, I've cooked a meal for an elderly neighbor, sewed drapes for a friend's new home, and soothed a fretful baby so a new mom could steal some sleep. These are all practical ways we can use our hands to bless others. Jesus also used his hands to heal. He spread mud on a blind man's eyes, lifted Jairus' daughter from her deathbed, and even touched lepers despite the fear and revulsion of most people at the time. We can all hold the hand of a sick friend when praying for their healing, console a teen who's disappointed after not making the team, or hug a grieving friend.

## Yours are the feet that walk to do good

Jesus walked everywhere, crisscrossing the region constantly because walking was the only way to travel unless you were rich. During his journeying, Jesus reached out to others. He talked with the woman at the well and taught those who walked miles and sat for hours just to listen to him speak. He even walked to Bethany, knowing that his friend Lazarus had died, to comfort Martha and Mary and ultimately raise Lazarus to life again.

Use your feet to do good by doing a walk or run for charity. A few years back, I raised money for Cancer Research UK by taking part in a 5K run. The thought that I was helping others was a great motivation when I was training! By extension, drive a friend to a doctor's appointment or take a neighbor to the grocery store. You might travel yourself to visit a friend in the hospital or volunteer at a shelter for the homeless. Some might even feel called to travel worldwide, perhaps to serve on a hospital ship or volunteer their medical expertise.

Learning to live St. Teresa's prayer means looking for opportunities to bring God's love to others, including small acts of compassion in our daily lives. Praying St. Teresa's prayer has made me much more aware of God's compassion toward people I meet every day — in line at the grocery store, waiting for the bus, or simply someone I pass in the street. I feel closer to God because I'm learning to see others through his eyes. So every day, I'm trying to look for ways to use my hands, feet, and whole body to show God's love to everyone.

Elizabeth Manneh is a freelance writer, sharing her time between the UK and The Gambia, West Africa. This article is used with permission from Busted Halo and can be found here: https:// bit.ly/2zhfZ4l

# FAITH FORMATION





## Weeds and Wheat: Getting Rid of What We Don't Need

I recently went on a four-day silent retreat at a local abbey. My friend made me promise her that I would sing "Climb Every Mountain" on a hill. I did not. Not because I didn't want to, but because I couldn't. It was a silent retreat. Also, the hillside terrain was

rocky and cliffy, less for twirling in delight and more for falling to imminent death.

So, what did I learn while I was out there? A few things: 1. Four days of silence and complete seclusion from the material world is life-changing. 2. The material world is in a huge hurry for no reason whatsoever. 3. My life is unnecessarily cluttered for no reason whatsoever. 4. I'd do okay as a cloistered nun. (I love the idea of not having to do my hair. Ever.)

But, most importantly, I learned the difference between weeds and wheat. Yes, weeds n' wheat, which would make an excellent name for a line of bagged salads. During my retreat, a Benedictine nun much wiser than me explained the parable of the man who sowed good wheat seed in his field, but later his enemies came and sowed weeds among the wheat (Matthew 13:24-30). The weeds and wheat grow together until the harvest when the weeds were separated and burned. For all the times that I've heard this parable, I've always

assumed that non-faithful folks were the weeds and the ones who served God were the wheat. And that's correct. But Sister shared that there's a more personal aspect to this parable. Sometimes, we grow wheat within ourselves and other times we grow weeds. We go through life with both good and bad traits and find at some point we have to pick and choose what we'll keep to shape our future. The life we live, the choices we make, the company we keep, can all be weeds and wheat. So, how can we discern the weeds from wheat so we know what to pick and what to leave?

## Fill up time with things for God

As you nurture and grow your relationship with God, you want to make changes in life. And often that begins with getting rid of habits and traits (the weeds) that aren't beneficial. For me, that was my pride, selfishness, and fear of what others would think. In time, as I continued to work on that relationship, I found those things became less important until they were completely gone.

Put energy into the most important places and forget the rest.

By using energy to foster the things in life that bring us closer to God, it becomes easier to remove the things in life that we don't need. For me, I find that I get sucked into the daily routine of my family life. I place too much significance on the sink full of dishes and the never-ending to-do list until I'm completely stressed out. Rather, my energy needs to be on work that must get done and spending time with my family and maybe squeeze in a few minutes for prayer.

### Confess

There is probably no better way to see your weeds and your wheat than going into a confessional and laying it all out to see. Often, I'll go into confession with a few things on my mind, and I'll walk out with a greater understanding of my flaws. Over the course of a few weeks, the root always starts to show itself. If you want a fast way to change your life, the confessional is the place to make it happen.



Humble yourself to serve others in need. I did some volunteer work at a local hospital in their chemotherapy room. I spent my shift getting drinks and warm blankets for people undergoing therapy. Occasionally, someone would feel like visiting, but it wasn't often. What I did there wasn't any kind of super-heroic thing, but it showed me that these people were battling something that was bigger than anything I've ever had to face in my life. Very little in life has brought me the same joy as those

weeks I spent warming towels and hustling back and forth to the cooler for ice water for everyone who needed it.



When you situate yourself around people who are spiritually fulfilled, it's contagious. Likewise, if you situate yourself with people who have the wrong agenda, it's also contagious. I try to challenge myself to be around people who have a greater grasp of their faith. It challenges me to better my own.

## Limit your exposure to social media

The wrong websites and the wrong online "friends" can be a waste of time and a distraction from the real things in life you should be focusing on. For example, finding pages that offer daily inspiration is a good thing. Taking quizzes on what kind of potato chip you are, not such a great thing. Falling into a rabbit hole of useless articles, tips, threads of angry disagreements are not good, but easy to get sucked into. So, be mindful of how you use social media. Also, cat memes are never a waste of time.

Continued on p. 7



## FAMILY CORNER



#### Continued from p. 6

#### Pray

Pray. Praaaaaaaaaay the day away. For me, the best time to pray is at night, when I can completely focus. Two years ago I gave up TV at night to pray the Rosary. During the day, I try to make an effort to talk to God at least five or six times about something specific happening in my day. It's never anything exciting, but it reminds me that he is always there listening.

When the weeds are out, there's an overwhelming sense of peace and sometimes a glimpse of the joy only God can give. When you weed correctly, it's much easier to manage any new growth in your life, both positive and negative. In the two years I've been working on my prayer life and my relationship with God, I've found that my perspective on life is a lot more centered on him. I find myself noticing the small miracles every day. A random

cool breeze while I'm jogging on a hot day, the person who held the door open for me at the dentist, or the woman who bought an item for me that the cashier didn't see in my cart until after I had already paid.

I still grow plenty of weeds, and I don't always notice them right away, but a majority of the weeds that I had in myself, the ones that kept me from being the person I know I can be, those are

gone. Thanks to God. Now, it's my job to be vigilant and make sure they don't take over again.

Christina Antus lives with her husband and her three children. She is a writer for the Busted Halo Blog. This article is originally found here: https://bustedhalo.com/ministry-resources/weedsand-wheat-getting-rid-of-what-we-dont-need and used with permission from Busted Halo.

### Sharing the Gospel

The man in today's Gospel reading was a scribe. It was his job to write out copies of God's word. Many of the scribes did not care for Jesus, but this one man really understood the heart of God's law-love. To love God and to love others is more important than anything else.

## Let Us Pray Dear God.

Help us to love you and love others the way you want us to.

Amen



