

ISSUE NO. 70

23 DECEMBER 2018

4th

Sunday
OF ADVENT

Cathedral
WEEKLY

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE LESSON OF BETHLEHEM AND MARY | FR. CHRISTOPHER HOUSE
STEWARDSHIP RESOLUTIONS | KATIE PRICE
NEW YEAR, NEW CATHEDRAL | VICKI COMPTON

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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oh shoot, I forgp - CATHEDRAL OFFICE
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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.


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!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK



Very Reverend Christopher A. House
Rector

Monday 24 December

4 PM - Eulia (Jean) I. Ohl (Angela Ohl)

7 PM - Peter Albanese & Family (Lily Layden)

Tuesday 25 December

12 AM - Kyle Buckman (Mom)

9 AM - Barb McGee (Tom McGee)

Wednesday 26 December

7 AM -Paul & Marian Crowley (Celeste Crowley)

5:15 PM - NO MASS

Thursday 27 December

7 AM -Mary Ann Midden (William Midden)

5:15 PM - Paul Lannan (Bill & Wilma Sinnott)

Friday 28 December

7 AM -Carolyn Gray (Ned & Janet Riordan)

5:15 PM - Dr. David Mack (Lou Ann & Carl Corrigan)

Saturday 29 December

8 AM - Margaret Grey (Friend)

4 PM - For the People

Sunday 30 December

7 AM -Mary Ann Midden (William Midden)

10 AM - Boyd Warner (Sue Warner)

5 PM - Marcella Dahlkamp (Mary Sestak)

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



The Lesson of Bethlehem and Mary

The time is almost here. Few things give me more joy than Christmastime. While it will truly be here in just a few more sleeps, I know some folks, sadly, are ready for it to be over. Perhaps, among other reasons, its because we “jump the gun” on Christmas to the point that we seem to

have Christmas fatigue by the time the actual day and true season arrives. But, I digress; another debate for another time.

The first reading and the Gospel for this Fourth Sunday of Advent help to set the stage for our celebration of Christmas this coming week. Starting last Monday on December 17th, the focus of the season of Advent changed. We found ourselves looking forward to the return of Jesus at the end of time for the majority of the season; the tale-end of Advent, always starting on December 17th, invites us to begin to focus on the coming of Jesus as the

child of Bethlehem. In the first reading we hear the Prophet Micah speaking of Bethlehem. The Gospel tells us of Mary's visitation to her cousin Elizabeth where Mary finds her faith in the words of Gabriel confirmed by the fact that Elizabeth is with child.

What both Bethlehem and Mary have in common is that no one would have expected either of them to have anything to do with the coming of the Messiah; Bethlehem lacked the glory of its neighbor Jerusalem, even though Bethlehem truly is

“David's city” and Mary was a girl from a non-descript family in a back-water town called Nazareth, a town of maybe two-hundred people at the time. However, with both Bethlehem and Mary we see God doing wonderful things in and through them.

As we prepare to approach the manger, may it remind us that God performs some of his greatest acts in the unlikeliest of situations with some of the unlikeliest people.



If God chose for the birth of his only begotten son to take place in these circumstances then why do we at times think that God is limited by the circumstances of our individual lives? Psalm 126 declares “the Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.” The birth of our savior truly is a great and wondrous thing, but the goodness of God is not locked in the past. God is still looking to do great things in our lives. Like Mary, may we open our hearts in faith to the power and possibility of God's action in our lives.

On behalf of Bishop Paprocki, Father Stock, Father Friedel, Deacon Smith, Deacon Keen, and the Cathedral parish staff, I wish you and yours a blessed and Merry Christmas. May the Christ child turn his tender face to you and gift you the joy and peace that come from him alone. God bless you!

PS - Here is a fun Christmas fact for you.

Did you know that this Christmas Eve will be the 200th anniversary of the first performance of Silent Night? It was originally composed in German in Austria when, as the likely dubious tradition states, the organ was in disrepair on Christmas Eve. The pastor had actually written the text two years earlier in 1816 and just before Christmas in 1818 asked the parish musician to set the words to music for guitar. Today the beloved Christmas hymn has been translated into approximately 140 languages and Bing Crosby's recording of it is the third best-selling single of all-time

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

We are so close to receiving the greatest gift! Spend some extra time with Jesus this week by praying an extra 5 minutes or reflecting on the scripture for the day.

Stewardship of Talents

Christ has called us to use our gifts. Sharing our God-given gifts by actively participating in the life the parish is an expression of stewardship.

Stewardship of Treasure- December 15th & 16th

Envelopes: \$5,498.75

Loose: \$2,651.59

Maintenance: \$65.00

Total: \$8,215.34

November EFT (\$17,504.45)

Sacraments

Are you looking for sacramental information? Please contact the Parish Offices at 522-3342.

Scripture Questions

First Reading: MI 5:1-4A

The prophet Micah was a contemporary to the prophet Isaiah, both 8th century B.C. prophets of the southern kingdom of Judah. Micah, like Isaiah, prophesied that God would send an "anointed one" to Israel to rule His people with peace. How do you see this prophecy of peace fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ?

Second Reading: HEB 10:5-10

Hebrews teaches us that Christ came into the world to do God's will. How do you strive to do God's will in your life?

Gospel Reading: LK 1:39-45

We hear today Luke's account of the visit between Elizabeth and Mary. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth joyfully greets Mary, calling her "the mother of my Lord." How do you experience Mary as your spiritual Mother?

Stewardship Resolutions

I recently read that only 8% of New Year's resolutions last beyond one month. I have made my fair share of New Year's resolutions. Life changes, busy schedules, new additions to the family (!) can all contribute to our chances of completing them. If you Google, "2019 New Year's Resolutions" you will find people providing you lists of the best resolutions to make for next year. While I scroll down the page, I see articles encouraging resolutions for health, work, organization, money habits, the list goes on and on for "about 62,000,000" results. We haven't even come to the last week of December and we already have that many opinions and experts on the topic? I scrolled through the first few pages of the results looking for advice on spiritual resolutions, and found...none.



Have you ever created a concrete plan to help someone else? Jesus had a plan. It was a plan that was undeniably other-oriented. Jesus approached those on the fringes. He embraced the abandoned. He served the poor. He comforted the sorrowful. He listened, prayed, and consoled those in need. He was intentional. What would such a plan look like for us? Who around

us is in need of assistance, love or forgiveness? Maybe they need your physical assistance around the house or maybe they just need someone to listen and pray with them. These are some examples of resolutions that lead to intentional discipleship.

As we enter into the Christmas Season, let us keep the warmth and light of Jesus' birth at the forefront of our mind. Let us be a people-centered church; a community led by believers and doers. Let us lift each other up and reach out to those on the margins of our society. I pray that each of us

can boldly live out the Gospel message this season!

Many of us have optimistically made resolutions at the beginning of a new year. Unfortunately, many resolutions tend to be self-oriented. What if our resolution for 2019 was other-oriented? What if our resolutions looked different next year? How would creating other-oriented resolutions lead to a stewardship way of life?

Katie Price is the Coordinator for Stewardship at Cathedral.



New Year, New Cathedral

So much has changed for Cathedral parish over the past year. After many years ministering to children through our school, we regretfully said good bye to that apostolate. As sad as that was for many, the loss of a school left space for something new to grow. This fall we began to explore some new ways of being Christ to our community. Alpha, a process for introducing people to a relationship with Jesus Christ, was successfully launched in June, and we look forward to welcoming more Alpha guests in January. Our priests have undertaken a wide-ranging schedule of adult faith formation opportunities to help us grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. We have prayerfully considered our response to God's generosity in our lives during our Season of Stewardship. Our music director, Mark Gifford has expanded opportunities to pray and worship through music ministry, including our first ever Lessons and Carols, and the exciting new First Friday Concert series. We have

started a conversation about trauma in order to better serve those in need in our neighborhood and community. In February we will participate in University of Dallas' pilot for Studies in Catholic Faith and Culture. And we are hoping to offer bereavement ministry to accompany those who are suffering through a loss.

Much has changed and will continue to change at the Cathedral, but what remains constant is our mission to make Christ known to the "ends of the earth". It is a mission shared by all the faithful. Our parish will continue to evolve and discern how to live as disciples of Jesus Christ and how to invite others to their own relationship with Jesus in the Catholic Church. It is so important for each of us to be part of this. I invite you in 2019 to take advantage of all Cathedral has to offer to connect with the parish and deepen your relationship with Christ.

May God bless Cathedral parish and all who come through our doors.

Vicki Compton is the Coordinator of Faith Formation and Mission at Cathedral.



**Being a disciple is
not just something
else to do,
alongside many
other things
suitable for
Christians, it is a
total way of life
and requires
continuing
conversion.**

**From USCCB's Stewardship a
Disciple's Response - Pastoral
Letter on Stewardship**

DISCIPLESHIP



You're Invited...to pray

Daily Mass

Mon- Fri, 7:00am and 5:15pm
Saturday, 8:00am and 4:00pm
Sunday, 7:00am, 10:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

Mon-Fri, 4:15-5:00pm, Saturday 9:00-10:00am, 2:30-3:30pm,
Sunday 4:00-4:45pm

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, 4:00pm and 7:00pm
Christmas Day, Midnight and 9:00am

Mary Mother of God Holy Day

Vigil mass, December 31st, 5:15
January 1st, 9:00am

You're Invited...to serve

Helping Hands Volunteer Planning Meeting

A team of faithful Cathedral volunteers has provided a home cooked meal each month to the men at the Helping Hands Homeless Shelter for 13 years. Anyone who would like to be a part of this volunteer group is invited to join us as we prepare for our 14th year of service. Those who do not cook can help in other ways. If you are interested in participating in this ministry to "feed the hungry", please join us for a 9:00 am breakfast meeting on Saturday, January 5, 2019 in the Cathedral School Hall. It is very important to attend this planning breakfast to meet with your group and plan meals for the entire year. Please RSVP by calling 487-7824 no later than January 2nd.

Ministry of Altar Servers

The Cathedral is looking for more youth (5th grade and older) and adults to assist at the altar in the ministry of altar server. Altar serving provides a beautiful opportunity to serve the Lord and help to keep the liturgies at the Cathedral running smoothly. Training for all youth servers (current and newly beginning) will occur on Monday, January 21 at 11 am, with a pizza party to follow. Parents are invited as well! Training for all adult servers (weekday and weekend, new and experienced) will occur on Wednesday, January 23rd at 6 pm, with a dinner hosted in the Cathedral rectory to follow. For interest and to RSVP to the training, please contact Fr. Friedel at 522-3342 or email Vicki Compton at vcompton@cathedral.dio.org.

You're Invited...to learn

Catholicism: The Pivotal Players, Volume One

In this film series, Bishop Robert Barron helps to unlock the truth behind some of the Catholic Church's most influential people. From St. Francis of Assisi to St. Catherine of Siena, from

St. Thomas Aquinas to Michelangelo, all the way to Blessed John Henry Newman and G.K. Chesterton Christ's Incarnation is on display through the minds and lives of his Church's members. Facilitated by Vicki Compton, Tuesdays at 10:00am in the Cathedral school basement, beginning January 8th

The Gospel According to St. Luke

The beginning of a new liturgical year brings a new cycle of readings with this year's focus on the Gospel of St. Luke. Join Father Friedel in exploring the Gospel's teachings, structure, and themes. Cathedral Atrium, Thursdays, January 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st, 7:00pm

The Writings of Flannery O'Connor

Georgia native Flannery O'Connor (1925-1964) is considered by many to be "one of America's greatest fiction writers and one of the strongest apologists for Roman Catholicism in the twentieth century." Join Father Stock for a look at her life and writings. Cathedral Atrium, Tuesdays February 12th, 19th, & 26th, 7:00pm

You're Invited...to listen

Carols at Noon

Mark Gifford, Cathedral Organist plays an hour of Christmas Carols on the Cathedral Pipe Organ. Free and family friendly. Cathedral, Wednesday, December 26th, Noon

First Friday Concert

Lukas Hasler, Organist from Graz, Austria begins his Winter US Tour at the Cathedral. Free and open to the public, you will not want to miss this kick off to our 2019 First Friday Concert series! Cathedral, Friday, February 1st, 7:00



Sharing the Gospel

Mary couldn't wait to visit her much older cousin, Elizabeth, up in the hills of Judea. Both of them were expecting babies. Each of them knew that the birth of her child was a special event that could only happen because they trusted God. Your own mother trusted that God would give you life in this world. Both Mary and Elizabeth watched their children grow up to do good things. You can grow up to do good things too, if you trust in God.

Let Us Pray

Dear God,

Help me to trust you and to remember that you are the reason we celebrate Christmas.

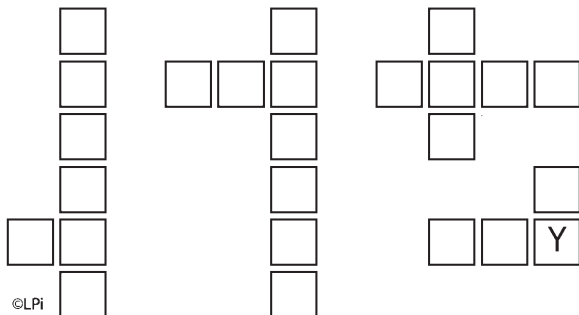
Amen.



Puzzle

Fit the following words from today's Gospel into the empty squares below.

The infant in my womb leaped for joy.



©LPi



Mission for the Week

You belong to a larger family than just the people in your home. See how many of your relatives you can name before you visit them at Christmas. When you do see them, wish them "Merry Christmas!"

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Growing with the GOSPEL

My Church, My Family and Me

Luke 1:39-45 ■ 4th Sunday of Advent

CYCLE C



Read the Gospel and Color



©LPi

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Name _____