

ISSUE NO. 71

30 DECEMBER 2018

Cathedral WEEKLY



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

THE FEASTS OF THE HOLY FAMILY AND MARY, MOTHER OF GOD | FR. CHRISTOPHER HOUSE
GETTING UNCOMFORTABLE | KATIE PRICE
WHAT CHILDREN CAN TEACH US ABOUT GOD | PAT FLYNN

Cathedral WEEKLY

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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 31 December

7 AM- Antonio Glazik (Lou Ann & Carl Corrigan) 5:15PM - Mary Ann Midden (Denise Drennan)

Tuesday 1 January

9 AM - For the People

Wednesday 2 January

7 AM - Mary Ann Midden (William Midden) 5:15 PM - Shirley Logan (Lisa Logan & Family)

Thursday 3 January

7 AM -Barb McGrath (Friend) 5:15 PM - Shirley Logan (Anonymous)

Friday 4 January

7 AM - Margaret Herman (Friend) 5:15 PM - Rich Lefferts (Friend)

Saturday 5 January

8 AM - Kevin Dallavis (Jeannette Giannone) 4 PM - Kara Leigh Smith (Friends from ISBC)

Sunday 6 January

7 AM -For the People 10 AM - Charles & Mercedes Nesbitt (Kathy Frank)
5 PM - Special Intention for Lost Souls (CCCW)

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



The Feasts of the Holy Family and Mary, Mother of God

We continue our journey through the Octave of Christmas this weekend with the celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family. This feast reminds us that Jesus was raised in a home, that he grew in age, wisdom, and in knowledge of God's will for his life. He also grew in grace and obedience under the care of Mary and Joseph.

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God follows the Feast of the Holy Family on New Year's Day. This solemnity marks the end of the Octave of Christmas by celebrating the motherhood of Mary, remembering that it was from her that Jesus took his human nature, becoming one with us in all things but sin. This solemnity is a holy day of obligation and Mass will be offered on Monday evening at 5:15PM and on Tuesday morning, New Year's Day, at 9AM.

As we continue our journey through the Christmas season, I wish to thank all who ministered and assisted in making our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day celebrations so wonderful, especially to those in our music ministry and to our maintenance staff for their work in setting the environment in the church.

How blessed we are to have this joyous season of light in the midst of the darkest days of winter, but also at a time when the light begins to lengthen ever so slightly and the darkness begins to recede. Please continue to enjoy the beauty of the season. It began, not ended, on December 25th and continues through Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord on January 13th. May the joy of Christmas continue to be yours and may you know God's abundant grace and blessings in 2019. Happy New Year!

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



Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

December 31 - Mass Times: 7am
and 5:15pm Mass (Holy Day Vigil)
Confessions 4:15 to 5pm
Parish Office Closes at Noon

January 1 - Mass Time: 9am Only
No 7am or 5:15pm Mass
No Confessions
Parish Office Closed

STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship Activity

Stewardship of Time

Make a New Year's Resolution to spend more time in prayer, five minutes or adding in daily Mass can deepen your relationship with God.

Stewardship of Talents

As you make New Year's Resolutions, consider your gifts and sharing them with the Parish!

Stewardship of Treasure- December 15th & 16th

Envelopes: \$6,232.00

Loose: \$8,621.62

Maintenance: \$15.00

Total: \$14,868.62

November EFT (\$17, 504.45)

Sacraments

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

Scripture Questions

First Reading: SIR 3:2-6, 12-14

Hannah, the mother of the prophet Samuel, is portrayed as a woman of great faith. Upon reflection, how would you describe the faith of your mother?

Second Reading: COL 3:12-21

John teaches us that we can be called "children of God" if we believe in Jesus and love one another. How well do you think you do these two mandates?

Gospel Reading: LK 2:41-52

Luke is the only evangelist to record an event in the life of Jesus as a boy. It is an event filled with "great anxiety" for Joseph and Mary. What lesson(s) do you learn from this story?



Getting Uncomfortable

We are not very good at inviting. I can't tell you how many conversations I have had with Catholics recently when that phrase came up. Why is that? Can we grow deeper in holiness by inviting?

Some of you may be thinking you could never ask someone. I ask people if they will come to an event or program at our church and there is hesitation. I imagine they don't get asked to go to a church event very often. I get it; this isn't a normal request nowadays. It is not like, "let's go get a casual cup of coffee," instead it is, "let's go get some spiritual nourishment and possibly talk about things that may make us uncomfortable." Right?

It may be hard to invite, but it may be equally hard for the person to accept. If we enter into this invitation with sensitivity to the person on the receiving end, we might be more successful. Frankly, people might not want to be asked, as much as we don't want to ask them. However, Jesus' ministry would not have gotten very far without *inviting*. He asked, too. He said to go make disciples, which requires invitation. It is now our turn to invite. Go make disciples in the new year!

Katie Price is the Coordinator for Stewardship at the Cathedral.

Everyday Stewardship

Do you practice good stewardship with your family? Stewardship is about more than offerings to a church or charity. It is about continually giving of ourselves in a way that gives glory to God. Sharing our gifts with those in our immediate family honors God and is evidence of your gratitude for these people in your life.

How can we effectively accomplish this? One way is to reflect on how the 6 characteristics of an Everyday Steward are present in our family relationships. Are we mindful when we are with our family members? Do we focus on them and their needs rather than our phone or TV? Do we hold up our family in prayer? Their concerns should be our concerns. Do we find ways to show how grateful we are for having them in our lives?

When we find ourselves lacking in gratitude, we should reflect on what life would be like without them. Do we help one another without being asked because we have a gracious heart? It is easy to take for granted those we see all the time. Hospitality is not just for the stranger or guest. Are we committed to a life of stewardship that not only serves as a good example, but also helps our relatives thrive? Using our gifts without wisdom might mean we have little to give to those we love. Finally, do we hold each other accountable for our decisions and shortcomings?

We are on the journey of life together, and no one exists in the Body of Christ alone. Stewardship is about the entirety of our lives. Our faith life is not reserved to Mass on a Sunday. It all begins and ends with those we love.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS,

Written for LPi and used with permission

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

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

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

What Children Can Teach Us About God

Entering into this world with eyes for excitement, children have a sense of amazement over everything that is. As adults, we find this sensation in watching movies or reading books or playing video games. In a word, from escapism. We see Star Wars or read The Lord of the Rings and experience childlike wonder again. But for children, the world just is The Lord of the Rings. It's altogether a little bit creepy, and totally fantastic.

Now, there are many things we can learn from children, but one of them—and perhaps the best of all—is how to look at the world. Very quickly: Here is something children know that adults forget. Everything in this world is, but doesn't have to be. Children bear undiluted, clear witness to the radical contingency of everything that exists; to the preposterous and hair-raising fact that something like crocodiles exist. Because, quite frankly, it is preposterous that something like crocodiles exist. Surely, it is the stuff of fairy tales that these bizarre and bumpy, green creatures are out there. And so, it would seem to me—as it seems so clear to my children—that everything from rice pilaf to Spanish octopi points simply to the fact that life is just one big ball of magic. It's all here. But it doesn't have to be. And yet we're all so darn glad that it is. We've got front row seats to the greatest show to ever be staged.

But the lessons from children don't stop there; not even close. For children are not only bemused at the wonder of existence but appreciative of it. They want to know everything about, say, goblin sharks—why they live where they do, what's up with their grotesque snouts and pink skin and mangled, sharp, scraggly teeth—and then, of all things, they tell me they love them. (“Goblin sharks? Really? Okay!”) Same with tarantulas, or crayons and coloring books, or trolley cars and pizza delivery people. Everything gets the attention of children, even (and especially) the stuff that we as grownups have come to view as unimportant, or kind of gross. There's something to be learned from this. Something important.

Because there is nothing necessary about any of these things, nothing about why goblin sharks and not some other hideous-yet-fascinating deep sea creature, or why pizza delivery people or trolley cars, or why these laws of physics or these fermions and bosons and not some other fundamental “stuff,” and so that's what makes the world all the more incredible. It is. But it doesn't have to be. It's not just the fact that these things exist that intrigues us, but also that we can ask questions about them, as children do. We can ask why.

Children see there must be some reason for the magic happening; they can see we live in a world that is no different (in principle, at least) than fairyland, only instead of fairies, we have platypus and pocket lint. There must be some kind of explanation for it: all magic requires a magician, or so we think. And so who, we would all like to know, is the one behind all this? Who is the one pulling the universe from his sleeve, conducting the celestial symphony, writing the cosmic narrative? We look around at this great and fantastic drama we're in—with all its amazing stage

props and characters and events—and we demand to know something about the stage designer, the prop master, or whatever we want to call him. We get that Caesar died because Brutus stabbed him—that we can figure out from reading the story alone, just as we can figure out that objects are attracted to one another by the law of gravity from observing the universe alone—but who wrote the story to begin with? Who breathed the fire and made things just so? Why Brutus at all? Why is the law of gravity this way and not that?



Children see the world in the way it is meant to be seen. They see it as magic, mystical, awe-inspiring. They see it as unnecessary and, because of this, infinitely precious and worth admiring. Worth asking questions about. Worth taking in. They want to know everything they can about, well, everything they can, from crocodiles to clouds, from cars to catapults. Children get us to see, quite clearly, and quite rightly, I believe, that there is nothing about this universe that explains itself, just as there is nothing within The Lord of the Rings that explains The Lord of the Rings. To answer that, we would need to take the question up with J.R.R. Tolkien. For the universe itself, that question is kicked to God.

There are theological implications here, as there are theological implications in (almost) everything. Children not only get this, but are unaffected by it; unpestered by social pressure or political influence, children are wholly unconcerned about whether certain lines of inquiry might lead to religious outcomes or not. They just want to know why the world is the way it is.

This is the mind of the philosopher, the scientist, the theologian; the honest seeking person of everyday common sense melded with an adventurous spirit; the person who not only wants to know truth but humbles themselves before the biggest questions in life, yet loves the hunt, lives for the hunt. There are so many things my children have taught me. But to love, wonder at, and appreciate the world again, from the eyes of someone new to it—which, to me, is simply to love, wonder at, and appreciate God—is the greatest lesson of all.

Writer, entrepreneur, and “re-converted” Catholic, Pat Flynn focuses his efforts on helping others find happiness and wholeness through fitness, philosophy, and religion. He is a writer for the Word on Fire blog and this article can be found here: <https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/blog/what-children-can-teach-us-about-god/5975/>

Sharing the Gospel

When Jesus traveled to Jerusalem as a 12-year-old young man, he felt completely at home in the Temple. He enjoyed talking to the teachers about his Father in heaven. His questions and his answers showed how much he loved God.

Let Us Pray

Dear God,

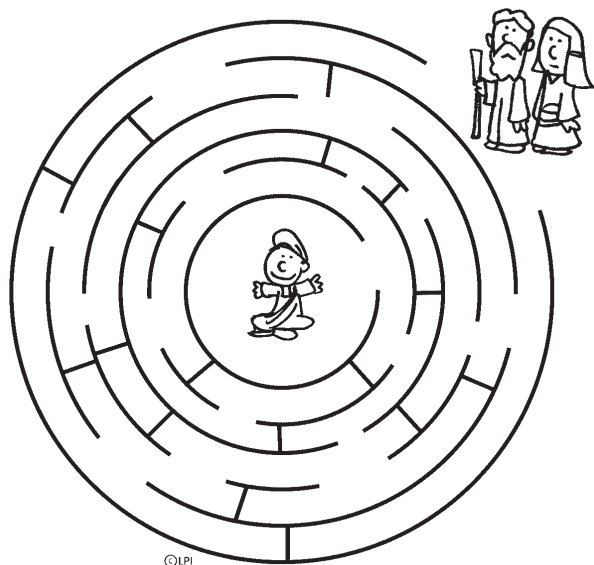
Help me to feel at home in my church like Jesus did. Help me to learn from church leaders, my parish priests, and parents just as Jesus did.

Amen.



Puzzle

Help Mary and Joseph find Jesus.



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Mission for the Week

Help visitors to your church feel welcomed. As a family or as a class, make cards for visitors, asking them to come back.

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Growing with the GOSPEL

My Church,
My Family and Me

Luke 2:41-52 ■ Holy Family

CYCLE C



Read the Gospel and Color



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